



JANUARY 2021

CONNECTIONS

LOOKING FORWARD
IN HOPE

ICONS OF FAITH



Icons are the opposites of idols. While idols direct attention towards themselves, icons direct attention and energy towards something or someone else. They point to something deeper beyond themselves. As we begin a New Year which offers a fresh start, we want to reflect not upon idolatrous goals but focus our attention upon growing into the fullness of our true selves as children of our Divine Creator instead. Each week we will take a famous icon and offer the opportunity to see through the icon to something deeper – to see the qualities of a life of faith well lived from which we may learn and grow.

1.17 | **The Priesthood of All Believers**

DANCING SAINTS – ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1 Peter 2:5-9, Hebrews 3:1-6, Isaiah 61:1-6

1.24 | **The One Who Shows the Way**

THE BLACK MADONNA

Genesis 3, John 19:16-27, Acts 1:1-14

1.31 | **Brother Sun and Sister Moon**

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

John 15:1-8, Genesis 6:19-20, Leviticus 25:3-5

2.7 | **Valor and Courage**

ST JOAN OF ARC

Daniel 6, Judges 4, Ephesians 6:10-20

2.14 | **True Love**

ST. VALENTINE

Song of Songs 1, Romans 13:8-10, 1 Corinthians 13

Blessing Of The Babies

We hope you will join our virtual services on Sunday, January 10 at 11:00am as we celebrate the babies born into our First Church community in 2020 with a Blessing of the Babies Sunday.

We know parenting is often not easy. Together, we will celebrate the gift of life, pray over our babies and their families, and remember those who are longing for their families to grow. As a true community, First Church can demonstrate our covenant to support and nurture one another, each child, and each family. For more information contact Linda Thorne at Linda@firstchurchbhm.com

PROJECT
12.25
THANK YOU

What a way to end 2020! Thank you for impacting the lives of so many in our community. Your generosity, love, and support have made a difference.

We celebrate that because of your support we were able to:

- Support 19 families with much-needed groceries and Christmas gifts.
- Help Magic City Acceptance Center continue to grow their reach to LGBTQAI+ youth throughout Alabama.
- Support Urban Ministry's WE Build program with the purchase of a home! We met our matching grant of \$35,000 and will donate more than \$72,000 total to WE Build

Thank you for your support and unbelievable generosity.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

AT FIRST CHURCH IN 2021

As we set our sights on moving back to in-person worship in 2021 we want to go ahead and begin preparing so that when it is safe to return together, we are ready to do so! We recognize that our world has changed in significant ways over the past several months and this means there will be important changes to how we gather. Lay leadership assisting in welcoming, equipping, and serving will be more important than ever. We will also need more volunteers than before as we recognize that some persons who readily served before will need to wait longer before returning. We will also need enough adults to rotate so that we don't miss a beat when someone needs to be out. Please look at some of the ways we are asking for YOUR help as we prepare to regather in 2021 (training will be provided for each team and a rotation schedule will be set up). You can click [**HERE**](#) to sign up for any of the teams listed below.

TECH TEAM

Come be trained how to operate the sound and tech boards for the Loft or the Sanctuary. This team will help to ensure that both those within the building as well as those connected through livestream can hear and see all that is happening in worship.

GREETERS/HOSPITALITY TEAM

Help us welcome people as they make their way to worship and events at First Church. You will be trained on how to assist those who are new, those looking for a classroom, and how to invite persons to maintain our COVID-19 guidelines for safety.

USHERS

Help those coming to worship and events know where to sit to maintain social distancing, how to participate in communion and other times of movement during worship, as well as how to safely collect our offering.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HOSTS

Children's Ministry hosts are needed as we have many families which have been introduced to us through our 2020 virtual programs and have never even been to our First Church facilities and classrooms! Hosts will be responsible for greeting, guiding families to classrooms, and introducing our new sign-in system which will ensure that we have proper contact information on our attendees.

