

OCTOBER 2022

CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY

FALL FESTIVE-ALL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 4:00PM

COME ONE, COME ALL, TO THE FALL FESTIVE-ALL! OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL IS RETURNING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN. WE'LL HAVE GAMES, CANDY, HOT DOGS, COTTON CANDY, A COSTUME CONTEST, AND SO MUCH MORE. YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS WITH CASH OR CARD AT THE EVENT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE CAKE WALK (OF COURSE, DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME). ALL FUNDRAISING PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE MAGIC CITY ACCEPTANCE CENTER. HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ARE HEAVILY ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED. THE FESTIVITIES WILL BEGIN AT 4:00PM IN OUR BACK PARKING LOT.

WE NEED YOU!

OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVE-ALL IS COMING BACK AND WE NEED BOOTHS! EVERY YEAR, SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, DINNER GROUPS, ETC. REGISTER TO HOST A BOOTH AT THE FESTIVAL. THIS CAN RANGE FROM A THEMED BOOTH WITH CANDY OR SNACKS, A BOOTH WITH CRAFTS, OR EVEN A BOOTH WITH INTERACTIVE GAMES AND PRIZES! EACH HOST GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECORATIONS AND ITEMS FOR THEIR BOOTHS. BECAUSE OUR FESTIVAL FALLS ON THE DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN THIS YEAR, YOU ARE INVITED TO DRESS IN THEME WITH YOUR GROUP (WE ENCOURAGE THIS, BUT IT IS NOT REQUIRED). CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER YOUR BOOTH.

THE BEAUTY OF DREAMS

IN THIS SERIES, THE BEAUTY OF DREAMS, WE WILL EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMING, DREAMS LOST, AND THE HOPE WE HAVE IN BELIEVING IN DREAMS. OUR SCRIPTURE TEXTS WILL GIVE US EXAMPLES OF EACH OF THESE EXPERIENCES AND MORE. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL BE INSPIRED TO DREAM TOGETHER OF WHAT OUR FAITH COMMUNITY COULD BE IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA IN 2022 AND BEYOND. WHAT WOULD IT MEAN FOR US TO BE ABLE TO LIVE INTO OUR DREAMS?

10.2.22 | DREAMING OF A BETTER WORLD
LUKE 17:5-10

10.9.22 | THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMS
GENESIS 28:10-22, PSALM 126

10.16.22 | ASLEEP AND DREAMING
LUKE 1:26-45, MATTHEW 11:25-30, MATTHEW 2:19-23

10.23.22 | DREAMS LOST
GENESIS 37:1-11, GENESIS 37:19-36, PSALM 126

10.30.22 | DREAMS OF HOPE
ISAIAH 65:17-25, REVELATION 21:1-7, PSALM 126

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

GRATEFUL

FOR OUR CONTINUED IMPACT

THANK YOU FIRST CHURCH!

SO FAR **133** PLEDGES HAVE BEEN MADE

FOR A TOTAL OF **\$710,684**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE.

MAKING^{AN} IMPACT
THEN, NOW, & ALWAYS

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

On **Sunday, October 9**, the Sunday Morning Bible Study Class will start a new series on John Wesley and Methodism. Rev. Stewart Jackson will lead us through an overview of Methodist history, John Wesley, and the contribution of Methodism to Christian beliefs. Questions about the origins, history, and current state of the people called Methodists will be addressed as well as time to gather our questions on the church and its response to the anxiety of our age. No former experience with Methodism is required!

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.



ANTI RACISM TRAINING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 4:00PM IN THE LOFT

COME JOIN US FOR A TIME OF TRAINING AND REFLECTION AROUND PRIVILEGE AND RACE WITH T. MARIE KING. T. MARIE IS A TRAINED TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING AND TRANSFORMATION FACILITATOR THROUGH THE W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION, A TRAINED EMPATHETIC FACILITATOR THROUGH CREATE FORWARD AND A FACULTY MEMBER WITH THE SATYAGRAHA INSTITUTE. SHE HOLDS A B.A. IN URBAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A M.A. IN LEADERSHIP AND DIVINITY.

ORGAN CONCERT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 4:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Since its beginning, First Church has been on the cutting edge of 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 our 150th anniversary year, we will celebrate the organ and its important place in worship at First Church with an organ concert on Sunday afternoon, October 23 at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. The program will feature former First Church musicians Jim Cook and Mark Hayes along with Richard Byrd.

CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

February 10-12, 2023 at Camp McDowell



SEARCHING FOR WISDOM, CONNECTION, AND PEACE

Join us **February 10-12, 2023** at the beautiful **Camp McDowell** for our church-wide retreat. Our theme this year is "Cultivate: Searching for Wisdom, Connection, and Peace." Each of our four sessions will be structured around Angeles Arrien's book *The Four-Fold Way* to help us move through a process of discernment. During our time together we will work to clarify our values, deepen our relationships with one another and the Divine, and seek wisdom for our future together.

While we value the opportunity to learn together, our church-wide retreat is also filled with opportunities for fun and connection. Saturday afternoon will offer time for rest, play, and building community.

COST FOR THE RETREAT IS **\$180** FOR **INDIVIDUALS**,

\$300 FOR **COUPLES**, AND **\$350** FOR **FAMILIES**.

FAMILIES IN NEED OF AN EXTRA ROOM CAN RESERVE ONE FOR AN ADDITIONAL **\$100**.

