

NOVEMBER 2022

CONNECTIONS

WITH A
THANKFUL
HEART

ALL SAINTS

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

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING ALL SAINTS WITH BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. IN EACH WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WE WILL CALL BY NAME THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AS WE LIGHT CANDLES AND CELEBRATE THEIR CONTINUAL LOVE AND PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES.



Every year we gather as a community of faith to celebrate all that we have accomplished in the past year, nominate, and approve new lay leadership, as well as ratify parts of our annual operating budget. On Sunday, November 13 our District Superintendent, Rick Owen, will join us in worship in the Sanctuary and then, following worship, we will hold our annual Charge Conference in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to attend. As we did last year, we will plan to offer a state of church address and share lay leadership plans for 2023. We hope you will make plans to attend.

NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

A LIFE OF prayer

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul calls upon us to “Pray without ceasing.” For many of us this feels like a daunting task because we have been taught to believe that prayer can look only one way. We feel bound by the confines of using particular words, praying in a certain place, or praying in specific postures. However, prayer is so much broader and wider than we can ever imagine. As we seek to communicate with God and find our way to experiencing Divine Presence in all we say and do, we recognize that all of life can be prayer. In this series we will explore different methods of praying so that we might expand our understanding of what it means to “pray without ceasing.” We invite you to approach these three weeks with an open heart and mind as together we seek to discover the essence and gift of a life of prayer.

11.6 | SPOKEN PRAYER

DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21, PSALM 17, MATTHEW 6:9-13

11.13 | SILENT PRAYER

MATTHEW 6:5-8, LUKE 6:12-16, ROMANS 8:26-27

11.20 | EMBODIED PRAYER

EXODUS 3:1-5, PSALM 141, MATTHEW 26:36-46

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

LAY LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS FOR 2023

This slate of leaders has been prayerfully vetted by our Nominations Team and Pastors. They are all active members striving to represent our congregation's wide diversity. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Lay Leader, Andy Wallace, or Senior Pastor, Stephanie York Arnold. These members will be voted on to serve at Charge Conference on November 13, 2022, following worship.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair - Jennifer Waters
Lay Representative to Annual Conference - Alie B. Gorrie
Chair of Staff - Parish Relations:
Treasurer - Ralph Jolly
Lay Leader - David Olsen
Chair of Trustees - Determined by Trustees
Chair of Finance - Bill McMullen
Class of 2023 - Kelsey Luckianow and Howard Boyd
Class of 2024 - Erika Jobes and Jill Rogers
Class of 2025 - Justin Banger Melany Morgan

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair - Sally Bowers
Class of 2023 - Jill Pitts, Tosha May, and Monty Hogewood
Class of 2024 - Rick deShazo, Elena Harmon Wisse, and Sally Bowers
Class of 2025 - Kristie McCullough, Herb Robertson, Muriel Thompson
Lay Representative to Annual Conference - Beth Curry
Lay Leader - David Olsen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2023 - Adam Burgunder, Steve Arnold, Michael Kortman
Class of 2024 - Shirlee Maihoff, Larry Caine, Shea Hess, Jennifer Ralph
Class of 2025 - Sandy Lawrence, David Ansardi, Tom McMillan

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Chair - Thomas Waters (2023)
Treasurer - Ralph Jolly,
Trustee Representative - Determined by Trustees
Class of 2023 - Lindsey Luketic
Class of 2024 - Jodi Kortman
Class of 2025 - Wil Dedmon

LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Class of 2024 - Beth Curry
Class of 2025 - Alie B. Gorrie

FINANCE

Finance Chair - Bill McMullen (2025)
Treasurer - Ralph Jolly
Business Administrator - Steve Pitts
Class of 2024 - Rosie Stafford Smith and Kyle Holloway
Class of 2025 - Ben Shepard

