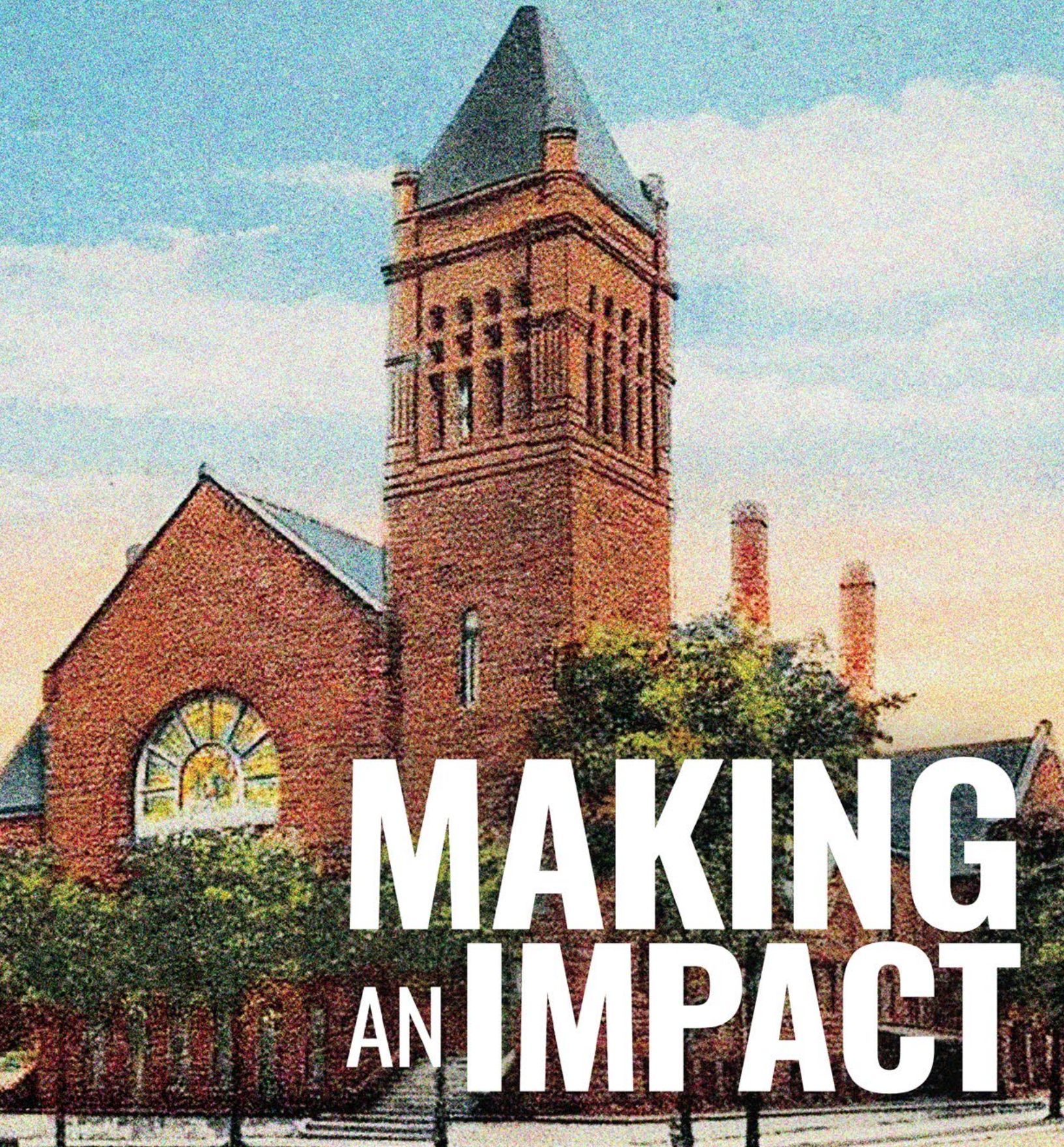


SEPTEMBER 2022

CONNECTIONS



MAKING AN IMPACT

MAKING AN IMPACT 150 YEARS

Throughout our long and rich history, First Church has had a significant impact on both individual people's lives and the life of the community around us. It is because of the choices and legacies of those who came before us that we have been gifted the opportunity to make an impact for others today. During this series we will explore the power of impact in Scripture, in our history, and in the opportunity to generously impact future generations with hope and love. As we are reminded in Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." This is our time and it is within our power to have an impact today for the future.

