

MAY 2025

CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Family Matters

In this series, we will explore the interconnectedness of our community and the profound impact we have on one another. Drawing inspiration from 1 Corinthians 12:26, we will delve into the experiences of specific groups within our congregation and society, recognizing their unique joys and challenges. We will move beyond sympathy to empathy, fostering a deeper understanding of our shared humanity and inspiring action to create a more just and compassionate world.

4.27.25 **Bearing Witness to Vulnerability**

MARK 5:25-34, JOHN 9:1-41

5.4.25 **Building Bridges of Connection**

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12, MATTHEW 25:31-46

5.11.25 **Honoring Wisdom**

PSALM 71:9, PROVERBS 16:31

5.18.25 **Fostering Wholeness**

1 SAMUEL 18:1-4, GALATIANS 3:28

5.25.25 **The Undervalued**

MATTHEW 25:31-45

6.1.25 **The Church**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MAY 4

On Sunday, May 4 our church will celebrate Confirmation during both the Loft and Sanctuary worship services. This is a meaningful moment when our confirmands affirm their faith and step into a deeper commitment to following Christ. This is not only a milestone for our youth but a celebration for the entire congregation. As a church family, you are invited to support, encourage, and pray for these youth as they continue their spiritual journey.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

SENIOR SUNDAY

Graduation season is here and we are excited to honor our Class of 2025! On Sunday, May 18, we'll take time during worship in both the Loft and the Sanctuary to celebrate our graduating seniors and their families. This special Sunday is an opportunity to give thanks, pray over our seniors, and send them off with love as they step into a new chapter of life. Whether heading to college, starting a career, or exploring what's next, we want to recognize all that has been accomplished and all that lies ahead.

If you are a senior or if you know someone who is graduating and would like to be included in the celebration, please send a senior photo to Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com.



COMBINED WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MAY 25 | IN THE LOFT

You are invited to combined worship in the Loft on Sunday, May 25 as we come together as a faith community over Memorial Day weekend. We will continue in our sermon series Family Matters by looking at the theme of “the undervalued” exploring the challenges faced by those living in poverty in our society and highlighting the importance of mental health, housing, and societal expectations. You are invited to arrive in early in the Loft lounge area to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our Coffee Team and partake in coffee, hot tea, and delicious snacks. We hope to see you on Memorial Day weekend in the Loft at 11:00am.



BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY

SUNDAYS, MAY 4, 11, 18, & JUNE 1, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

First Church is offering a four-week basic photography course led by Bernie Hardy. This course will include lessons on four subjects: camera design and function; lens types and functions; photography composition, exposure and focus; and enhancing photos through post-processing techniques. Participants may bring cameras but that is optional (owning a camera is not even a requirement!) Handouts will be included as well as two optional field trips. Participants will have the opportunity - but not a requirement - to present their photos for sharing and constructive comments.

The four lessons will be held immediately following worship services on May 4, May 11, May 18, and June 1 in the SALT Classroom. We will begin after worship in hopes of ending close to 1:00pm or 1:15pm with the option of going out to lunch afterward. There is no charge for participation but you are asked to sign up in advance for planning purposes. Click [HERE](#) to register now.



FRIDAY, MAY 2

Come kick off summer with your church family at a Barons game on Friday, May 2! Tickets are just \$15 each and include a hot dog, drink, and a baseline box seat. Stay until the end of the game to catch the amazing fireworks show! All ages are welcome. We only have a limited number of tickets for our group, so get yours today! You can grab your tickets [**HERE**](#).



**FIRST
CHURCH**

101

SUNDAY, MAY 4 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

On Sunday, May 4 we will host First Church 101 after worship. A light lunch will be offered before we move into our time of learning and conversation. During our time together we will share more about United Methodist theology, polity, and Social Principles as well as what membership means at First Church and ways to find deeper connection and community. Childcare will be available with a reservation.

CLICK [**HERE**](#) TO REGISTER NOW.

WELCOME GRADIENT DANCE COMPANY

First Church is excited to announce Gradient Dance Company's new residency, a significant step toward making the arts more accessible in our city. By providing Gradient with affordable space in our facilities, we're helping them broaden their reach, offering a variety of dance styles and classes to a more diverse community.

This partnership reflects our shared commitment to openness, inviting dancers of all backgrounds and skill levels to discover movement in an inclusive environment. First Church's dedication to community engagement, combined with Gradient's focus on diversity and affordability, creates a collaboration that will undoubtedly enrich Birmingham's cultural scene. We invite you to look over their website to learn more [HERE](#).

CAP AMBASSADORS

MOVING INTO OFFICE SPACE AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church is partnering with REV Birmingham to provide CAP Ambassadors with a dedicated workspace on the first floor of our Office Building. CAP Ambassadors are key to maintaining the cleanliness and safety of our city. By providing them with a central hub, we aim to enhance their efficiency and presence, contributing to a more welcoming downtown Birmingham for everyone.

In addition to the CAP Ambassadors moving in, the Trustees have agreed to use funds from the Peggy West Estate to renovate the first floor of the Office Building. Construction is now underway and the CAP Ambassadors are scheduled to move in during May. We hope you'll help us welcome CAP Ambassadors as you see them around downtown and throughout our campus.

PRIDE

PLANNING TEAM

RECRUITMENT

EVERY JUNE FIRST CHURCH MARCHES IN THE BIRMINGHAM PRIDE PARADE. WE ALSO HOST A VENDOR BOOTH AT PRIDEFEST! THESE ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ARE ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN.

