


April 3, 2026 - Good Friday

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 3, 2026 - Good Friday

Greetings

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

Gathering Words

Based on Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Min. Maya Su, Ministry Intern (maya@atlantafirstumc.org)

For us, he was despised, hated, unrecognizable and ridiculed.

For us, he was wounded that we may be whole and healed.

For us, he followed like a gentle lamb to be slaughtered in silence.

For us, he poured out himself to fill those who thirst.

For Christ, we mourn.

Centering Silence

* Hymn

United Methodist Hymnal 504 - "The Old Rugged Cross"

* Prayer of Confession

ALL: Gracious Creator, we come into your presence, aware that our actions and our inaction, our words and our failure to speak, have hurt your heart and hurt the hearts of others. We seek your grace and forgiveness. We seek to be our best selves. As scripture says: "Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." In gratitude for this cleansing grace granted to us through Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen. (*Hebrews 10:22*)

Words of Assurance

LEADER: Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

PEOPLE: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Worship through Giving

Please see the back page for the ways you may give back to God through Atlanta First UMC.

As you consider your charitable giving, please consider giving a special gift to Atlanta First. To put it simply, your gifts change lives in our community. Worshipers in the sanctuary may place offerings in the offering plates as they are passed to you. You can give securely online at atlantafirstumc.org/giving, give via CashApp, Text-to-Give by texting "1" to 833.675.0154, donate stock by emailing finance@atlantafirstumc.org or calling the church office at 404.524.6614, or mail a check to: Atlanta First UMC, 360 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Please see the back page for scannable QR codes for online giving and CashApp.

* Worship through Song

United Methodist Hymnal 363 - "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" - Verses 1, 4 and 5

Scripture Lesson

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

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Homily

"Forsaken"

* Prayer for Healing

PASTOR: We draw the sword to claim high places for ourselves. We scourge, mock, and beat you, Jesus. We prepare a cross for you. We hang you on it. We pierce your side with the spear. We willfully break the fellowship you prayed to be one. We make scapegoats of people we deem other. We create or refuse to end malnutrition, contamination of water, poverty, sickness, inhospitality, and imprisonment.

PEOPLE: Jesus, keep us near the cross, that we may be drawn back to you, and be healed. Amen.

Sending Forth

"Were You There?" - Arr by John and Frederick Work
Ronni Jackson, Soloist

PASTOR: Go in peace.

The people depart in silence.

Tolling of the Bell

Immediately following *worship*, we will conduct our traditional tolling of the historic Atlanta First UMC bell. The bell will be rung once a minute until 3 p.m., to honor the three hours that Jesus spent crucified to the cross. Volunteers are requested to help in this solemn tradition. All ages are welcome to participate! We will have staff on hand to help younger participants and those with handicaps to toll the bell.



Invitation to Easter Sunday *worship*

Easter is one of the most, if not *the* most holy days in the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ—his bursting from the tomb and salvation of 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!*” All are invited to join in this joyous celebration, which begins with sunrise *worship* at 8 a.m. in the church Garden on Peachtree Street. We will then have breakfast in our Sunday School room starting at 9 a.m., followed at 10 a.m. with our main Celebration *worship* service in the historic Atlanta First UMC sanctuary. You don't want to miss it!

Easter Sunrise *worship*

8 a.m. in the Church Garden

In-person Only

Easter Fellowship Breakfast

9 a.m. in the Sunday School Classroom

Easter Celebration *worship*

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

In-person and Online



Life rarely gives us just one emotion at a time. Joy and sorrow. Faith and doubt. Gratitude and grief. Peace and anxiety. Praise and lament. Confidence and uncertainty. We find ourselves holding it all—sometimes all at once. The Psalms meet us right there.

This Easter season, we step into a 50-day journey from resurrection to renewal, from Easter to Pentecost, discovering how the Psalms give us language for every part of the human experience. These ancient prayers don't ask us to choose between fear and joy—they teach us how to bring both before God honestly.

Together, as a community, we will be reading through the Psalms during the Easter season—praying them, wrestling with them, and allowing them to shape our lives. Along the way, we'll discover how God meets us in every season of the soul: in celebration and in struggle, in confidence and in uncertainty.

Because resurrection life isn't about pretending everything is perfect. It's about learning to trust God in the midst of everything.

