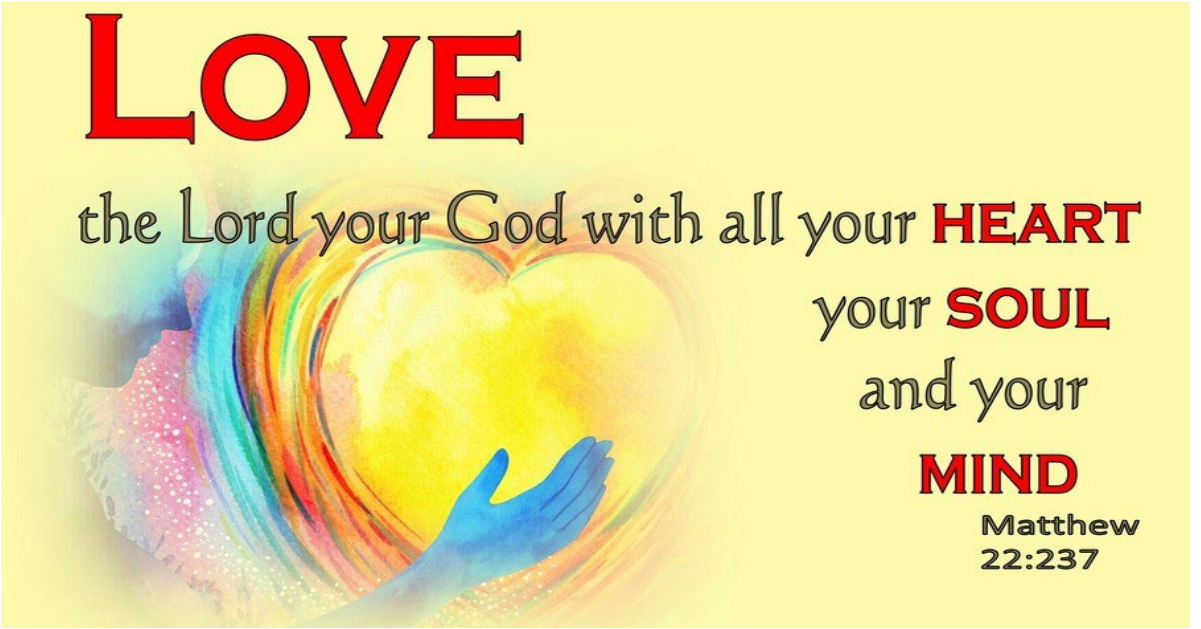


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Serving Atlanta and the World since 1867

September 13, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost **September 13, 2026**

THE PRELUDE Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Minister John Blevins

* OPENING HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOMING OF VISITORS
Reverend Andrews

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

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 *You Can't Beat God Giving*
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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend Dr. Kathi Martin Hunt

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Deacon Jea Delsarte
Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17 New Testament: Matthew 22:34-40

MUSICAL OFFERING *I Just Want to Praise You* Maurette Brown Clark
First Church Voices

SERMON *Commandments, Commitments, and Covenants* Reverend Andrews

INVITATION SONG *Safe From Harm* BeBe Winans

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Reverend Angela Dempsey Williams

BLESSING THE PLEDGE CARDS Reverend Dr. David A. Hooker

BENEDICTION Reverend Andrews

CHORAL BENEDICTION *God is Good* Jonathan McReynolds
First Church Voices

THE POSTLUDE Frank Hoke, organist

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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
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the chancel are in celebration of the September 18th birthday of my beloved bride and extraordinary woman, **Desiree Pedescleaux.** I love you with my whole heart. Dwight

The Celebration of Life for **Dr. Selwyn Howard** with be held tomorrow, September 14th at 10:00 am at the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. Please keep his wife, Dr. Paytie Howard and their children and family in your prayers.

A beautiful Celebration of Life for **Erma Jean Thomas** was held on Friday, September 11th. Please keep the Thomas and Cheese families in your prayers.

Cedric Jordan's Celebration of Life was held on August 29th at First Church. Please keep his wife Carol and children Randall, Taylor, Jacob, and Rachel in your prayers.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS NEXT **Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 am.** in the **Fellowship Hall**! All students in grades K–12 are invited to join us on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month for an engaging journey of faith, fellowship, and discovery. Through Bible study, interactive activities, creative experiences, and meaningful conversation, our young people will explore scripture, build friendships, ask big questions, and discover how faith connects with everyday life. Throughout the year, even more is in store — service opportunities, special gatherings, and field trips! There's a place for every young person to be seen, heard, encouraged, and empowered as they grow in faith and community. ---Minister Myles-Amir Riley

Directory Update - We're updating our member contact information to ensure accuracy. Please visit firstchurchatl.org, navigate to the Instant Church Directory tab, log in, and verify that your information is correct and up to date. Questions? Contact the church office or email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

New College Ministry Class - The College Ministry has launched a new class, "The Sunday Reset," held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you know a college-aged student, encourage them to join — we discuss daily topics through the lens of the Gospels. Questions? Email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

College Ministry Volunteers Needed- We're seeking volunteers for the College Ministry. If you're interested, visit firstchurchatl.org and click the "I Want to Volunteer" button in the College Ministry section, which will take you to a Google Sign-Up Sheet. Questions? Email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org or reach out to Rev. Angela or Min. Myles-Amir.

Homecoming is Coming! The final Homecoming Committee zoom meeting will be held Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm. Please make every effort to attend so that this will be the best Homecoming ever! Scan the QR code to attend.

The next First Friday on October 2nd will feature outstanding saxophonist Mace Hibbard. Please note on Friday, November 6th, the amazing Nnenna Freelon will perform a special First Friday concert in the Sanctuary! Be sure to purchase your tickets for these events on Event Brite.

Thank you Minister Myles-Amir for helping several members register for the Instant Church Directory, and the Text Msg system, over the past few weeks. Each of these portals are vital in maintaining good communication and information sharing within the church. This is essential to any church ministry. If you have not enrolled, please do so as soon as possible.

The Virtual Bible Study session will gather on **Monday, September 14th at 6:30 P.M. ET** in the zoom format (see below for connections). The discussion will focus on **Acts 21 and 22,** and will be led by **Beth Brown and Jack Williams.** Meeting ID: 815 2035 8883 Passcode: 108214

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.

Theater Lovers Alert. A group trip to see the Alliance Theater Production of ***PURPOSE*** is in the works. Contact Terri Vismale Morris for more information.

FALL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

9/13	The Blessing of the Pledge Cards
9/20	A special Interfaith Service of Remembrance of the Atlanta Race Massacre of 1906.
9/20	After worship **Annual Diaconate Cookout** in the Memorial Garden
9/27	Homecoming Worship with Gubernatorial candidate and former Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as Guest Speaker.
10/2	First Friday at First Featuring Mace Hibbard
10/4	Servette Sunday and Sisters in the Law fundraiser
10/11	Women's Fellowship gathering
10/18	Men's Day with special guest speaker Dr. Willie Underwood, III, President of the American Medical Association.
10/25	"Faith and AI Inforum" after worship with author, activist, and scholar Dr. Kamau Bobb. He discusses his new book, *The Bullwhip's Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence and America's Racial Caste System*. Co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee.
11/1	Fall Quarterly Meeting after worship
11/6	A Special First Friday with Nnenna Freelon in the Sanctuary
11/8	Stewardship Sunday
11/29	First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Green
12/6	Second Sunday of Advent. Many Moods of Christmas
12/11-12	Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers
12/13	Third Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Play
12/20	Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
12/25	Christmas Day Service
12/31	Watch Night Service. In Person

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