FUMC EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Chair - Cale Smith (2024)
Treasurer - Susan Ragland
City Kids - Cristin Dedmon
Preschool - Somer Barchini
Director - Cassandra Copeland
Pastor - Stephanie Arnold/Katie Gilbert
ELC Parent Committee chair - determined by ELC
Class of 2023 - Jennifer Carter
SPRC Representative - determined by SPRC
Finance Representative - determined by Finance
Class of 2024 - Lindsay Pitts and Rob Hardison
Class of 2025 - Julie Caine and Brett Wisse

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lay Leader - David Olsen
Class of 2023 - Kathy Draper, Connie Hogewood, Somer Barchini
Class of 2024 - Katherine Simmons, Bert Pitts, Dejuana McCary
Class of 2025 - Art Wimberly, Jake Haynes, Marnie Brown

FIRST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Chair - Doug Morris - At large
Former Lay Leader - Andy Wallace
Lay Leader - David Olsen
Former Trustees Chair - Adam Burgunder
Trustees Chair - Chosen by Trustees
Former Finance Chair - Kelly Morgan
Finance Chair - Bill McMullen
Former SPRC Chair - Kristie McCollough
Current SPRC Chair - Sally Bowers
Former EC Chair - Mychal Boyd
Current EC Chair - Jennifer Waters
Bernie Hardy - At large
Shay Gibson - At large
Renee Harmon - At large

GRATEFUL

FOR OUR CONTINUED IMPACT

We deeply appreciate your generosity and commitment to the mission of being an OPEN place for ALL. Thank you for helping make certain First Church will continue to make an impact and offer life-giving ministry within and outside of our walls in the coming years.

THANK YOU FIRST CHURCH!

SO FAR **180** PLEDGES HAVE BEEN MADE
FOR A TOTAL OF **\$893,924**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE.

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

CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

February 10-12, 2023 at Camp McDowell



SEARCHING FOR WISDOM, CONNECTION, AND PEACE

You don't want to miss First Church's upcoming "Cultivate" retreat! Our annual church-wide retreat is one of the most significant times to build community and make connections - not to mention grow spiritually.

Throughout the weekend, we'll gather together in group sessions that will be structured around Angeles Arrien's book, *The Four-Fold Way*, which will 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.

Childcare and children's recreational options will be available for kids from preschool through elementary. Youth, though included in the learning sessions, will have opportunities to gather together as well during the weekend.

The cost for the weekend is \$180 for a single registration, \$300 for a couple, and \$350 for a family of four. Any families in need of an extra room can reserve one for \$100. A \$50 deposit is due upon registration. Weekend costs includes breakfast both days as well as dinner on Friday evening and lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Register now by clicking [HERE](#).

PLEASE CONTACT KATHERINE MULLEN AT [KATHERINE@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katherine@firstchurchbhm.com) TO REQUEST A SCHOLARSHIP OR FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION.

FRIENDS GIVING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Join us on Sunday, November 20 in the Large Dining Room after worship for a church-wide Friends-giving. Tickets are available online at \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. A portion of tickets sales will go towards Pride celebrations for 2023 (*additonal donations will also be welcome*). We look forward to celebrating all we have to be thankful for and sharing time with each of you! (*There's a rumor that there will be chicken nuggets that are not just for the kids this time!*) Click **[HERE](#)** to sign up now.




ADVENT
Decorations
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, AFTER WORSHIP


Make plans to join us on Sunday, November 20 to help decorate our worship spaces for the season of Advent. You are encouraged to join us for Friendsgiving for lunch and the come decorate.

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



2023 ADVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

12:00PM – COOKIES & COCOA (COURTYARD)

with Community On The Rise Selling #5 Recycled Plastic Gifts

4:00PM – BEERS & CAROLS (GHOST TRAIN BREWING)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00AM – 150TH CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE (SANCTUARY)

featuring the FUMC Sanctuary Choir with Chamber Orchestra in the Alabama premiere of Elaine Hagenberg's Advent cantata *Illuminare*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:00PM – LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE (SANCTUARY)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00PM – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (THE LOFT)

6:00PM – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (SANCTUARY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00AM – CHRISTMAS BRUNCH & SERVICE (CHAPEL & PARLOR)

PROJECT 12.25

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! We invite you to make your donation today and give it is a Christmas gift to someone you love.



