

MARCH 2022

# CONNECTIONS

LEARNING WE ARE  
**GOOD ENOUGH**

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

# GOOD ENOUGH

EMBRACING THE IMPERFECTIONS OF LIFE & FAITH

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.

MARCH 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY

**PERFECTION IS IMPOSSIBLE. TRANSFORMATION ISN'T**

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

MARCH 6

**ORDINARY LIVES CAN BE HOLY**

PSALM 21, LUKE 4: 1-13

MARCH 13

**SO MUCH IS OUT OF OUR CONTROL**

PSALM 27, LUKE 13: 31-35

MARCH 20

**LOTS OF THINGS CAN BE MEDICINE**

PSALM 63, LUKE 13: 1-9

MARCH 27

**WE OFTEN BELIEVE WE ARE THE PROBLEM**

PSALM 32, LUKE 15: 1-3, 11B-32

# Walking THE LABYRINTH

DURING LENT

From **March 27 - April 10** during Lent you are invited to come walk a labyrinth in our Large Dining Room. This is a long held spiritual practice that is contemplative and grounding. Our labyrinth will be set up to provide you with space and time to pray. You are invited to walk the labyrinth anytime during office hours.

Click **[HERE](#)** for more information about the ancient and sacred practice of meditation.

# 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

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## **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

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## **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)

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## **QUEERING THEOLOGY: RITUAL AND READINGS**

LED BY PATRICK EVANS

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

First Church Sanctuary

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## **TAP YOUR TROUBLES AWAY**

LED BY KATHY DRAPER

Mondays, 5:30pm–6:30pm (Beginner) and 6:45pm–7:45pm (Intermediate)

The Loft

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# STORIES FROM

# 150 YEARS



## ANDY KEITH

Quiet Activist & Devoted Congregant

BY PAMELA STERNE KING

Andy Keith wears his emotions on his sleeve, choking back tears as he recalled joining First Church. It was fifty years ago. Andy was a new doctor, then, proud husband to Ann, adoptive father of Gina and Stephen, father of baby Rebecca, and expectant father of Nancy, their last. The church welcomed this family of five in 1971, then threw its arms around the sprawling six, and has never let go. For Andy, he “was home” at First Church and, like the congregation, has never let go.

Click **HERE** to read the full story.

# 150 YEARS

## EVENTS IN MARCH

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama is partnering with the Red Mountain Theater to present the musical drama, "Memorial" at 4:00 pm on March 20, 2022. "Memorial" was inspired by Bryan Stevenson's work and the Legacy Museum. It examines the scourge of lynching in Jefferson County, Alabama from the 1890s through the 1930s.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

# Honoring our 150 Years

For 150 years First Church has had persons from within her family make positive and significant impact on the world around them through their faith. Our Annual Conference honors two beloved former First Church family members through awards each year. You are encouraged to nominate persons for this year's awards.

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## 2022 Louise Branscomb Barrier Breaker Award

*NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 24*

The Louise Branscomb Barrier Breaker Award is a way to recognize leaders in the North Alabama Conference who advocate for women and marginalized communities. A nominee must be actively involved in a North Alabama United Methodist Church to qualify for the award. Nominees may be clergy or laity and may be any gender.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about the Louise Branscomb Barrier Breaker Award.

Click [HERE](#) to submit a nomination.

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## Harry Denman Evangelism Award

*NOMINATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15*

The Foundation for Evangelism began the Harry Denman Evangelism award in 1981 as a way to honor United Methodist clergy, laity, and youth in each Annual Conference who exhibit unusual and outstanding efforts for their work in Christian evangelism. The award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, a Birmingham native and distinguished lay evangelist, who founded the Foundation on Evangelism in 1949.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and submit your nomination for the Harry Denman Evangelism Award.



**YOU ARE INVITED** to join us on The Journey, a First Church retreat for men (or any who identify as masculine). Gather with friends, some you haven't even met yet, as we study Methodism Founder John Wesley's teachings about God's Grace- "the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit." This retreat will bring together travelers of all ages and stages of life to connect, grow, and learn about God's love for ALL of us. (Please note these dates have been rescheduled from earlier dates published.)

What: **The Journey Men's Retreat**

Where: **Camp McDowell** (*near Jasper, AL*)

When: **Friday, May 6 @ 7:00pm – Saturday, May 7 @ 3:30pm**

Cost: **\$118**

Click [HERE](#) to register now.

**PANAMA**

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**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](#).





**Monday, June 27 – Thursday, June 30**

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**Exploring our funny, beautiful and, sometimes, odd creation.**  
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**Learning about our Creator who dreams big & encourages us to dream big, too.**  
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**Getting to know our Savior who surprised (& continues to surprise) the world.**  
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**Connecting with our Sustainer who shows us ways to use  
our whole selves (the weird & the wonderful) to serve our world.**  
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**Click [HERE](#) to learn more & register now.**

# CITY KIDS UPDATES

## **Family Lenten Practices: SACRED MOMENTS IN THE HOME**

A 6-Week Guide for the Whole Family

Packets will be distributed **February 27–March 13** (*we can even mail!*).

Save a packet [HERE](#)

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Saturday, April 9, 2022**

Birmingham Southern College Quad

## **SUMATANGA!** (REGISTER TODAY!)

**Elementary Camp** for rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will be **June 5–10**.

**Day Camp** for rising 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders will be **July 11–15**. Cristin Dedmon, Minister of Children, will be the Dean for Camp Sumatanga that week and will transport kids back and forth each day, 7:30am–4:30pm. Parents must register with Camp Sumatanga (and quickly because spots are filling!) and on [this link](#) to reserve a seat on the bus

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## AT FIRST CHURCH

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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.  
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For more information or to be added to our youth ministry emails, contact our interim youth minister, Laure FitzSimmons at [youth@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:youth@firstchurchbhm.com)

# MARCH 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**

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