


JANUARY 2022

CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING
NEW LIFE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 11:00AM

Blessing Of Our Babies



Our church is growing — thankfully that means we have more and more babies in our Nursery! We hope you will join us in worship on **Sunday, January 9** to meet our newest friends with our Blessing of our Babies in both the Loft and Sanctuary services.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Renewed by GRACE

A lectionary-based sermon series
exploring our Methodist roots.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

Expansive Grace

(PSALM 36:5-10, JOHN 2:1-11)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

Exploring the Quadrilateral

(1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31A | LUKE 4:14-21)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

The Sacraments

(JEREMIAH 1:4-10 | 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13)

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

We're getting closer and closer to our church-wide retreat February 11-13! If you have not yet registered, please do so by the January 15 deadline. Scholarships are available. Click [HERE](#) to register now or email katherine@firstchurchbhm.com with any questions.



SKATING TO THE 80'S



Join us on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 30**, for a night of roller skating and reminiscing! You're invited to come decked out in your best 80's-themed outfit and skate the night away with your church family. We'll gather at Skates 280 at 5:30pm and end our night at 7:30pm. The cost to attend is \$10 (includes skate rental, pizza, and a drink) and all ages are welcome. Click [HERE](#) to sign up and join us.



PANAMA

J U L Y 2 - 1 0 , 2 0 2 2

LEARN ^{AND} SERVE

Start signing up for the 2022 Panama Learn & Serve Team. In 2022 First Church will be going back to Panama and we hope you will consider joining the team.

Expected cost is somewhere between \$800 - \$1000

For More Information or to Sign Up Click [HERE](#).

TAP CLASSES

AT **FIRST CHURCH**

MONDAY NIGHTS STARTING JANUARY 10 IN THE LOFT

BEGINNERS CLASS, 6:15PM - 7:15PM

INTERMEDIATE CLASS, 7:30PM - 8:30PM

Click **HERE** for more information and to sign up.

FIRST CHURCH **LEADERSHIP**

It is a wonderful gift to be at a church where there are so many gracious and loving people who can step into lay leadership roles because they beautifully fulfill the call of leadership. Here are the names of those who have said YES to gracefully serving our congregation in the coming year.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair: Mychal Boyd (2022)

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 2022: Russell Dearing

Class of 2023: Kelsey Luckianow, Marlin Anderson

Class of 2024: Erika Jobes, Jill Rogers

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Kristie McCullough (2022)

Class of 2022: Tim Prince, David Rickard

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

Class of 2024: Rick DeShazo, Elena Harmon Wisse, Sally Bowers

Lay Representative to Annual Conference: Beth Curry

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

Class of 2024: Shirlee Maihoff, Larry Cain, Jennifer Ralph

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Chair: Thomas Waters (2022)

Treasurer: Ralph Jolly,

Trustee Representative

Class of 2022: Lindsay Luketic

Class of 2023: Scott Williams

Class of 2024: Jodi Kortman

LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Jennifer Waters (2022),

Beth Curry (2024)

FINANCE

Kelly Morgan - Finance Chair (2022)
Ralph Jolly - Treasurer
Steve Pitts - Business Administrator
Bill McMullen (2022)
Brett Wisse (2022)
Rosie Stafford Smith (2024)
Kyle Holloway (2024)

FUMC EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Cale Smith- Chair (2024)
Susan Ragland - Treasurer
Cristin Dedmon - City Kids
Renee Driskel - Preschool
Cassandra Copeland - Director
Katie Gilbert - Executive Pastor
Ambry Dillon - ELC Parent Committee chair
Class of 2022: Lauren Dean, Christina Burgunder
Class of 2023: Jennifer Carter
Class of 2024: Lindsay Pitts, Rob Hardison
SPRC Representative - Tim Prince (2022)
Business Administrator - Steve Pitts

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP | NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lay Leader: Andy Wallace (2022)
Class of 2022: Bill Schock, Angel Garrett, Laura Williams
Class of 2023: Kathy Draper, Connie Hogewood, Somer Barchini
Class of 2024: Katherine Simmons, Bert Pitts, Dejuana McCary

FIRST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Chair: Doug Morris - at large
John Martin - former SPRC Chair
Andy Wallace - Lay Leader
Trudi Mullins - former EC chair
Adam Burgunder - Trustees Chair
Steve Pitts - Former Finance Chair
Hallie Luckianow - at large
David Rikard - at large
Renee Harmon - at large
Kristie McCollough - SPRC Chair
Mychal Boyd - EC Chair
Kelly Morgan - Finance Chair

STUDENT MINISTRY

UPDATES

We are a loving, fun, and inclusive ministry for all 6th - 12th graders to explore faith while being their authentic selves. If you enjoy games, road trips, serving others, learning about social justice, and discovering who God called to you be in this world, then you should come hang out.

For more information check out our website or email our Minister of Youth,
Tiffany@firstchurchbhm.com (she/they).

CITY KIDS

UPDATES

BLESSING OF OUR BABIES

Sunday, January 9, 11:00am in both the Loft and the Sanctuary worship services

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING & VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Sunday, January 9, 4:00pm in the Large Dining Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45AM EACH SUNDAY

Babies-4K will meet in the Nursery Wing | 5K-5th Grade will meet on the second floor of the Education Building

POP-UP PLAYDATES

Follow [@firstchurchbhm.citykids](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchbhm.citykids) on Instagram for more information



F I R S T C H U R C H C E L E B R A T E S

150 YEARS



OPEN THEN. OPEN NOW. OPEN ALWAYS

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS THROUGH STORIES, STUDIES, AND SONGS

Join us for a year of stories, studies and songs as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of First Church throughout 2022. There will be small groups studies focused on the history of our church and those who helped to make history in Birmingham. There will be architectural tours of First Church and other historic downtown churches. There will be storytelling and singing of beloved favorites. Beginning in February, each month, in the newsletter you will see a First Church member's story shared. As a way to help us connect with our past and present there will be stories of those who have been members for years as well as those who have joined recently. All throughout the year we will reflect on how First Church was open then, it is open now and will be open always!

Save the dates of Sunday, February 27 at 11am for our combined 150th Anniversary worship service in the Sanctuary and Sunday, May 1 when we'll gather in the courtyard and the Large Dining Room after worship for lunch and a time of sharing our First Church stories.



KNITTERS & CROCHETERS WANTED

The Prayer Shawl / Baby Blanket Ministry is looking for more participants so that we can meet the growing needs in our congregation. A group meets at the church on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00pm -3:00pm, but participants in this ministry do not need to meet with the group in order to contribute. You can knit or crochet shawls, lap blankets, or baby blankets from home and deliver to the church for distribution as needed. Please contact Jenny Walker, jcwalker53@bellsouth.net for more information.

NEW MEMBER PRAYERS FOR FIRST CHURCH

AS WE SEEK TO BE
AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

I pray that no matter how divisive the world gets we continue to be a welcoming place for all! I pray that people who come here will feel loved and welcome as I have. I pray that we will be generous helping the com-

- Erika Van Meir



JANUARY CALENDAR

Click [HERE](#) to view our monthly calendar.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:00am: Virtual Live Stream Service

9:45am: Sunday School

11:00am: Loft & Sanctuary In Person Worship

4:00pm: Student Ministry

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: Cristin Dedmon	Cristin@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Community Engagement: Katherine Mullen	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
Organist: Richard Byrd	Richard@firstchurchbhm.com
Design: Blake Hobbs	Blake@firstchurchbhm.com
Choir Director: Patrick Evans	Patrick@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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