

MAY 2022

CONNECTIONS

CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY



SUMATANGA PICNIC

SATURDAY, MAY 14 AT 11:00AM

The weather is warmer, the skies are clearer, and everything is in bloom – which means it's officially picnic weather! Join your First Church family on Saturday, May 14, for a picnic up at Camp Sumatanga (3616 Sumatanga Rd, Gallant, AL 35972). We plan to meet at Sumatanga at 11:00am to eat lunch, play games, hike, canoe, and spend time together. No reservations are necessary, just come and join the fun. Don't forget to bring your sunscreen, picnic lunch, and a chair or blanket.

Healing IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Join us this May as we explore what the healing stories of Jesus have to teach us today about living more fully into being an **OPEN place for ALL** that better includes those with disabilities.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

5.1.22 | **CENTERING DISABLED VOICES**

John 9:2-4, Psalm 139:13-14, Exodus 4:10-12

5.15.22 | **BECOMING A WOUNDED HEALER**

John 13:3-17, Luke 18:22, Judges 3:12-28

5.8.22 | **FOLLOWING A DISABLED GOD**

2 Kings 7: 3-9, 1 Corinthians 12:18-26, John 20:26-29

5.22.22 | **CREATING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

Luke 14:12-14, Matthew 15:30-31, 2 Samuel 9:1-12

DISABILITY TRAINING

LED BY ALIE B. GORRIE

Join us Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00pm on Zoom.

Click [**HERE**](#) for more information.



WELCOME SUTTON SMITH

This summer we will welcome Sutton Smith as a pastoral intern on our First Church team. We invite you to read below to learn more about Sutton and hope you will extend a warm First Church welcome as she comes on board this June.

"My name is Sutton Smith, and I just finished up my first year at Yale Divinity School. I am originally from Auburn, AL and graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in 2021, so I'm excited to be back in Birmingham for a few months. I'm looking forward to being involved in First Church's ministries and getting to know members of the congregation. From June through the first half of August, I'll be available to teach Sunday School classes or lead small groups. Please feel free to email me at sutton@firstchurchbhm.com. I look forward to meeting you all soon!"

Bible Study

Sunday School Class

On Sunday, May 15, the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class will begin a discussion series on Soren Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling, a challenging and rewarding examination of the story of Abraham and Isaac. The discussion will be led by Duncan Blair. The Sunday Morning Bible Study class meets every Sunday at 9:30am in the Library Room in the Education Building and all are welcome!! Please contact Stephen Smith at stephenbsmith@gmail.com for more information.

CITY KIDS UPDATES

CityKids Kickball & Campy Crafts at Camp Sumatanga

MAY 14 AT 10:00AM PRIOR TO THE CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

Meet at the Lake at Camp Sumatanga for donuts, coffee, juice boxes, and a fun game of kickball. We'll also practice some fun camp songs while we make campy crafts! We'll then welcome our whole church to the fun.

4th/5th Grade Crossover Night w/ Student Ministry

MAY 22 AT 4:00PM

4th/5th Grade Students are invited to join the Student Ministry for a night of games of epic mess. You can find more details in the weekly emails or on social media.

First Church Two & Under Crew – Babies Who Brunch

MAY 19 AND MAY 26 AT 11:00AM

If you have a little one under two years old, pack a picnic and meet on the CityKids wing on the top floor May 19 and May 26 at 11:00am. We'll have a story time, make a craft, and play! If you want to join our Two and Under Crew text thread, email Sarah Jensen at jensen.sarah.s@gmail.com.

Sumatanga Day Camp

JULY 11-15 | 7:30AM-4:30PM

Sign up for the bus to/from camp [HERE](#)

You will also find more information about registering for camp at that link. Cristin is the Dean for the week and is building a fun week of outdoor adventures and growing closer to God.



ARTS CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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We are busy writing curriculum, dreaming of scenes, and planning the different artistic segments for Arts Camp 2022 and, to make it even better, we want you to join us!

Monday, June 27- Thursday, June 30 - 9:00am- 3:00pm

If you have an hour, a half day, a full day, or the full week to share, we'll need lots of volunteers to pull off this incredible week of creativity, growth and fun! A few ways you can serve: as a shepherd leading kids to different activities, dining room/kitchen helpers, prep the craft supplies, decorate the space, or clean up after the week!

If you have capacity to help welcome over a hundred kids to our church this week this June, click [HERE](#) so we can connect you!

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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

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Youth Summer Events:

Braves Game & Six Flags Trip

JUNE 9 - 10 | Cost: \$150

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Summer Arts Camp

JUNE 27 - JUNE 30 AT 9:00AM - 3:00PM

We **NEED** Youth Volunteers and it's so much FUN!

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Youth Family Lake Day

JULY 9 AT 11:00AM - 5:00PM | Lay Lake

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Youth Beach Trip

JULY 22- 25 | Cost: \$250

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF IN KATELYN HANCOCK

From Mary Ann Rondinelli

From Donald Rhea

From Fletcher & Betty Thorington

From Karow Wilson

TO THE MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF BETTY WALLACE

From Andy Wallace

OUR 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

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

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
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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