

CONNECTIONS

A photograph of a path lined with trees in autumn. The ground is covered in a thick layer of golden-brown leaves. The trees have dense foliage of similar colors, creating a warm, sunlit atmosphere. The path leads into the distance, flanked by tall trees.

AUGUST 2025

FINDING NEW RHYTHMS

FALL KICKOFF

AT  UP —
DOWN

JOIN US for a church-wide Fall Kickoff at Up-Down Arcade Bar on Sunday, August 10! What's better than kicking off a new fall season with pizza, games, and fellowship? Not much! We invite you to head to Up-Down (113 13th St. S) after worship. This location utilizes street parking so we encourage you to carpool as you are able. First Church will cover two slices of pizza per individual as well as 20 tokens per family unit/individual — after that, drinks, extra food, and bonus tokens are on you!

Although this is a free event, we need a headcount in order to give Up-Down's kitchen an accurate number for pizzas. We will close our registration on Monday, August 4. Please email Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com with any questions.

SIGN UP NOW BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

**FREE ADMISSION
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**8.10.25
AFTER WORSHIP**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 IN WORSHIP

BLESSING *of the* BACK PACKS

On Sunday, August 10, we invite all students, teachers, administrators, and others involved in education to join us during worship in both the Loft and Sanctuary for a meaningful time of blessing for the year ahead. We invite you to bring your backpacks, briefcases, or any other symbol of your educational journey to place on the altar as we pray for the upcoming school year. Whether you are starting a new journey in elementary school, venturing into college life, or guiding students as educators and administrators, this service will celebrate you. Let's start the new school year with hope, positivity, and the shared support of our church family.

