




April 2, 2026 - Holy Thursday

Welcome to Atlanta First UMC! This community of faith believes in radically welcoming all people! Whether you are young or old; light, medium, or dark skinned; living with a disability or able-bodied; have it all together or have nothing together; are poor in resources or have plenty; are LGBTQ+ or identify as straight – whoever you are and however you come, we believe that you were created in the beautiful image of God. **You are welcome and loved!**

Atlanta First exists to *worship* God, *serve* people, *grow* together and *engage* the city of Atlanta and beyond. We're on a mission to transform our community for Christ and you are invited to join the movement!

Please feel free to worship in a way that makes you feel most comfortable. Do not 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. Just as all people are welcome, all worship styles are welcome too.

Let us praise God!

 [Click here to worship on Facebook!](#)

 [Click here to worship on YouTube!](#)

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor

Bishop Robin Dease, Resident Bishop
Rev. Dr. Julie Boone, District Superintendent

ATLANTA FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

worship. serve. grow. engage.



Scan this code or visit eepurl.com/hB8XtL
to connect with us today!

The Order of *worship* for April 2, 2026 - Holy Thursday

Enter In Silence

Please gather in silent contemplation.

Greeting and Centering Words

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor (pastor@atlantafirstumc.org)

PASTOR: With the Passover table set, Jesus humbles himself as a servant—even though betrayal and denial are close at hand. Watch and pray, that you may be found faithful during the time of trial. (*John 13*)

Call to Worship

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

PASTOR: Followers of Jesus, our lives are filled with stress and distress, disquiet and fear. In the unrest and the fear, we gather to worship God who delivers us. Like the disciples gathered with Jesus, we feel the turmoil of rumors and conspiracies, the grasping for power and security that threatens the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors.

PEOPLE: In the suffering and the tumult, we gather to call on God who delivers us.

PASTOR: Facing an unknown future, the disciples gathered as we do today, to be surprised by Love, to share a meal, to remember their story, to receive a new story and a new meal.

PEOPLE: In the uncertainty of these days, we gather to share the story of God who delivers us.

PASTOR: Followers of Jesus, come. Come to the basin and be washed. Come to the meal and be fed. Come to the table and be strengthened for the journey.

PEOPLE: We gather together to remember the story of God's deliverance, that we may go from this place to heal the hurting, to tend the suffering, to love one another as Jesus loves us.

Opening Prayer

(Exodus 12, 1 Corinthians 11, John 13)

ALL: Your love calls us here, Gracious One, calling us to dine with you and to be instruments of your love. Gather us in Jesus's name, that we may offer him the full measure of our devotion. Amen.

* Hymn

United Methodist Hymnal 292 - "What Wondrous Love Is This"

THE LORD'S SUPPER AND TENEBRAE

Lord, Is It I?

Matthew 26:17-29 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

The Great Thanksgiving for Holy Thursday Evening

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON (*Congregational responses in bold*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL PRAY IN SILENCE

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

From the beginning of all creation, God's word was love. That love has been lavished upon you, not because you did anything to earn it, but because it is God's great gift to you. Live in that love and bring peace to others.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY THURSDAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

In the beginning, you hovered over the waters and poured out your love over the formless void, turning chaos into life. You formed us in your image and provided for us from the fruit of creation. When we turned away, and our love failed, your steadfast love never failed. You set the Israelites free and brought them through the waters. When they doubted and complained, you provided manna from heaven and water from a rock. Even when we betrayed and broke covenant with you, you never abandoned us. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. When we turned away from you and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Divine Love poured out in human form, Christ fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, and taught us how to love by incarnating Love among us.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from enslavement to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the evening in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus rose from the supper table and took a pitcher of water. He poured it into a basin, knelt down, and began to wash the disciples' feet.

When he was finished, he sat down and spoke with the disciples, saying, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

That same night, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

As Christ, Divine Love poured out for us, came to show us how to love one another, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and called to love one another as Christ loves us. For it is by this love that everyone will know we are his disciples.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

No matter who you are or wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please follow the directions of the ushers to partake at the altar rail. If you wish to be served at your seat, please let an usher know and you will be served.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Alone in the Garden

Matthew 26:30-46 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

Mary Jackson

(continued on next page)

Reflection in Song

United Methodist Hymnal 314 - "In the Garden"

THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Betrayed and Denied

Matthew 26:47-75 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

Lynsey Mitchell

Reflection in Song

"He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word" - Traditional African American Spiritual
Organ Solo - Rowena Dennard, Director of Worship and Music

