

CONNECTIONS



THIS IS OUR CHURCH



PRIDE

TWENTY TWENTY THREE

THIS YEAR CENTRAL ALABAMA PRIDE IS CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF PRIDE IN THE MAGIC CITY! THE PRIDE PARADE AND PRIDEFEST ARE BACK IN FULL SWING AND WE HOPE YOU'LL MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**PRIDE
FEST²⁰₂₃**

IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PARADE, WE WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT PRIDEFEST ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11 WHICH BEGINS AT 11:00AM IN LINN PARK.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE MICHAEL CONWAY
ANNUAL DISPLAY OF THE

AIDS MEMORIAL

QUILT

Along with Woodlawn UMC, Avondale UMC, Pilgrim UCC, and Covenant Community Church, First Church is co-sponsoring the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display. You are invited to come and see the display at Woodlawn United Methodist Church (139 54th St. N) on any of the following dates and times: Saturday, June 3 from 10:00am – 6:00pm, Sunday, June 4 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, or Monday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 7 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.



MATTHEW VINES

& THE BIBLICAL CASE

FOR LGBTQ INCLUSION

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 AT 4:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Often people say Scripture does not support full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons within the Christian faith but what if we have been reading the Bible wrong? Come listen to Matthew Vines, author of *God and The Gay Christian* and founder of **The Reformation Project**, share through careful textual exploration about what the Bible does – and does not – say about same-sex relationships. Come discover that we can hold both orthodox faith and inclusion of ALL persons together through the loving lens of our Christian faith. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

RECLAIMING
The Lost Wonder of
TREES

Other than people and God, trees are the most mentioned living being in the Bible. There are trees in the first chapter of Genesis, in the first Psalm, and on the last page of the book of Revelation. Often serving as signposts and gathering places, trees provide images of blessing, of life, and wisdom. You are invited to join us in this series as we explore the wonder of trees and what they have to teach us about God and about our relationship with one another.

JUNE 4 – CELEBRATED AS PENTECOST SUNDAY

PSALM 104:24-34, ACTS 2:1-21

JUNE 11 – TREES AND THE BIBLE

GENESIS 1:11-12, PSALM 1:1-3, REVELATION 22:1-5

JUNE 18 – TREES AND THE DIVINE

PSALM 104:10-17, ISAIAH 41:17-20, EZEKIEL 31:1-17

JUNE 25 – TREES AND US

PSALM 92:12-14, JEREMIAH 17:5-8, MATTHEW 13:1-9



THE
LITTLE MERMAID
MOVIE NIGHT

JOIN US ON **SUNDAY, JUNE 18 AT 4:00PM**
AT THE **BIRMINGHAM PREMIERE LUX THEATER (501 LAKESHORE PKWY)**
FOR A PRIVATE VIEWING OF THE LATEST RELEASE OF THE LITTLE MERMAID!

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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.

NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE

JUNE 21 - 24

The 2023 North Alabama Conference will gather at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville on June 21 - 24 under the theme *Offer Christ Every Day*. We invite you to be in prayer for our clergy and laity (Beth Curry and Jill Rogers) who will be representing First Church at Annual Conference.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

TWENTY TWENTY THREE
LOUISE BRANSCOMB
BARRIER BREAKER
AWARD WINNER

**AVERY
RHODES**

Congratulations to Avery Rhodes, Executive Director of Community on the Rise and member of First Church, for being awarded the North Alabama Conference's Louise Branscomb Barrier Breaker Award. Avery will be presented with her award in Huntsville, Alabama at the North Alabama's Annual Conference.

