

CONNECTIONS



WE LOVE OUR KIDS



THANK YOU!

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE WEEK

with 131 explorers, 14 teen volunteers, and over 50 adult volunteers! We are blown away by the response of support and love from our whole church to dive in and join the fun. We welcomed our friends from Urban Ministry's WE Learn Summer Camp to participate along with many friends and neighbors in our community.



EACH DAY we worshipped, learned stories, danced, played the drums, made crafts, painted, played games, built collaborative art pieces, and practiced our improv. We enjoyed amazing meals prepared by our kitchen team and pizza the last day. We paused for a moment of sacred silence and yoga in our Sanctuary and Chapel. Then, we gathered together to learn from our ministry partners, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Urban Ministry, and Community on the Rise. Weeks spent with over one hundred kids are always chaotic, but this week was the best kind of crazy. We can't wait until next summer! Thank you to everyone who made Arts Camp 2022 a success!



BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

**Blessing of the Backpacks,
Upper Elementary Bible Presentation,
and Popsicles for everyone in the Courtyard**

Join us for worship on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 14** in either the Loft or the Sanctuary to experience a time of prayer and blessing in preparation for the new school year. All those headed back to school (students, teachers, school personnel, and others) are invited to bring their backpacks, badges, or lunchboxes to place along the altar for a time of blessing. Together we will pray for all those impacted by returning to school. After worship, you are all invited to meet us in the Courtyard to enjoy popsicles as we celebrate our return to a new school year.

BEYOND ^{THE} BINARY

The term binary is defined as "relating to, composed of, or involving two things" by the Oxford dictionary. As children we learn opposites - up and down, east or west, black or white - as a way to understand the world in which we live and these binary categories often become a mentality that we cannot escape. In this series we invite you to join us on the journey to expand our thinking beyond the binary. Together we will explore the ways that God is calling us to stretch beyond our dualistic worldview to see the complexities that exist within our world and within creation.

8.14 | GOOD & BAD

8.21 | LIGHT & DARK

8.28 | MALE & FEMALE

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

RETURN TO ESSENCE:

*Dive Deeply Into the
Spirituality of the Enneagram*

AUGUST 12 - 13

We are excited to be hosting the Institute for Conscious Being's workshop "Return to Essence: Dive Deeply Into the Spirituality of the Enneagram" on August 12 - 13. Over the course of Friday evening and Saturday, Dr. Joseph Howell and the faculty of ICB will help us understand how the Enneagram's wisdom can unlock your soul. The weekend will feature live music, teachings, theater, small groups for exploration of your type, as well as interactive exercises that apply to daily life. Registration deadline is August 8.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS FOR THE ENNEAGRAM

Motions of the Trinitarian Soul & The Harmony Triads

The Enneagram of personality has become so popular over the past few years it is not uncommon that many people "know their number." However, the true Enneagram is a sacred wisdom map of the human soul, with the potential to reconnect each of us more consciously to the unique fullness of our divine design and live out our purpose.

Whether you are brand-new to the enneagram, simply know your number, or have a deeper practice with it, this gathering is for you. Together, we will take a deep yet practical 8-week immersion into the Enneagram. Click [HERE](#) for more information and the link to register.

T W E N T Y - T W E N T Y T W O

SIDEWALK WALK SIDE

F I L M F E S T I V A L

SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL IS ONCE AGAIN RETURNING TO FIRST CHURCH ON THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 26-28. WE WILL SCREEN LIFE AND LIBERTY FILMS IN OUR LOFT WORSHIP SPACE AS WELL AS HOST VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM. WE WILL SELL CONCESSIONS BEFORE EACH FILM SCREENING WITH MULTIPLE SHIFTS AVAILABLE FROM APPROXIMATELY 10:00AM – 8:00PM ON SATURDAY AND APPROXIMATELY 1:30PM – 7:30PM ON SUNDAY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING SELL CONCESSIONS, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY EMAILING [KATIE@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katie@firstchurchbhm.com). CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STORIES FROM

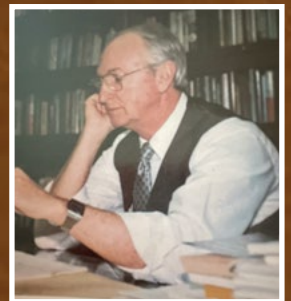
150 YEARS

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Servant Leaders at First United Methodist

BY HANNA SCHOCK & ANDREA WHITEHEAD

.....



