

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

August 9, 2026
11:00 am

TRUSTEE SUNDAY
Honoring Our Legacy, Securing Our Future

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

11th Sunday after Pentecost **August 9, 2026**

THE PRELUDE

Mr. Frank Hoke, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Trustee Zena Martin

* OPENING HYMN *Renew the Church, Her Ministries Restore*

Congregation and First Church Voices

*All who are able please stand and sing.

TRUSTEE SUNDAY LITANY, p.3 Trustee Zena Martin

THE OCCASION AND HENRY N. BROWN AWARD

Trustees Angela Turk and Marvin Morgan, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Reverend Andrews

*STEWARDSHIP MOMENT AND OFFERTORY WORDS

Trustee Virginia Wadsworth

OFFERTORY SONG *I Will Trust in the Lord*

First Church Voices

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 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER The Reverend Ambassador Andrew Young

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Trustee Paul Grant
OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 18:11-15

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER Mr. Frank Sims

MUSICAL OFFERING *Silver and Gold* Kirk Franklin
First Church Voices

THE SERMON *Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?*
The Reverend Nicholas Hood, III

HYMN OF INVITATION *Take it to the Lord in Prayer* Nolan Williams, Jr
First Church Voices

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Reverend Andrews

BENEDICTION Reverend Hood

THE CHORAL RESPONSE *God Be With You* Text: Thomas Dorsey
First Church Voices

POSTLUDE
Mr. Frank Hoke, organist

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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.

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall after Worship
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Trustee Sunday Litany and Dedication of our Trustees

Leader: The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and those who dwell therein. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, O God. We praise you for your boundless provision and the sacred trust you have placed in us. For those called to serve as trustees, to watch over the resources entrusted to our care,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For the wisdom to make sound decisions for the good of this congregation,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For integrity in managing our finances and faithfulness in stewarding our property,

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For courage to pursue what is good, even when the path is not easy,

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For humility to serve not for personal gain, but for the flourishing of your ministry,

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For clear vision to see beyond the budgets and buildings to the mission and ministry they support,

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For unity of purpose, that they may work together in love and respect,

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the staff and volunteers who work alongside our trustees to serve this church,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For all who share generously of their time, talent, and treasure to support your kingdom,

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: God of all gifts, you have entrusted us with the blessings of this world and called us to be faithful stewards. Guide our trustees with your Holy Spirit, that their decisions may always reflect your will and serve your holy purpose. May we, as a whole congregation, support their work with encouragement and prayer.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen

The Dedication of our Trustees

Leader: To the members of our Board of Trustees, called to watch over our property and care for our material blessings with integrity and wisdom: Do you recommit yourselves to this important labor?

Trustees: We do. With God's help, we pledge to maintain our facilities, act as faithful stewards of our financial assets, and support the vision of this church.

Leader: And to the whole congregation: Do you promise to support, encourage, and partner with our trustees as they work for the well-being of our community of faith?

People: We do. We give thanks for your service, and we commit ourselves to work together, sharing our gifts to accomplish the mission God has given us.

Unison Prayer of Blessing

All: Gracious God, bless the work of our hands and the stewardship of our trustees. Give them clear minds, steady hands, and generous hearts. May our physical home always be a beacon of your extravagant welcome to all who enter. Amen



Reverend Nicholas Hood III has served as the pastor and senior minister of the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit, Michigan, since 1985. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Wayne State University in 1973 and a Master of Divinity degree from the Yale Divinity School in 1976. In May of 2009, Reverend Hood was awarded an honorary doctorate in ministry by Olivet College.

Ordained in 1976, Reverend Hood began his ministry working under the direction of his father as an assistant-associate minister at Plymouth UCC. After his father resigned and a national search was conducted, Plymouth UCC called Reverend Hood as its senior pastor.

Reverend Hood served on the Detroit City Council from 1993 to 2001, and he continues his servant leadership through extensive community involvement. His current community commitments include serving on the Board of Trustees of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Board of Trustees of McCormick Theological Seminary, and the Plymouth Educational Center Board of Directors. Additionally, Reverend Hood occasionally serves as a political analyst and commentator for Detroit-area television and radio stations.

Reverend Hood's past community involvement includes serving as co-chair of the Young Adult Committee of the Detroit Chapter NAACP; President of the Booker T. Washington Business Association; President of the Plymouth Non-Profit Housing Corporation; President and Chairman of the Plymouth Day School; and Secretary of the Yale Divinity School Board of Alumni Affairs.

