

FIRST CHURCH JUSTICE & MERCY PARTNERS

Lay Leader for Justice & Mercy - Beth Curry - currybeth@bellsouth.net

ALABAMA COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Staff Liaison - Ashley Hess - Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Sonya Pearson - sonya.pearson@icloud.com

ACIJ is a statewide, grassroots network of individuals and organizations working to advance and defend the rights of immigrants in Alabama. ACIJ is leading us to a more equitable and just multi-ethnic, multi-lingual future – building a better Alabama for everyone, from the ground up.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Help with the transport and arrival of detainees from ICE Detention Centers. After arrival they will be reconnected to host families here in the United States. This happens haphazardly and with little notice. While volunteering lunch will be served, transportation to the airport will occur, and they will be given the opportunity to look for clothing.

Click [**HERE**](#) to express interest in volunteering with ACIJ.

ALABAMA INTERFAITH REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

Staff Liaison - Katie Gilbert - Katie@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Elishua Markham - esmarkham89@gmail.com

ALIRP is a diverse coalition of community members, interfaith religious leaders, and laypersons, who have come together for the purpose of supporting refugees and asylum seekers through direct assistance, education, and advocacy.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Click [**HERE**](#) to express interest in volunteering and/or to receive monthly newsletters.

BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER

Staff Liaison - Katie Gilbert - Katie@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Buzzy Brown - tbrown0719@att.net

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a citizen-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting clean water for the sake of public health, recreation, and wildlife habitat as well as working to protect and restore the Black Warrior River watershed and its tributaries.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Click [**HERE**](#) to read more about volunteering with Black Warrior.

CHURCH OF THE RECONCILER

Staff Liaison- Katie Gilbert - Katie@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Kim Boyd - kdrboyd@bellsouth.net

Church of the Reconciler is a diverse downtown United Methodist church made up of people who are seeking to alleviate poverty and build a true sense of community that transcends economic and social barriers.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

SUNDAYS, 9:30AM

Visit worship to build relationships through worship, prayer, and fellowship.

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Help provide office support as COR provides a free mailing address to anyone in need. Spend time greeting the community and helping to deliver mail.

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, 10:00AM

Join our Prayer Circle to pray in welcoming and creative ways. Everyone is welcome to listen and share.

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM

Join Community Table for guided conversations on self-care and connection to others.

TUESDAYS, 4:30PM

Share a meal and participate in a weekly Bible study where we talk about faith, questions, and wisdom.

COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

Staff Liaison - Stephanie York Arnold - Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison – Alison Watson - awatson@afw16.com

COTR breaks barriers by believing in people and listening to their community so that together they can problem-solve around poverty. They help people recover vital identity documents. Through their Wellness & Housing Opportunity Linked to Employment, or WHOLE program, they invite survivors of homelessness into safe, free housing for up to two years while offering employment at COTR. This is the only nonprofit in Alabama recycling #5PP plastics and it is the hands of survivors who are providing this beneficial service for our earth and economy.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

RISE ID recovery services (birth certificate, social security card, state ID/license) and #5 Recycling Drop-Off

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM

Join Community Table for guided conversations on self-care and connection to others.

TUESDAYS, 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Join our artists in Maker Space and Round Table Discussions

WEDNESDAYS, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Recycling Workshop and Tours (by appointment only)

GREATER BIRMINGHAM MINISTRIES

Staff Liaison - Katherine Mullen - Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Stephanie Heupel - stephheupel@gmail.com

GBM is a multi-faith, multi-racial organization that provides emergency services for people in need and engages the poor and the non-poor in systemic change efforts to build a strong, supportive, engaged community to pursue a more just society for all people.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Click [HERE](#) for GBM's volunteer form to get connected and discover ways you can serve.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MEMORIAL PROJECT

Staff Liaison - Stephanie York Arnold - Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Darrell Fielder - fiel1895@bellsouth.net

This project was created in 2018 following the opening of The Equal Justice Initiative. Their work is focused on the following four goals to research (and reach out to the descendants of the victims of the 33 Jefferson County lynchings), education (on the history and purpose of the monuments), place (leaving historical markers at lynching sites), and advocacy (for criminal justice reform in the city and county).

MAGIC CITY ACCEPTANCE CENTER

Staff Liaison - Katherine Mullen - Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison- Jordan Pittman - jordangpittman@gmail.com

MCAC is an organization dedicated to providing a radically inclusive, brave space for the LGBTQ community in Alabama through outreach, training, consultation, and direct services.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Click [HERE](#) to view MCAC's Google calendar to stay in the loop about opportunities with their regularly occurring and special events.

ONE PLACE

Staff Liaison - Ashley Hess - Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison - Charlotte Peverley - johncharlotte80@gmail.com

One Place's mission is to provide coordinated services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence through a multi-disciplinary team of professionals working together under one roof.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

Year Round - Volunteer with Camp Hope America-Alabama which is a year around mentoring and summer camp program for children exposed to domestic violence, abuse, or family trauma. Contact Kelly Klehm at kklehm@oneplacebirmingham.com to volunteer.

