

MAY 2021

CONNECTIONS



**TOGETHER
AGAIN**



POP UP PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 12:00PM AT RAILROAD PARK

The First Church Fun Team invites you to join your church friends at Railroad Park! Grab a picnic lunch and blanket or chair and join us at Railroad Park on Sunday, May 2 immediately following worship (If you choose virtual worship just meet us in the park at 12:15pm). We will Pop Up and meet at the park to enjoy the wonderful spring weather! We will gather on the grassy area next to the 17th Street Plaza. Click **HERE** for a map of Railroad Park.

And who doesn't love Steel City Pops?? The Fun Team will provide a pop for all those in attendance and the team will be there with coolers of bottled water for everyone too! You can pack your own picnic OR stop by and grab a lunch on the way. Don't miss out on this fun day at the park!

QUESTIONS: CONTACT LINDA THORNE – LINDA@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM

**IN-PERSON
NEW NORMAL**
A T F I R S T C H U R C H

We are excited that we have returned to in-person worship and gatherings as a church family. It has been such a gift to see the faces of those who have come! As a reminder, we ask that you continue to make a **reservation** for worship as this allows us to contact trace if needed. Beginning in May we will begin to allow greater flexibility in seating, however, we will still block off certain pews or areas in order to maintain social distancing. We will continue to remain masked while indoors. We plan to have nursery care for infants through Kindergarten age beginning Sunday, June 6, with vaccinated nursery care workers each week. We truly appreciate everyone's patience and support as we make our way forward together.

MAY SERMON SERIES

GOOD Company

If we are honest, none of us would describe the past year as fun. Yet, as faithful people we are called to celebrate life. We believe that all of life is a gift and that it is more fun when we do life together. At First Church we may not explicitly name it but having fun is baked into our DNA. In this sermon series we will lean into the belief that not only are we created in love, by love, and for love but we are created to have fun with one another and creation. We will explore how we find good company in eating together, playing together, laughing together, and dancing together.

5.2.21 | **EATING**

EXODUS 12 & 13, PSALM 104:1-15

5.9.21 | **PLAYING**

ZECHARIAH 8:1-8, MATTHEW 18:1-5, PSALM 28

5.16.21 | **LAUGHING**

NUMBERS 22, PSALM 30

5.23.21 | **DANCING**

ACTS 2:1-21, JEREMIAH 31:1-14, PSALM 30



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MAY 16

We are thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday on May 16 in both the Sanctuary and Loft services! Over the past couple of months our Confirmands have been exploring their questions about religion, faith, and what it means to be a Christian. Please join us in praying for each of our Confirmands and their families as they continue to explore and grow in their faith. If you would like to write a small note of encouragement for our students, please reach out to Tiffany, Tiffany@firstchurchbhm.com, for more information.

CLASS OF 2021

HOPPER AKINS
SOPHIE BANGER
PENELOPE BURR
WILLIAM EVANS
JACOB JOHNSON
LUKE WILLIAMS



COMBINED WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MAY 30 IN THE LOFT

Over the years First Church has come together to celebrate being a tight-knit family on Memorial Day Weekend by having a combined worship service. In the past we have had combined services and shared meals together. Though we are not yet ready to share a meal, we are going to join together in worship on this Sunday, May 30. You are invited to join your First Church family in a combined worship service in the Loft. We look forward to having you all join us for this wonderful weekend as we come together as a church family.

FIRST CHURCH GOES TO
BIRMINGHAM LEGION
SOCCER GAME

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 7:00PM



Come join the First Church family as we head to the BBVA Field to watch the Birmingham Legion take on the OKC Energy on Wednesday, May 26 at 7:00pm. Before the spring weather ramps up into summer heat, what better way to close out May than a great night of soccer for the whole family?

The FUN Team purchased a block of 50 tickets for First Church. You may purchase the \$12 group tickets **HERE** and then simply go to Will Call at the box office to pick up your tickets.

Parking for the game is located in the lots next to the track and softball field. The entrance is on 10th Avenue South. You can purchase parking before the game through the mobile application **Clutch!**, or you can pay at the parking lot. As you arrive, grab concessions or items from the food trucks located at the field and enjoy socially distanced seats.

