

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

November 15, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

November 15, 2026 **Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

PRELUDE
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews

*OPENING HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy.*
The Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Andrews

OFFERTORY WORDS AND OFFERING
"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 *Glorious* Martha Manuzzi
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

We give thee but thine own, what 'er the gifts may be
All that we have is thine Lord, a trust O Lord from thee

*PRAYER HYMN *Just As I Am*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend James Cromartie

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS — Deacon Julie Tabor
Old Testament: Judges 4:1-7 — New Testament: Matthew 25:14-30

MUSICAL OFFERING — *Speak to My Heart* — Donnie McClurkin
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

THE SERMON — The Reverend Ambassador Andrew Young

INVITATION SONG — *I Don't Feel No Ways Tired* — James Cleveland
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Reverend Andrews

Those interested in joining First Church may come down at this time.

BENEDICTION — Reverend Young

CHORAL RESPONSE — *As You Go, Tell the World*
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

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ANNOUNCEMENTS must be submitted to the Church Office for review and approval by Tuesday at 5pm**. 100 words maximum please.**

PODCASTS of the weekly sermons are now available on PodBean, Spotify, and Apple Play. You can also go to the church website, firstchurchatl.org, then go to PODCAST, select the desired sermon by date or speaker.

WORSHIP SERVICES are available for review on our YouTube channel at Firstchurchatl.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS are a wonderful way to remember a loved one or celebrate some good news. Scan the QR code to place an order or contact the church office. Altar flower announcements for the bulletin must be submitted by Tuesday at 5pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH CONCERNS

After worship today the Stewardship Council will offer the next in a series of Financial Matters workshops. The topic of the workshop is **Estate Planning and Planned Giving**. Patrise Perkins-Hooker and Michael Varzi will provide information and answer questions to support you as part of your personal and family financial planning. The workshop will last about 90 minutes and light refreshments will be served. Please join us to gather information and receive tools for your own decision-making.

After worship on Sunday November 29th, Reverend Andrews and Dr. Des invite you to an informal coffee and conversation about worship, theology, and the arts. First Church has been a leader and innovator in the area for over a century, dating back to Reverend Henry Hugh Proctor's Atlanta All Colored Music Festival of 1910. It was created to showcase African American classical music and ease racial animosity in the wake of the 1906 Atlanta race riots.

The Celebration of Life for longtime devoted member Onnye Jean Sears will be held on Friday December 4th at 11:00 am here at First Church. Please keep her daughter Leah Ward Sears and family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Altar Guild presents it's Holiday Extravaganza- a two-day shopping and social marketplace event at First Congregational Church, December 11th and 12th from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm during its amazing Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers. Enjoy an eclectic mix of regional and local vendors, selling extraordinary decor, crafts, fashion, accessories, jewelry, fine art, collector's items, and more!

The Fall Quarterly Meeting was held on November 1st after worship. If you would like to receive hard copies of the meeting report, please contact Ms. Precious Shanks in the church office. Reverend Andrews encouraged the membership to: **Stay informed and connected.** Sign up for the Instant Church Directory, Mail Chimp, and Text Msg. Please call the Church Office to sign up. **Get Involved.** Worship is important but so is service, study, prayer, and sound stewardship. **Get to know your church**, its rich history, and amazing story. **Evangelize** and tell somebody about your church. You are the best ambassador for *your* church. Help us to increase our numbers. **Let us know what you think.** Your feedback and input are critical to our success.

The final First Friday concert of the season with jazz master, Nnenna Freelon, was a rousing success! Ms. Freelon gave a masterful performance and a compelling testimony of her dealing with the grief of her beloved husband, architect Phil Freelon. First Friday will begin its 14th season in February 2027.

The next New Member Orientation is scheduled for Saturday, November 28th from 10:00 am to noon, in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be provided and all new members should expect a new Member Information packet at the top of the week. It is important that we integrate our gifted new members into our church family. We look forward to our mutual ministry.

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 9:30 am. Dr. James Rodgers leads.
- **Monday Night Virtual Bible Study,** November 16 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome and please invite your friends.
  Join Zoom Meeting ID: 863 0501 0993 Passcode: 266165

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86305010993?pwd=cGorQznHqw0l2U78Mx4iP5tW2tItqW.1

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 FCC 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 Onnye Jean Sears, Selwynn Howard, Cedric Jordan, Erma Jean Thomas, Valencia Wilson Thomas, and Jack and Rhea Williams.

Planning is underway for the establishment of a **Memorial Scholarship Fund** at First Church. The Church Council has created an ad hoc committee to take up the matter. A formal presentation will be made at the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd, 2027.

Continue to pray for those seeking healing and dealing with health challenges- Earline and Jerome Harris, 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, Jamelia Stroud, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts and Casey Cameron.

FALL AND WINTER CALENDAR AT GLANCE

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
1/23/27	All Church Annual Meeting at 11:00 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP

We often say that stewardship is a matter of our time, talent, and treasure. As our 2026 stewardship pledge campaign begins to wrap up, We want to encourage each of you to also think about your **time** and your **talent**. We want to thank each of you for stepping up and 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 and 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 lay leadership 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 the time and talent of its members. Please contact Dr. Paul Grant, Nominations Committee Chair. 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