

CONNECTIONS



**WE CELEBRATE
OUR KIDS!**



MONDAY, JULY 10 - THURSDAY, JULY 13
9:00AM-1:00PM, EXTENDED CARE OPTION TO 4:00PM
RISING 4K-5TH GRADE

WE ARE EXCITED TO GATHER FOR ARTS CAMP 2023 WITH A MANNA & MERCY THEMED CURRICULUM CALLED OPERATION RESTORATION. WE'LL BLAST INTO OUTER SPACE AND LEARN HOW WE CAN BE MENDERS OF THE UNIVERSE. RISING 4K - 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE (OUR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS WILL BE HELPERS IN SMALL GROUPS!). IF A PARENT OR GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS, YOUNGER FRIENDS CAN PARTICIPATE IN OUR NURSERY OR WITH AN ADAPTED SCHEDULE. REGISTER YOUR EXPLORER [HERE](#).

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS, WE NEED LOTS TO MAKE THIS HUGE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY HAPPEN. IF YOU HAVE AN HOUR OR A DAY OR THE FULL FOUR DAYS TO SHARE, PLEASE SIGN UP [HERE](#).

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO ARTS CAMP THIS YEAR BUT STILL WANT TO SUPPORT OUR CITYKIDS, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXPLORERS OR CRAFT SUPPLIES. AND PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR ALL WHO WILL JOIN US THAT WEEK!

JULY COMBINED WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During the month of July we will be hosting combined worship services.
Please pay careful attention to the following schedule:

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Combined Worship in the Loft

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Combined Worship in the Loft

(FEATURING A HYMN FESTIVAL)

SUNDAY, JULY 30

*We will return to our regular worship schedule
with both the Loft and Sanctuary worship services*

AUGUST 4-6 AT FIRST CHURCH

MANNA & MERCY

Manna and Mercy is the theological foundation for our mission statement and six priorities at First Church. During this weekend retreat held in the Loft, we will journey through the whole Bible – from Genesis to Revelation – using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* as our guide. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register now.

MENDING THE UNIVERSE

In this series we will be invited to open our hearts and learn about God's unfolding promise to mend the universe as we become Partner People with God. At Arts Camp this summer, our CityKids will learn how to be Menders of the Universe in a Manna and Mercy based curriculum. Manna and Mercy is the foundation of much of our ministry at First Church as it offers a loving and life-giving interpretation of all of Scripture. Throughout this series we will dig deeper into the themes of feeding, healing, forgiving, praying, and resting. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

7.16 | BEGIN WITH LOVE

JOHN 1:1-5, GENESIS 1, PSALM 137

7.23 | LESSONS OF THE WILDERNESS SCHOOL

EXODUS 16:1-36, EXODUS 20:8-11

7.30 | GOD'S SURPRISE

LUKE 1: 46-55, LUKE 2:1-7, LUKE 4:1-15

8.6 | MANNA AND MERCY FOR ALL

MATTHEW 19:21-22, LUKE 9:10-17, LUKE 22:8-23

EXPLORING OUR FUTURE

During June's Executive Council meeting we spent time evaluating our experience hosting Matthew Vines and studying two recent pieces of media from a few United Methodist Bishops.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

LISTENING SESSION

with **Exploring Our Future Team**

SUNDAY, JULY 9 | 4:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

We invite you to come share your thoughts and ask questions about the future of the United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 9 at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. Our Exploring Our Future Team will lead our time together and be there to listen to our church family's hopes for our future. If you have questions you would like for the team to address, please email those to Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com.

PRAYERS AND AN INVITATION FROM THE PANAMA LEARN AND SERVE TEAM

Please be in prayer for our Panama Learn & Serve Team as they will be away from Saturday, July 1 through Sunday, July 9. The team will spend most of their time in the beautiful town of Cieneguita, Panama learning and serving side by side with the folks living in the community. Prayers for a safe trip with open hearts and minds are greatly appreciated.

The Learn & Serve Team would then like to invite you to a learning session on Sunday, August 13 in the Loft during the Sunday School hour. The team will share highlights of our trip and what we learned while in Panama. Coffee and snacks will be provided with our program getting underway at 9:45am. We hope to see you there.

