

# CONNECTIONS



# THIS IS OUR CHURCH





# PRIDE

TWENTY TWENTY TWO

**The Pride Parade and Pridefest are back in full swing this year and we hope you'll make plans to join us! The Parade will step off at 8:00pm (or dark whichever comes first) on Saturday, June 11 and will travel down 7th Ave S. beginning at the intersection of 32nd St. S and ending in front of Our Place. Everyone must be checked in and ready to go by 7:00pm but you are invited to come early (check in will begin around 5:00pm), get a wristband, and head to dinner nearby before returning to be in place at 7:00pm. We encourage you to wear your God is Love t-shirts and bring a bag of candy to share with parade watchers.**

**In addition to participating in the Parade, we will have a booth at Pridefest on Sunday, June 12 which begins at 11:00am at Linn Park. Pridefest lasts all day and is free to attend! We will need volunteers to help staff our booth, hand out goodies, and make new friends.**

**If you are interested in helping with our booth or with more details for the Parade, please let us know by filling our interest form [HERE](#). For a full list of Pride events, click [HERE](#).**

# PRIDE SIGNS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5, FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

On Sunday, June 5 anyone who wants to help make signs for Pride as well as put the finishing touches on our handouts is invited to pack a lunch or grab something downtown and join us in the Large Dining Room following worship. We'll work for a couple of hours to get everything ready for the weekend's events. Email [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com) if you have any questions.

# Michael Conway

DISPLAY OF THE  
AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

First Church is helping to co-host the AIDS Memorial Quilt display at **WOODLAWN UMC**. The AIDS Memorial Quilt is made up of panels remembering those who have died from HIV-AIDS. Coming to view the panels is an experience that creates sacred space to celebrate and honor lives lost – a visit is part memorial and part museum. The display will be available during select hours from **JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 5**. We hope you will take time to make this a part of your Pride festivities this year.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



# I've been meaning to ask...

JUNE SERMON SERIES

During the month of June we invite you to join us as we cultivate courageous conversations by beginning with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. Through vulnerability and authenticity, we hope our courageous conversations will lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty—and to become the community God created us to be.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

## 5.29 I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK

*JOHN 1:43-46 | JOHN 8:1-11 | COMBINED WORSHIP IN THE LOFT*

Preaching in the Loft - Jonathan Goss

## 6.12 WHERE DOES IT HURT?

*1 SAMUEL 1:1-18 | MARK 5:21-43 | PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY*

Preaching in the Loft - Jonathan Goss  
Preaching in the Sanctuary - Stephanie Arnold

## 6.5 WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

*GENESIS 2:4B-15 | JOHN 1:35-51 | PENTECOST*

Preaching in the Loft - Jonathan Goss  
Preaching in the Sanctuary - Katie Gilbert

## 6.19 WHAT DO YOU NEED?

*JOB 2:11-13 | 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-18 | JUNETEENTH*

Preaching in the Loft - Jonathan Goss  
Preaching in the Sanctuary - Rev. Charles Lee

## 6.26 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

*RUTH 1:1-22 | ACTS 10 | LAITY SUNDAY*

Preaching in the Loft - Sandy Lawrence  
Preaching in the Sanctuary - Erika Jobes

# JULY 4 WORSHIP

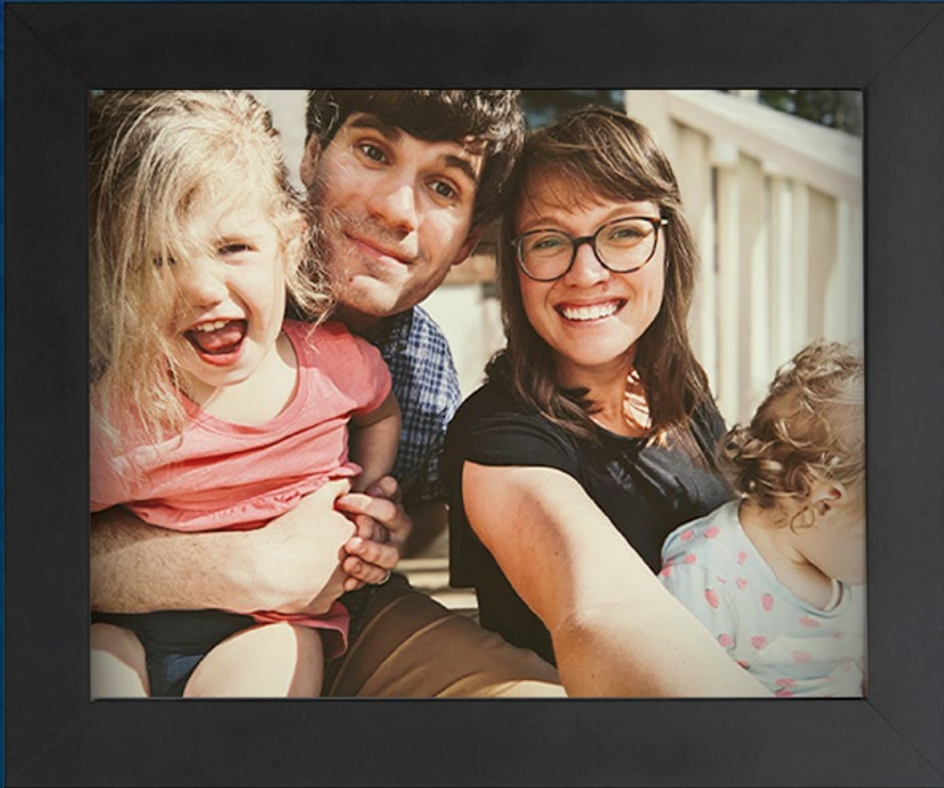
**On Sunday, July 3** we are planning a virtual worship service only. You are invited to make plans to celebrate the 4th with friends and family or give yourself some much needed down time. Tune into worship at 9:00am on Sunday, July 3 to worship with your First Church family wherever you are located. There will be no in-person worship or Sunday School.