All families with children attending the nursery and Sunday school will be asked to serve in the rotation to help with this greeting and welcoming. All are welcome to volunteer; the more the merrier!

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Join us as we help our middle and high school students build a loving and inclusive community. Our Adult Volunteers serve as the backbone of our ministry, greeting and welcoming returning and new students each week. We are looking for loving adults who care deeply about justice, having fun, and are willing to listen and support our teens as they grow deeper in their faith.

ADULT SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Help lead a small group or facilitate a book discussion. These can be led via Zoom or in-person as the numbers decline.

CHOIR

Come sing and make music together. Whether we are creating anthems via virtual recordings or gathering in-person once it is safe to do so, all are welcome to participate in the choir and help make beautiful music.

FIRST CHURCH **LEADERSHIP**

With a heart full of gratitude we thank those who have agreed to serve in lay leadership in the coming year.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Trudi Mullins

Lay Representative to Annual Conference: Jennifer Waters

Chair of Staff-Parish Relations: Kristie McCullough

Treasurer: Ralph Jolly

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace

Chair of Trustees: Chosen by Trustees

Chair of Finance: Kelly Morgan

Class of 2021: Tom Boulware

Class of 2021: David Olsen

Class of 2021: Trudi Mullins

Class of 2022: Mychal Boyd

Class of 2022: Russell Dearing

Class of 2023: Kelsey Luckianow

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Kristie McCullough

Class of 2021: Kyndle Powell, Mary Kate Waters-Wright

Class of 2022: Tim Prince, Kristie McCullough, David Rikard

Class of 2023: Jill Pitts, Monty Hogewood, Tosha May

Lay Representative to Annual Conference: Lindsey Eastwood

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2021: Lisa Malone, Pam Crider, Nicole LeMaitre

Class of 2022: Amanda Millwood, Amanda Palmer, Brian Garrett

Class of 2023: Adam Burgunder, Steve Arnold, Michael Kortman

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Chair: Thomas Waters (2022)

Treasurer: Ralph Jolly

Trustee Representative: Nicole LeMaitre (2021)

Class of 2022: Lindsay Luketic

Class of 2023: Scott Williams

LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE (2022):

Jennifer Waters, Lindsey Eastwood

Finance

Chair: Kelly Morgan (2022)

Treasurer: Ralph Jolly

Steve Pitts

Bill McMullen

Brett Wisse (2022)

FUMC Early Learning Center

Chair: Mary Beth Lloyd - Chair

Treasurer: Susan Ragland

City Kids Representative: Linda Thorne

Business Administrator: Steve Pitts

Preschool Representative: Renee Driskel

ELC Director: Cassandra Copeland

Pastor: Stephanie Arnold/Katie Gilbert

ELC Parent Committee Chair: Ambry Dillon

Class of 2021: Katie Reed, Andrew Barker

Class of 2022: Lauren Dean, Christina Burgunder

Class of 2023: Jennifer Carter

SPRC Representative

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace (2022)

Class of 2021: Jill Rogers, Amanda Millwood, Patrick Reed

Class of 2022: Bill Schock, Angel Garrett, Laura Williams

Class of 2023: Kathy Draper, Connie Hogewood, Somer Barchini

First Church Foundation

Chair: Doug Morris - at large

Trustees Chair: Adam Burgunder

Former Finance Chair: Steve Pitts

At Large: Hallie Luckianow

At Large: David Rikard

At Large: Renee Harmon

Former SPRC: John Martin

Executive Council: Trudi Mullin

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace

Finance Chair: Kelly Morgan

SPRC Chair: Kristie McCullough

STUDENT MINISTRY

AT FIRST CHURCH



We will be kicking off the new year with a new series, "Goals!" Teenagers want to make a difference in the world, but to do that, they might need help clarifying their ambitions. This series will help them discover that they are designed for God-sized goals. Nehemiah grew to understand the tension of having a dream and pursuing it because he had a big goal inspired by a big problem. Big goals and big problems are things in life that will continue to exist together. Our focus for this month:

God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude
Big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals
God gives us the strength to pursue God-sized goals.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING YOUTH GATHERINGS

JAN. 17	FEB. 7
JAN. 24	FEB. 14
JAN. 31	FEB. 24
	FEB. 28

TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE GOING ON AND NEVER MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN.

