

## **Atlanta Christian Church**

1095 State Street NW

Atlanta, GA 30318

[atlantachristianchurch.org](http://atlantachristianchurch.org)

### **Current Staff:**

Full-Time Associate Pastor – Lindsey Self, [lindsey@atlantachristianchurch.org](mailto:lindsey@atlantachristianchurch.org)

Part-Time Community and Formations Pastor – Ryan Snider,  
[ryan@atlantachristianchurch.org](mailto:ryan@atlantachristianchurch.org)

Part-Time Administrator – Laura Kerby, [admin@atlantachristianchurch.org](mailto:admin@atlantachristianchurch.org)

### **History:**

Our first Sunday service was held on February 1, 2004 in the once-popular Buckhead adult spot known as the Gold Club. Yes, that was us! But only for a short while. Later that year, we moved into the AMC Theaters at Phipps Mall for a two-year run of setting up on Sundays from 2004-2006. (This was way before they installed those nice reclining chairs.) Having paid our dues on those sticky theater floors, we moved into a closed-down church on Peachtree Road, just across the street from Lenox Square, where we held services from 2006-2016. In the winter of 2016, however, that property sold to a developer and once again, we packed up our things and moved, this time into the Terminus330 event space downtown. It was then that we changed our name from "Christian Church Buckhead" to "Atlanta Christian Church." During our three-year stay downtown (2016-2019), we set our sights on finally purchasing a space of our own. It was our desire to plant ourselves firmly in a neighborhood where we could not only hold Sunday services but also house events and gatherings that would serve both our parish family and the surrounding community. In the spring of 2019 our hopes and prayers were realized when we purchased an old church building in the Midtown neighborhood of Home Park.

### **Leadership:**

Different from churches who are overseen by a denominational body and headquarters, Christian Churches are locally led by in-house pastors who work alongside a volunteer body of leaders known as "elders." Other traditions have different names for this same kind of volunteer leadership body, such as Vestry (Episcopal) or Session (Presbyterian). In our church the pastors are the paid staff, overseeing the day-to-day functions of the church, and our elders are in place to work with the pastors to ensure that our church remains healthy and effective. In a technical sense, this makes the Christian Church non-denominational, though this term is hard to nail down. In a way, yes, but we also see ourselves part of a broader fellowship of churches across the country and the world. We have shared annual conferences, church planting organizations, a network of college

campus ministries, mission and justice organizations, and we have many colleges, universities, and also seminaries.

**Demographics:**

|                                          |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Average Weekly Attendance Total          | 120 |
| Adults Average                           | 80  |
| Youth Average                            | 10  |
| Children Average                         | 25  |
| Ages                                     |     |
| Birth – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade            | 40  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade  | 11  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade | 6   |
| 18 – 30                                  | 39  |
| 30 – 40                                  | 55  |
| 40 – 60                                  | 45  |
| 60+                                      | 20  |
| Gender Adults                            |     |
| Female                                   | 85  |
| Male                                     | 71  |
| Other                                    | 3   |

**Area of Town**

We are located in Midtown Atlanta in the Home Park neighborhood. Because of our close proximity to Georgia Tech, we are predominantly surrounded by students renting. During the week, we open our parking lot to students who live in houses near us and for students who commute to school.

**Church Life:**

Atlanta Christian Church is an open and affirming parish where all are invited to participate fully in the life and leadership of this congregation. We acknowledge and affirm the image of God in persons of every race, age, ability, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation and identity. These are all represented in our parish, our volunteer community, our lay leadership, and our paid staff.

Our roots are in the Christian Church/Churches of Christ known as the Stone-Campbell movement. Independent Christian Churches are not bound to a governing denominational body. This has allowed us to make decisions over the years that best fit our theology and our demographics. Women hold places of leadership and are on our

preaching rotation. Our affirming stance differs from other Christian Churches, and we have seen our community flourish because of it.

We are best described as casual, liturgical, activist-oriented, intellectually driven, and high-energy. "We aim to be a people growing in the ways of Jesus, that we might reflect his ways in our relationships, in our faith, and in how we serve those in need." Our faith is best expressed through the creeds of the ancient church: The Nicene Creed and the Apostle's Creed. Atlanta Christian Church combines these historic Christian convictions with a strong commitment to openness, inclusion, and shared leadership.