THESE EVENTS INVOLVE A GOOD BIT OF DREAMING AND PLANNING. WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT YOU. WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING A PRIDE PLANNING TEAM FOR 2025 WHICH WILL HELP OUR STAFF IDEATE AND FACILITATE ALL PRIDE-RELATED ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE PRIDE PLANNING TEAM, PLEASE EMAIL [KATHERINE@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katherine@firstchurchbhm.com).



PANAMA

T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

Our Panama Learn & Serve Team is gearing up for an impactful trip and we want to represent our spirit of welcome and connection through our team t-shirts. We've chosen the phrase "Open for Y'all" to symbolize our commitment to inclusivity and our eagerness to embrace everyone we encounter in Panama. These shirts will not only help us identify as a team but also serve as a fundraiser. Shirts are \$35 and can be ordered [HERE](#).



ROAD TRIP

CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP 2025

Arts Camp 2025, “Road Trip, On the Go With God” will take place Monday, July 14 through Thursday, July 17. Join us for a fun-filled adventure on the open road, where travelers will embark on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. Led by our Navigator, kids will discover that God is always with them. Through engaging stories, travelers will explore timeless tales of faith from both the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!

We are excited to offer Arts Camp at a rate of \$50 per camper which includes lunch and a morning snack. An extended care option will be available for \$40 per camper and will run until 4:00pm each day (with an afternoon snack included). Registration is now open and available by clicking [HERE](#).



JUNE 2 - JUNE 5 | 9:00AM - 4:00PM EACH DAY

We are once again partnering with Fresh Air Family's Gross Out Camp for four days of outdoor fun. The camp will take place in Trussville at Holy Cross Episcopal Church (right beside the Cahaba River!) and will focus on exploring God's creation in the woods, creeks, and fields. Fresh Air Family's Director and Lead Instructor will be helping to lead our camp.

The cost for the week is \$125 per camper which includes all materials and snacks. Registration is now open and we have limited capacity. Priority will be given to First Church members and regular visitors. Click [HERE](#) to sign up now.



Six Flags

THURSDAY, MAY 29

First Church youth are invited to join us on an adventure at Six Flags Over Georgia on Wednesday, May 29. This trip is open to students who have completed 5th through 12th grade. It's going to be a day filled with thrills, fun, and unforgettable memories. The cost of the trip is \$55 per person, which includes: admission, transportation to and from the park, one meal, one snack, and one drink at the park.

This is a great opportunity for students to enjoy the excitement of Six Flags while connecting with friends and leaders. Whether you're a fan of roller coasters or just enjoying the atmosphere, it's going to be an awesome day. Registration is required by Saturday, May 18, and space is limited. You can register [**HERE**](#) now.

Note: Details on departure times and what to bring will be shared after registration

SAVE THE DATES UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 4
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MAY 18
SENIOR SUNDAY

THURSDAY, MAY 29
SIX FLAGS

JUNE 22 - JUNE 28
CAMP SUMATANGA

THURSDAY, JULY 10
SPRING VALLEY BEACH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
LOCK - IN

YOUTH MINISTRY
AT FIRST CHURCH

Families with little ones are invited to join us for a joyful morning of play, connection, and community at our next Pre-K Lunch & Bounce on Saturday, May 17, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. For just \$5 per child and adult, participants will enjoy an exciting morning of bouncing, playing, and lunch. Please note that registration is required for everyone who plans to eat, including parents and siblings. Click [HERE](#) to register now. If the weather allows it, we will also add water fun to the mix—so pack a towel and a change of clothes!

PRE-K LUNCH & BOUNCE

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

CITY KIDS UPDATES

CAMP CONNECT SERVE WEEK

JULY 21-24 | FOR 4TH - 6TH GRADERS

This will be a week of service where our kids will have the opportunity to make a real difference in our community. I'm excited to see how they'll step up and serve others.

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PARTY & PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 23, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, as we celebrate the end of the school year with a night full of fun! Kids (ages 6 months – 5th grade) will enjoy inflatables, games, food, and exciting activities, while parents get a well-deserved night out. The cost is \$30 per child and space is limited so don't wait to sign up!

Click [HERE](#) to sign up now.

first
CHURCH
— BIRMINGHAM —



GREETER



NAME TAG ORDER

As First Church prepares to welcome a new Senior Pastor this summer, we encourage everyone to make sure to have and regularly wear a name tag as a sign of our hospitality both to one another as well as to those who are stepping onto our campus for the first time. Name tags are \$10 each which covers the costs of printing and shipping. All orders are due by **THURSDAY, MAY 15.**

Click [HERE](#) to order yours now.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Interim Pastor: Clauzell Williams	Clauzell@firstchurchbhm.com
Pastor: Jonathan Goss	Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Pastor: Katie Gilbert	Katie@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Community Engagement: Katherine Mullen	Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com
Minister of Families & Youth: 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: Coty Smith	Coty@firstchurchbhm.com
Wedding Director: Betsy Pate	Betsy@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Director of Early Learning Center: Cassandra Copeland	ELC@firstchurchbhm.com
Nursery Coordinator: Natalie Bogart-Pierre	Natalie@firstchurchbhm.com



an OPEN place for ALL to **WORSHIP, GROW,** and **SERVE**

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