

JULY 2025

# CONNECTIONS



**WE LOVE  
OUR KIDS**

# ARTS CAMP CELEBRATION

& THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION  
SUNDAY, JULY 20 | IN THE LOFT

Join us in the Loft on Sunday, July 20 during the 11:00am worship service for a special Arts Camp Celebration! We'll be highlighting all the creativity, joy, and energy from a fantastic week of Arts Camp—complete with music, art, and stories from our campers.

This special service will also include a meaningful moment as we recognize and celebrate all of our children who have just completed third grade by presenting them with their very own Bible—a milestone in their spiritual journey.

If your child has just completed third grade and will be present to receive a Bible, please email Ashley at [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com) by July 9 to ensure we have one prepared for them.

Come celebrate with us as we lift up our kids  
and the gifts they bring to our church community!





# 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](#).



## 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. DR. KEVIN THOMAS*

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**

*Combined Worship in the Sanctuary*

*WELCOME RECEPTION FOR REV. DR. KEVIN THOMAS*

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

*Combined Worship in the Loft*

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

*Combined Worship in the Loft*



# PARABLES

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

In this series we will move beyond traditional, moralistic readings of the parables of Jesus in order to be invited into a new perspective of God's transformative kingdom. This way of living is characterized by overwhelming grace, unexpected compassion, and the profound possibility of becoming a new creation, rather than simply a "better" version of ourselves.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

### THE SCANDAL OF GENEROSITY LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

COMBINED IN THE SANCTUARY

*MATTHEW 20: 1-16*

SUNDAY, JULY 13

### THE UNEXPECTED SAVIOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN

COMBINED IN THE SANCTUARY

*LUKE 10:25-37*

SUNDAY, JULY 20

### FINDING JOY IN THE MARGINS THE LOST SHEEP

COMBINED IN THE LOFT

*LUKE 15:3-7*

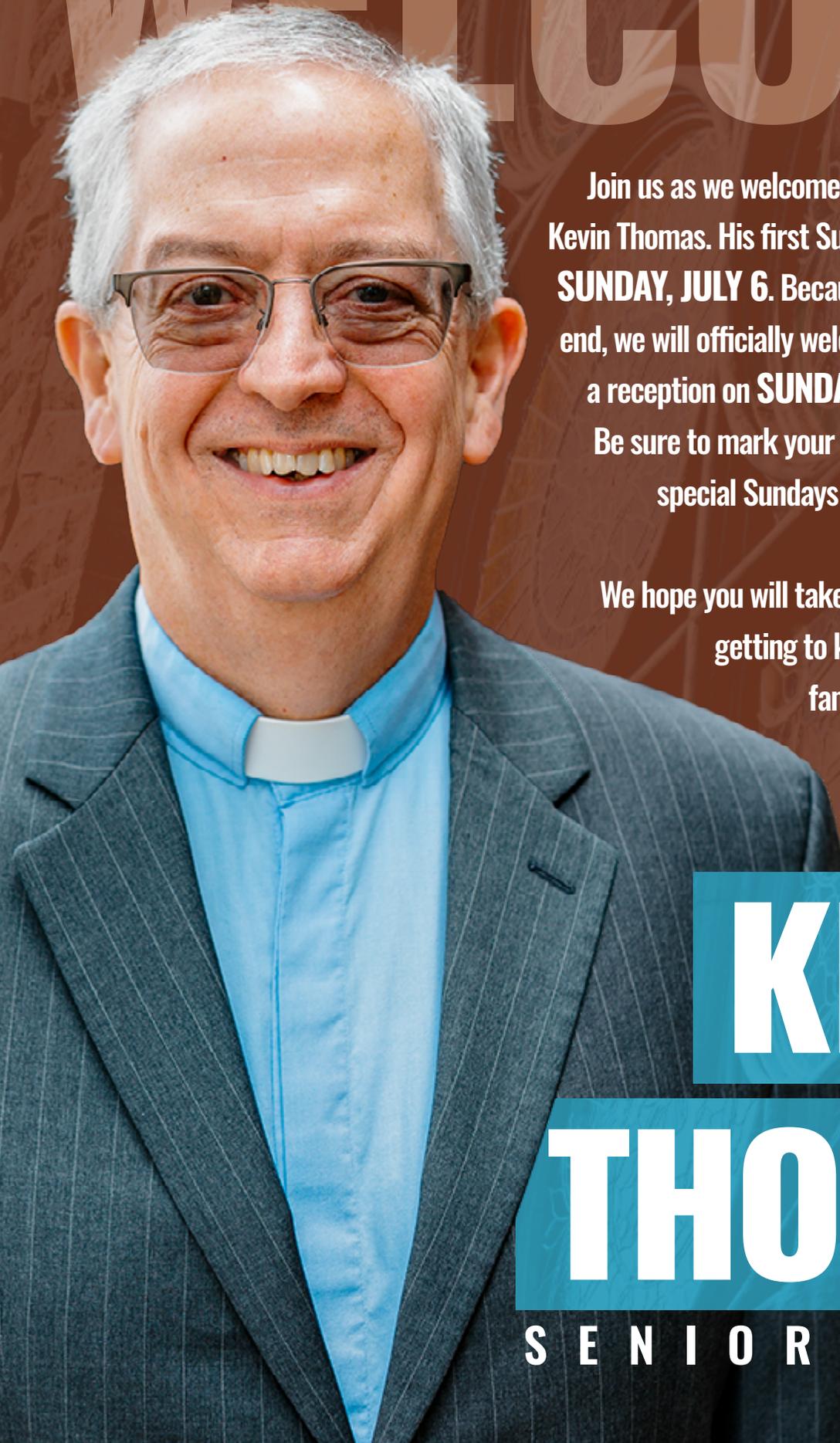
SUNDAY, JULY 27

### A LOVE THAT WON'T LET GO THE PRODIGAL PARENT

COMBINED IN THE LOFT

*LUKE 15:11-32*

# WELCOME

A portrait of Rev. Dr. Kevin Thomas, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, smiling warmly. He is wearing a blue clerical shirt with a white tab collar and a grey pinstriped suit jacket. The background is a textured, brownish-orange color.

