

JUNE 2019

# CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING OUR  
CHILDREN

# CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 | DINNER AT 5:00PM & CELEBRATION AT 6:00PM

Arts Camp concludes on Friday, June 21, and YOU are invited to help us CELEBRATE this special week!! The Celebration is a showcase of what the kids have learned during their week at camp. We welcome and encourage you to share a complimentary meal at First Church at 5:00pm in the Large Dining Room. Following dinner, the Celebration will take place at 6:00pm in the Loft. If you plan to join us for dinner before the Arts Camp Celebration, please register with us so that we may be good stewards of our resources. You may register under the Coming Up tab at [www.firstchurchbhm.com](http://www.firstchurchbhm.com) or by calling the Church Office at (205) 254-3186.



After an incredible week of Arts Camp where our kids will have learned about mercy, courage, trust, and inclusion, we will combine for worship on Sunday, June 23 at 11:00am in the Loft to say we LOVE our Children! Together we will experience a meaningful service as the youngest at First Church teach and lead us in worship by sharing the important lessons they learned during Arts Camp. Our children are a wonderful part of First Church and represent the brightness of our future. Come show your love for them with your presence!

# **WADE IN THE WATER**

## **CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP 2019**

**VOLUNTEER AND DONATE NOW TO ARTS CAMP!**

**In lieu of asking for specific items for Arts Camp 2019, we ask that you donate to the purchase of those items – paper goods, granola bars, etc. We will purchase in bulk to best use your donation!**

**In addition, scholarships are still needed for 20 more children to attend. Scholarships are \$35.00 each.**

**If you would like to make a monetary donation please visit our online giving page and select the “City Kids Arts Camp Donation” fund or mark “Arts Camp donation” in the memo line of your check. It takes over 100 volunteers to facilitate this week-long camp and we need your help. Please consider donating your time to help make Arts Camp 2019 a great success! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Linda Thorne at [Linda@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Linda@firstchurchbhm.com).**

You are invited to join us for



This year will mark First Church's third appearance in the Pride Parade and we want to go all out. We'll be marching with all of the Reconciling congregations in Birmingham to show our love and support for the full inclusion of our LGBTQ community. The Parade will take place on Saturday, June 8 at 8:00pm and track along 7th Avenue South beginning at 32nd and continuing to Our Place just after 22nd Street South. We will meet a few hours before the parade begins to get organized and decorate our float! Everyone must be checked in by 7:00pm. For more information or to let us know you are coming, please contact Katie Gilbert at [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com).

In addition to participating in the Parade, we will have a booth at Pridefest on Sunday, June 9 which begins at 11:00am at Sloss Furnaces. Pridefest lasts all day and is free to attend! If you are interested in joining us or helping volunteer a few hours at our booth, please contact Katie Gilbert at [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com).

## **FUNDRAISER** AT MOOYAH

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2 FROM 4:00PM – 8:00PM**

Our participation in both of these Pride events is more important than ever this year. We hope you will make plans to join us for one or both! We will be raising money for our participation this year by hosting a night out with MOOYAH in downtown Birmingham (2112 7th Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35233). All you have to do is come eat between the hours of 4:00pm and 8:00pm and let them know you are dining with First United Methodist Church at the register. 10% of the proceeds during that time frame will come back to us to help fund our participation in Pride! Anyone can come and eat to help us raise money so be sure to invite your friends to join you! In addition, you are welcome to make a donation and earmark your check "Pride Donation" (or select the fund by the same name online). It takes all of us to make our participation in Pride a success!



# **BiBLE STORiES**

## THAT SHAPE OUR FAITH

As children many of us learned key stories of our faith through felt story boards in Sunday School, brightly colored picture books at bedtime, and children's moments in worship. These common stories like Noah's Ark, Moses, Jonah and the Whale, and David and Goliath helped mold and shape us from an early age. However, as we mature and begin to reflect back on these stories, often we begin to question whether or not we were taught the whole truth of these stories? Do they mean the same thing to us now as they did when we were kids? What might we learn by revisiting these same stories again today? Join us as we retell the stories of our childhood faith and uncover what they might reveal to us anew.