Join us in supporting Birmingham's professional soccer league, a member of the USL which just announced the creation of the Forever Proud Project, an ongoing, year-round initiative designed to increase inclusivity, education, and awareness for the LGBTQ+ community. Birmingham Legion has become a part of our Magic City's cultural fabric and will provide a fun night in an inclusive atmosphere! You are encouraged to wear your God is Love t-shirt.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact
Linda Thorne at Linda@firstchurchbhm.com.

MY OOPS...



GOD'S ART

CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP 2021

Arts Camp will take on a different look and feel for 2021 as we reduce the number of attendees in order to practice safe distancing in our classrooms.

WHAT IS CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP?

My Oops...God's Art, will be an action-packed week filled with art, dancing, drumming, interactive Bible stories, games and FUN! It will be a time to share God's love and build community with each other as well as embrace God's grace in our lives. Our children will learn that when you think you've made an "oops" it can be turned into something beautiful!

WHEN IS CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP?

Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23 from 9:00am – 1:00pm

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP?

Children who have completed Kindergarten – 5th grade.

HOW MUCH DOES CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP COST?

\$50.00 per Camper | Scholarships available (*cost includes camp t-shirt and daily lunch*)

REGISTRATION

Space is limited for campers so register your child now by clicking [HERE](#). Youth & Adult Volunteers are asked to register online [HERE](#) and let us know where you prefer to serve. You will also have the opportunity to purchase a camp t-shirt.

DONATIONS

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please click [HERE](#) to 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. The Friday of camp will be specially designed to celebrate the week with various activities and a time to video what we have learned in order for us to be able to share with parents and the congregation.

For more information, please contact Linda Thorne at Linda@firstchurchbhm.com



"GOD MADE ME AND EVERYTHING I SEE!"

Plan to spend Saturday morning, **June 26**, having fun with your First Church friends in a socially distanced in-person environment. Interactive Bible time, games, art, creative movement, and fun! Enrollment will be limited to provide for smaller class groups.

WHAT IS A MINICAMP FOR PRESCHOOLERS?

A one-morning minicamp just for preschoolers with age-appropriate Bible Story, games, creative movement, art, and snack.

WHEN IS THE MINICAMP FOR PRESCHOOLERS?

Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 9:00am – 11:30 am

WHO IS ELIGIBLE MINICAMP FOR PRESCHOOLERS?

Children ages 2 through 5 years old

HOW MUCH DOES THE MINICAMP FOR PRESCHOOLERS COST?

\$10.00 per child (t-shirt and snack included)

REGISTRATION

Space for campers is limited so register now by clicking **HERE**. Youth & Adult Volunteers are asked to register online **HERE** and let us know where you prefer to serve.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase a camp t-shirt.

For more information, please contact Linda Thorne at Linda@firstchurchbhm.com

STUDENT MINISTRY

AT FIRST CHURCH

We have a lot of fun and exciting things planned for May and the upcoming months.

MYSTERY TRIP | JUNE 6-12

Mystery Trip is a week-long road trip full of exciting opportunities, exploring new places, and deepening our connection with others and God. Students will not know the full trip plan but will be given clues leading up to the trip. All adults and guardians will have full information on the trip details.

SUMMER SERVE WEEK | JULY 5-9

Summer Serve is open to all upcoming 6th graders through graduating seniors. We will spend the week serving our local community. Our focus for the week will be on serving and worshiping with our whole selves: serving and loving God with our head, heart, and hands.

BEACH WEEKEND | JULY 15-17

We all need a break from our busy schedules, so we are heading to the beach for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and relaxing.

SCHEDULE

Youth - Sundays, 4:00pm - 6:00pm at First Church

May

1 - KAYAK TRIP
2 - CHURCH WIDE PICNIC AT RAILROAD PARK
9 - NO YOUTH (MOTHER'S DAY)
16 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY & YOUTH
23 - YOUTH
30 - NO YOUTH (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND)

June

2 - SUMMER KICK-OFF
6/12 - MYSTERY TRIP

July

5/9 - SUMMER SERVE
10 - LEGION FC GAME @ 6PM
15/17 - BEACH WEEKEND
19/23 - ARTS CAMP (VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY)

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with all that we have going on and never miss out on all the fun things happening.