Join us as we welcome our new Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. 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**

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

# VIRTUAL WORSHIP UPDATE

During the month of July our virtual worship will feature previously recorded and aired services. This adjustment will allow additional time and space during a busy season with our team travelling to Panama, working on Arts Camp, and welcoming Rev. Dr. Kevin Thomas. Be on the lookout as we move into the fall for some exciting updates and improvements for our virtual presence!



*Rescheduled*  
FRIDAY, JULY 25

We have rescheduled our rained-out Barons game to Friday, July 25! There are a few tickets left and up for grabs - you can get yours [HERE](#). As a reminder, these tickets will get you a seat, a hot dog, and a drink. Stay until the end of the game to catch the amazing fireworks show! All ages are welcome.

FIRST CHURCH

# POOL Party

**SATURDAY, JULY 12 | 6:15PM**  
AT WEST HOMEWOOD PATRIOT POOL

Everyone is invited to join us for a refreshing night of summer fun at the West Home-wood 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. You are invited to eat dinner before you come and we will provide dessert and cold water. 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!

## LUNCH & WATERPLAY

SUNDAY, JULY 20, AFTER WORSHIP

Join us on Sunday, July 20 from 12:00pm to 2:30pm for a refreshing afternoon of fun and fellowship right after church. We'll have small pools, sprinklers, and pizza. Click [HERE](#) to register now so that we have enough pizza for everyone.

While this event is open to everyone, it is particularly designed for our younger friends. So whether you're a little one eager to jump in the water or a parent ready to relax and catch up with friends, we hope you'll come. Don't forget to bring a towel, sunscreen, and a change of clothes.

# CONNECT SERVE CAMP

Rising 4th–7th graders are invited to an unforgettable summer adventure at Connect Serve Camp, happening July 21–24! This camp will be held at Asbury UMC and attendees from our church will meet at the Target on Hwy 280 for drop-off at 8:30am and pick-up at 3:30pm each day.

This unique camp combines a high-energy “big kid” VBS experience in the morning with hands-on service projects in the afternoon, all designed around John Wesley’s first simple rule: DO GOOD. Campers will enjoy worship, games, small groups, and opportunities to put their faith into action in our local neighborhoods.

As a special bonus, our students will connect with upper elementary kids from United Methodist churches all across Birmingham—learning, serving, and making new friends along the way! The cost is \$25 for the week and the deadline to register is July 11. Click [HERE](#) to register now.

**THURSDAY, JULY 10**



*Fun in the sun!*

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 July 6. Click [HERE](#) to sign up now.

# RECRUITING WELCOME GUIDES

In August, we will mark one year with our Welcome Guides at First Church who have been present rain or shine to greet and guide visitors and members alike. Their presence has made a huge difference in the hospitality that First Church provides throughout our campus on Sunday mornings. Welcome Guides serve on a rotating basis with the request to be present as a guide one Sunday a month over the next year. We will hold a training in early August to help equip and prepare you for this important role that helps to put our priority of hospitality into action. If you are interested in serving as a Welcome Guide for the upcoming year, please reach out to Dallas Vice at [dallasvice@gmail.com](mailto:dallasvice@gmail.com) to learn more.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**

T W E N T Y - T W E N T Y F I V E

**S WALK DE**

F I L M F E S T I V A L

EACH YEAR FIRST CHURCH PARTNERS WITH SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN MOVIES IN OUR LOFT WORSHIP SPACE. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR LOVE AND HOSPITALITY WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE FESTIVAL OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEKEND. ONE OF THE WAYS WE DO THIS IS BY PROVIDING CONCESSIONS FOR PURCHASE (JUST LIKE VISITING ANY OF THE OTHER VENUES WHO HOST AROUND TOWN!).

THE SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL WILL BE AUGUST 22-24 AND VOLUNTEER SHIFTS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ONE TO TWO HOURS IN LENGTH ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HELPING OVER THE WEEKEND, CONTACT [KATIE@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katie@firstchurchbhm.com).

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM

# JUSTICE & MERCY

OPPORTUNITIES

## COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

Community on the Rise is deeply grateful for the beautiful work of William Evans who created a restful seating area and garden on our workshop dock for his Eagle Scout project. Thank you, William and team of helpers! We continue work in this space as well as repairing and landscaping the backyard at our residential home, Marigold House. Your hands can be part of transforming outdoor spaces into peaceful gardenscapes for reflection and restoration. If you are interested in working with a team to design a landscape plan and/or digging, lifting, planting and being outside, please contact Avery Rhodes at [avery@communityontherise.com](mailto:avery@communityontherise.com) learn more.

# OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

For the past 3 months the first floor of our Office Building has been under renovation to make much needed improvements. As we've shared previously, at the conclusion of our renovation, City Action Partnership (CAP) will move into our building. During this transition, we have had difficulty receiving mail and deliveries. If you have sent a check or letter in recent months but notice that it has not been deposited or does not appear to have been received, please let us know by emailing [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com).



# 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](mailto:Peg@firstchurchbhm.com).

## 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

Senior Pastor: Kevin Thomas .....	Kevin@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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