## FIRST CHURCH & THE WORLD GAMES

WE ARE STAYING IN TOUCH WITH BIRMINGHAM CITY OFFICIALS ABOUT PLANS FOR THE WORLD GAMES AND HOW THEY MAY IMPACT OUR LOCATION. WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING TO OFFER WORSHIP IN-PERSON ON SUNDAY, JULY 10 AND JULY 17 BUT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE CITY. WE WILL MAKE A CALL ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES TO WEEKDAY OFFICE HOURS AND WORSHIP AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE GAMES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AS WE WORK TO HELP MAKE BIRMINGHAM AS HOSPITABLE AND WELCOMING TO THE WORLD GAMES AS POSSIBLE.



# W E L C O M E



.....

## **REV. SAM BURCHAM**

OUR NEW YOUTH & JUSTICE MINISTER

.....

We will welcome Sam Burcham (and family) to First Church on Sunday, June 12. We will begin the day with an Open House in the newly renovated Youth Room from 9:30am - 10:30am (basement floor of the Sanctuary) for youth families and anyone who would like to come and see the updated space. Following worship, you are invited to a reception in the Large Dining Room as we welcome Sam, Holly, Maisie, and Milly to First Church.

Click **HERE** for more information.



# NEW YOUTH ROOM



The completion of our youth room renovation brings to close the 2015 Capital Renovations. ALL are invited to come check out the renovation on **Sunday, June 12 from 9:30am - 10:30am** as we welcome our new youth minister and open the doors on this great space.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



# STORIES FROM

# 150 YEARS



## Uncomfortable...in the Very Best Way Possible

BY BETSY MCGUIRE

.....

**“My youth group experience was the most formative experience of my life.” This is how Mary Kate Waters-Wright describes her experience in the First Church youth group during and after it combined with the youth at Community Church Without Walls in West End.**

**Moving towards the uncomfortable takes courage, a bit of fearlessness, strength and hopefully a dash of clarity and optimism. Those are words used to describe the staff and lay leaders who in 2009 led the initiative to combine the youth at both churches.**

.....

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



*Celebrating*  
**The First Church**  
**ORGAN**  
**HISTORY & DEMONSTRATION**



SINCE ITS 1891 BEGINNING, FIRST CHURCH HAS BEEN ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF PIPE ORGANS IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM. OUR BEAUTIFUL CASAVANT PIPE ORGAN HAS A RICH HISTORY OF PREVIOUS ORGANS BEING REWORKED AND REBUILT TO CREATE THE INSTRUMENT IN USE TODAY. AS PART OF THE 150TH CELEBRATION AND **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 11:00AM WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 26**, RICHARD BYRD WILL TAKE US THROUGH A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHURCH ORGAN AND DEMONSTRATE HOW THE INSTRUMENT WORKS. WE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US AS WE LISTEN AND LEARN TOGETHER.





**MONDAY, JUNE 27 - THURSDAY, JUNE 30**  
**9:00AM - 3:00PM**

# CITY KIDS UPDATES

## **BABIES WHO BRUNCH**

**JUNE 16 AND JUNE 23 AT 11:00AM**

Meet on the CityKids wing with your picnic lunch for a casual morning of crafts, music, & storytelling.

.....

## **SWEET!**

**JUNE 21 AT 4:00PM**

A 4th and 5th Grade Hangout at Sugar in Crestline. Bring an adult, enjoy a treat and games.

.....

## **I'M SALTY**

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45AM -10:45AM | 5K-5TH GRADE**

Jesus invites us to live in a way that is countercultural. We can learn from his closest friends the different ways that they lived this invitation and also be the salt and the light in our world. We'll talk about a different disciple or early follower of Christ, play games, and make crafts each week. The lessons are intentionally written to be stand-alone in case you are traveling for the summer!