INSTAGRAM - [**@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.YOUTH**](#)

FACEBOOK - [**FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM - YOUTH GROUP**](#)

JUSTICE & MERCY

A note from Joni Wiley, Chair of Justice and Mercy Leadership Team:

We had a fantastic first meeting for the new Justice & Mercy leadership team. During the meeting, we discussed the importance of the group and our hopes for the future. We left the meeting invigorated and ready for the next steps in this journey. The leadership team's goal and hopes are to continue to engage financially, spiritually, and physically with various Birmingham organizations seeking and doing justice work. We hope to provide a platform where individuals can be involved in local, state, and federal policies that align with First Church's mission and values. The group also discussed the importance of building community and being involved with organizations. We are taking steps to better gauge where the First Church community is already engaged to provide opportunities to those looking to serve. We want to continue educating the First Church community through book studies, movies, podcast reviews, and Bible studies. Overall the first meeting was a success and the team is looking forward to further engaging in this vital work.

If you are interested in learning more about our Justice and Mercy leadership team, please email Tiffany Dowdy at Tiffany@firstchurchbhm.com for more information.



By the time you read this Glen Iris Grace will have provided 5170 food bags for backpacks at Glen Iris and Midfield Elementary Schools during the 2020-21 school year. We are indeed grateful to you for allowing us this opportunity. By giving money and time you have helped make a difference in the lives of the children we serve. You have put into action the words in Luke 12:48, "to whom much is given, much will be required." Far too many children in Alabama go to bed hungry in the best of times, but that number has been compounded by the pandemic.

With this newsletter we are making you aware of our desire to continue this project forward for the upcoming school year 2021-22. Our fundraising drive begins this month to enable you plenty of time to plan ahead in helping meet the most basic needs of children who have very little. Thank you for giving to Glen Iris Grace as we strive to reach beyond the walls of our church to help those in need.

For more information please contact:

Cathy Ivey at cathycivey@gmail.com or 205-903-9311 or

Andrea Whitehead at andrea.whitehead1024@gmail.com or 205-531-6231

NEW MEMBER PRAYERS FOR FIRST CHURCH

AS WE SEEK TO BE

AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

We both have found First Church to be a friendly, welcome, and loving congregation. They truly live up to the "Open for All" slogan. We love our SALT class, we love the staff, but what we truly love is the "living water" we find here. It feeds the souls of the congregation and the fruits of that are the multiple ministries that the congregation supports. Our sincere prayer is that First Church continues to provide the Living Water to "All" and continues to bear fruit.

- Carol & Larry York

I pray that the talents that were given to me be used to better my church and community. I pray that I am able to live my life in a way that glorifies your name, not only on Sunday, but every day. Please help me to be a light to others the way that First Church is a light to all in our community. I pray for the leaders of our church so they may do your work and lead your people.

- Kimberly Williams

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

When making a memorial gift please note that we will be mailing notices on a monthly basis.

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Sara Clark

From Lisa Marx
From Geneva Blackburn
From Sam & Peggy Heide
From Fletcher & Betty Thorington
From Marsha Robins

In Memory of Buddy Ramsey

From Doug Morris
From Bentley & Melissa Patrick
From John & Betsy Saxon
From Carl & Andrea Hubbert

In Memory of Terilane Ramsey

From Bentley & Melissa Patrick
From Carl & Andrea Hubbert
From George & Betty Likis

In Memory of Bobbie Cloud

From Lisa Grupe

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Mr & Mrs James H. Beckham, Sr

From Joellyn Beckham

In Memory of Sarah Jones

From Henry & Marion Lagman

In Memory of Rebecca Hester Nail

From Andy Wallace

In Memory of Helen Childers

From the Ecclesia-Wingard Class

TO THE MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Sarah Jones

From Larry Ward

In Memory of Bettye Anne Wallace

From Larry Ward

MAY CALENDAR

MAY 1

8:00AM - YOUTH KAYAKING TRIP

MAY 15

11:00AM - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 30

11:00AM - COMBINED WORSHIP
(IN THE LOFT)

MAY 2

12:15PM - POP-UP PICNIC
(AT RAILROAD PARK)

MAY 19

6:00PM - TRUSTEES

MAY 31

~ CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ~

MAY 10

6:00PM - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MAY 27

7:00PM - LEGION SOCCER GAME

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:00am - Preschool Bitmoji Classroom Email

9:00am - Virtual Live Stream Service

10:00am - Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)

11:00am - Loft & Sanctuary In Person Worship

4:00pm - Youth Group

TUESDAY

7:00pm - Converge Young Adults

WEDNESDAY

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM STAFF

YOU MAY REACH OUR STAFF AT 205-254-3186 OR BY EMAIL

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**

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