

ATLANTA FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*worship. serve. grow. engage.*



Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor  
Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop  
Dr. Bernice Kirkland, District Superintendent  
360 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30308  
404-524-6614 [AtlantaFirstUMC.org](http://AtlantaFirstUMC.org)

Welcome to Atlanta First! This community of faith believes in radically welcoming all people! So whether you are young or old; light, medium, or dark skinned; living with a disability or non-disabled; have it all together or have nothing together; are poor in resources or have plenty of resources; heterosexual or identify as a LGBTQ+ person – whoever you are and however you come, we believe that you were created beautifully in the image of God! You are welcome and loved at Atlanta First!

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February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday



# Welcome to Atlanta First!

Atlanta First exists to *worship* God, *serve* people, *grow* together and *engage* Atlanta! We're on a mission to transform our city for Christ and you are invited to join the movement! Please feel free to worship in the way that you feel most comfortable. Please don't be surprised by the sounds of babies and children; crying and shouting; singing and making joyful noises. Some will worship quietly; some will worship in more expressive ways. We may do things differently than you might be used to and we invite you to join in.

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## Gathering

All enter in silence.

## Greetings

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor

## Prayer

### \* Hymn

UMH 402 - "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

## Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## Sermonic Selection

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

## Homily

"Reckless Love: Where Is Your Heart?"

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor

## Invitation to the Observance of Lent

You are invited to the Altar Rail to pray.

## Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Imposition of the Ashes

## Confession and Pardon

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

\* Please stand as you are able. UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## The Peace

### Offering

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### \* Reflection in Song

UMH 419 - "I Am Thine, O Lord"

### \* Benediction

### Going Forth

Depart in silence.



## RECKLESS LOVE

WORSHIP & STUDY SERIES

SUNDAYS DURING LENT:  
9:45 AM - SMALL GROUPS  
11 AM - WORSHIP

# Let's *worship* Together!

## Ministry With Children and Youth

Children are an important part of the church family and are welcome in worship. Don't worry about squirms or sounds, children remind us of the faithfulness of God! Should you choose, there is a Nursery available each Sunday for infants and toddlers. On 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, we love to worship together as a family in the Sanctuary and take Communion together. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, Pre-School through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Children's Church after the Children's Moment in worship. We invite youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older, to remain in the Sanctuary as full participants in the worship experience.

**Youth Confirmation Class continues on Sunday mornings.** 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Pastor's Conference Room during worship.

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# Let's *serve* Together!

## Weekly Donation Needs

### Church Door Ministry to Serve Our Homeless Neighbors:

Rain ponchos, bottled water, packs of crackers, granola bars, back packs.

### This Week's Mission Support Donation Suggestion:

Sandwich-size zip bags to support mission ministries.

Amazon Smile Donation List: <http://bit.ly/A1Mission>

### Midtown Assistance Center Weekly Needs:

Reusable bags, new men's underwear. Volunteers on Wed.'s, 9 am to 4 pm.

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## SafeHouse Outreach and Mary Hall Freedom House Dinners

SafeHouse Outreach is an urban outreach committed to affecting real change in the lives in the margins of society, by providing a hand up not just a hand out. On **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, meet at Atlanta First at **4 pm** to prepare, then at **6 pm** go to SafeHouse at 89 Ellis Street to serve and have fellowship with their guests. Please sign up on the *connect & engage* card.

The mission of Mary Hall Freedom House is to empower women to end the cycle of addictions, poverty and homelessness for themselves and for their children. On **Thursday, March 5<sup>nd</sup>**, meet at Atlanta First at **4 pm** to prepare a meal, then at **6 pm** go to 866 Warner Street SW to serve the meal and have fellowship with the guests. Please sign up on the *connect & engage* card.

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## Your Giving Matters!

Your financial gifts are what make it possible for us to *worship, serve, grow* and *engage* here in the heart of Atlanta. When you give, you are helping those in the city



whom God has entrusted to our care. Please scan the QR code to the left or visit [AtlantaFirstUMC.org/giving](http://AtlantaFirstUMC.org/giving) to give online. You can also give through CashApp ([\\$AtlantaFirstUMC](https://www.cash.app/)) with the scan code to the right.



# Let's *grow* Together!

## Reckless Love Series Sunday School Studies

During the season of Lent our Sunday School classes will participate in a study that ties directly into our worship series, **Reckless Love**. The **Reckless Love** study will greatly enhance your appreciation for the sermons and worship experience, as we look at what radical Godly love truly is, and how Jesus calls us to share that love with our neighbors. If you aren't already a member of one of these classes, we highly recommend you join one during Lent!

Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings, and are located on the third floor of the Education Building. Our greeters will be happy to help you find them.

**The Currents Class** is a multi-generational group that enjoys a diversity of perspectives and lively discussion of the Scripture. The class studies a range of Biblical topics, relating all to life application.

**The Saint Andrew Class** is taught by a rotation of four teachers and occasional guest speakers. They use the Adult Bible Studies curriculum. The class is a faithful supporters of MAC and other ministries sponsored by the church. The Saint Andrew Class has a variety of ages represented on their roll, so everyone is invited and welcome!

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## Children's Sunday School Class & Children's Church

Ages 4-12, uses an exciting curriculum, "All-In-One-Sunday School." Each lesson contains active-learning experiences, interactive Bible stories, life applications, and take-home handouts. We also have Children's Church, which begins following the Children's Moment in worship, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.



## Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is co-led by the Pastors and Pastoral Interns. The class meets in the Pastor's Conference Room on Sunday mornings. For more information, please contact Markus McKinney, Pastoral Intern ([markus@atlantafirstumc.org](mailto:markus@atlantafirstumc.org)).

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## Youth Confirmation Class Retreat

The Conference-wide Confirmation Retreat, set for **March 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**, will focus on the five vows United Methodists make when agreeing to follow Christ: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Youth will spend time at the Glisson Camp and Retreat Center learning more about what it means to be a United Methodist, to be in a district and a conference, and how being a "connectional church" is a blessing. To register and for more details, please visit:

[www.ngumc.org/confirmationresources](http://www.ngumc.org/confirmationresources)

## Prayer List for Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

We would like to pray with and for you. Please share your prayer needs with us using a Prayer Card in the pew racks, or e-mail [prayer@atlantafirstumc.org](mailto:prayer@atlantafirstumc.org).

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### Church Family

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**Pastor Jasmine & Family**

**Beverly Bush**

**Lisa Peterson**

**Pastor Walter & Family**

**Virginia Cathcart**

**Ruth Richardson**

**Atlanta First**

**Carol Colly**

**Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker**

**Hubert Davis**

**AFDS Staff**

**Marlee Franklin**

**Les Scarborough**

**Atlanta First Staff**

**Dot Fraser**

**Gerald Stacy**

**Atlanta First Shut-Ins**

**Barbara Fruit**

**Dorothy Ann Turnipseed**

**Gerald Brock**

**Bonnie & Ross Lane**

**Rev. Hulda Wilson**

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### Extended Church Family and Friends

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**Omar Beach**

Friend of Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker

**Barry Fraser**

Son of Dot Fraser

**Tommye & Keith Miller**

Friends of Jeanne Spencer

**Edward Bean**

Grandson of Dallas Terrell

**Tonia Freeman**

Rosa Freeman's Sister

**Anthony Smallwood**

Brother-In-Law of  
Alisa Smallwood

**Mary Jim Black**

Mother of Miriam Smith

**Kevin Fruit**

Son of Ray & Barbara Fruit

**The Stotler Family**

Missionaries

**Pamela Datcher**

Sister of Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker

**P. D. Harris**

Father of Carolyn Lara

**Jonathan Tarantino**

Friend of Jeanne Spencer

**Joyce Essein**

Friend of Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker

**Ruth Jackson**

Mother of Sandra Jackson

**Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**

Resident Bishop

**Meredith Tarantino**

Friend of Jeanne Spencer

**Carl B. Fairchild**

Friend of Jeanne Spencer

**Dr. Bernice Kirkland**

District Superintendent

**Robert Witcher**

Brother of Carol Colly

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### Active Duty Military & First Responders

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**MSgt. Logan Cathcart**

Grandson of Virginia Cathcart

**Officer Allen Richardson**

Brother of Dr. Nadia Jones

**All active-duty military  
who are currently deployed,  
and their families.**

**MSgt. Scott Cathcart**

Son of Virginia Cathcart

**Officer Frannie Spencer**

Daughter of Jeanne Spencer

## Let's *engage* Together:

### PRISM: Winter Lights at Woodruff Park

PRISM, presented by the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, is an art exhibition celebrating the winter season with vibrant, light-based sculptures by artists from around the country. Spread throughout Woodruff Park in Downtown Atlanta, PRISM is a free and public display through the end of February.