FIRST CHURCH

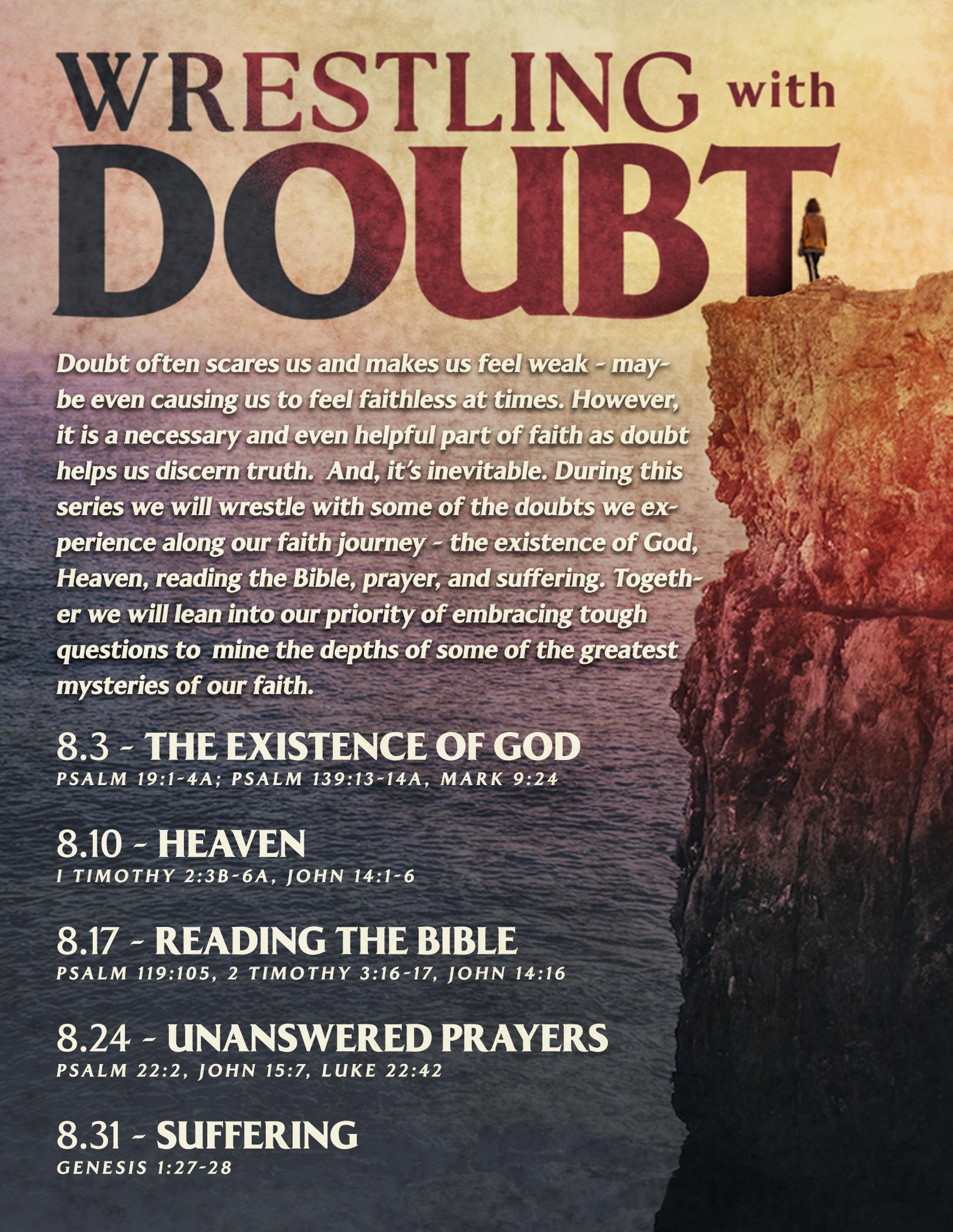
LIVE 

STREAMING

LAUNCHES THIS AUGUST

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new chapter in the life of our church! Beginning in August 2025, First Church will live-stream our Sunday worship services from both the Loft and Sanctuary. This new digital ministry will allow us to share the hope and joy of our community beyond the walls of our building, reaching members, friends, and potential visitors wherever they may be. More detailed information will be shared as we complete installation.

WRESTLING with DOUBT



Doubt often scares us and makes us feel weak - maybe even causing us to feel faithless at times. However, it is a necessary and even helpful part of faith as doubt helps us discern truth. And, it's inevitable. During this series we will wrestle with some of the doubts we experience along our faith journey - the existence of God, Heaven, reading the Bible, prayer, and suffering. Together we will lean into our priority of embracing tough questions to mine the depths of some of the greatest mysteries of our faith.

8.3 - THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

PSALM 19:1-4A; PSALM 139:13-14A, MARK 9:24

8.10 - HEAVEN

1 TIMOTHY 2:3B-6A, JOHN 14:1-6

8.17 - READING THE BIBLE

PSALM 119:105, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, JOHN 14:16

8.24 - UNANSWERED PRAYERS

PSALM 22:2, JOHN 15:7, LUKE 22:42

8.31 - SUFFERING

GENESIS 1:27-28

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM'S

LISTENING SESSIONS

LET'S DREAM TOGETHER ABOUT WHERE GOD IS LEADING US IN THE COMING WEEKS, MONTHS, AND YEARS. KEVIN WILL BE HOSTING A SERIES OF LISTENING SESSIONS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST CHURCH AND TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE. YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS MATTER. MAKE PLANS NOW TO SHARE BY SIGNING UP FOR ONE OF THE SESSIONS LISTED BELOW:

SUNDAY
AUGUST 3

12:30PM - 2:30PM
(LUNCH & CHILDCARE)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 6

5:15PM - 7:15PM
(DINNER)

THURSDAY
AUGUST 14

11:30AM - 1:30PM
(LUNCH)

SUNDAY
AUGUST 17

12:30PM - 2:30PM
(LUNCH & CHILDCARE)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 20

5:15PM - 7:15PM
(DINNER)

EACH LISTENING SESSION WILL INCLUDE A MEAL AT \$10 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY THE SUNDAY SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE CHILDCARE. EACH SESSION WILL HAVE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 30 PEOPLE TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE. WE CAN'T WAIT TO DREAM TOGETHER!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER NOW!

