

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

November 1, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost **November 1, 2026**

THE PRELUDE

Mr. Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Angela Dempsey Williams

* OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Congregation and First Church Voices

*All who are able please stand and sing.

*STATEMENT OF FAITH AND GLORIA PATRI

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY WORDS

"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 *In the Sanctuary* Kurt Carr

First Church Voices

THE ORDINATION OF YOUTH DEACON Brynn Espy

THE PRAYER HYMN *I Surrender All*

The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend Harold Eichelberger

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS — Deacon Paul Grant
OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 32:1-7
NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 12:4-14

MUSICAL OFFERING — *Caribbean Medley* — Donnie McClurkin
First Church Voices

SERMON — *Remember to Re-Member* — Reverend Andrews

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Reverend Dempsey 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, organist

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Celebration of Life for our beloved Valencia Thomas was held yesterday at First Church. Please keep her family and all of us who loved her in your prayers.

We are blessed to ordain **Ms. Brynn Espy** to be a Youth Deacon. Brynn is a junior in the IB program at Campbell High School. She is the daughter of Beth Espy. She now joins David Demterius as the other youth deacon of our Diaconate.

Welcome new members **Shirli Billings**, **Char Reaves** and **Lael Hooker**. We also welcome new members Blake Stoner, Cecelia (CeCe) Houston Torrence and Diarius Peak. We look forward to our mutual ministry with each of them. A new member orientation is being scheduled. Please stay tuned!

The Fall Quarterly Meeting will be held right after worship in the sanctuary. This is a very important meeting as we wrap up this calendar year and prepare for 2027. The success of our ministry depends on the participation and input of all our members. We must evangelize, engage, and enjoy the blessings of our community of faith. Please join us.

Last week's conversation with author, activist, and scholar **Dr. Kamau Bobb in the "Faith and AI forum"** was amazing! We had an overflow crowd in the Fellowship Hall and the discussion was both challenging and stimulating. Thank you Social Action Committee for sponsoring the event. Bobb's new book, *The Bullwhip's Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence and America's Racial Caste System,* is available now.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3. POLLS OPEN AT 7:00am-7:00pm. This election is critical, so vote and make sure your friends do the same. If you voted early, make it your business to reach out to others who need help to get to the polls. Call your friends and neighbors. Our nation cannot afford to continue on its current path. **VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT**. IT DOES!

Men's Day two weeks ago was extraordinary. Dr. Willie Underwood, President of the American Medical Association, shared the remarkable story of his own success and inspired all of us to aspire and achieve and serve. The Men's Fellowship gave two generous donations, $1,000.00 to the Building Fund and

$1,000.00 to the Dr. Selwyn Howard Memorial Scholarship Fund. A grateful church thanks you for all you do.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS KEY TO OUR FAITH WALK

- Sunday School, 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 am. Contact Min. Myles Riley
- Sunday Morning Reset for College Students with Rev. Eichelberger, 10am
- Sunday Adult Study (Herndon Tower) at 9:30am. Dr. James Rodgers leads.
- Virtual Bible Study will gather on **Monday evening, November 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm.** The group will consider Daniel, Chapters 3 and 4 with discussion leaders Beth Brown and Akiba Harper. All are welcome. This promises to be an interesting conversation. Feel free to invite your friends.
  https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86305010993?pwd=cGorQznHqw0l2U78Mx4iP5tW2tItqW.1
- **Thursday Virtual Spiritual Study Group II** will meet 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 First Church CDC (FCCDC) is once again, a proud sponsor of the 10th Anniversary of the **CHOICES Thanksgiving Mobile Pantry**. This year's goal is to help provide Thanksgiving for more than 2000 families. A host of volunteers will be needed to prep and distribute from Nov. 19th through Nov. 21st at Atlanta Area Tech. The Commons will also be a distribution point. Let's show our support for the community and our FC partner. Volunteer registration is required. Multiple days and shifts will be available. Let's show up as a First Church family. Look for the registration flyer and links over the next week. Rev. Angela will be coordinating the volunteers at the Commons on November 21st.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please pray for all who are grieving- Maurice Copeland in the loss of his cousin Melvin, Gilbert Maldanado, whose grandmother passed in Boston, Doc Powell in the loss of his mother, Mrs. Geneva Powell, Virginia Wadsworth in the loss of her brother, Henry Wallace. Please also pray for the families of Selwynn Howard, Cedric Jordan, Erma Jean Thomas, Valencia Wilson Thomas, and Jack and Rhea Williams.

The families of **Dr. Selwynn Howard and Mrs. Erma Jean Thomas** are exploring creating **Memorials** in their honor. Additional information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Continue to pray for those seeking healing and dealing with health challenges-Carolyn Marks, Shawn Keyes, Glenda Rowe, Grady and Margaret Gamble, Marcia Nurse, Reverend Earl Menchhofer, James Edward Means, Carolyn Thomas Page (CJ), Baby Hailu Hood, Edie Hammond, Cornelius Watts, Franklin Thomas, Steve Parker, Calvin Vismale, Jeanne Rance, Michele Johnson, Reverend Pamela Smith, S. Renee Clark, Earlene Harris, Jamelia Stroud, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts and Casey Cameron.

FALL AND WINTER CALENDAR AT GLANCE

11/1	Fall Quarterly Meeting after worship
11/6	A Special First Friday with Nnenna Freelon in the Sanctuary
11/8	Stewardship Sunday with Reverend Susan Mitchell, Guest Speaker
11/14	Church Council In-Person Potluck Luncheon 12pm-2pm
11/15	Ambassador Andrew Young, preaching and the 3rd Sunday Band
11/22	Youth Sunday
11/29	First Sunday of Advent-Hanging of the Green
12/2	College Ministry Christian Hip Hop “Lights On” Event The Commons, 125 Ellis Street, NE 7:00 pm.
12/6	Second Sunday of Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
12/11-12	Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers
12/13	Third Sunday of Advent – The Many Moods of Christmas
12/20	Fourth Sunday of Advent- Children’s Christmas Play
12/25	Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am.
12/31	Watch Night Service- In Person at 10:00 pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

We often say that stewardship is a matter of our time and treasure. As our 2026 stewardship pledge campaign begins to wrap up, I want to encourage each of you to also think about your time and your talent. I want to thank each of you for stepping up for increasing your giving in the past few months in response to our incurring the unexpected expenses of the HVAC system and the parking lot retaining wall failure. As the end of the year approaches and as we thank God for all he has done, we must now look ahead to the opportunities of the new year. At our annual meeting in January we will set a course for 2027 as well as elect new lay leaders. As a Congregational Church we rely on the gifts and graces of our members. We need to identify, cultivate, and encourage members to accept new leadership lay positions. Please consider placing your name in nomination for one of the many positions that will be open. The strength of our ministry depends on its members. Please contact Dr. Paul grant, chair of the Nominations Committee and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Welcome to First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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:

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www.firstchurchatl.org