



CHAMBLEE FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamblee First United Methodist Church Goes Solar

Faith-communities adopting clean energy to power mission

Chamblee, GA

20 APRIL 2026

Chamblee First United Methodist Church, 4147 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, has completed the installation of a new large on-site solar energy system in partnership with Sunpath Solar <https://sunpath.solar/>, a Georgia-based solar installer, and enabled by the Georgia BRIGHT community-solar financing program.

The 237 Georgia-made solar panels installed at Chamblee First United Methodist Church <https://chambleeumc.org/> create a 141kW system and are projected to generate 50% of the church's annual energy use. The system is expected to reduce utility costs by over \$30,000 each year. The Georgia Bright solar program and Sunpath Solar provided the installation of the system at no upfront cost to the church. In exchange, Chamblee First now purchases the power generated by the solar array at a fixed kilowatt per hour rate that is *less than half* of their rate from the incumbent utility provider.

"This project grew out of the results and recommendations of an energy audit conducted by Energy For Purpose <https://energyforpurpose.com/>," said Rev. Blair Boyd Zant, Senior Pastor. "Our Board of Trustees and Finance Committee worked diligently to ensure more faithful stewardship of this congregation's resources. The move to solar allows us to shift spending from capital expense to missional impact. While our entire church has been supportive, some of the most enthusiastic responses have come from our youth and student ministries, who are especially proud of the church's commitment to caring for our planet."

Along their solar journey, the church consulted regularly with Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL), <https://gipl.org/>, which helps faith communities across Georgia lower their carbon footprints. Beyond the immediate financial savings, the solar installation supports long-term energy stability, protects against rising utility costs, and contributes to local climate resilience. By generating clean power on-site, Chamblee First is taking a practical step toward reducing its environmental footprint while retaining valuable resources for its core mission.

The project became operational in March 2026.

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Sunpath Solar is an Atlanta-based B-Corp certified solar installer specializing in custom-designed clean energy solutions that help homeowners, non-profits, and small businesses participate in the clean energy economy.

Established before the City of Chamblee itself, **Chamblee First United Methodist Church** will celebrate its bicentennial this October 2026. This solar installation reflects the congregation's commitment to the United Methodist call to care for creation, as expressed in the Social Principles, and to practice faithful stewardship of its resources. Rooted in a strong tradition of connectional ministry, this step also points toward a hopeful and sustainable vision for the next 200 years of witness, service, and community engagement.