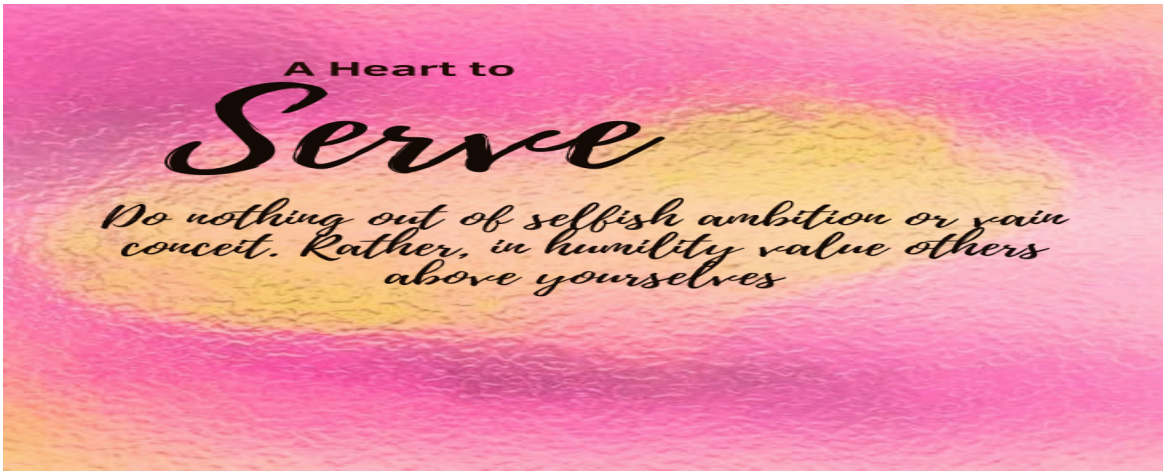


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Serving Atlanta and the World since 1867

Servette Sunday

October 4, 2026
11:00 am

The Reverend Dr. Dwight D. Andrews, Pastor
The Reverend Andrew Young, Pastor of Global Mission

First Congregational Church, UCC
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost **October 4, 2026**

THE PRELUDE
Mr. Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Sherry Clay

* OPENING HYMN *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*
Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.
*STATEMENT OF FAITH AND GLORIA PATRI

THE OCCASION Cassandra Washington Wilson

STALWART SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION Mae Morgan

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Dr. Dwight Andrews

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY WORDS Rebecca Paschal Young

"Give and it will be given to you
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
Running over, will be put into your lap
For the measure you give, will be the measure you get back"
---Luke 6:38 NRSV

OFFERTORY SONG *We've Come to Praise the Lord* Clark Joseph
First Church Voices

THE PRAYER HYMN *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER — Lynne Alston Leonard

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS — Deacon Ruth Chin Hicks
OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 61:1-3,
NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 2:3-8

MUSICAL OFFERING — *Completely Yes* — Sandra Crouch
First Church Voices

SERMON — *A Resolute Heart "Yes" to Serve* — Rev. Dr. Angela Williams

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Rev. Williams

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND DOXOLOGY
Reverends Andrews, Dempsey Williams, and Eichelberger

BENEDICTION — Reverend Andrews

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Till We Meet Again* — Kirk Franklin
First Church Voices

POSTLUDE
Mr. Frank Hoke, organ

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HOMECOMING last Sunday was simply spectacular! The moving and inspiring service featured guest speaker the Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Atlanta mayor and Gubernatorial candidate. Our theme*, Our Home, Your Home, God's Home*, resonated in every aspect of the service. Special thanks to the Homecoming Committee, the music ministry, the many volunteers, and the FCC church staff for an extraordinary worship experience. **Now go out and VOTE!**

We welcome new members Cecelia (CeCe) Houston Torrence and Diarius Peak. They have joined our fellowship, and we look forward to our mutual ministry.

Our 2026/2027 Stewardship Council Pledge Card Campaign continues. If you have not submitted your card, we urge you to do so. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please ask an Usher to provide you with a card to complete and place in the collection plate. As the Budget Committee has commenced its work in building the 2027 Operations Budget, we ask that all pledge cards be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and faithful stewardship.

Please continue to prayer for the bereaved families of **Dr. Selwyn Howard and Mrs. Erma Jean Thomas**. Memorial Scholarships are being created in their honor. Additional information will be shared as soon as it is available.

The amazing **Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers** is right around the corner. December 11th and 12t.h. This is an Atlanta favorite and sponsorship, and ticket information will be shared soon. Mark your calendars and tell your friends.