PANAMA LEARN & SERVE TEAM MEMBERS:

**BETH CURRY, LINDA MALONE, JULIE CAINE, LARRY CAINE,
KATIE COE, SARAH COE, AVERY PERRY, AVERY RHODES,
HOPPER AKINS, BUZZY BROWN, CHARLOTTE PEVERLY,
BERT PITTS, ASHLEY HESS, JONATHAN GOSS**



MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US ON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 FROM 4:00PM – 6:00PM

FOR A FUN BASH TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

WE'LL HAVE INFLATABLES, YARD GAMES, AND DINNER!

Passages of the Bible **CRUISE**

YOU ARE INVITED ON A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH FELLOW UNITED METHODISTS FROM TRINITY UMC (HOMEWOOD) AND GRACE UMC (LIBERTY PARK) TO EXPLORE THE WONDER OF ISRAEL, EGYPT, GREECE AND TURKEY FOR 10 NIGHTS ABOARD THE NORWEGIAN GETAWAY IN OCTOBER 2024.

REGISTER WITH HOST ID# 61708 BY JULY 7 TO GET \$200 DISCOUNTS.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE.

IRL

“in real life”

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We are offering a new Sunday School experience for anyone wanting to lean into faith-based conversations about real life and all that comes with it. For the summer, pastors Katie, Stephanie, and Jonathan will take turns leading the class in thoughtful discussion about the joys and challenges life brings using Cheryl Strayed’s book *Tiny Beautiful Things* (which is also a new drama on Hulu). Together we will explore topics like parenting, loss, relationships, sexuality, aging, love, infertility, marriage, work, and forgiveness. For more information contact Katherine Mullen at Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com.

Bible Study

Sunday School Class

The Sunday Morning Bible Study Class will start a new discussion series on July 16, led by Bert Pitts and based on Elaine Pagels’ *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*. All are welcome to join us as we study this engaging book which will broaden our knowledge and perspective about the often misunderstood and perhaps misused final book of the Bible. For more information contact Stephen Smith at stephenbsmith@gmail.com.

CITY KIDS UPDATES

CITYKIDS SINGING IN WORSHIP

JULY 16 | 11:00AM IN THE LOFT

MOMS' NIGHT OUT

**JULY 18 | 7:00PM AT DAVENPORT'S
(IN THE VESTAVIA CITY CENTER)**

FIRST CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRY

Beach Trip

JULY 21ST - JULY 24TH

What's better than just chillin' on the beach? Chillin' on the beach with your friends! The youth group will be returning to Laguna Beach Christian Retreat in Florida to enjoy fun, fellowship, worship, and the beach. The cost of the trip is \$175.00 and a deposit of \$50 is due by June 4.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER YOUR STUDENT.

READY... AIM...
NERF
OUT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 AT 5:30PM

Rising 6th graders through 12th graders are invited to a HUGE nerf battle on Wednesday, August 2. The event will kick off at 5:30pm in the Large Dining Room at the church. Students are encouraged to bring a friend for the opportunity to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Dinner and dessert will be provided.

To reserve your spot email Ashley Hess at ashley@firstchurchbhm.com

AS WE SEEK TO BE
AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

**To continue to show people what it truly means
to love and provide a safe place for ALL.**

- Anna Bowden

**Continue to be a safe place for all people where they
feel valued, loved, welcomed in their doubts and in their truths.**

- Olivia Pride

**As First Church pours out life into the community,
that new life would continue to fill First Church.**

- Liz Perkins

**That the church continues to preach love and acceptance.
That the congregation can be vessels of that locally and globally.**

- Clayton Brackett

**That the church continues to be full of love and continues to welcome
more people into the community and that the work done by staff and
members can make an impact in the lives of those in our city and beyond.**

- Hannah Brackett



GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

TO THE PANAMA MISSION TEAM

IN MEMORY OF MARLIN ANDERSON

From George and Betty Likis

TO THE MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF NANCY KIRCUS FLEMING

From John and Kathy Draper

TO THE LIVING CHURCH FUND

IN HONOR OF HERB ROBERTSON

From Lynetta Baldwin

OUR CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

9:00am: Virtual Live Stream Service

9:45am: Sunday School

11:00am: Loft & Sanctuary In Person Worship

[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
Minister of Youth & Justice: Ashley Hess	Ashley@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