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Any story of First Methodist Birmingham would be incomplete without mentioning some of the male leaders of this church over the last 50 years. **Ted Cramer**, **Walter Baker**, **Frank Dominick**, **Ralph Bates**, and **Fletcher Thorington** were all servants to this church, and we are deeply indebted to their service.

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

150



STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF FALL LUNCHEON

Join us on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** after worship for a celebratory lunch that will include listening to and sharing stories of the impact that First Church has had over the years. All are invited to register **[HERE](#)** for a delicious meal and a time of remembering our connection over the years as we kick off our stewardship theme for 2022 - Making an Impact Then, Now, and Always.

GREETERS NEEDED

We have a priority of practicing hospitality and one of the best ways we have found to extend that welcome is through the presence of greeters. As we look ahead to the fall and prepare to return to our weekly rhythms, we want to make sure we have greeters in place to welcome the First Church family and all who visit across our campus. Greeters are asked to be in place by 10:45am each week and are needed in both worship spaces as well as the Courtyard and even along the street if we have enough volunteers. Help us make First Church as welcoming as possible by volunteering to be one of our greeters today! We will hold a brief training before we head into the fall. Click **[HERE](#)** to sign up now.

SAVE THE DATE

Church Wide Retreat 2023

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2023

CITY KIDS UPDATE

August 14 - Back to School Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks and Upper Elementary Bible Presentation
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August 14 - Back to School Porch Party

4 :00pm in the Dedmon's Backyard
.....

August 18 - Babies Who Brunch

11:00am on the CityKids Wing
.....

SERVE with CityKids!

We are launching two Sunday school classes for our Elementary Students this Fall and need extra teachers to lead. The curriculum and crafts will be prepared for you each week- just show up and guide our students.

YOUTH MINISTRY

AT FIRST CHURCH

SPRING VALLEY BEACH, REVISITED

AUGUST 20 | 10:00AM – 3:00PM

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

AUGUST PROGRAMMING

MID-WEEK YOUTH PROGRAMMING WILL RESUME ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 FROM 6:00PM – 7:30PM!

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER.
CONTACT SAM@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM IF YOU WANT TO BE ON THAT LIST.

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

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF **KATELYN HANCOCK**

From Brian & Angel Garrett

IN MEMORY OF **SARAH JOLLY**

From Rebecca Rollins

From Elizabeth Knight

IN MEMORY OF **KATHERINE BLAND**

From Philippe & Judy Lathrop

From Melissa & Cobb Hagan

From Christopher Brown

From Karla Hudson

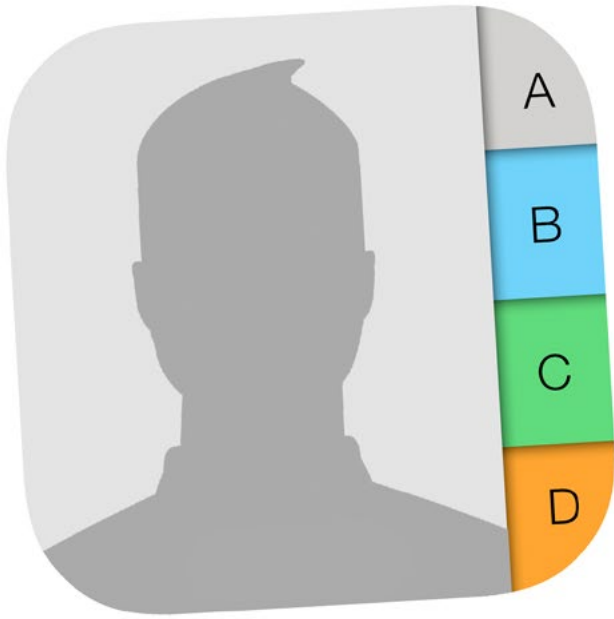
From Laura Rue

From Richard Hendon



COMMUNICATIONS AT FIRST CHURCH

If there is a First Church event that you would like to have shared in any of our First Church communications (the bulletin, newsletters, or TV slides), please contact Katie Gilbert at Katie@firstchurchbhm.com. All information for the Monthly Connections must be submitted by 5:00pm on the 15th of the month prior. Please help us as we work to communicate all that is happening at First Church!



CONTACT CHANGES?

We want to make sure we have all of your contact information up to date! Have you recently moved, changed email addresses, or made other changes to your contact information? If so, we would love to know!

Please send any changes or updated information to Peg Thompson at Peg@firstchurchbhm.com.

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**

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