Join us as we learn to hold it all—with faith, with balance, and with courage—and discover that God is present in every word, every emotion, and every moment.

Praying the Psalms

A Congregational Devotional from Easter to Pentecost

Week 1 – Resurrection Begins

Mon, Apr 6 - Psalms 1-4
 Tue, Apr 7 - Psalms 5-8
 Wed, Apr 8 - Psalms 9-11
 Thu, Apr 9 - Psalms 12-15
 Fri, Apr 10 - Psalms 16-18
 Sat, Apr 11 - Psalms 19-21

Week 3 – Trust and Praise

Mon, Apr 20 - Psalms 40-42
 Tue, Apr 21 - Psalms 43-45
 Wed, Apr 22 - Psalms 46-48
 Thu, Apr 23 - Psalms 49-51
 Fri, Apr 24 - Psalms 52-54
 Sat, Apr 25 - Psalms 55-57

Week 5 – Wisdom and Worship

Mon, May 4 - Psalms 76-78
 Tue, May 5 - Psalms 79-81
 Wed, May 6 - Psalms 82-84
 Thu, May 7 - Psalms 85-87
 Fri, May 8 - Psalms 88-90
 Sat, May 9 - Psalms 91-93

Week 7 – Songs of Praise

Mon, May 18 - Psalms 112-115
 Tue, May 19 - Psalms 116-118
 Wed, May 20 - Psalm 119
 Thu, May 21 - Psalms 120-125
 Fri, May 22 - Psalms 126-132
 Sat, May 23 - Psalms 133-150

Week 2 – Living the New Life

Mon, Apr 13 - Psalms 22-24
 Tue, Apr 14 - Psalms 25-27
 Wed, Apr 15 - Psalms 28-30
 Thu, Apr 16 - Psalms 31-33
 Fri, Apr 17 - Psalms 34-36
 Sat, Apr 18 - Psalms 37-39

Week 4 – God Our Refuge

Mon, Apr 27 - Psalms 58-60
 Tue, Apr 28 - Psalms 61-63
 Wed, Apr 29 - Psalms 64-66
 Thu, Apr 30 - Psalms 67-69
 Fri, May 1 - Psalms 70-72
 Sat, May 2 - Psalms 73-75

Week 6 – The Reign of God

Mon, May 11 - Psalms 94-96
 Tue, May 12 - Psalms 97-99
 Wed, May 13 - Psalms 100-102
 Thu, May 14 - Psalms 103-105
 Fri, May 15 - Psalms 106-108
 Sat, May 16 - Psalms 109-111

Pentecost Prayer

Holy Spirit, as the Psalms have shaped our prayer, shape our lives so that praise, justice, and love flow into the world.

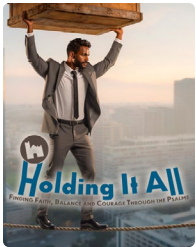
serve Together



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.**

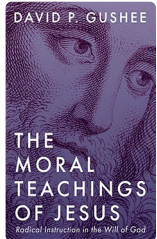
To all see the ways you can *serve* and be the hands and feet of Christ in the city, visit: atlantafirstumc.org/serve

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.

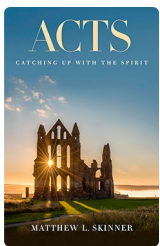
The Tuesday *grow* group meets via ZOOM on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Eastern time. Lead Pastor Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers is the facilitator.

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 will meet via ZOOM, resuming Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. Eastern. The group is co-led by Min. Maya Su and Lynsey Mitchell. Register at: tinyurl.com/AFUMC-Grow-Wednesday



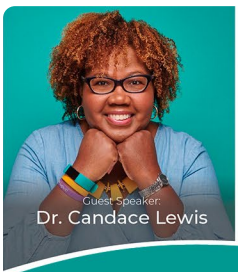
Thursday Morning *grow* Group: Join us this Spring as we begin a new study based on *Acts: Catching up with the Spirit* by author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner. This study provides a broad yet theologically attuned introduction to the book of Acts and its story of the early church learning to 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



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



Contact Information

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor Text Message: [404.525.2385](tel:404.525.2385)
Rowena Dennard, Director of Worship & Music
Steven Colly, Communications & Media
Min. Maya Su, Ministry Intern
Kristy Tubbs, Finance Coordinator

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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



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atlantafirstumc.org

