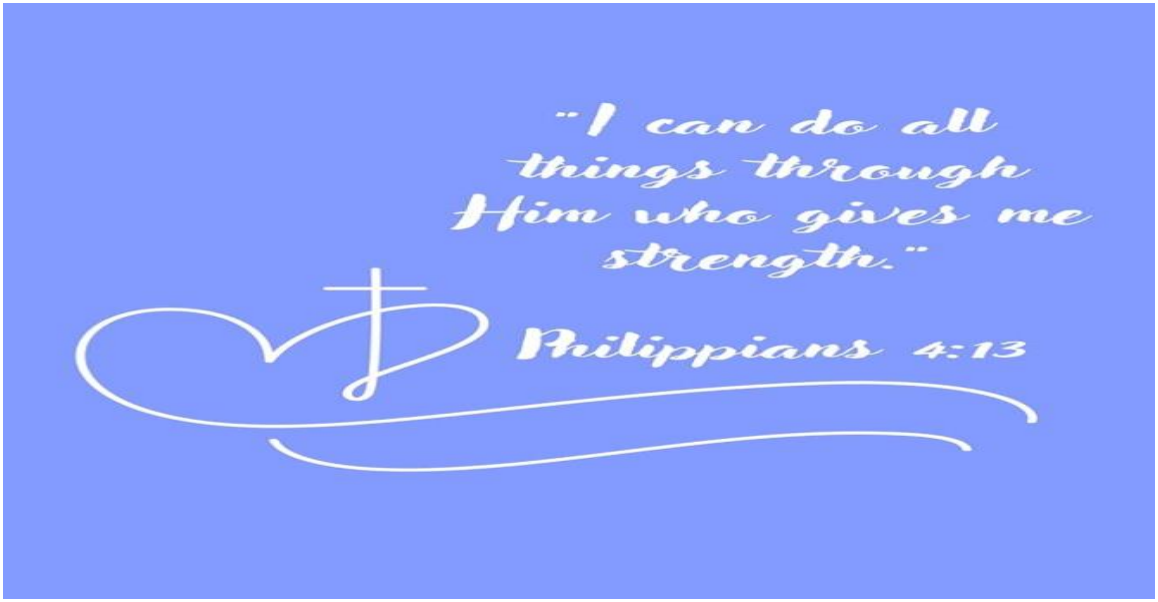

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

YOUTH SUNDAY

November 22, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC
YOUTH SUNDAY

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost **November 22, 2026**

PRELUDE Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Ava Milladge & Azai Bryant

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Lark & Venus Eichelberger

*OPENING HYMN *"Jesus Loves Me"*
The Congregation and Youth Choir
*All who are able please stand and sing.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Reverend Andrews and Nia Stephens

OFFERTORY WORDS AND OFFERING Marian Harrison and Sidnee Young
(Sunday School Superintendents)

"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 *Rooted and Growing*
Youth Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE
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 *"I Love You Lord Today"*
The Congregation and Youth Choir

THE PASTORAL PRAYER — Sophia Scrutchings

OLD TESTEMENT: Jeremiah 1:4-9 — Jacob Young
NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 4:4-7 — Ava Stephens

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS — Lennox Thomas

MUSICAL OFFERING *"You're the Only Bible"* — C. Oliver
Youth Choir

THE MESSAGE *Known, Called, & Kept* — Brynn Espy & David Demetrius

INVITATION SONG *"I Need You to Survive"* — Hezekiah Walker
Youth Choir

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Minister Myles-Amir Riley
Those interested in joining First Church may come down at this time.

BENEDICTION — Carmen Simelton-Treminio & Komari Axam

CHORAL RESPONSE *Let there be Peace on Earth*
Youth Choir

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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 Pod Bean, 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 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

We are saddened to report that **Mrs. Barbara Sternick** passed away on Friday, November 13th, 2026. Please keep her family in your prayers. No services are planned.

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 Stewardship Council's workshop on **Estate Planning and Planned Giving** was well-attended and well-received. Patrise Perkins-Hooker and Michael Varzi facilitated the workshop and provided important information about financial and estate planning. We thank them and the Stewardship Council for their leadership.

The next New Member Orientation is scheduled for next 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 via email shortly.

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 this 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. As we look to our 160th Anniversary in 2027 we intend to link our storied past to a glorious future!

The Altar Guild **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!

If you would like to receive hard copies of the Fall Quarterly Meeting reports, please contact Ms. Precious Shanks in the church office. Please **stay informed, get involved and evangelize!** Tell everybody about the church we love.

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.

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.
- Virtual Bible Study will gather at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 23rd on Zoom. The discussion topic is Daniel, Chapter 7. The leaders will be Jayne Wallace and Jesse Spikes. All are welcome. Meeting ID: 863 0501 0993 Passcode: 266165

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

We thank all the volunteers who helped with this year's Thanksgiving Mobile Pantry. This marked the 10th Anniversary of the **C.H.O.I.C.E.S. initiative, and the First Church CDC** (FCCDC) was a proud sponsor once again, this year's goal was to help provide Thanksgiving for more than 2000 families. Volunteers helped prep and distribute food at Atlanta Area Tech and the Commons. Special thanks also to Rev. Angela and Lynne Alston Leonard for coordinating the volunteers.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please pray for all who are grieving: Maurice Copeland, Gilbert Maldanado, Doc Powell, Virginia Wadsworth. 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.

The Church Council has created an ad hoc committee to develop a **Memorial Scholarship Fund** in memory of beloved members of our church. A formal presentation will be made at the 2027 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

11/29	First Sunday of Advent-Hanging of the Green After worship Coffee and Conversation
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 The Installation the of 19th Pastor of Rush Memorial UCC Church, The Reverend Gregory Stanley, 3:00pm
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

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.

Help us in our Stewardship Efforts!!!

We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of our members to financially support the mission and ministries of First Church. However, it is becoming increasing expensive to receive your generous gifts. The transaction fees for all our credit card giving platforms decreases the amount of your gift. Please consider donating to the church via Bill Pay through your respective banking institution. It's quick, it's automatic, and it's FREE! Thanks again!

The Annual Operations Budget for 2026 is $1,234,771.00
Our Present Financial Position

As of 11-15-26 we should have raised:	$960,378.75
As of 11-15-26 we have actually raised:	$947,818.70
As of today, we are under of budget by:	**-$12,560.05**

Giving for the week ending November 22, 2026

	Budgeted Annual to Date	Giving Annual to Date	Weekly Need	Weekly Received	Annual Over/Under
Operations	$726,314.71	$742,904.97	$16,140.33	$ 29,326.91	$16,590.26
Thank/OC WM/OGHS	$42,057.69	$29,642.25	$934.62	$457.82	-$12,415.64
Mortgage	$192,006.35	$175,271.48	$4,266.81	$5,745.00	-$16,734.87

Thank you for your generosity!

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:
105 Courtland Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303|404-659-6255|
www.firstchurchatl.org