CLICK [HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE.

STORIES FROM

15 YEARS

LIVES OF DEDICATION HANNA AND BILL SCHOCK

BY ANDREA WHITEHEAD



Few couples have given more of their time and talents to First Methodist than Hanna and Bill Schock. Their efforts have been more recently focused in the children's department, the youth program, the New Feast/Loft worship service, and on working actively with Arts Camp in the summers. But along the way they each served on various committees helping guide the church in a meaningful direction of inclusion for all.

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

JULY 1 - 9, 2023

PANAMA

★ LEARN AND SERVE ★

FIRST CHURCH IS PLANNING ON GOING BACK TO PANAMA IN 2023. WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY. WE WILL START BUILDING A TEAM TO GO ON OUR PANAMA LEARN AND SERVE WEEK IN JULY OF 2023. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PANAMA LEARN AND SERVE TEAM OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CLICK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION OR EMAIL JONATHAN GOSS, JONATHAN@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

FIRST CHURCH GARDEN CLUB

THE FIRST CHURCH GARDEN CLUB WAS ORGANIZED IN 1933 WITH 8 CHARTER MEMBERS! AS OF LAST OUR LAST COUNT (2019-2020) WE HAD 27 ACTIVE AND 19 HONORARY MEMBERS (46 TOTAL) – SOME OF WHOM, OF COURSE, ARE NO LONGER WITH US. THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS “TO STIMULATE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF GARDENING; TO PROMOTE MUTUAL HELPFULNESS IN THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS; TO SHARE THE BEAUTY AND JOY OF OUR GARDENS WITH THOSE WHO NEED THE CHEER AND FRAGRANCE; AND TO HELP BEAUTIFY THE GROUNDS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.” EACH MEETING FEATURES A PROGRAM THAT HAS FOCUSED ON EVERYTHING FROM MONARCH BUTTERFLIES TO BIRDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, RECYCLING, AND MORE. THE GROUP IS MOVING TO QUARTERLY MEETINGS AND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN THE FUN. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO DAVID GLASGOW AT GLASGOWRD@GMAIL.COM.

The Amazon Smile logo is displayed in a large, bold font. The word "amazon" is in black, and "smile" is in orange. A curved orange arrow underlines the word "amazon", pointing from the letter 'a' to the letter 'z'.

amazon smile

As we approach a season in which many of us will do our shopping online, we want to make sure you are aware that First Church has an Amazon Smile account. When you make a purchase through Amazon Smile 0.5% of that purchase is donated back to the charity of your choice. All you need to do is make sure you are shopping at smile.amazon.com (all of the regular Amazon products and prices can be found there) and select Birmingham First United Methodist Church as your charity of choice. We hope you will consider using Amazon Smile as an easy way to make a contribution to First Church!

CITY KIDS

UPDATES

11.13

THE ATRIUM

10:00AM | ALABAMA THEATER ROOM

All ages (2K-5th grade) are invited to a multi-sensory exploration on Thanksgiving. We will also work together in a service project that morning.

11.27

THANKS Y'ALL BRUNCH

10:00AM | CITY KIDS WING

Volunteers are invited to pop on the CityKids Wing for donuts and coffee before we launch our Advent lessons!

11.27

STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS

A READ-ALOUD FAMILY FAITH PRACTICE LAUNCH

Spiritual Practices are not accidental, and this year for Advent, we will learn and grow together through the work of storybooks. Pick up your box with the guide and materials November 27 or you can print the guide at home.

AS WE SEEK TO BE
AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL
MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

That we continue to foster and nourish an open place for all.

- Dallas Vice

That it continues to grow as a source of justice and love for this community and city.

- Emily Barksdale and Grace Spencer



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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