9.11.22 | **MAKING AN IMPACT** | **THEN**
EXODUS 2:1-10

9.18.22 | **MAKING AN IMPACT** | **NOW**
ESTHER 4:4-16

9.25.22 | **MAKING AN IMPACT** | **ALWAYS**
JEREMIAH 32:1-3A, 6-15

STEWARDSHIP

T W E N T Y T W E N T Y T H R E E

THE CULMINATION OF OUR STEWARDSHIP SEASON WILL BE **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**.
YOU ARE INVITED TO BRING YOUR PLEDGE CARD WITH YOU TO WORSHIP
OR TO FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE CARD ONLINE PRIOR TO THAT DAY.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP CLICK [HERE](#).

CLICK [HERE](#) TO FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE CARD FOR 2023 NOW.

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 2023 - Making an Impact Then, Now, and Always.



Getting To **KNOW US** Dinner

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 6:00PM | IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

If you have been visiting with us at First Church, if you have recently joined First Church, or if you are interested in learning more, you are invited to join us for a meal together around the table. We will gather at 6:00pm on Thursday, September 22 in the Large Dining Room for good food and fellowship. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register to join us.



**FIRST
CHURCH**

101

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 6:00PM IN THE LOFT

If you are new to First Church (or if you've been around and want a refresher!) we encourage you to attend our First Church 101 on Thursday evening, September 29, at 6:00pm in the Loft. We will talk about the theology, polity, and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church as well as talk more about how we understand membership at First Church. This is a great opportunity to learn more and begin to find greater connection to the First Church community.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up now.

FIRST CHURCH Community groups

After a year since re-launching our community groups, we are ready to recruit once again this fall! Dinner Groups and Life Groups provide a sense of fellowship and encourage deeper connection within our community. These groups meet every month or every several weeks depending on the group's preference. If you're interested in learning more about our community groups, you can read more on our website [HERE](#). If you are interested in participating in a community group this fall, please fill out our online form [HERE](#).

GRIEF GROUP

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT SOUTH HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Larry Michael of South Highland Presbyterian Church will begin a General Loss Grief Support Group for SHPC members and our community, on Wednesday, September 4, meeting in the Parlor from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. The group will meet each 1st and 3rd Wednesday from September through November. Sign-up is through the SHPC office but walk-ins are also welcome. Please call 205-933-0790 to sign-up or if you have any questions.

FALL SMALL GROUPS

As we move into the fall we are excited to launch a series of small group offerings. We hope you will find at least one opportunity that speaks to your interests and sign up to join us. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information about each group as well as the link to register.

MULTI-WEEK SMALL GROUPS

HIKE MORE, WORRY LESS

LED BY LYNN ELGIN AND DAVID COMMER

Sundays, beginning October 2 at 3:00pm (5 weeks)
Various Birmingham trails

BREWS & BROS

LED BY REV. JONATHAN GOSS

Thursdays, beginning October 6 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm (4 weeks)
Carrigan's Beer Garden (2910 6th Ave S)

LIFE-CHANGING STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

LED BY REV. TED LEACH

Wednesdays, beginning October 12 from 11:00am–12:00pm (3 weeks)
First floor of the Office Building in the Parlor

THE WISDOM OF YOUR BODY, A BOOK STUDY

LED BY KATHERINE MULLEN

Wednesdays, beginning October 5 from 6:00pm–7:00pm (4 weeks)
First floor of the Office Building in the Parlor

SHHH! IT'S A PARENT HANGOUT

LED BY CRISTIN DEDMON

Tuesdays, beginning October 4 at 8:00pm (4 weeks)
Via Zoom

AN ART, A CRAFT, A MYSTERY, A BOOK STUDY

LED AND FACILITATED BY LAURA SECORD (AUTHOR) AND KELLY ROSS-DAVIS

Tuesdays, beginning October 11 at 6:00pm (3 weeks)
First floor of the Office Building in the Koinonia Room



SINGLE DAY SMALL GROUPS

ART AND RELIGION: AN EXPLORATION OF GODDESSES

LED BY REV. KATIE GILBERT

Saturday, October 1 from 10:30am–3:30pm
Birmingham Museum of Art

IT'S A GOOD DOG DAY!

