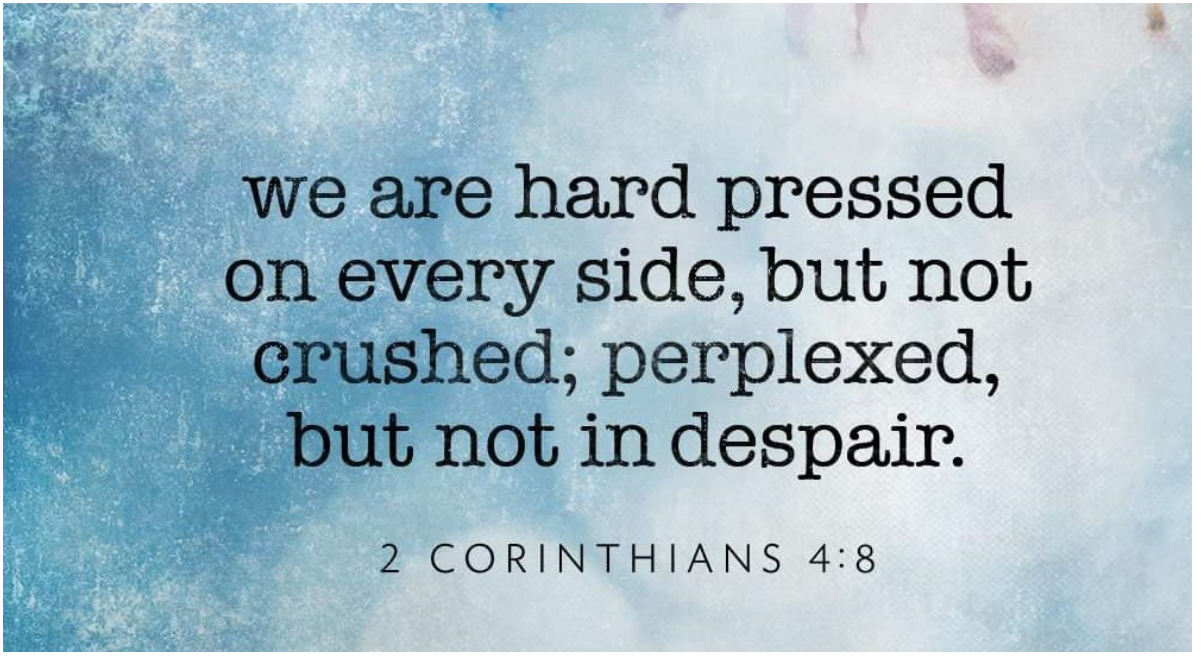


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Serving Atlanta and the World since 1867

September 6, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost **September 6, 2026**

THE PRELUDE

Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Minister Myles Amir Riley

* OPENING HYMN *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Congregation and First Church Voices

*All who are able please stand and sing.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND GLORIA PATRI

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Reverend Andrews

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Wini Hemphill and Zuri and Corbin Bryant

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 *You are Good* Israel Houghton

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 *Give Me a Clean Heart*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend Harold Eichelberger

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Deacon Terri Vismale Morris
Old Testament: Psalm 119:33-40 New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:1-9

MUSICAL OFFERING *Bless Me (Prayer of Jabez)* Donald Lawrence
First Church Voices

SERMON *"Trouble Don't Last Always"* Reverend Dwight Andrews

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Reverend Angela Dempsey Williams

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Reverends Andrews, Eichelberger, and Dempsey Williams

BENEDICTION Reverend Andrews

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Go Ye Now in Peace trad.* arr. Renee Clark
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

God puts people in our lives for a reason, whether for a season or a lifetime. He uses them to help us grow, learn, and become the best version of ourselves. Thank you, First Church, from the bottom of my heart, for honoring me with the **Henry N. Brown Award.** Most importantly, thank you for helping me live into my best life. *"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!"*

– G. Lynne Alston-Leonard (Deacon, Lay Leader, Advocate and Friend)

First Congregational UCC Atlanta successfully hosted the **60th Annual Meeting** of the **Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ** two weeks ago. The conference included workshops, plenary sessions, and worship services. We thank the many volunteers who served to welcome and host the clergy, delegates, and visitors from across the Southeast Conference. Special thanks to Pamela Cook and Reverend Ginnie Ferrell for coordinating the First Church effort.

The Celebration of Life for **Erma Jean Thomas** will be held on Friday, September 11 at 11:00 am at First Church. Please keep the Thomas and Cheese families in your prayers.

A beautiful Celebration of Life for **Cedric Jordan** was held last week at First Church. Please keep his wife Carol and children Randall, Taylor, Jacob, and Rachel in your prayers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is back and begins **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 age-appropriate 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. We look forward to all that God will do in and through the lives of the youth and young families of First Church. ----Minister Myles Amir Riley

The congregation voted to affirm revisions to the **2026 Operations Budget** at a Special Call meeting last Sunday. Thank you for your support of these important changes that will enhance the mission and ministries of First Church.

The Homecoming Communications Committee is meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 7pm to finalize the social media strategy. This is a zoom meeting. All interested parties should use the following Meeting ID: 896 8346 6595 Passcode: 139521

First Friday on September 4th featured dynamic vocalist Lavahi.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 via the QR code..

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

The **Monday Night Virtual Bible Study** Group will not meet tomorrow due to the Labor Day Holiday.

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.

A Stewardship Thought Inspired by 1 Timothy 6:10

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." Scan the QR code to give.

FALL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

9/13	Pledge Card Blessing
9/20	**Ambassador Young preaching** and special Interfaith Service of Remembrance of the Atlanta Race Massacre of 1906.
9/20	After worship **Annual Diaconate Cookout** in the 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
10/11	Women's Fellowship
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.
11/6	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