

FEBRUARY 2022

CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING
150 YEARS

*As one who has shared in the life and love of this community
over the years, you are joyfully invited to the celebration of*

150TH ANNIVERSARY

of Birmingham First United Methodist Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AT 11:00 AM
518 19TH STREET NORTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

150
YEARS
OPEN THEN. OPEN NOW. OPEN ALWAYS

STORIES FROM

150 YEARS



Three Generations of Bowens & Malones GOING STRONG SINCE 1933

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We begin this 150th anniversary with the Malone family story and their legacy at First Church. Many of you know Lisa or Linda or Nancy from their active participation in the church today, but did you know that their father Truman could make everyone laugh at the First Church Womanless Weddings? And that his father-in-law Albert did the same thing? Or that he was the touchstone usher at church for many many years and took that role very seriously? He also Chaired the Administrative Board and was on the Staff/Parish Relations Committee the year our beloved pastor Ralph Bates was selected.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.

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This is the first in our storytelling project in celebration of our 150th year! Be a part of our story collecting project. Please reach out to betsyhunter@gmail.com if you know a member with a great story or if you can help collect and write our stories. And on May 1st there will be a grand story collecting event after church in the dining room. Please come!

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Renewed ^{by} GRACE

A lectionary-based sermon series
exploring our Methodist roots.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service & Witness

(PSALM 138, LUKE 5:1-11)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Blessing & Woes

(JEREMIAH 17:5-10, LUKE 6:17-26)

VIRTUAL SERVICE ONLY – RETREAT WEEKEND IN GUNTERSVILLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Race & The UMC

(GENESIS 45:3-11, 15, PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50, LUKE 6:27-38)

COMBINED WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY W/ GUEST PREACHER REV. MARCUS SINGLETON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Open Then, Open Now & Open Always

(JEREMIAH 17:5-10, LUKE 6:17-26)

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

COMBINED WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

First Church is finally headed back to Lake Guntersville for our church-wide retreat February 11-13. Alongside our Manna and Mercy workshops, we'll be spending time in fellowship with one another playing games, hiking, golfing, fishing, and taking time to rest and recharge. We ask for your prayers for a safe journey and meaningful time away. If you are not able to attend the retreat, we will have a virtual only service on Sunday, February 13 at 9:00am



VIRTUAL WORSHIP ONLY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

If you can't make it to the church-wide retreat you are invited to tune in for our virtual service on Sunday, February 13 with guest preacher Rev. Emily Chastain. As a reminder our virtual service streams at 9:00am on both Facebook and YouTube and is available to stream any time following.

RACE & THE UMC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Join us for a combined worship service in the Sanctuary as we explore Race and the UMC with guest preacher United Methodist Elder Rev. Marcus Singleton. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Church-Wide Training | February 6, 2:00pm | Zoom Only

CREATING LGBTQIA AFFIRMING SPACES

LED BY MAGIC CITY ACCEPTANCE CENTER

Click [HERE](#) For More Information

PANAMA

JULY 2 - 10, 2022

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](#).

The graphic features the words "FAT TUESDAY" in large, stylized letters. "FAT" is green with a purple masquerade mask on the letter 'A'. "TUESDAY" is yellow. Below this, "PANCAKE" is in white and "DINNER" is in green. To the left is a stack of pancakes with a pat of butter and syrup. A string of green beads is draped across the top. At the bottom, the date and location are listed in yellow.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

MARCH 1 AT 6:00PM IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

Join us March 1 as we celebrate Fat Tuesday together. We'll gather in the Large Dining Room and enjoy listening to live jazz music, eating delicious food, and letting the good times roll! We'll feast on pancakes, sausage, fruit, and, of course, beignets. Not only will you get to celebrate with us but by purchasing a ticket you'll help us in our fundraising efforts for the church's trip to Panama this summer. Tickets are \$20 and all ages are welcome. Click [HERE](#) now to buy your ticket.

PREPARING FOR LENT

This Lenten season join us as we journey through a new series called "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith." Using the lectionary Scriptures and Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's new devotional book *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, we will affirm a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and learn to lean into our "good enough" lives. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

This Lenten season we invite you to find a short term small group that fits your interests. Click [HERE](#) to read more detailed information about our offerings as well as to register to participate.

For our transgender and non-binary folk, we acknowledge that gender is a spectrum. Please participate in whichever group you identify with.

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LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY

by Tish Harrison Warren

LED BY CRISTIN DEDMON

Sundays, March 6 through April 3 (with the exception of March 27)

8:00pm–8:45pm (4 weeks)

via Zoom

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GOOD ENOUGH: 40ISH DEVOTIONALS FOR A LIFE OF IMPERFECTION

by Jessica Richie and Kate Bowler

LED BY KATIE GILBERT

Tuesdays, March 8 through April 5 (with the exception of March 22),

6:00pm–7:00pm (4 weeks)

Parlor at First Church (or virtual option via Zoom)

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BREWS & BROS

LED BY JONATHAN GOSS

Thursdays, March 10 through March 31, 6:30–8:00pm (4 weeks)

Back Forty (3201 1st Ave N, Birmingham, AL)

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YOGA

LED BY MARIE BLAIR

Tuesdays, March 8 through April 5, 12:00pm (5 weeks)

Second floor of the Education building

WOMEN OF FAITHS IN EARLY BIRMINGHAM: IN HONOR OF FIRST CHURCH'S AND BIRMINGHAM'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

LED BY PAM KING

Tuesdays, March 8 through April 5, 6:00pm (5 weeks)

Location TBD

GOOD COMPANY AT THE FENNEC

LED BY REV. STEPHANIE YORK ARNOLD

Wednesdays, March 9 through April 6 (with the exception of March 30),

6:00pm – (4 weeks)

The Fennec (1630 2nd Ave S)

QUEERING THEOLOGY: RITUAL AND READINGS

LED BY PATRICK EVANS

Thursdays, March 10 through April 7, 6:00pm (5 weeks)

First Church Sanctuary

TAP YOUR TROUBLES AWAY

LED BY KATHY DRAPER

Mondays, 6:15–7:15pm (Beginner) and 7:30–8:30 (Intermediate)

The Loft

YOUTH MINISTRY

AT FIRST CHURCH

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 or to be added to our youth ministry emails, contact our interim youth minister, Laure FitzSimmons at youth@firstchurchbhm.com

CITY KIDS

UPDATES

GALENTINES & GUYLENTINES TEA PARTY BRUNCH

FEBRUARY 5, 10:00AM

WAFFLES • WATERCOLOR • WIGGLES

Father figures/masculine guardians, bring your youngsters (any age, any gender) to the First Church Parlor for a morning of brunch, crafts, and music. Dress up is encouraged. RSVP with the link in weekly emails.

Head to our social media accounts for updates, pop-up playdates, and at-home faith practices. You can subscribe to our weekly emails there to stay in the loop.

FEBRUARY 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 Children: Cristin Dedmon	Cristin@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Community Engagement: Katherine Mullen	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
Interim Minister of Youth: Laure FitzSimons	Youth@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**

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