# 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 Youth Minister, **Sam Burcham** at [Sam@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Sam@firstchurchbhm.com).

---

## Youth Summer Events:

### **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





A FIRST CHURCH RETREAT FOR MEN

# The JOURNEY

The Journey Men's Retreat took place at beautiful Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama on May 6 and 7. The theme for the weekend followed John Wesley's understanding of grace. We enjoyed each other's company as we shared good times, lots of laughter, and great food together. A good time was had by all.



The entire weekend was led by our laity. They did such a wonderful job and I want to say a special thank you to our leadership team. Thank you to John Draper and his leadership as the lay director of the entire weekend. Thank you to Andy Wallace and Jake Haynes as they were assistant leaders and made sure the weekend went off without a snag. Thanks to everyone that gave a talk - Alex Kofskey, Ted Leach, Mychal Boyd, Herb Robertson, John Draper, and Adam Burns. A special thanks to our musicians, Brett Harmon-Wisse and Kevin Voorhees. Last but not least, a thank you to those that were more behind the scenes, Bernie Hardy, photographer, Tom McMillian, tech, David Glasgow, hospitality, and Michael Kortman, sound engineer. I can't wait until next year's retreat.

– Jonathan Goss



# Thank You

## FROM GINGER GAMBILL

I just want to say **THANK YOU** to all those who celebrated me when I retired in April after serving as the Nursery Director here at First Church for 28 years. I am sincerely honored and humbled to have received so many beautiful cards and notes, pictures drawn by the children, notes from current and past youth, text messages, phone calls and verbal thanks of gratitude these past few weeks. I also want to thank those who contributed to the monetary Love Gifts that were given to me. Our congregation is so giving when showing their love of others and I honestly was overwhelmed by your generosity! I am just so grateful that I found a ministry in this church that I was passionate about. Parents, I loved teaching, mentoring, rocking, playing with, and caring for your children over the years! They were so loving, kind, funny, compassionate, and eager to learn and were truly a blessing to me!

With Love and Gratitude,  
- Ginger Gambill

# NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE

JUNE 22 - 24

This year's Annual Conference is located in Huntsville, Alabama. Our clergy and lay representatives (Jennifer Waters and Beth Curry) will be out of the office attending the Conference.

Click [HERE](#) 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:

Our prayer for First Church is that it becomes an integral part of our lives, continues to grow following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to continue humble service to all souls.

- Wade Woodward & Wayne Smith

I pray that First Church will continue to be a beacon of inclusivity in the Birmingham area.

- Catherine Tucker

My prayer is that First Church continues to practice acceptance, inclusivity, and love like no other church.

- Bubba Jones Miller

Continue to be an open place for all and to reach those individuals looking for a place to call home and to overcome their hurt feelings from other churches.

- Keaton Miller

Continue to fight for what is right socially, to grow but never lose touch with its mission/values and to persist in embodying Christ's true message of loving one another as he loves us.

- Belle Peters

That our leadership teams and congregation continue to grow and more beautifully reflect the diversity of the city as a whole and more intentionally serve communities we are geographically closest to.

- Jennifer Moore Segura



# GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

## TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

### IN MEMORY OF **KATELYN HANCOCK**

From Joe & Jenny Walker  
From Geneva Blackburn  
From Camelia Hudson

### IN MEMORY OF **RAY GRANT**

From Nadine Chandler  
From Bill & Cathy Ivey  
From Ecclesia-Wingard Class  
From David & Terri Glasgow  
From Brian & Angel Garrett  
From John & Sally Bowers  
From Shannon Polly  
From Geneva Blackburn

### IN MEMORY OF **SARAH JOLLY**

From William Graves  
From Fletcher & Betty Thorington  
From Brian & Angel Garrett  
From Geneva Blackburn  
From Sid Trant

## TO THE MUSIC FUND

### IN MEMORY OF **RAY GRANT**

From Larry Ward

### IN MEMORY OF **SARAH JOLLY**

From Larry Ward

### IN MEMORY OF **KATELYN HANCOCK**

From Larry Ward

## TO UMCOR

### IN MEMORY OF **RAY GRANT**

From Phyllis Gish  
From Garet Richardson

## TO THE LIVING CHURCH FUND

### IN HONOR OF **SARA BAKER**

From Joellyn Beckham

# 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
Minster of Youth & Justice: Sam Burcham .....	Sam@firstchurchbhm.com
Organist: Richard Byrd .....	Richard@firstchurchbhm.com
Design: Blake Hobbs .....	Blake@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Music: 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**

518 North 19th Street • Birmingham AL 35203  
205-254-3186 • [www.firstchurchbhm.com](http://www.firstchurchbhm.com)