ADULTS - TEXT: @FCBHMAADULT TO: 81010
STUDENTS - TEXT: @FCBHMYOUTH TO:81010
ADULT VOLUNTEERS - TEXT: @FCBHMSERVE TO: 81010

INSTAGRAM - @FIRSTCHURCHBHM.YOUTH
FACEBOOK - FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM - YOUTH GROUP



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

AT FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM

During the last year, we have come to understand and value the love and support that our Congregational Care Team offers our church through their support and prayers. They are a vital and life-giving ministry here at First Church. We have also learned how important information is during a season of being away from one another due to the pandemic. Each week the Congregational Care Team receives an email with prayer requests from our church family. Along with a weekly email, the team receives any death notices as well as any urgent or pressing concerns from our congregation. All of the concerns are shared with permission from the individuals involved. There are other confidential prayer concerns that our clergy and staff respect and keep private. If you are interested in joining the Congregational Care Team, please reach out to Jonathan Goss at Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com.

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 extend to others the grace so freely given to us by God. Just keep doing the next right thing. Show love, mercy, understanding, and empathy to all of God's creatures.

- Allyson Anderson



GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Buddy Ramsey

From Mitchell-Wayne Corporation
From Denise Zechman

In Memory of Mark Deierhoi

From Ecclesia-Wingard Class

In Memory of Terilane Ramsey

From Retha Dorough

In Memory of Sara Clark

From Henry & Marion Lagman
From Lyn & Ray Grant
From Brookdale Garden Homes
From Lucie Bynum
From Gay Caldwell
From Wesley Class
From India Henson
From Donald & Nancy Guthrie

TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In Memory of Buddy Ramsey

From Dick Berliner & Anne Wheeler

TO YOUTH MINISTRY

In Memory of Buddy Ramsey

From Ecclesia-Wingard Class

TO MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Terilane Ramsey

From Ecclesia-Wingard Class

In Memory of Nancy Wingard

From Ecclesia-Wingard Class

In Memory of Sara Clark

From Tom & Mary Gene Boulware
From Larry Ward

JANUARY CALENDAR

JANUARY 1

~ Church Office Closed ~

JANUARY 11

6:00pm - Executive Council

JANUARY 20

6:00pm - Trustees

JANUARY 26

6:00pm - SPRC

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:00am - Preschool Bitmoji Classroom Email

10:00am - Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)

11:00am - Loft & Sanctary Online Worship

5:30pm - Youth Group

TUESDAY

7:00pm - Converge Young Adults

WEDNESDAY

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM STAFF

Senior Pastor: Stephanie York Arnold	Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com
Pastor: Jonathan Goss.....	Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Pastor: Katie Gilbert.....	Katie@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Youth & Social Justice Engagement: Tiffany Dowdy.....	Tiffany@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Children & Church Events: Linda Underwood Thorne	Linda@firstchurchbhm.com
Organist: Richard Byrd.....	Richard@firstchurchbhm.com
Design: Blake Hobbs.....	Blake@firstchurchbhm.com
Choir Director: Patrick Evans.....	Patrick@firstchurchbhm.com
Loft Worship Leader: Katherine Mullen	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
Office Administrator: Peg Thompson	Peg@firstchurchbhm.com
Business Administrator: Steve Pitts.....	Steve@firstchurchbhm.com
Maintenance Supervisor: Ron Dates.....	Ron@firstchurchbhm.com
Nursery Director: Ginger Gambill	Ginger@firstchurchbhm.com
Wedding Director: Betsy Pate	Betsy@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Director of Early Learning Center: Cassandra Copeland.....	ELC@firstchurchbhm.com



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

518 North 19th Street • Birmingham AL 35203
205-254-3186 • www.firstchurchbhm.com