LABOR DAY COMBINED WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 AT 11:00AM

On Sunday, August 31 we will combine for worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. You are invited to join us as we conclude our series Wrestling with Doubt by tackling the difficult subject of suffering in our world. As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School because of the holiday weekend. The nursery will be open for worship at 10:45am.



PANAMA

TEAM PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 FROM 9:45AM - 10:45AM

The Panama Learn & Serve Team will hold a presentation on Sunday, August 17, during the Sunday School hour (9:45am - 10:45am) in the Loft. This is an excellent opportunity for our team to share everything they learned and share more about the numerous ways in which they were able to serve. Coffee and snacks will be provided. We are excited to see you.

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

S W A L K S I D E

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).

CLICK [HERE](#) TO SIGN UP NOW!



TWENTY TWENTY SIX

CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Mark your calendars for our 2026 Churchwide Retreat! We will be returning to Camp McDowell from Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 15, 2026 for our annual churchwide retreat. We are looking forward to sharing more information about our theme, schedule, and other details in the months to come. If you have any questions, please email Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com.

An Invitation to
HELP LEAD WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY

If you worship in the Sanctuary and have wondered where you might offer leadership as we move into a new season together, we'd love to hear from you. There are opportunities to read Scripture, lead prayer, sing in the choir, serve on the tech team, pass out bulletins, help with offering collection, or serve communion. No previous experience is required – we will be sure to connect you to the team leaders and equip you to use your gifts in worship. If you are interested in helping to lead Sanctuary worship, please click [HERE](#) to express your interest and a member of our worship planning team will be in touch.



A FIRST CHURCH RETREAT FOR MEN

The JOURNEY

You are invited to be a traveler on **The Journey**, a First Church retreat for men (or any who identify as masculine) at Camp McDowell on September 19-21, 2025. Gather with friends, some you haven't even met yet, as we study Jesus' celebrations of joy! The cost for the weekend is \$199 which includes your meals and accommodations (double occupancy rooms). The deadline to register is Wednesday, September 10.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register now.

Save
the
Date

OCTOBER 3 - 4
WOMEN'S
Retreat

Join us for a weekend of connection, crafting, learning, and community building from **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3** through **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4** at First Church for all women or female identifying persons. We plan to provide childcare and will share more details in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information soon.

Wednesday Night **DINNER** & **PROGRAMMING**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS ARE BACK!

We are preparing for the return of Wednesday Night Dinners on Wednesday, September 3! As a reminder, dinner will begin at 5:15pm with adult programming to follow at 6:15pm. The nursery will open at 5:30pm and children's and youth programming will begin at 6:00pm. You can find the menu and register for dinners [HERE](#).

As we kick off this fall we will begin a new round of small groups and we hope you will find a group that fits your interests. Click [HERE](#) to read detailed information about our offerings this fall and click [HERE](#) to register to participate.

FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM

JUSTICE & MERCY

OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

IS NUTRITION AND HEALTHY EATING YOUR PASSION?

Join us for a Wellness Wednesday at 11:00am at Community on the Rise for an opportunity which invites volunteers to bring in a favorite healthy, easy meal to share with our staff of survivors. Together, we eat, talk about the recipe's nutritious value, and how we can make it at home ourselves. This opportunity would require buying and cooking a small meal to serve 6-8 people and joining us to eat and share in conversation. To schedule, please email Avery Rhodes at avery@communityontherise.com.

HELP US BUILD OUR BRAND!

Do you have a favorite boutique store or local shop that might be a perfect fit to sell our recycled jewelry & home decor? Help us by making a pitch. We've been fortunate to make our debut in two local Birmingham shops: Houseplant Collective and the Birmingham Museum of Art Gift Shop. Help us build more momentum! Time commitment includes: a short training/tutorial on our products & pricing; reaching out to sales management at your favorite shop to share about our products; and dropping off a few samples with pricing for shop management to peruse (and picking them up later). To schedule, please email Avery Rhodes at avery@communityontherise.com.