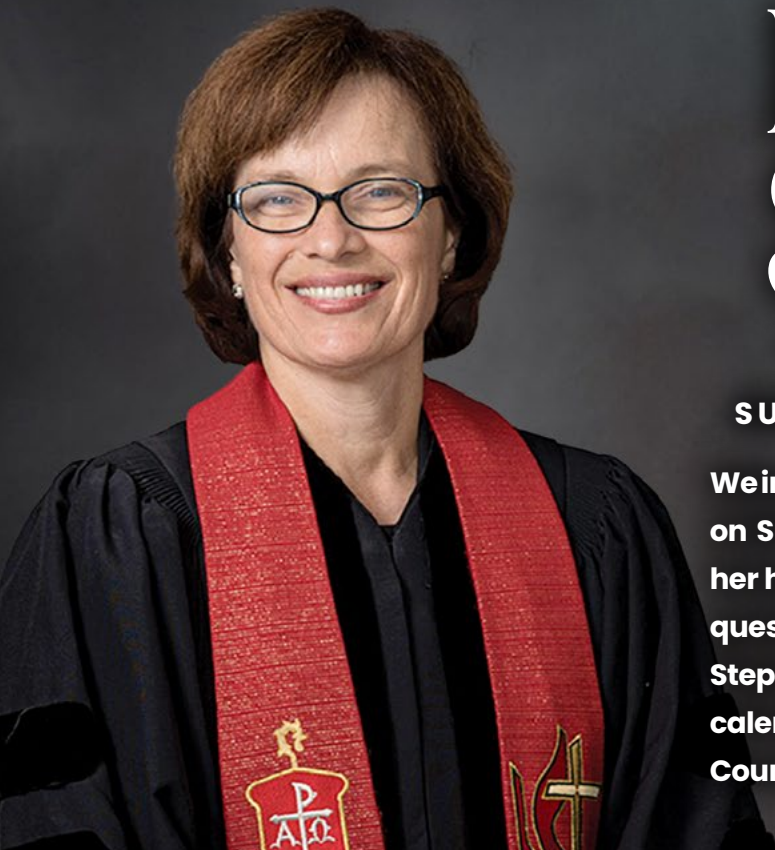
Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



EXPLORING OUR FUTURE

During May's Executive Council meeting we spent time looking at our values and commitments as well as updating our timeline to meet the Annual Conference requirements for churches in discernment.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



LISTENING SESSION

with **Bishop Wallace-Padgett**

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 AT 4:00PM IN THE LOFT

We invite you to learn from Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett on Sunday, June 25 at 4:00pm in the Loft as she shares her hopes and vision for the future of the UMC. If you have questions you would like her to address, please email Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com. In addition, mark your calendars for our final Listening Session led by Executive Council on Sunday, July 9 at 4:00pm.

IRL

“in real life”
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 4 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



Passages of the Bible
CRUISE

INFORMATION SESSION

JUNE 13 AT 6:00PM IN THE PARLOR

**YOU HAVE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY
TO JOIN WITH FELLOW UNITED METHODISTS FROM
TRINITY UMC (HOMEWOOD) & GRACE UMC (LIBERTY PARK)
TO EXPLORE THE WONDER OF ISRAEL, EGYPT, GREECE,
AND TURKEY FOR 10 NIGHTS ABOARD THE NORWEGIAN
GETAWAY IN OCTOBER 2024. AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION
ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 13 AT 6:00PM IN THE PARLOR.**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP.



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

**ARTS CAMP IS BACK! WE WILL EXPLORE
THIS MANNA & MERCY THEMED CURRICULUM
THROUGH CRAFTS, IMPROV, SONG, DANCE, AND MORE.**

- **WE ARE EXCITED TO OFFER ARTS CAMP AT A RATE OF \$25/CAMPER WHICH INCLUDES LUNCH AND A MORNING SNACK.**
- **AN EXTENDED CARE OPTION WILL BE AVAILABLE THAT WILL RUN TO 4:00PM AND WILL COST \$35/CAMPER. AN AFTERNOON SNACK WILL BE PROVIDED.**

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER NOW.