**JUNE 16 - NOAH'S ARK**  
( Genesis 6:9 - 9:17 )

**JUNE 23 - JONAH & THE WHALE**  
( Jonah 1-4 )

**JUNE 30 - DAVID & GOLIATH**  
( 1 Samuel 17:1-58 )

**JULY 7 - MOSES**  
( Exodus 1 -2 )

# FIRST CHURCH HEADS TO THE BORDER

**JUNE 23 -27**

We invite you to be in prayer for the First Church team heading to the US/Mexico border in McAllen, Texas, Sunday June 23 through Thursday, June 27. First Church has partnered with the Southeast Jurisdiction's United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to develop an educational experience that also incorporates service and first hand experience involving issues related to immigration. As we seek to live into our priorities of doing justice and asking tough questions, we hope to meet those most affected by issues of immigration and learn from their experiences. We hope to speak with and learn from border patrol agents and service providers as well as local church leaders and prosecutors working on cases involving illegal entry. Those attending the Border Trip are: Matt Lacey, Stephanie Arnold, Julie Caine, Alaina Elgin, Meagan Williams, Paul Williams, Larry Whitehead, Andrea Whitehead, Avery Rhodes, Howard Boyd, Kim Boyd, and Marie Blair.



Sidewalk Film Festival is returning to First Church for 2019! We are excited to serve as a Life and Liberty venue for the 21st Annual Sidewalk Film Festival in downtown Birmingham August 23-25. In addition to screening films, First Church will also host Volunteer Headquarters for the festival. We want to be as hospitable and welcoming as possible as we open our doors to lots of new faces from our city! If you are interested in helping First Church host Sidewalk, please contact Katie Gilbert at [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com).



## THANK YOU FIRST CHURCH!

First Church donated \$2611 to our United Methodist Children's White Christmas offering last year. This gift is being used to help minister to thousands of children and families in need within the UMCH family. Thank you for your great generosity!!!

# CONFIRMATION 2019



THIS YEAR WE CONFIRMED SEVEN YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF FIRST CHURCH. LISTED BELOW ARE THEIR PRAYERS FOR FIRST CHURCH AS WE SEEK TO BE AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL.

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Dear God, I pray that First Church continues to grow and I hope that I can be part of that growth. I pray that First Church is able to continue to show the love of God and Jesus Christ to everyone.

- Willa Rose Akins

Dear God, I pray for this church to be a place where all feel welcomed and loved even before they enter this church. I pray for this church to be a fun and happy place where we have fun and worship God.

- Sawyer Arnold

I am thankful for all of God's people for coming together and making this church. I am thankful for all the lives and us all having love, faith, and hope. May all of God's people be happy and have peace.

- Dariel Bogan

Dear God, I pray for the church to stay an open place for all and to still accept the LGBTQ community. I hope that we can still come every Sunday to worship God and Christ.

- Bennett Dearing

My prayer is for First Church to stay an open place for all. Also for us to be united as a church family.

- Melany Morgan

Dear God, Help us open our doors to all people as you have done. Help us keep our hearts open as well as our minds so we can live out our values as a church. Help us stay together through our time as a church. Help us love each other as you have loved us. Amen.

- Lauren Prince

Thank you, God, for my First Church family. I pray that we will always be an open place for all to worship, grow, and serve. I pray that everyone in the world knows how much God loves them and that all people will love one another.

- Neeley Spain

# NEW MEMBER PRAYERS FOR FIRST CHURCH

*As we seek to be an OPEN place for ALL my prayer for First Church is:*

That First Church will continue to be a witness to the Birmingham metropolitan area for justice and openness to all. May we embody as a community the Christ who opens his arms to all and offers the abundant life through serving and being good stewards of Creation.