Please pray for Doc Powell whose mother, Mrs. Geneva Powell, passed away on September 22nd. The memorial service will be held on October 31st. More details will follow.

Pray for Jack and Ginnie Ferrell. Ginnie's older brother Ross passed on September 23rd. Please say a special prayer for his widow Joan.

The **Nursery** has a new attendant. Please welcome **Ms. Brianna Severe** to our Nursery. Brianna is a student at Spelman College. Please make her feel at home.

Our Administrative **Assistant, Ms. Kimberly Mayberry,** completed her service to First Church on September 30th. We are grateful for her many contributions to our ministry and wish her continued success in the future.

Our new temporary Administrative Assistant is **Ms. Precious Shanks.** Please welcome her when the opportunity arises.

STUDY AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS KEY TO OUR FAITH WALK
The College Ministry has launched a new class, **"The Sunday Reset,"** held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you know a college-aged student, encourage them to join — we discuss daily topics through the lens of the Gospels. Questions? Email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

Deacon James Rodgers leads a **Sunday Adult Bible Study** in the Herndon Tower at 9:30am. and has initiated a second virtual class on Thursday evenings. **Spiritual Study Group II** which meets virtually on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. This study group is designed for those committed to seeking spiritual maturity, drawing wisdom from the great teachers and ancient traditions. It is open to participants from all locations and faith traditions who are ready to explore spiritual growth and attain peace, love, and contentment. There is no pressure to attend every session—you are welcome whenever your schedule allows.Please register using the link below to join us and receive session resources:
https://forms.gle/PMjaTJNzUCdf1SCA6

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL started back today! All students in grades K–12 are invited to join us on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month for an engaging journey of faith, fellowship, and discovery. Through Bible study, interactive activities, creative experiences, and meaningful conversation, our young people will explore scripture, build friendships, ask big questions, and discover how faith connects with everyday life. Throughout the year, even more is in store — service opportunities, special gatherings, and field trips! There's a place for every young person to be seen, heard, encouraged, and empowered as they grow in faith and community.
---Minister Myles Amir Riley

Directory Update - We're updating our member contact information to ensure accuracy. Please visit firstchurchatl.org, navigate to the Instant Church Directory tab, log in, and verify that your information is correct and up to date. Questions? Contact the church office or email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

College Ministry Volunteers Needed- We're seeking volunteers for the College Ministry. If you're interested, visit firstchurchatl.org and click the "I Want to Volunteer" button in the College Ministry section, which will take you to a Google Sign-Up Sheet. Questions? Email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org or reach out to Rev. Angela or Min. Myles.

First Friday at First is doing something special on November 6th, the amazing Nnenna Freelon will perform a special First Friday concert in the Sanctuary! Be sure to purchase your tickets for these events on Event Brite.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

One Body, Many Parts: We Still Need to Hear from You
The CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY is the first step in our strategic planning journey, and we need to hear from every member of First Church.

1 Corinthians 12:27 says: "…together we are the body of Christ, each of us a distinct and necessary member of it." But a body can't function fully when some of its parts haven't checked in yet. If you haven't completed the survey, please take time today. It only takes 15-20 minutes and it is anonymous. We can't move forward as one body until every part has been heard. Please complete the survey today — survey link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstCongAtlantaParticipant
Your input directly shapes how First Church will:

- **REFLECT** on the past — what's made us strong
- **GIVE THANKS** in the present — what we value today
- **JOYFULLY ANTICIPATE** the future — where we're headed together

Virtual Bible Study will gather on **Monday, September 21 at 6:30 pm.** The focus of the discussion will be Acts 23, and the discussion leader will be Jack Williams. All are welcome. Feel free to encourage your friends to participate.
Zoom Meeting ID: 815 2035 8883. Passcode: 108214

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of First Congregational Church, UCC is to be a Christ-centered church which leads people to God through a commitment to, and the practice of our five key precepts of: worship, prayer, study, service, and stewardship.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a Christ-centered church that models the love of God, builds relationships, and empowers people of all walks of life through our creative services, discipleship, outreach, ministries, and teaching, as well as striving always to use our time, talents, and treasures to the building of the beloved community.

OUR INVITATION

First Church is an inclusive, social justice, and social gospel church. Founded in 1867, it has been a Christian witness to Atlanta and the World for over one hundred and fifty-nine years! Its mission is rooted in the Christian concept of love and our efforts for social justice, human rights, equity, and inclusion of all people, and racial reconciliation are hallmarks of our ministry. As a congregational church we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Each of us is called to do our part to make this a better world. Looking for a church home? Please consider First Church!

Contact Us:

105 Courtland Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303|404-659-6255|

www.firstchurchatl.org