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Crucifixion

Matthew 27:1-2,11-44 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

Harold Jenkins

Reflection in Song

"Calvary" - Traditional African American Spiritual

Ted Jenifer, Soloist

THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Death on the Cross

Matthew 27:45-54 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

Dorothy Ann Turnipseed

Reflection in Song

"God So Loved the World" - John Stainer and Mike Carson

The Atlanta First UMC Chancel Choir

Rowena Dennard, Director of Worship & Music (dennard@atlantafirstumc.org)

THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Burial in the Tomb

Matthew 27:57-66 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

Alisa Smallwood

Reflection in Song

"Were You There?" - Arr by John and Frederick Work

Amber Dennard, Soloist

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Darkness and Silence

Reflection in Song

"Lamb of God" - Twila Paris

The Atlanta First Chancel Choir:

Amber Dennard, Ronni Jackson, Laverne Jenkins, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker, Hunter Christian, and Ted Jenifer

THE ALTAR TABLE AND PULPIT ARE STRIPPED

Response

PASTOR: But even in the dark and desolate silence of the tomb, God has not deserted us. Even now we have the hope that was promised by the prophets and fulfilled in that Christmas manger in Bethlehem. The Christ candle that was the center of our Advent wreath reminds us that in all times and in all circumstances, when it seems we have been abandoned and forsaken even by God, we are not alone.

ALL: God is with us. Amen.

We Go Forth and Offering

All exit in silence.

*A free-will offering will be taken at the Sanctuary doors to benefit our **serve** ministry which feeds, clothes, and helps those in need every day of the week. Should you choose to give, you may also give online and via CashApp (see back page).*

Thank you for worshiping at Atlanta First United Methodist Church.



12 p.m. - worship
1 to 3 p.m. - Tolling of the Bell

Tomorrow is Good Friday, the day on which the crucifixion of Jesus is remembered. It is called Good Friday, even though it is dark, because on this day God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Good Friday worship focuses on prayer and reflection. The altar is stripped and all gathered are asked to depart in silence.

Immediately after *worship*, the historic Atlanta First UMC bell will toll once a minute for the three hours Jesus hung on the cross (excluding worship time), until 3 p.m. All are welcome to participate, just come up to the second floor in the bell tower corner after the service.



8 a.m. - Sunrise worship
9 a.m. - Fellowship Breakfast
10 a.m. - Celebration worship

Easter is the most holy of days in the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ—his bursting from the tomb and bringing salvation to the world. This was Jesus' most important miracle, performed with God and the Holy Spirit, that all might believe. Worship will be a joyous occasion where we break the Lenten fasts and rejoice together in praise, singing "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!"



Life holds joy and sorrow, faith and doubt, hope and fear—often all at once. The Psalms meet us in the middle of it all, giving us language to pray through every season of the soul.

This Easter season, from Easter to Pentecost, we'll journey together through the Psalms—learning to bring our whole selves before God and discovering the steady presence of Christ in every moment.

Come learn how to hold it all—with faith, balance, and courage.

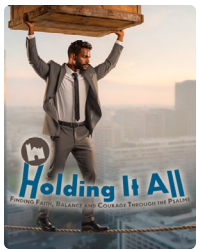
serve Together



Friends at the Front Door is a ministry to *serve* our homeless and hungry friends who live in the vicinity of Atlanta First. We provide a bag lunch, clothing, toiletry supplies, and share a time of fellowship and prayer with those we serve. On **Tuesday, April 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, all are invited to participate with the *serve* Team in this mission. Just by being present, handing out food and water, and by sharing in a time of compassionate fellowship and prayer with friends, you are being the hands and feet of Christ. **We are in need of donations of water bottles (16 oz) and crackers.**

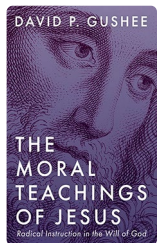
To all see the ways you can *serve* and be the hands and feet of Christ in the city, visit: atlantafirstumc.org/serve

grow Together



Sunday Morning *grow* Group: What do you do when life feels like... everything at once? Joy and grief. Faith and doubt. Hope and fear. The Psalms don't ask us to choose—they teach us how to bring it all to God. This Easter season, we're walking through the Psalms together from Easter to Pentecost—discovering how God meets us in every emotion, every question, and every moment. Join us for *Holding It All: Finding Faith, Balance, and Courage Through the Psalms*, as we take a deeper dive into the lessons and Psalm readings of our Easter worship series.