You can click [HERE](#) to register today.

STORIES FROM

15 YEARS

New Feast, New Worship Experience

BY RENEE BROWN HARMON

With many thanks to Bobby and Susan Riggs, Hal and Anne Cain, Bill and Hanna Schock, and Melissa and Bentley Patrick for reminiscing and sharing your memories.



Twenty years ago, on World Communion Sunday, 2002, New Feast was launched as a praise and worship service at First Church. The idea was to offer a contemporary worship service for four consecutive Sundays and see if anyone showed up. The first service was at 9:00am in the newly remodeled multi-purpose room, now The Loft space.

So just how did an historic downtown church with deeply rooted traditions come to start a contemporary worship service?

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.

CITY KIDS UPDATES

10.2 | SUNDAY SCHOOL ATRIUM

9:45AM | ALABAMA THEATER ROOM

All ages (2K-5th Grade) are invited to a multi-sensory exploration on World Communion.

10.2 | CITY KIDS SING IN WORSHIP

11:00AM | THE LOFT

10.15 | FAMILY HIKE

10:00AM | RED MOUNTAIN PARK

Meet at the entrance of the park, pack a picnic, and bring water and a friend!

YOUTH MINISTRY

A T F I R S T C H U R C H

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPIC - SPIRITUAL HABITS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH HANGOUT

JOIN US AT VESTAVIA CITY CENTER FROM 6:00PM - 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
YOU ARE WELCOME TO GRAB DINNER AND MEET US IN THE GREEN SPACE FOR A BRIEF LESSON.

BIRMINGHAM LEGION GAME

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9 AT 3:30PM | PROTECTIVE STADIUM
STUDENTS MEET AT MAIN ENTRANCE (TICKETS ARE FREE) | SIGN UP BY 9/21

HOCUS POCUS 2 VIEWING & COSTUME PARTY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23 FROM 4:00PM - 7:00PM | IN THE YOUTH ROOM
PIZZA & POPCORN PROVIDED | PRIZE GOES TO THE BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME

ALL SAINTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 11:00AM
IN THE LOFT AND SANCTUARY SERVICES

On Sunday, November 6 we will be celebrating All Saints both virtual and in-person worship services. In each worship experience we will call the names of those who have died in the last 12 months as we celebrate their continual love and presence in our lives. While we will call the names of all church members who have passed, we also invite you to share others who you love and would like to have included in the service. If you have a loved one who passed away in the last 12 months, we invite you to send in their name and a picture to be included in this year's celebration of all our beloved saints. Please send names and pictures to Peg Thompson at Peg@firstchurchbhm.com by Tuesday, October 25.



This year we are partnering with **Community on the Rise** to ensure the best kind of Christmas gift we can give - one that is transformational - a home and a salary!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Project 12.25 in 2023.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM ANNUAL

CHARGE CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

AFTER 11:00AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Every year we gather to celebrate all that we have accomplished, nominate and approve new lay leadership, and ratify parts of our operating budget. This year we will also clean our membership roles. (The list of names to be removed will be public for the first three Sundays in October at the Welcome Center and outside our worship spaces) On Sunday, November 13 our District Superintendent, Rick Owen, will join us as we will hold our annual Charge Conference in the Sanctuary following worship. As we did last year we will offer a "State of Church Address." All are welcome to attend.

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

THE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Ann Jackson

From Jean Malone
From Marsha Robins
From Neal and Anne Berte
From George and Betty Likis
From John Reamey
From Cliff Saxon
From Fletcher and Betty Thorington
From Melissa Vinson
From Robert and Deborah Burr
From Peggy West
From the Ecclesia-Wingard Class
From David and Terri Glasgow
From Julius Linn
From Betty Matthews
From Lyn Cordell Grant (Ray),
Scott, Judee, Marilyn, and Williams Evans,
Janis Clayton Cordell (Bob),
Tom and Sherry Cordell, and Sue Cordell

In Memory of Alan Carden

From PJ Hester

In Memory of Denny Wood

From the Ecclesia-Wingard Class

In Memory of Katherine Bland

From Karla Hudson
From Andy Wallace
From Alan Speaker
From Timothy Espar
From Alan Zeigler
From Allison Boone
From Theresa Minor
From John Schmidt

In Memory of Cheney Lawler

From Brian and Angel Garrett
From Lyn Grant
From Pam Crider
From Judee and Scott Evans
From Peggy West

In Memory of Sarah Jolly

From Peggy West

In Memory of Ray Grant

From Pam Crider

THE MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Katherine Bland

From Larry Ward

In Memory of Ann Jackson

From Malinda Hayes
From Larry Ward

In Memory of Cheney Lawler

From Malinda Hayes
From Larry Ward

In Honor of Patrick Evans and our Choir

From Andy Wallace

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In Memory of Alan Carden

From the Ecclesia-Wingard Class

YOUTH MINISTRY

In Memory of Cheney Lawler

From David and Terri Glasgow

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

In Memory of Ann Jackson

From David and Terri Glasgow

AS WE SEEK TO BE AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

*That First Church would continue to be a place full of love and grace for all.
That we would continue to celebrate and lean into the beauty of diversity.*

- Amber Gaddis and Robyn Whaley

To help the congregation and the city of Birmingham grow closer to God.

- Matt Sheffield

We pray for the end of divisiveness and inequality so that our children and every other child can grow up in a world that is safe, open, and loving for all.

- Nick and Lauren Theodore



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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