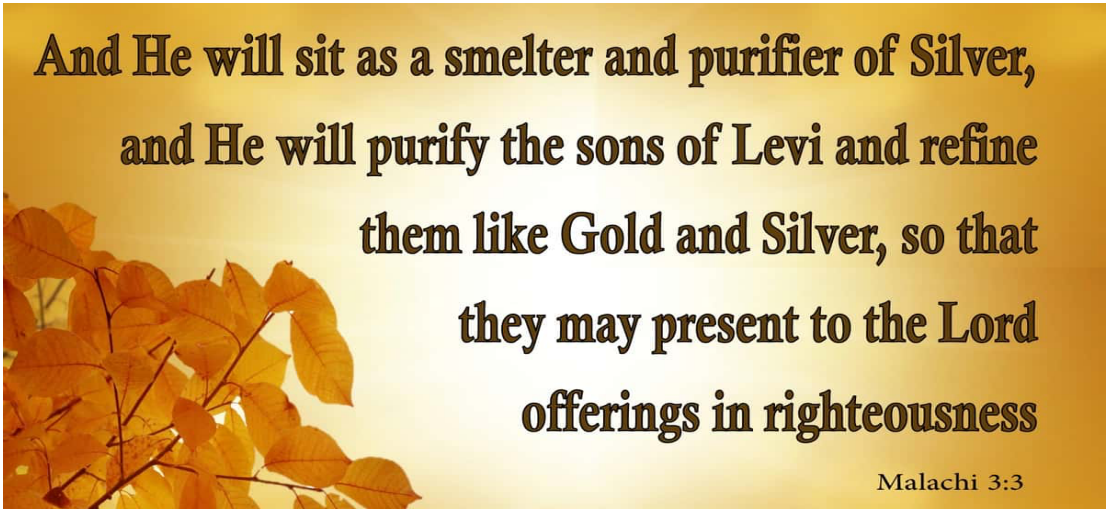

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 8, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost **November 8, 2026**

PRELUDE Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Angela Johnson

*OPENING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory*
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 Susan Pease Langford

"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 *You Can't Beat God Giving*
The Chancel Choir

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 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
The Congregation and Chancel Choir

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Minister Myles Amir Riley
THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Julia Demetrius

Old Testament: Malachi 3: 8-10 New Testament: John 21:15-19

THE OCCASION AND INTRODUCTION OF OUR SPEAKER. Donna Akiba Harper

MUSICAL OFFERING *If We Ever Needed the Lord Before* arr. Robert Campbell
The Chancel Choir

THE MESSAGE *Giving to the Possibility of What Could Be!*
Reverend. Dr. Susan Mitchell

INVITATION SONG *We Offer Christ* Paul Morton
First Church Voices

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Reverend Dr. David A. Hooker
Those interested in joining First Church may come down at this time.

BENEDICTION Dr. Mitchell

CHORAL RESPONSE *God Be with You till We Meet Again*
Chancel Choir

Postlude Frank Hoke, organist

****

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.

Our Guest Speaker



Reverend Dr. Susan C. Mitchell is a Chicago native, currently residing in Stone Mountain, Georgia. She has been a member of the United Church of Christ National Staff for over 17 years, serving as the Minister & Team Leader for Strategic Initiatives for the Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and Amistad Redevelopment Corporation. In this role, she helps execute CB&LF's Mission Implementation Strategy, advancing operational effectiveness, organizational readiness, fund growth and staff and client engagement. She is a member of Victory for the World Church, Decatur, Georgia.

Reverend Dr. Mitchell served over 15 years in the parish ministry including as a new church start Pastor. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kansas in Occupational Therapy, a Master of Divinity degree concentrating in Hebrew Bible and Biblical Languages from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, Georgia and a PhD in Organizational Leadership, from Columbia International University, Columbia, South Carolina. She has an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, a division of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Committed to leadership development as vital to the future of the global church, she affirms that, "effective leadership enhances organizational resource management and positively influences the environmental, social and economic vitality of communities."

A founding organizer and board member of the Kilombo Academic and Cultural Institute in Atlanta, Reverend Mitchell is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, (AFP), Greater Atlanta Chapter and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She has participated in global education and mission experiences across multiple continents. Reverend Dr. Mitchell continues to answer her call to "Equip the Saints for the work of the Ministry."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH CONCERNS

We regret to inform you of the passing of Onnye Jean Sears. Her Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, December 4th, at 11:00 am. here at first church. Please keep her daughter Leah and the entire family in your prayers. Onnye Jean was a devoted member of the church until her health began to fail a few years ago. Her sweet and generous spirit will not be forgotten.

Reverend Andrews and Dr. Des thank you for your prayers and encouragement of our godson, Noah Hood, who was elected Justice to the Michigan Supreme Court. Please continue to pray for Noah and his wife Meheret as they continue to care for their sons Menelek and baby Hailu who continues to have serious health challenges. We believe in the power of prayer and are forever grateful for your support!

