

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

August 16, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost **August 16, 2026**

THE PRELUDE *Beast of Burden* Donald Byrd
Third Sunday Band

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION
Reverend Dwight Andrews

* OPENING HYMN *Love Divine, All Love Excelling*
Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOMING OF VISITORS
Reverend 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
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND RESPONSE
* We give thee but thine own, what 'er the gift may be
all that we have is thine alone, a trust O Lord from thee

THE PRAYER HYMN *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend Andrews

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Deacon Julie Tabor
OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 67
NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 14:13-21

MUSICAL OFFERING *Hallelujah You're Worthy* *Judith MacCallister*
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

THE SERMON The Reverend Ambassador Andrew Young

HYMN OF INVITATION *Trust* Richard Smallwood
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Reverend Andrews

BENEDICTION Reverend Young

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Amen* Ed Spence
First Church Voices and the 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 max 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 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.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Lynne Alston Leonard** who received the 2026 Henry N. Brown Award from the Board of Trustees on Trustee Sunday, August 9th, 2026. Lynne was recognized "in grateful appreciation for her faithful service, leadership, and stewardship to First Congregational Church."

The Celebration of Life for Cedric Jordan will be held on Saturday, August 29th, at 11:00 am at First Church. Cedric passed away last Sunday after a long illness. He was courageous to the end. Please keep his wife Carol and children Taylor, Rachel, and Jacob in your prayers.

Congratulations Reverend Andrews! On July 29th he received the WABE Lois Reitzes Award in the Arts. The award was established in her name to honor an arts leader 'whose work has made a lasting impact on our community.' Dr. Andrews accepted the Lois Reitzes Leader of the Arts Award "in recognition of his accomplishments as a musician, scholar, and faith leader whose ministry has had far-reaching impact on many people in Atlanta and beyond." The program will air on **WABE TV on August 26th at 9:00pm**.

On Sunday, August 30th, immediately following worship service, a Special Call meeting will be held to vote on several important revisions to the 2026 Operations Budget. Please make every effort to participate in this important Congregational meeting. The items to be considered were affirmed by the Church Council and presented to the membership at the Summer Quarterly Meeting. They include:

1. Grant Income (CASA UCC Grant)
2. College Ministry Coordinator
3. Assistant Minister - Digital Strategy and Membership Services
4. Assistant Minister - Congregational Life and Community Engagement
5. Chief Executive Associate
6. Cornerstone Mortgage Loan Payments
7. Arts and Education Initiatives

For more information contact any member of the Budget Committee.

Our 2026/2027 Pledge Card Campaign is underway. All First Church members are encouraged to participate. Each member is asked to prayerfully consider God's blessings and their resources as they complete and submit their pledge card. **Instructions for submission:** download the digital card, complete the card, save the card identifying it with your full name and email it back to info@firstchurchatl.org. Otherwise, you may mail your completed card to the Church Office. The Stewardship Council requests that all pledge cards be submitted by Sept. 13th. Please feel free to email Gail Tusan Washington, gailfccatl@gmail.com, if you have questions regarding the campaign.

The Board of Missions is restarting and we need your vision and energy. If you're interested in helping the board plan upcoming activities and partnerships or if you want to know more, please contact John Blevins, the committee chair, at john.blevins@emory.edu or 404-213-8514.

First Congregational UCC Atlanta is honored to host the **Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ's 60th Annual Meeting**, August 21–23, 2026.

We need volunteers to help us extend a warm First Church welcome to clergy, delegates, guests, and visitors from across the Southeast Conference. Volunteer opportunities include registration, ushering, hospitality, snack and refreshment support, and other event assistance. Many shifts are as short as two hours, so there are several ways to serve while still participating in the Annual Meeting. To volunteer scan the QR code below or visit:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4DA9AD2FA2F85-64867061-southeast

Questions? Contact **Pamela Cook at PamelaYCook@gmail.com**.

Come to the Annual Meeting, Too! This historic gathering will include worship, workshops, fellowship, important Conference business, and inspiring guest speakers, including:

- The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, preaching during Opening Worship and**

- The Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin**, Executive Conference Minister and President of the Southern New England Conference, preaching during Sunday's anniversary worship celebration**

Virtual Bible Study will gather on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 P.M. The discussion will focus on Acts Chapter 16 and 17 and will be led by Henrietta Andrews and Mae Morgan. All are welcome, so invite your friends to join the group.
Meeting ID: 815 2035 8883 Passcode: 108214

ALL MEMBER ALERT! Good Communication is essential to any church ministry. We need EVERY MEMBER to allow us to communicate with you via our Text Msg system, Newsletter, and the Instant Church Directory. These social platforms allow you to know what's going on at First Church from your mobile device. For the next three Sundays in August, we will help you sign up for these essential services. Please visit Minister Myles at Help Desk in the atrium after service today and let us help you get fully connected with the ministries and blessings of First Church.



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