LED BY ALIE B. GORRIE

Sunday, October 2 at 4:00pm
Good Dog Bar and Dog Park (2307 1st Ave S)

ONGOING SMALL GROUPS

CONVERGE MIDWEEK: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

LED BY JONATHAN GOSS

Tuesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Third Floor of the Office Building in the Blue Room

OPEN TABLE

LED BY SOMER BARCHINI AND JAKE HAYNES

Wednesdays, beginning September 14 at 6:00pm
Second floor of the Education Building in the Loft lounge

TAP YOUR TROUBLES AWAY: TAP DANCING GROUP

LED BY KATHY DRAPER

Mondays, beginning September 19 at 5:30pm
The Loft

STAR WARS

MOVIE NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 25, 7:00PM

Let's travel back to a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... but this time, let's add some popcorn! Bring a chair and join us for a Star Wars outdoor movie night on Sunday, September 25 at 7:00pm in the back parking lot. "Which Star Wars movie?" you might ask – well that's up to you! We'll be running polls leading up to the event for the entire church to vote on which film we'll watch together. Who doesn't love some friendly competition? Snacks and drinks will be provided. Costumes are heavily encouraged but not required.

SAVE THE DATE

Church Wide **Retreat** 2023

**FEBRUARY 10-12, 2023
AT CAMP MCDOWELL**

SEPTEMBER 17 | 9:00AM - 2:00PM

DEEP, WIDE, STRONG:

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Ministry with the Poor Operational Team of the North Alabama Conference is hosting a free training event on Saturday, September 17 from 9:00am to 2:00pm called Deep, Wide, Strong: Building Sustainable Communities. The event is designed for congregations and leaders looking for ways to make deeper relationships in their community; finding a need to widen the impact of their ministry – building with love that sustains, instead of only making connections once or twice; and seeking to strengthen their service with those living in poverty so they can access actual resources to meet their needs and transform their lives.

For more information or to register to attend, click [HERE](#).

FIRST CHURCH **CHOIR**

CHOIR SEASON IS STARTING BACK UP AND IF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO YOU ABOUT SINGING WITH US, PLEASE CONTACT PATRICK EVANS AT PATRICK@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM

WE REHEARSE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:30PM - 8:00PM AND SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:15AM.

CITY KIDS UPDATE

September 15 – Babies Who Brunch

Meet in the CityKids wing at 11:00am for music, crafts, and bring a picnic.

September 18 – Volunteer Training

7:00pm via zoom

September 24 – Family Hike

We'll meet in the parking lot at 10:00am and hike the Overlook Trail.

YOUTH MINISTRY

AT FIRST CHURCH

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**SEPTEMBER MIDWEEK YOUTH PROGRAMMING WILL TAKE PLACE THIS FALL FROM 6:00PM – 7:30PM
AT THE VESTAVIA CITY CENTER! BRING MONEY TO BUY DINNER AND COME HANG OUT WITH YOUR YOUTH FRIENDS.**

.....

**SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 9:45AM - 10:45AM
IN THE YOUTH ROOM OR OTHER DESIGNATED SPACE.**

.....

**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, SEND AN EMAIL TO [YOUTH@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:youth@firstchurchbhm.com).**

AS WE SEEK TO BE AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

To continue to be an open and welcoming community that meets people where they are.

- Jana & Mary White

To continue to be and teach everyone, especially our children, to be loving and inclusive of all, continue to support justice efforts and let everyone feel loved.

- J. and Nicole Speegle

My prayer for First Church is that it continues to be a place for all to worship and belong and to continue to advocate for justice and show the love and grace of God.

- Michelle McCauley

That kindness and generosity continue to flow from all of us so we can continue to love and serve one another and our neighbors.

- Jordan Pittman



OUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:00am: Virtual Live Stream Service

9:45am: Sunday School

11:00am: Loft & Sanctuary In Person Worship

TUESDAY

7:00pm: Converge Young Adults

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm: Student Ministry

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: Ashley Hess	Youth@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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205-254-3186 • www.firstchurchbhm.com