Rooted in the Stone-Campbell movement, we value Christian unity, simplicity of faith, and an "open table" approach in which all are welcomed to participate in communion and congregational life. Our church explicitly affirms the full participation and leadership of women and LGBTQ+ individuals, including marriage equality.

Fellowship and connection are important steps in being part of a church community. We host 4 – 5 events every year designed to bring people of all ages together. During these events, we share meals and conversation, have games and activities for the children, and come together to make the event a success for everyone. Our aim is to have fun and enjoy each other's company.

### **Worship Profile:**

Sunday services include music, scripture readings, a sermon, weekly communion, and prayer. Our gatherings are structured around the Church Calendar (Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, etc.), and our preaching is informed by the Revised Common Lectionary. We use the ancient liturgy from the *Book Of Common Prayer* to guide us through worship on Sundays.

We design our services to be uplifting, and our sermons are written to be an encouraging message in a world of distress, uncertainty, and anxiety.

Also known as the Eucharist or the Mass or the Lord's Supper, communion is the practice of receiving the bread and the wine (juice) as part of worship. This sacrament works to remind us of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and is inspired by the story of Jesus celebrating the Passover with his disciples, and was a practice of the earliest Christian communities. We use the ancient liturgy from the *Book of Common Prayer* to guide us through communion every Sunday, benefitting from its focus on the grace and mercy of Jesus over all people.

With exception of a small number of church traditions, all churches baptize people in a variety of ways. In most Christian Churches, baptism is done by immersion (fully under water), as this appears to have been the practice of the ancient church. Baptism in this way symbolizes a kind of death (drowning) and resurrection (being brought back up out

of the water), an image that one writer of the New Testament used as well, saying, "Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in a newness of life." (Romans 6:4) We do not require people to be re-baptized if the mode of their baptism was different, such as, child baptism or being sprinkled as an adult - to be baptized is someone's choice. If someone wishes to be re-baptized and to do so by immersion, we will, of course, help make that happen.

Our Children and Youth Ministries meet every Sunday. Children bring life and energy, curiosity and questions, and wonderment and a thirst for always knowing more. It's knowing these truths about our children that help us shape the Children's and Youth Ministry at Atlanta Christian Church. Our hope is that children grow up through our ministry and leave understanding these three things: they are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, God loves every one of them completely, and questions are always a good thing. Faith is something that has ups and downs. It never stays in one place. If we can give children a foundation to build their faith on, then we've done something right. If we can teach children that to live out our faith means we treat everyone we encounter with love and dignity and grace, God has worked in their hearts. None of us will ever be perfect, but through the grace of God we can live a life always growing in the ways of Jesus.

### **Discipleship & Formation:**

We offer a variety of avenues for church members to experience community and growth in their faith. Our parish groups meet based on neighborhood or location and meet weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. These groups allow our people to connect with others in their area. Parish groups are an easy entry into deeper connections at ACC. Folks sit around tables and living rooms together, share a meal, share their lives, and dive deeper into Scripture.

During the year, we offer classes and book clubs based on interest and church seasons. We also offer what we call "Summer School" every year. Classes are taught by church members as well as outside guest teachers. During Summer School, we also offer 1 or 2 Dinner & Lectures that focus on cultural and spiritual topics.

### **Missions:**

We partner with mission organizations both locally and globally. We support organizations that are doing the work we, as a small church, are not equipped to do ourselves. While our partners have changed over the years, our focus has remained on our neighborhood, our city, and beyond our home. We have supported campus ministries, schools overseas, low income families in Atlanta, and the unhoused.

Currently, we support 2 missions monthly. Pfamily Mission is located in Haiti and provides school supplies and tutoring for children. While based here in Atlanta, Pfamily Mission employs Haitian workers to run the organization on the ground. Lazarus is a local ministry that works with the unhoused population in Atlanta. They provide several services from holiday meals to annual health days to hygiene kits. As a church, we also have the opportunity to volunteer at events during the year.

We also work with the STAR program at Georgia Tech. GT has a high population of international students. Many of these students have spent most of what they have to get here, pay for tuition, and pay for housing. Twice a month, during the school year, our food pantry helps feed 50 students from GT. Our food pantry is supported by donations from our church and our missions funds.

**Finance:**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Income Received</b> | <b>Total Expenses</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2026 YTD    | \$ 288,761.55          | \$ 282,728.92         |
| 2025        | \$ 439,702.86          | \$ 456,285.31         |
| 2024        | \$ 551,823.08          | \$ 495,230.44         |