### Happy Birthday!

Monday, February 24

Iman Waiswa

Wednesday, February 26

Hubert Davis

Friday, February 28

Marlee Franklin

Sunday, March 1

Julie Coleman

Tuesday, March 3

Dr. Dana Lyles

## worship, serve, grow & engage at Atlanta First:

Wednesday, February 26

### Ash Wednesday

- 12 pm Ash Wednesday Worship & Lunch
- 5 pm Yoga Class (Beginners)
- 5:45 pm Basketball
- 6 pm Ash Wednesday Worship & Dinner
- 6 pm Yoga Class (All Levels)

Thursday, February 27

- 11 am Disciple Bible Study

Sunday, March 1

- 9 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am A Disciple's Path Class
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11 am Worship
- 11:30 am Youth Confirmation Class

Tuesday, March 3

- 4 pm SafeHouse Outreach (Prep)
- 6 pm SafeHouse Outreach (Serve)

Thursday, March 5

- 4 pm Mary Hall Freedom House (Prep)
- 6 pm Mary Hall Freedom House (Serve)



*connect & engage with Atlanta First!*

### How will you *worship*?

For more info, contact [Worship@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Worship@AtlantaFirstUMC.org).

- I will attend worship during Lent, featuring the "Reckless Love" Worship Series.

### How will you *serve*?

For more info, contact [Serve@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Serve@AtlantaFirstUMC.org).

- I will bring sandwich-size zip bags to support Mission Ministries this week.
- I will donate to the [Keep Atlanta Warm](#) clothing drive.
- I will serve at [SafeHouse Outreach](#) on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- I will serve at [Mary Hall Freedom House](#) on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### How will you *grow*?

For more info, contact [Grow@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Grow@AtlantaFirstUMC.org).

- I will attend a [Sunday School Class](#), Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.
- I will pray for the [Youth Confirmation Class](#).
- I will attend a "Reckless Love" Small Group.


### How will you *engage*?


For more info, contact [Engage@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Engage@AtlantaFirstUMC.org).

- I will attend the [Free Yoga Class](#), Wednesday evenings, 5 pm or 6 pm.
- I will attend [Wednesday Night Basketball](#), at 5:45 pm.



# Ready to *Join the Movement* @ Atlanta First? Here's How!

 Come to the Altar Rail during worship at the "Invitation to Christian Discipleship" and let Pastor Jasmine know you'd like to join.

 Email or call Pastor Jasmine. Contact information is below.

<b>Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers</b> , Lead Pastor	<a href="mailto:Pastor@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Pastor@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Rev. Walter R. Jones</b> , Executive Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:Walter@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Walter@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Rev. Dr. Nancy Long, LPC, LMFT</b> , Pastoral Counselor	<a href="mailto:Counseling@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Counseling@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Markus McKinney</b> , Pastoral Intern	<a href="mailto:Markus@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Markus@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Dixie Scruggs</b> , Pastoral Intern	<a href="mailto:Dixie@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Dixie@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Christopher Bryant</b> , Director of Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:Christopher@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Christopher@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Dr. Nadia J. Jones</b> , AFDS Executive Director	<a href="mailto:Nadia@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Nadia@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Jennifer Graham</b> , Executive Assistant to the Pastor	<a href="mailto:Jennifer@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Jennifer@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Jeanne Spencer</b> , Events and Operations Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Jeanne@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Jeanne@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>
<b>Steven Colly</b> , Communications & Media	<a href="mailto:Steven@AtlantaFirstUMC.org">Steven@AtlantaFirstUMC.org</a>

Questions about how to *worship, serve, grow* or *engage* here at Atlanta First? Please contact:  
[Worship@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Worship@AtlantaFirstUMC.org) • [Serve@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Serve@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)  
[Grow@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Grow@AtlantaFirstUMC.org) • [Engage@AtlantaFirstUMC.org](mailto:Engage@AtlantaFirstUMC.org)

Watch Livestreams of Our Worship Services Online: [www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/live](http://www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org/live)

Atlanta First UMC Office: 404-524-6614

24/7 Pastoral Care Line: 404-446-3777

Atlanta First Day School: 404-333-0270

AFDS Website: [www.A1Kids.org](http://www.A1Kids.org)



[/AtlantaFirstUMC](https://www.instagram.com/AtlantaFirstUMC)

[www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org](http://www.AtlantaFirstUMC.org)

**ATLANTA FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*worship serve grow engage.*



*please let us know you were here.*

**Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*Please tear off this card and place it in the offering plate or give it to a staff member.*

Member     Visitor     Frequent Attender     Clergy

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Scan this QR code to fill in this card online!

- I'm interested in becoming a member.  
 Please add me to the e-mail list.