ARTS CAMP IS AN OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY. WE HAVE MANY WAYS TO SERVE: MORNING HIGH FIVE TEAM (8:00-9:00AM EACH DAY), FULL WEEK ASTRO-LEADERS (SHEPHERDING OUR EXPLORERS EACH DAY), LUNCH TEAM, PRE-CAMP CRAFT PREPARATION AND DECORATING, AND SO MUCH MORE. [CLICK HERE](#) TO SIGN UP TO SERVE - SIMPLY CHECK OUT THE TABS AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE TO NAVIGATE TO DIFFERENT WAYS TO SERVE.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO ARTS CAMP BUT STILL WANT TO SERVE? CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST FULL OF SNACKS AND CRAFTS -- YOU CAN PURCHASE ONLINE AND THEY WILL SHIP DIRECTLY TO THE TEAM TO PUT INTO PLACE!

CITY KIDS UPDATES

GROSS OUT CAMP

June 12-15 for rising 1st-5th Grade Students. We have only a handful of spots remaining! Email Cristin ASAP if your student is ready to spend their full day outside learning about God's creation!

BABIES WHO BRUNCH IN THE PARK

June 17 at 10:00am at Sicard Hollow Splash Pad and Park - Babies! Bring an adult and a picnic lunch for a morning of splash pad fun followed by lunch together. This morning of fun is for our friends who are 4 and younger (older siblings are always invited!).

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

ATLANTA TRIP

ATLANTA TRIP (BRAVES AND SIX FLAGS) - JUNE 6 - 7 - THE COST FOR THIS EVENT IS \$100.

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

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A FUN NIGHT OF A HUGE GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK ON JUNE 14! YOU READ THAT RIGHT, HIDE AND SEEK. DINNER WILL BE SERVED AND THIS EVENT IS FREE,

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

YOUTH KAYAKING TRIP

GRADES 6TH - 12TH ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IN AN ADVENTUROUS DAY ON THE TERRAPIN CREEK KAYAKING ON JUNE 28. STUDENTS WILL NEED TO MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 8:00AM. THE COST OF THE TRIP IS \$25.

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

JUNE 19 - 22

JOE RUSH
**SERVE
WEEK**

WITH URBAN MINISTRIES

RISING 6TH GRADERS THROUGH SENIORS ARE INVITED TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN MEANINGFUL WORK DURING JOE RUSH SERVE WEEK. STUDENTS WILL SPEND FOUR DAYS PAINTING HOUSES AND DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER JUST DOWN THE STREET IN WEST END. REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS DUE BY JUNE 4

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

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.



A NOTE FROM KATIE

With gratitude to our SPRC and staff, I will be taking a sabbatical during the month of July. While away I plan to spend time with my extended family, travel with Matt and the girls, and enjoy a slower pace to my everyday life. I look forward to coming back in August feeling renewed and refreshed for the work still ahead of us.

AS WE SEEK TO BE AN OPEN PLACE FOR ALL

MY PRAYER FOR FIRST CHURCH IS:

*God bless us with grace and mercy to see each person
He has created them and to love them as He loves the church.*

- Aleece Green

*To support the people and community of Birmingham, to welcome
all who need a space to feel comfortable, and to continuously search
for answers to prayers for each church member.*

- Melissa, Jay, and Emarie Price



GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF PATTY FAULKNER

From WF Sanders

IN MEMORY OF ENID AND JACK HALL

From Jane Doyon

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL JOHNSON

From Miriam McClung

IN MEMORY OF KATELYN HANCOCK

From Julayne Lee

IN MEMORY OF SANDRA HIGDON

From John and Kathy Draper

TO PANAMA LEARN AND SERVE

IN MEMORY OF MARLIN ANDERSON

From Ecclesia Wingard Class

TO CHOIR SPECIAL

IN MEMORY OF SANDRA HIGDON

From David & Terri Glasgow



UPDATE YOUR **CONTACT INFORMATION**

We know a lot has changed over the last year - many of you have moved, changed jobs, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. If you or your family have made any changes to your contact information in the past year, please take a moment to let us know. You may do so by contacting our Office Administrator 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

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
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**

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