The Sunday *grow* Group meets in-person at the church and online via ZOOM at 9 a.m. Eastern, and is taught by a rotating group of laity teachers. Register at: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Grow-Sunday



Tuesday Evening *grow* Group: Join the Tuesday *grow* Group this spring as we continue in our study based on David P. Gushee's *The Moral Teachings of Jesus*. In this study are examining forty teachings of Jesus, drawn from all four New Testament Gospels, to clarify exactly what Jesus said about the moral life.

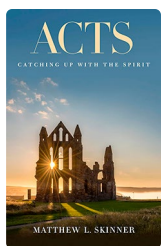
The Tuesday *grow* group meets via ZOOM on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Eastern time. Lead Pastor Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers is the facilitator.

Register at: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Grow-Tuesday



Wednesday Evening *grow* Group: The Wednesday *grow* Group is spinning and rocking to a fun and engaging series called *Sacred Playlist!* Join in as we discuss the Christian themes of favorite songs selected by group members. We listen to the songs together and discuss on ZOOM every Wednesday night. Grab your Bible, a snack, your ZOOM device, and let's have fun *growing* together!

The Wednesday *grow* group meets via ZOOM at 7 p.m. Eastern. The group is co-led by Min. Maya Su and Lynsey Mitchell. Register at: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Grow-Wednesday



Thursday Morning *grow* Group: Join us this Spring as we begin a new study based on *Acts: Catching up with the Spirit* by author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner. This study provides a broad yet theologically attuned introduction to the book of Acts and its story of the early church learning to bear witness about God's salvation through Jesus Christ. We will explore six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian message, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world.

The Thursday *grow* Group will meet in-person at the church and online via ZOOM, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern time, beginning on April 16. The class is led by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker.

Register at: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Grow-Thursday

For full details and sign-ups for all of our *grow* Groups, please visit: atlantafirstumc.org/grow

engage Together

A promotional banner for 'Paul's Journey Cruise'. On the left is a portrait of Dr. Candace Lewis, the guest speaker. The center features a collage of images: a windmill, a modern building, ancient ruins, a classical temple, and a cruise ship. The text on the right says 'Join Rev. Jasmine Smothers on the Paul's Journey Cruise' in a large, elegant font, followed by 'September 25 - October 6, 2026' and '9 Nights Aboard Celebrity Infinity • Round Trip from Piraeus, Greece'. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Candace Lewis

Join Rev. Jasmine Smothers on the
Paul's Journey Cruise
September 25 - October 6, 2026
9 Nights Aboard Celebrity Infinity • Round Trip from Piraeus, Greece

You are invited to join the church weekly on Mondays at 12 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Eastern Time for times of intentional prayer together. A church that prays together is a strong, fortified, and faithful congregation that can endure anything! If you have any prayer concerns or praises, you may send them to prayer@atlantafirstumc.org.

Monday Noon Prayer ZOOM Link: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Monday-Prayer

Tuesday Intentional Prayer ZOOM Link: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Prayer

— Prayer List for the Week of April 2, 2026 —

Please share your prayer needs with us at prayer@atlantafirstumc.org or on the prayer cards located at the Sanctuary entrances.

A Celebration of Life Graveside Service for Beverly Bush will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. The service will be held at Arlington Memorial Park, 201 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA 30328.

