



Sunday, April 5, 2026 - Easter



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

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

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



Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor

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

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!



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

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 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 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 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 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 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

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

Pentecost Prayer

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

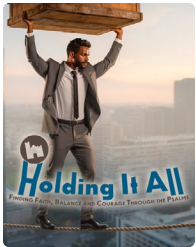
serve Together



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), crackers, and white colored socks.**

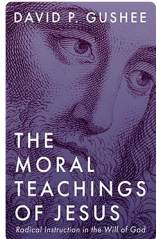
To all see the ways you can *serve* and be the hands and feet of Christ in the city, visit: atlantafirstumc.org/serve

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.

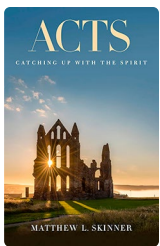
The Tuesday *grow* group meets via ZOOM on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Eastern time. Lead Pastor Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers is the facilitator.

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 main part of the banner features a collage of images: a windmill, a classical building, a cruise ship, and a historical site. The text reads: 'Join Rev. Jasmine Smothers on the Paul's Journey Cruise September 25 - October 6, 2026'. At the bottom, it says '9 Nights Aboard Celebrity Infinity • Round Trip from Piraeus, Greece' and includes a QR code.

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

The Order of *worship* for April 5, 2026 - Easter Sunday

We Gather

"He Is Lord" - Lyrics displayed on-screen

Tolling of the Hour

Our bell, circa 1850, is rung every Sunday morning to signify the start of worship.

Greetings

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

* Easter Call to Worship

PASTOR: It happened! Jesus was absolutely right!

PEOPLE: Christ is risen! It was as he said it would be!

Sing Alleluia to the Lord!

PASTOR: Darkness is gone! Brightness reigns!

PEOPLE: God's love has poured over us, bringing us joy and hope!

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

PASTOR: We are free from fear and doubt!

PEOPLE: We are free to celebrate and dance, and shout the Good News "Christ is Risen!"

His Resurrection sets us free! Alleluia!

ALL: AMEN!

* Hymn of Praise

United Methodist Hymnal 302 - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

* We Believe

An Easter Affirmation of Faith

Alisa Smallwood, Trustee Team Lead

ALL: We believe in God, the Father of glory, who by great power resurrected Jesus from the dead; giving us hope in the high calling of a heavenly inheritance; and who is revealed in the immeasurable greatness of Jesus Christ; allowing us to know God's own self through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our sins, who rose from the dead and rose up into heaven, who sits at the right hand of the Father, whose name is above every name, whose authority is above all authority, whose power and dominion are above all power and dominion, who reigns now and throughout every age.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us wisdom and the ability to love one another, who enables us to believe and empowers us to be the church, the body of Christ, indwelling and filling us with power, and with the fullness of him who fills all in all. Amen.

* The Good News

Hear the Good News!

Rejoice, heavenly choirs of angels.

Rejoice, all creation around God's throne.

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Alleluia!

* We Praise

United Methodist Hymnal 94 - Doxology, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from who all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children's Moment

We Worship Through Song

"Because He Lives" - Bill and Gloria Gaither; Arr. by Joseph M. Martin

The Atlanta First UMC Chancel Choir;

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

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

We Pray

Pastoral Prayer

We Worship Through Giving and Song

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

"We Shall Behold Him" - Dottie Rambo; Arr. by Paul Ferrin

The Atlanta First UMC Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson and Sermon

Matthew 28:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)

"Just As He Said"

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "**Greetings!**" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

This is an opportunity to join the Christian family, reaffirm your faith, or join the church. If you would like to join the Atlanta First family, contact Pastor Jasmine at pastor@atlantafirstumc.org or by the Pastoral Care Line, 404.446.3777.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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)

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become "Easter People", people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. 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

Come into the light of God's love! Christ is risen! Death has been swallowed up in victory! Know beyond all doubt that God's love is always with you, surrounding you, leading you, comforting you. Be at peace. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY EASTER

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. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

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. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he 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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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.

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 for ever.

Amen. Now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

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.

*** We Go Forth to Serve**

Choral Benediction: "Hallelujah" from "Messiah"- George Frederick Handel

The Atlanta First UMC Chancel Choir

Lyrics and score printed in handout booklet - please sing along!

Organ Postlude

"He 'Rose" - Arr. R. Dennard

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by the Altar Guild to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 5, 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!

Thursday, April 9

Bob Parris

worship, serve, grow & engage
at Atlanta First:

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

Monday, April 13

7 p.m. Monday Noon *prayer*

Tuesday, April 14

6 p.m. Intentional *prayer*

7 p.m. Tuesday *grow* Group

Wednesday, April 15

11 a.m. Church Staff Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday *grow* Group

Thursday, April 16

11 a.m. Thursday *grow* Group

Sunday, April 19

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



UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

Be the hands and feet of Christ for those in need through a gift to the **United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR**. UMCOR provides critical emergency relief for victims of natural and man-made disasters around the world. 100% of your gift to UMCOR goes directly to *serve* those in need, so please give today.

Donate directly to UMCOR at: umcmision.org/give
Or give through Atlanta First at: atlantafirstumc.org/give

serve 

Contact Information

Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers, Lead Pastor
Rowena Dennard, Director of Worship & Music
Steven Colly, Communications & Media
Min. Maya Su, Ministry Intern
Kristy Tubbs, Finance Coordinator

Text Message: [404.525.2385](tel:404.525.2385)

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

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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