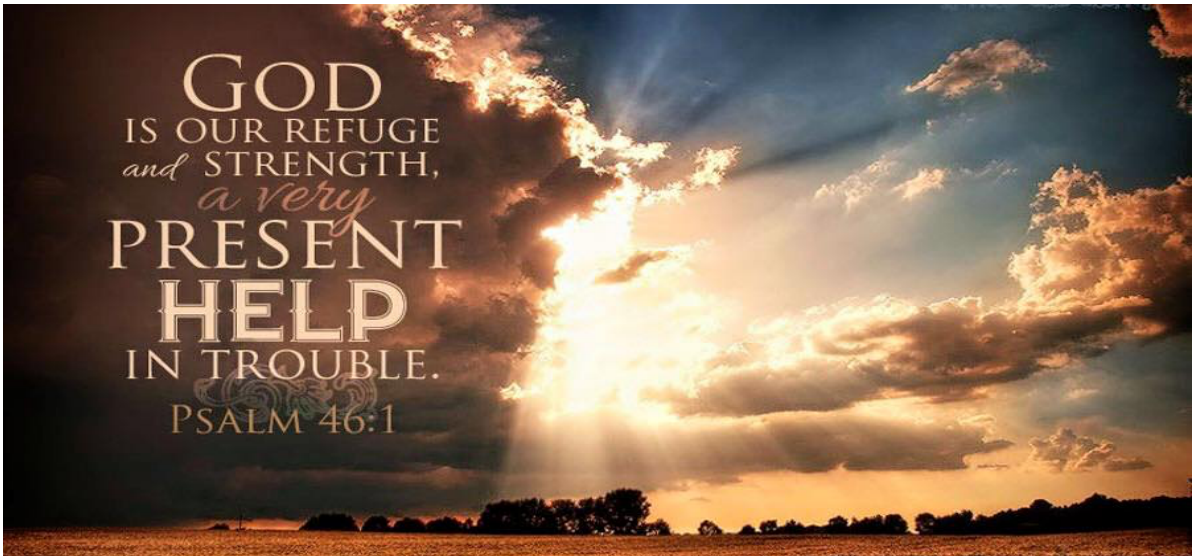


The First Annual 1906 Remembrance Exposition

A Service of Truth and Reconciliation

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

September 20, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost **September 20, 2026**

THE PRELUDE *Oh Freedom* Geri Allen
First Church Voices

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Reverend Dwight Andrews

Leader: *We gather this morning on ground both holy and wounded — a city that has known great faith, and great violence.*

People: *We come to remember what was done here, and to tell the truth about it.*

Leader: *We come as many peoples, from many houses of faith.*

People: *We come to seek reconciliation, and to take up the work of justice.*

Leader: *One hundred and twenty years have passed since 1906.*

People: *Let us worship God, who calls us still to truth, to reconciliation, and to action*

* OPENING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* James Weldon Johnson
Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND CLERGY AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH CONCERNS
Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Pastor

TELLING AND ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
Dr. Clarissa Myrick -Harris White

THE READING OF THE NAMES Mrs. Winnie Hemphill

SERVICE OF SILENCE AND LITANY OF TRUTH

Leader: *For the lives taken in September 1906 —*
People: *We remember, and we tell the truth.*
Leader: *For the names we know, and the names we will never know —*
People: *We remember, and we tell the truth.*
Leader: *For the silence that followed, and the long decades of forgetting —*
People: *We break the silence, and we tell the truth.*
Leader: *That truth may lead us to reconciliation, and reconciliation to action —*
People: *We commit ourselves, O God, to the work that remains.*

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY WORDS

There will be a special second offering to support the work of the Coalition

"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 *We're Blessed* Fred Hammond
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 *There is a Balm in Gilead*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION AND HEALING

Prayer of Reconciliation — *Prayed in unison*

God of justice and mercy, we do not come to close a wound too quickly, nor to speak peace where there is not yet peace. We come to face the truth of 1906, and of all that it set in motion, and to ask for the courage to build something more honest in its place. Bind us to one another across every line that divides us — of race, of faith, and of history — and make us, together, repairers of the breach. Amen.