Amen. Ashe. Amen. The midterm election results were breathtaking!
History was made with the election of Keisha Lance bottoms as the first woman and black woman governor in America. The people have spoken and said they want our nation to move in a different direction--- a direction driven by the needs, hopes, and dreams of the people. Each one of us must now do our part to make these dreams a reality. We have learned that it doesn't take much to break something, but repair and restoration requires patience, perseverance, and participation. The midterm elections have reminded us that of our individual and collective voices make a difference.

Congratulations to Ms. Brynn Espy. Brynn was ordained a Youth Deacon of First Church. Brynn is a junior IB student at Campbell High School and the daughter of Beth Espy.

Please keep the family of Helen Valencia Wilson Thomas in your prayers. Her Celebration of Life was held last Saturday. October 31st.

The Fall Quarterly Meeting was held last Sunday after worship. If you would like to receive hard copies of the meeting report, please contact Ms. Precious Shanks in the church office. At the meeting we received updates from our boards and ministers. Reverend Andrews encouraged 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.
- **Tell somebody** about your church. Bring someone with you to worship. 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 last First Friday concert of the season concluded with a moving and powerful performance of jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon. Congratulations to the first Friday committee on a successful 13th season. This innovative ministry would not be possible were it not for the devoted first Friday team. Thank you all.

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.
- The Virtual Bible Study will gather on Monday, November 9, at 6:30 pm. The discussion will be on Daniel Chapters 5 and 6 and led by Mae Morgan and Millicent Green. 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

Thursday Virtual Spiritual Study Group II meets at 6:30 p.m. Dr. James Rodgers is the facilitator/ Please register using the link below to join us and receive session resources. https://forms.gle/PMjaTJNzUCdf1SCA6

We welcome New Members **Shirli Billings**, **Char Reaves** and **Lael Hooker** as well as **Blake Stoner**, **Cecelia (CeCe) Houston Torrence and Diarius Peak**. We look forward to our mutual ministry. **The next New Member Orientation** is scheduled for Saturday, November 28th from 10:00 am to noon. Refreshments will be provided and all new members should expect a new Member Information packet within a week. It is important that we integrated these gifted new members into our church family. Be sure to introduce yourself to each one of them and make them feel comfortable in their new church home.

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.

Sermon Notes

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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 and Jerome Harris, Jamelia Stroud, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts.

FALL AND WINTER CALENDAR AT GLANCE

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
11/28	New Member Orientation at 10:00am
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 10:00pm

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, 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 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.

FIRST CHURCH CDC AND FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

present

The Holiday JAZZ VESPERS

2026

All That Jazz, All That Joy



featuring

Kathleen Bertrand — VOCALS

Doc Powell — GUITAR

Will Scruggs — SAXOPHONE

Marvin McNeill — TROMBONE

Phil Davis — PIANO

Terreon Gully — DRUMS

Dwight Andrews — SAXOPHONE/ FLUTE

and the Holiday Jazz Vespers Voices

DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2026

7:00 PM

Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities Available

General Admission: $30

Senior/Student: $25

https://2026holidayjazzvespers.eventbrite.com

First Congregational Church, UCC

105 Courtland Street, NE

Atlanta, GA (404) 659-6255

First Church

United Church of Christ

All Proceeds benefit the Education and Outreach Ministries of FCCDC.

First Church Community Development Corporation

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ATLANTA

College Ministry

At-A-Glance



*Nurturing the souls of **our** college neighbors during this special time of becoming in their lives.*

EVERY SUNDAY
Sunday Reset
with Rev. Harold Eickelberger
10:00 AM
First Church Fellowship Hall

EVERY THURSDAY
A Different Kind of Soul Food
with Min. Myles-Amir Riley
5:30 PM
Twisted Taco
75 Piedmont Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308
myles@firstchurchatl.org

OCTOBER 17
CSM Angels Refuge Street Outreach
with Rev. Angela Dempsey Williams
8:30 AM
First Church Fellowship Hall
angelawilliams040@gmail.com

OCTOBER 22
Prayer and a Plate Luncheon
at the Rush Memorial UCC.
For more information, please contact Bill Coble:
bill5620@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 1
Preparing for National Hunger Awareness Week
Begin collecting Tents, Towelettes, and Sleeping Bags.
Rev. Angela: angelawilliams040@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 19
Prayer and a Plate Luncheon
at the Rush Memorial UCC.
For more information, please contact Bill Coble:
bill5620@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 21
C.H.O.I.C.E.S. 10th Annual Thanksgiving Mobile Pantry
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Rev. Angela: angelawilliams040@gmail.com

ONGOING
GSU Panther Food Pantry
Contact Curtis Lacy for more information:
jacelacy@bellsouth.net

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
Willing to serve our college neighbors?
Please contact Rev. Ginnie (ginnieferrell@gmail.com).
105 Courtland St NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

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