- Rev. Charles Alexander \*

To be passionate about those things that are most important to Christ - loving God, establishing genuine relationships with all people, and making disciples to advance the Kingdom of God on earth.

- Rev. Clauzell Ridgeway Williams \*

Help us to seek after you, Oh Lord, Our God, and to love you with all our hearts and souls and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Help this church to be grounded and rooted and grow in your love, and to extend love and mercy to those who need it most.

- Kim & Steve Hall

Continue on the path of openness, concern, and love for ALL people, continue to respect differences across the spectrum of humanity, support through gifts and prayers the extraordinary leadership in this very special space in the universe.

- Shirlee Maihoff

I pray that First Church will continue to be a place where all God's children can experience a deep and sustained sense of love and belonging.

- Kristie McCullough

To care for and bind up the emotional and spiritual wounds of the old, sick, poor, outcast and oppressed. To unconditionally support, protect, and sustain the ministers and their vision for the Church. To work for social and political justice in the real world seven days a week. To embrace difficult theological questions with a sense of tolerance and a sense of humor. To tell the truth and live with integrity.

- Andy Campbell

That First Church continue to be an inclusive, open, and inviting space for ALL and that each person who enters through its doors feel the presence of God and has their heart strangely warmed.

- Andy Wallace

\* MOVED CHARGE CONFERENCE TO FIRST CHURCH





FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM'S

# ON CALL SCHEDULE

In an effort to make sure we are providing everyone in our congregation with the pastoral care needed, particularly in crisis situations, we want you to be aware of our on-call schedule going forward. If you have a pastoral care need Monday - Thursday, you can call the church office or email any of our pastors and we will respond promptly. However, if you have a pastoral care need Friday - Sunday, below is the on-call schedule for the month. You can reach the person by email, cell phone, or by clicking the "pastor on-call" option on the church phone.



JUNE 1- 2 | R.G. WILSON-LYONS

JUNE 7-9 | KATIE GILBERT

JUNE 14-16 | JONATHAN GOSS

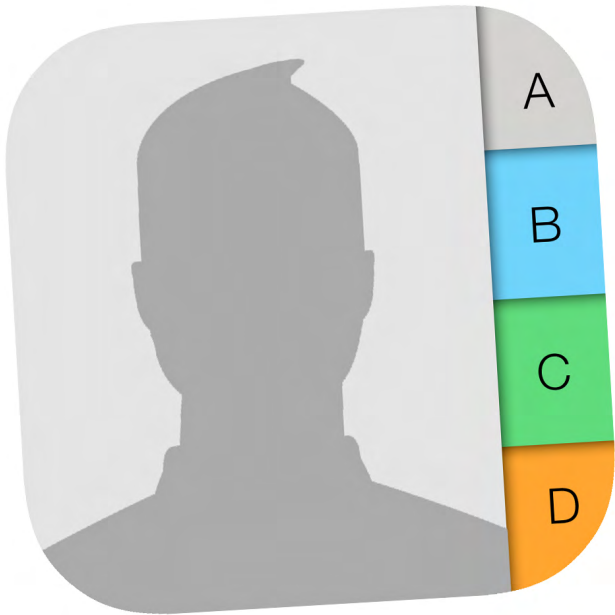
JUNE 21-23 | R.G. WILSON-LYONS

JUNE 28-30 | STEPHANIE ARNOLD

# RECONCILER BREAKFAST

Every first Wednesday of the month First Church serves the meal at Church of the Reconciler. We gather in the First Church kitchen at 7:45am to prepare the food and then we head to COR between 9:00am and 9:15am to set up. At 9:30am we serve in the Fellowship Hall at COR finishing up no later than 10:00am. We would love to have you join us for any of the Wednesdays in the coming year to help prepare breakfast and/or serve the meal! We will serve the following Wednesdays in 2019:

**June 5 • July 3 • August 7 • September 4  
October 2 • November 6 • December 4**



# CONTACT CHANGES?

Have you recently moved or made changes to your contact information? We would love to know! First Church is working to update our database and we need your help to do so. Please send any changes or updated information to [Peg@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Peg@firstchurchbhm.com)



## COMMUNICATIONS *AT* FIRST CHURCH

If there is a First Church event that you would like to have shared in any of our First Church communications (the bulletin, newsletters, or TV slides), please contact

Katie Gilbert at [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com). All information for the Monthly Connections must be submitted by 5:00pm on the 15th of the month prior. All information to be included in the Weekly Connections must be turned in by 5:00pm on the Thursday prior. Please help us as we work to communicate all that is happening at First Church!

## RESERVING SPACE

~ AT FIRST CHURCH ~

If you are in need of space at First Church for an event you are hosting, it must be reserved on the First Church Calendar. To reserve a room please visit our website at [www.firstchurchbhm.com](http://www.firstchurchbhm.com) and find the "Facilities Usage Request" form which can be found under the forms tab in "Media." You must fill out the form and return it to Jennifer Waters at [Jwaters@bsc.edu](mailto:Jwaters@bsc.edu). Jennifer will then be in contact to let you know if space is available. Thank you!

**Church Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Thursday**

# JUNE CALENDAR

## June 2

~ Music Sunday ~

## June 17

8:45am - Arts Camp

## June 24

~ Border Trip ~

## June 5

7:45am - Reconciler Breakfast

## June 18

8:45am - Arts Camp  
6:00pm - Trustees

## June 25

~ Border Trip ~  
6:00pm - Staff Parish Committee

## June 6

6:30pm - Loft Meet & Eat

## June 19

8:45am - Arts Camp

## June 26

~ Border Trip ~

## June 8

8:00pm - Pride Parade

## June 21

8:45am - Arts Camp  
5:00pm - Arts Camp Dinner  
6:00pm - Arts Camp Celebration

## June 27

~ Border Trip ~

## June 11

6:00pm - Executive Council

## June 23

~ Border Trip ~  
11:00am - We Love Our Children

## June 30

1:00pm - Children's Council  
Work Day

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## TUESDAYS:

6:30pm - Young Adult Small Group

## FRIDAYS:

~ Church Office Closed ~

6:45am - Men's Prayer Breakfast

## WEDNESDAYS:

4:00pm - Prayer Shawl Knitters

5:30pm - Youth Bible Study

6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## SUNDAYS:

8:30am - Traditional Worship

9:45am - Sunday School

11:00am - The Loft & Sanctuary Services

5:15pm - Youth Bible Study

# FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM STAFF

<b>Senior Pastor:</b> Stephanie York Arnold .....	Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Pastor:</b> R.G. Wilson-Lyons .....	RG@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Minister of Invitation:</b> Katie Gilbert .....	Katie@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Minister of Youth &amp; Young Adults:</b> Jonathan Goss .....	Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Minister of Children &amp; Church Events:</b> Linda Underwood Thorne .....	Linda@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Minster to the Grieving:</b> Herb Williamson .....	Herb@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Organist:</b> Cathy Shelton .....	Cathy@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Design:</b> Blake Hobbs .....	Blake@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Choir Director:</b> Patrick Evans .....	Patrick@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Loft Worship Leader:</b> Katherine Mullen .....	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Office Administrator:</b> Peg Thompson .....	Peg@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Maintenance Supervisor:</b> Ron Dates .....	Ron@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Nursery Director:</b> Ginger Gambill .....	Ginger@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Wedding Director:</b> Betsy Pate .....	Betsy@firstchurchbhm.com
<b>Executive Director of Early Learning Center:</b> Robin Pate .....	RobinP@firstchurchbhm.com



an OPEN place for ALL to **WORSHIP, GROW,** and **SERVE**

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205-254-3186 • [www.firstchurchbhm.com](http://www.firstchurchbhm.com)