CITY KIDS
GLOW
Party &
PARENT DINNER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

City Kids of all ages are invited to join us on Wednesday, August 27, from 5:15pm to 7:15pm for a Glow Party as we launch into the fall. Our littlest friends (babies through K4), will enjoy their own Glow Party in the Nursery while our Kindergarten through 5th graders will head upstairs to the Loft to dive into a night of games, laughter, and a delicious meal of chicken nuggets and fries.

While the kids are having fun, parents are invited to join our Nursery Coordinator, Natalie Pierre, and our Youth and Family Minister, Ashley Hess, for dinner and the opportunity to hear the heart and vision behind our Preschool and Children's Ministry at First Church. This will be a great opportunity to learn what's ahead this fall, connect with other parents, and enjoy a delicious meal. Please sign up [HERE](#) so that we can be sure to have enough food and supplies.

CONNECT
CLIMBING EVENT

(4TH THROUGH 6TH GRADERS)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, | 4:00PM TO 6:00PM

Our 4th through 6th grade Connect crew is headed out for an exciting day of climbing, community, and connection alongside other area United Methodist churches on Sunday, September 14 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm at Hoover Climbing Adventure (5508 Stadium Trace Parkway, Hoover, AL 35244). For a total cost of \$15 your kids will enjoy pizza, drinks, and lots of climbing and fun with friends. Please RSVP [HERE](#) by September 7. Waivers can be filled out ahead of time to help with the check-in process and can be found [HERE](#).

TAP CLASSES

AT FIRST CHURCH

Come join us in the LOFT on Monday Nights at First Church and learn to tap dance or improve the skills you already have! Tap dance is great for flexibility, balance, memory, creativity, expression, meeting new friends, and having a lot of fun dancing to great music! These free tap classes are a community outreach of First Church and are taught by Kathy Draper. We'd love for you to join us!

THREE LEVELS OF ADULT CLASSES (*AGES 13 & UP*)
WILL BE OFFERED THIS FALL, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15.

TAP LEVEL I : 5:00PM – 5:45PM

TAP LEVEL II : 5:45PM – 6:30PM

TAP LEVEL III : 6:30PM – 7:45PM

Contact Kathy for questions at kathydraper1011@gmail.com.
You can register for classes [HERE](#).

PRAYER TEAM INVITATION

In Philippians 4:6-7 we are given powerful words about prayer, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.” At First Church, we believe in the supporting love of prayer. One of the commitments we make to one another is that we will pray for our church family. If you would like to support your church family through the ministry of prayer, you are invited to sign up for the weekly prayer team email. You can do so by emailing Jonathan Goss at Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com.

WELCOME



AMBASSADORS

After a much needed renovation using funds from the Peggy West Estate, CAP Ambassadors have officially moved into the offices on the first floor of the Office Building. In a partnership with REV Birmingham, we have worked to provide a dedicated and updated work space. 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.

CAP operating hours are Monday through Saturday from 7:00am through 11:30pm. On Sundays they operate from 7:00am to 3:30pm. We hope you will help us welcome CAP Ambassadors as you see them around downtown and throughout our campus.

GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH

TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF SARAH JOLLY

From Matthew McMillan

IN MEMORY OF NANCY HOLT

From Cindy Dillard

IN MEMORY OF JOHN PEGUES

From Thea Pegues

IN MEMORY OF RANDY HANCOCK

From Thomas William

IN MEMORY OF WILL PEGUES

From Thea Pegues

IN MEMORY OF EMILY KEITH

From Geneva Blackburn

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER AINSLEY

From AM Topping

IN MEMORY OF FLETCHER & BETTY THORINGTON

From Scott & Judee Evans
From Geneva Blackburn



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.

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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