URBAN MINISTRY

Staff Liaison - Jonathan Goss - Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaison – Jennifer McCombs - Jenmccombs40@gmail.com

Urban Ministry is a faith-based nonprofit focused on working with the residents of West End to build a thriving community. As an urban mission of the United Methodist Church, they work to extend compassion and opportunities for wholeness to everyone in the West End community by listening, engaging the gifts and strengths of West End, and building programs that honor every neighbor.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Come and eat at WE Cafe, a pay-what-you-can social enterprise focused on building community by providing delicious, healthy food prepared by professional chefs who work with and train young adults in our WE Work apprentice program. At WE Cafe, we believe there is no problem too big and nothing that can separate us when we gather around the table together.

MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, AFTER SCHOOL

Urban Ministry partners with West End Community Church to offer educational assistance to the children of West End called WE Learn. The mission of WE Learn is to foster and cultivate change-makers from the West End community, to enable elementary aged children to reach their full academic potential, and to provide skills and training to young adults interested in elementary education.

WE Learn offers after school academic enrichment, tutoring and homework help, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) enrichment activities, opportunities for problem based learning (PBL), a daily snack, and transportation home after programming.

WE Learn is always looking for volunteers, age 19+, to help with our after-school enrichment.

Call 205-781-0517, ext. 1006 or email Rev. Caitlin Harper at caitlin.harper@umcna.org for more information about volunteering.

WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS

In 2020, Urban Ministry began to buy neglected houses in West End and renovate them with local contractors through a program called WE Build. As the houses finish up renovations, young adults in the neighborhood have the opportunity to lease-to-own the home, interest free. Rent is based on their income, ensuring they won't be charged an amount they can't afford. Resident's rent is used to purchase and renovate the next home, making the program self-sustaining. Once the cost of the house's renovations are paid off, Urban Ministry signs the deed over to the resident's name. WE Build is an affordable and sustainable path to home ownership in West End.

SATURDAYS, 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Come and work in the WE Garden. The West End (WE) Community Garden was founded in 2008. God's deep love for humanity began in a garden and WE Garden is a reminder to us all that we are called to love God and love people. It is also a beautiful reminder that new life always finds a way.

WEST END COMMUNITY CHURCH

Staff Liaison - Jonathan Goss - Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com

Lay Liaisons - Elena Harmon Wisse - elenaharmonwisse@gmail.com

Mary Kate Waters-Wright - mkwaters4@gmail.com

West End Community Church (formerly known as Community Church Without Walls) is a United Methodist mission congregation in the heart of Birmingham's West End. It began in partnership and continues to work in partnership with Urban Ministry so that the people of West End will not only find a place of loving outreach but also a place for spiritual growth. They believe that authentic Christian discipleship includes both an inward spiritual focus and a passionate outreach to the surrounding community.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

SUNDAYS, 2:00PM

Worship with West End Community Church in the WE Garden (weather permitting, otherwise they will meet at Urban Ministry). Worship incorporates the gifts and talents of the congregation including spoken word, skits, and singing. You are invited to go and "BE" a part of their congregation to get to know the West End community.

WEDNESDAYS, 5:30PM - 7:30PM

Each Wednesday night during the school year West End Community Church offers a meal to the community followed by Bible study for children and youth. There are volunteer opportunities to help out with their children's Bible study each Wednesday night.

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FIRST CHURCH ADVOCACY PARTNERS

ALABAMA ARISE

Alabama Arise is a statewide, member-led organization advancing public policies to improve the lives of Alabamians who are marginalized by poverty. The membership includes faith-based, community, nonprofit and civic groups, grassroots leaders and individuals from across Alabama. Each year members select our annual legislative agenda, focusing on the issues that matter most to alleviate poverty and its effects.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA

Faith in Action Alabama is a multi-faith, multi-racial group of believers who have come together for the following mission: To honor God by dismantling systemic racism to create pathways of opportunity for all Alabamians.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

MONDAYS, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Join Faith in Action Alabama for Night Walks in West End beginning Monday, March 25 (and every two weeks following) at West End Hills Missionary Baptist Church (1680 19th Place SW, Birmingham, 35211). Participating volunteers will walk together to listen, learn, and love in an effort to build and deepen relationships with residents of a neighborhood hard-hit by gun violence. For anyone interested in participating or wanting more information please contact JaiGregory Clarke at 205-482-1189 or by email at jaigregory@fiaal.org.

WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL, 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Join us as we engage Alabama Legislators at the State House (11 S. Union St., Montgomery, AL) on the following Wednesdays (4/10, 4/17, and 4/24) to help build support for three bills that seek to remove obstacles to voting faced by formerly incarcerated Alabamians. For more information or for future actions at the State House, please contact JaiGregory Clarke at (205) 482-1189 or by email at jaigregory@fiaal.org.