Church Family

Pastor Jasmine & Family

Atlanta First

Atlanta First Staff

Atlanta First's Affordable Housing Development Initiative

Atlanta First Shut-Ins

Adams-Williams Family

Mattie Brock

Chris Hinton-Lee

Bonnie Lane

Suzie and Aaron Moody

Rev. Ed and Ann Nelson

Steve Pearson

Wayne Pierce

Ruth Richardson

Bruce Shields

Bill Sims

Dallas Terrell

Dorothy-Ann Turnipseed

Extended Church Family and Friends

Friends at the Front Door

Healing for our Nation

93 mass shootings in the USA during 2026 as of April 1

Parents and Grandparents

All School Staff & Students

Israel, Palestine, Syria and Iran

Venezuela

Ukraine and Russia

Sudan and Congo

India and Pakistan

Victims of natural disasters around the world

Christian persecution and killings in Nigeria and Syria

All who are affected by COVID-19

Our Neighbors at the Imperial Hotel

Kamari Besteder

Granddaughter of Rosa Freeman

Dr. Julie Boone

District Superintendent

Mary Francis and Gordon Cooper

Cousins of Lisa Peterson

Bishop Robin Dease

Resident Bishop

Dallies Edwards

Nephew of Sylean Harris

Doris Sims Jones

Sister of Bill Sims

Robert Jones

Our former security guard

Sierra Nicely

Daughter of Ruby Lawrence

Elizabeth Satterwhite

Rev. Jack Scott

Friend of Mary Jackson

Mitsi Smith

Mother of Nick Smith

Ethel Tigner

Mother of Bill Sims

Dr. Anne and Dr. Ed Wimberly

Active Duty Military & First Responders

MSgt. Logan Cathcart

MSgt. Scott Cathcart

All deployed active-duty military and their families.

Happy Birthday!

Friday, April 3

David Cobble and Julie Jones

worship, serve, grow & engage
at Atlanta First:

Thursday, April 2

Holy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday *worship*

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

12 p.m. Good Friday *worship*
1-3 p.m. Tolling of the Bell

Sunday, April 5

Easter

8 a.m. Easter Sunrise *worship*
9 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10 a.m. Easter Celebration *worship*

Monday, April 6

Easter Observed - Office Closed

7 p.m. Monday Noon *prayer*

Tuesday, April 7

11 a.m. Friends at the Front Door
6 p.m. Intentional *prayer*
Tuesday *grow* Group (break)

Wednesday, April 8

Wednesday *grow* Group (break)

Thursday, April 9

Thursday *grow* Group (break)

Sunday, April 12

9 a.m. Sunday *grow* Group
10 a.m. *worship* In-Person & Online

— Save the Date —

Tuesday, April 7

Friends at the Front Door

Church Office Hours:

Sunday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Monday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Virtual)

Tuesday - Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ATLANTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Giving Back to God Through Atlanta First UMC

We are a church that makes a difference and gives ourselves away. We do not have to do this. We get to do this! We get to do this because of people like you who generously invest financially in this incredible mission. We want to thank you for your generous support of the ministries of Atlanta First!

Your giving directly changes lives of those in this city whom God has entrusted to our care. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can make a huge difference! Please scan the QR code to the right or visit our website at atlantafirstumc.org/give.

You can give through CashApp, at [\\$AtlantaFirstUMC](https://cash.app/$AtlantaFirstUMC), or scan the CashApp code to the right.

You can Text-to-Give by sending a text message to [833-675-0154](tel:833-675-0154), with your message being the amount you wish to give. For instance, to give \$20, text 20. You will be redirected to a secure website to complete your gift.



Scan to give securely online



Scan to give via CashApp

ATLANTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Holy Week

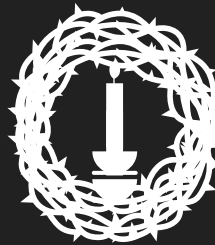
March 29 - April 5, 2026



GOOD FRIDAY

Worship - 12 p.m.
In-Person & Online

Tolling of the Bell 1-3 p.m.
You can help ring the bell!



SILENT SATURDAY

*Spend time in silence,
remembering that
Jesus lies in the tomb.*



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Worship - 8 a.m.
In-Person Only

Breakfast - 9 a.m.

Celebration

Worship - 10 a.m.
In-Person & Online

Contact Information

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor

Text Message: [404.525.2385](tel:404.525.2385)

Rowena Dennard, Director of Worship & Music

pastor@atlantafirstumc.org

Ext. 108

Steven Colly, Communications & Media

dennard@atlantafirstumc.org

Ext. 106

Min. Maya Su, Ministry Intern

steven@atlantafirstumc.org

Ext. 105

Kristy Tubbs, Finance Coordinator

maya@atlantafirstumc.org

finance@atlantafirstumc.org

Atlanta First United Methodist Church, 360 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Package Address: 2020 Howell Mill Road NW, Suite D-339, Atlanta, GA 30318-1732

Have any questions or comments about how to *worship*, *serve*, *grow* or *engage* here at Atlanta First? Contact us at:
worship@atlantafirstumc.org • serve@atlantafirstumc.org • grow@atlantafirstumc.org • engage@atlantafirstumc.org

Atlanta First UMC Office: [404.524.6614](tel:404.524.6614)

24/7 Pastoral Care Line: [404.446.3777](tel:404.446.3777)

Join Our Online Campus:
atlantafirstumc.org/onlinecampus

Worship Service Live-Streams:
atlantafirstumc.org/live



@atlantafirstumc
atlantafirstumc.org