One of Reverend Hood's personal goals is to create a spirit-filled, spirit-led, and dynamic worship experience that incorporates the richness of the historically African American Congregational Church with newer forms of music and liturgy. As pastor and senior minister of the Plymouth United Church of Christ, he has focused on "high-intensity, low-liability" missions with the goal of engaging church members in life-changing ministries.
Reverend Hood is also an accomplished author and television personality. His daily prayers and meditations can be found online at Nicholas Hood Ministries. In addition to his ministry, he is an accomplished musician; while growing up in Detroit, he and Reverend Dwight Andrews formed the Seven Sounds, a band that is still fondly talked about today in Detroit.

Reverend Hood is married to the Honorable Denise Page Hood. Together, they have two adult sons: Nathan (and his wife, Sharla) and Noah (and his wife, Meheret). They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

First Congregational Church Board of Trustees

The First Congregational Church Board of Trustees is charged with safeguarding the church's property, financial resources, and other assets entrusted to its care. The board provides oversight of the church's facilities, insurance, investments, and property records, while helping to ensure financial accountability through regular review of the church's finances. Through thoughtful planning and responsible stewardship, the Trustees work to preserve and strengthen the resources that support the mission and ministry of First Church.

As we celebrate Trustee Sunday under the theme, ***Honoring Our Legacy, Securing Our Future*****,** we recognize the important role of stewardship in preserving the foundation laid by those who came before us while preparing First Church for future generations of ministry. We give thanks for the dedicated service of our Trustees and their commitment to strengthening the life and ministry of our church.

2026 Board of Trustees

Lee Cheese
Andre Demetrius, Treasurer
Eugene Duffy
Carole Hinton
Dawn Jones, Parliamentarian
Carol Jordan
Zena Martin
Steve Mitchell
Mae Morgan
Marvin Morgan, Jr., Secretary
Frank Sims
Sumayah Taliaferro
Angela Turk, Vice Chair
Virginia Wadsworth
Carl Washington, Chair
Arthur Yancey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fifty-nine sweet years, of hopes fulfilled through smiles and tears. May every tomorrow still find us, wrapped in the love that's always true. In celebration of our 59th Wedding Anniversary- A beautiful journey, an enduring love, and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. Adrian and George Brown, August 12, 1967

The altar flowers are given by the Board of Trustees in celebration of Trustee Sunday and in honor of the 2026 Henry N. Brown Award recipient, Lynne Alston-Leonard, in grateful appreciation for her faithful service, leadership, and stewardship to First Congregational Church.

The Summer Quarterly Meeting was very succesful. The membership elected Susan Pease Langford as Church Attorney and Brynn Espy as Youth Deacon. If you would like to review reports from the meeting, please send an email to kimberly@firstchurchatl.org. Please note the exciting re-structure of our clergy team that was approved by the Church Council and affirmed at the Quarterly Meeting. **Rev. Harold Eichelberger** will serve as Assistant Minister Digital Strategy and Membership Services. **Dr. Angela Dempsey Williams** will serve as Assistant Minister for Congregational Life and Outreach Coordinator. **Rev. Ginnie Ferrell** will serve as College Ministry Coordinator. In addition, Judge Gail Tusan Washington will continue to serve as Executive Associate for First Church.

Growing as disciples/Living in integrity/Bearing faithful witness. The 2026/2027 Stewardship Council's Pledge Card Campaign is underway. During the August 2nd Summer Quarterly Meeting, our Church Moderator shared that the Church Council voted to initiate a pledge campaign and explained the rationale. All First Church members are asked to participate. Please be on the lookout over the next few days for an e-communication from Rev. Andrews regarding the campaign, and a digital copy of the card. Hard copies will be mailed to members who have alerted the Church Office that they do not use email. Each member is asked to prayerfully consider God's goodness in their life 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. The Stewardship Council respectfully requests all completed pledge cards be submitted by Sept. 13th. Please

feel free to email Gail Tusan Washington 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. Questions? Contact **Pamela Cook at PamelaYCook@gmail.com** To volunteer scan the QR code to sign up.

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**

The Virtual Bible Study will gather on Monday, August 10, at 6:30pm. The focus of the session will be Acts 15 and 16. Discussion will be led by Rev. Henrietta Andrews and Jesse Spikes. **Meeting ID: 815 2035 8883 Passcode: 108214**

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.

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

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