— All

Extended across the traditions gathered, as a sign of the reconciliation we seek.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Deacon Kevin KP Smith

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 46: 1-11 NEW TESTAMENT: Corinthians 5: 17-20

MUSICAL OFFERING *Civil Rights Medley*

First Church Voices and the Third Sunday Band

SERMON "Be Still: Remembering So That We May Rise"

The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Franklin

HYMN OF INVITATION *I Don't Feel No Ways Tired* James Cleveland

First Church Voices and the Third Sunday Band

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Reverend Andrews

CHARGE AND A WORD ON THE WEEK AHEAD

Dr. R. Candy Tate, Chair, Annual Exposition Event

THE BENEDICTION Dr. Franklin

CLOSING SONG *We Shall Overcome*

First Church Voices and the Third Sunday Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today during we commemorate the 1906 Race Massacre and praying for the healing of our nation that has yet to come to fruition. We thank the Race and Reconciliation Committee that shepherds this important effort. We welcome our distinguished Guest preacher, the Reverend Dr. Robert M. Franklin. Dr. Franklin is no stranger to First Church. He is recognized throughout the nation as a dynamic theologian, ethicist, and thought leader.

Following our sacred service, we will celebrate God's bounty with our annual Church Cookout in the Memorial Garden. All are welcome!

HOMECOMING IS NEXT WEEK! Our theme is **Our Home, Your Home, God's Home**. Our guest speaker is the **Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms**, former Atlanta mayor and Gubernatorial candidate. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the faith witness of one of our exceptional public servants.

The purple and white flowers on the altar are in celebration of the 96th birthday (Sept 21) of one of Paine College's most illustrious alum- **Ms. Odessa Walker Hooker**. Happy Birthday! From your children -Doug (Patrise) , Mel, David, Marg, and Darrell, and your siblings, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We all love you.

The yellow and orange arrangement on the altar are in loving memory of our mother **Mardell Brown**. Your love, kindness, and giving heart, were and continue to be a gift to all who knew you. Happy Heavenly Birthday We love you, always June, Janice and family.

The Celebration of Life for **Dr. Selwyn Howard** was held on 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 September 11th. Please keep the Thomas and Cheese families in your prayers.

STUDY AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS KEY TO OUR FAITH WALK

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.

Deacon James Rodgers leads a **Sunday Adult Bible Study** in the Herndon Tower at 9:30 am. and has initiated a second virtual class on Thursday evenings. Contact James for details.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL started back today! 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. 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

Virtual Bible Study will gather on **Monday, September 21 at 6:30 pm.** The focus of the discussion will be Acts 23, and the discussion leader will be Jack Williams. All are welcome. Feel free to encourage your friends to participate.
Zoom Meeting ID: 815 2035 8883. Passcode: 108214

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

One Body, Many Parts: We Still Need to Hear from You

Last Thursday, we launched our CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY — the first step in our strategic planning journey. So far, response has been less enthusiastic than we'd hoped, and that means we're still missing many voices.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NRSVUE) that together we are the body of Christ, each of us a distinct and necessary member of it. But a body can't function fully when some of its parts haven't checked in yet.

If you haven't completed the survey, please take time today. It takes 15-20 minutes and it is anonymous. Your input directly shapes how First Church will:

- **REFLECT** on the past — what's made us strong
- **GIVE THANKS** in the present — what we value today
- **JOYFULLY ANTICIPATE** the future — where we're headed together

We can't move forward as one body until every part has been heard. Please complete the survey by scanning the QR code.

Kimberly Mayberry, our Administrative Assistant, will be leaving First Church at the end of this month. We thank her for her many contributions to our ministry and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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