

CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2025 •



OPEN FOR Y'ALL

The poster features a background collage of Pride-related images. The top half shows a crowd of people at a parade, with a rainbow flag being held. The bottom half is a large, vibrant rainbow flag. The text is overlaid on these images.

Pride PARADE'25

THIS YEAR, CENTRAL ALABAMA PRIDE IS CELEBRATING 47 YEARS OF PRIDE IN THE MAGIC CITY! THE PRIDE PARADE AND PRIDEFEST ARE BACK IN FULL SWING THIS YEAR AND WE HOPE YOU'LL MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US. CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRIDE PARADE.

PRIDE FEST '25

IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PARADE, WE WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT PRIDEFEST ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15 WHICH BEGINS AT 11:00AM AT LINN PARK.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

INTERFAITH *PRIDE SERVICE*

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 AT 6:00PM

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL ALABAMA IS HOSTING AN INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10 AT 6:00PM AT EDGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. WE HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER COMING TO WORSHIP TOGETHER AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT THE BROADER INTERFAITH COMMUNITY.

GET YOUR PRIDE SWAG!

NEED SOME FRESH "GOD IS LOVE"
SWAG FOR PRIDE? WE INVITE YOU
TO EXPLORE OUR REDBUBBLE SHOP
[HERE](#) AND ORDER ANYTHING
YOUR HEART DESIRES!





Queer & Christian

A Conversation with Author, Activist, & Pastor
Rev. Brandan Robertson



BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

2117 University Blvd, Birmingham AL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

6:00 PM

This is a free event - book signing to follow



MAGIC CITY

Acceptance Center

A BAO Affiliated Program

Learn more at QueerChristian.org



FACES OF OUR FAITH

BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. This summer, we'll dig deep into the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace. May they awaken us to the faces of our faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference.

6.8.25 | Faces of Our Faith: Lydia
ACTS 16:11-15, 40

6.15.25 | Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
DANIEL 3:19-30

6.22.25 | Faces of Our Faith: Shiphrah and Puah
EXODUS 1:15-22

6.29.25 | Faces of Our Faith: Judas Iscariot
MARK 14:1-2, 10-50

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 6

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

FIRST SUNDAY FOR REV. KEVIN THOMAS

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR REV. KEVIN THOMAS

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Combined Worship in the Loft

SUNDAY, JULY 27

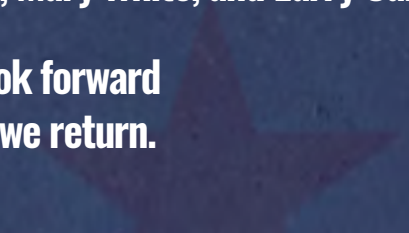
Combined Worship in the Loft

PANAMA LEARN AND SERVE

Our Panama Learn and Serve Team is headed to Panama June 28 through July 6.
Please be in prayer for safe travels and for meaningful experiences while serving.

The team members are: Jonathan Goss, Ashley Hess, Zandra Hunter, Naiema Hall, Renee Driskel, Blair Bennett, George Culver, Maggie Banger, Sophie Banger, Allison Rice, Jennifer McCombs Thompson, Chase Waters, Thea Pegues, Jana White, Mary White, and Larry Caine

We are so grateful for your support and look forward
to sharing our experiences with you when we return.



WELCOME

A portrait of Kevin Thomas, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light blue clerical shirt with a white collar and a dark grey pinstriped suit jacket. The background is a textured, reddish-brown color.

Next month we will welcome our new Senior Pastor Rev. Kevin Thomas. His first Sunday with us in worship will be **SUNDAY, JULY 6**. Because this is over a holiday weekend, we will officially welcome Kevin and his family with a reception on **SUNDAY, JULY 13** following worship. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for these special Sundays in the life of our congregation.

We hope you will take a few moments to spend time getting to know more about Kevin and his family by reading the information shared. Click [HERE](#) to see the full introduction.

KEVIN

THOMAS

S E N I O R P A S T O R



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](#).

FIRST CHURCH NURSERY

Our nursery is growing! As such, we have growing needs for snacks, supplies, and toys that were not included in our budget for this year. Our Nursery Coordinator, Natalie Pierre, has put together an [AMAZON WISH LIST](#) so that you can help support our youngest in the First Church family by helping to stock our nursery.

In addition, a growing nursery means a growing need for volunteers! There are opportunities that range from setting up/breaking down classrooms and greeting to actually helping in the classroom. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to offer your time in helping even our smallest babies know how loved they are at First Church.

FIRST CHURCH POOL *Party*

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Everyone is invited to join us for a refreshing night of summer fun at the West Homewood Patriot Pool on Saturday, July 12. This event is open to all members and is completely free, so bring your swimsuit and get ready to relax, swim, and enjoy some time together as a church community. The pool party will run from 6:15pm to 8:15pm. Don't miss this chance to beat the heat and connect with others in a fun, casual setting. We look forward to seeing you there!

THURSDAY, JULY 10



Get ready for a fun-filled day at Spring Valley Beach on **Thursday, July 10!** This trip is open to all students who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade. Enjoy exciting water slides, time with friends, and a great way to cool off this summer!

The cost is \$40 which includes admission to the park and transportation. Drop off will be at 9:00am at the church and we will return by 5:00pm.

Please be sure to make your reservation by June 30. Click **[HERE](#)** to sign up now.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM **JUSTICE & MERCY**

With summer upon us, there are lots of opportunities to share.
See below for a list of ways you can be involved with the work and ministry of our partners.

MAGIC CITY ACCEPTANCE CENTER (MCAC)

Click [HERE](#) to sign up to bring coffee and donuts to their support meeting for families.

WEST END COMMUNITY CHURCH & BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER

Save the date for our next Clean Up Day on Saturday, August 16.

URBAN MINISTRY

Youth from Canterbury and Riverchase UMC will paint homes in West End July 14-18. Adult volunteers are needed to help with supervision on site. Contact Jennifer McCombs Thompson for questions or to sign up at 205-807-5345 or by email at jenmcombs40@gmail.com. Other supply needs for the week are: paint roller pads, contractor bags (in bulk), packages of plastic sheeting or cloth drop cloths, rolls of blue natural fiber painter's rags

GRACEWORKS

Continues to help with building project at Urban Ministry's WE Build.
Contact Johnny Miller or John Draper if interested in getting involved.

WE LEARN

Summer camp begins June 9 and runs from 8:00am to 3:00pm Mondays through Thursdays. Volunteers can come for a half day or a whole day. Contact Jay Jessee for more information.

BLUE WAGON COLLECTION

The Lovelady Center is providing hygiene products for more than 500 women. Click [HERE](#) to see a list of needs. All donations can be placed in the Blue Wagon in the Education Building during June.

FIRST CHURCH COURTYARD CARE TEAM

Anyone who loves flowers, gardening, and getting your hands dirty is invited to join our new Courtyard Care Team! The goal is to keep our Courtyard and front corner flower bed looking beautiful and cared for all year long. Kathy Draper has volunteered to lead this group and we'd appreciate your help. If interested, please contact Kathy at kathydraper1011@gmail.com or 703-727-7219.

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**

518 North 19th Street • Birmingham AL 35203
205-254-3186 • www.firstchurchbhm.com