

# CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2026



# FINDING THE GOOD



Jesus' words are easily distorted and sanitized in our modern world. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

**MARCH 1**  
**GREAT LOVE FOR**  
**GOD & NEIGHBOR**

*LUKE 7:36-50; MATTHEW 25:35-40*

**MARCH 22**  
**ROOTED IN JUSTICE,**  
**MERCY, & FAITHFULNESS**

*JOHN 8:2-11; MATTHEW 23:23*

**MARCH 8**  
**TOGETHER,**  
**THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE**

*MARK 6:32-44; EPHESIANS 3:20-21*

**MARCH 29**  
**INSPIRING US TO ACT**

*MARK 11:1-11*  
**PALM SUNDAY**

**MARCH 15**  
**PROTECTION & CARE**  
**FOR THE VULNERABLE**

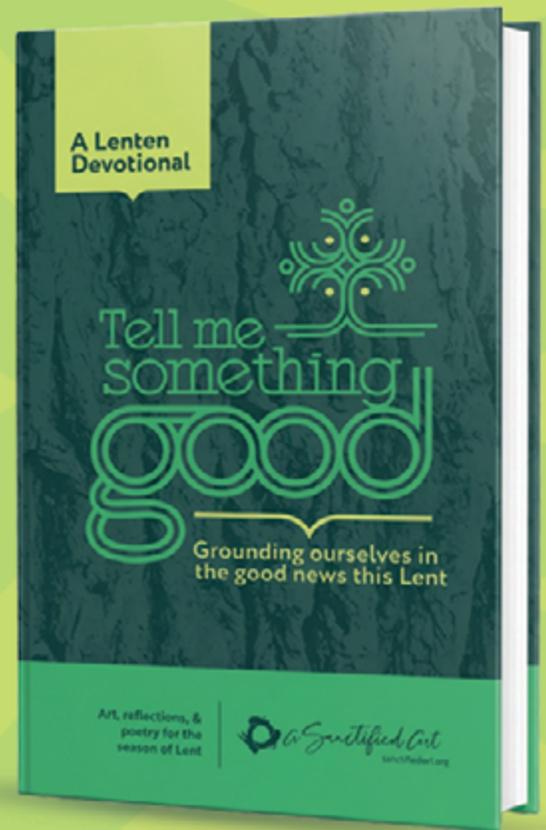
*MATTHEW 19:13-15; DEUTERONOMY 24:17-22*

**APRIL 5**  
**ALIVE IN THE WORLD**

*MATTHEW 28:1-10*  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

# Lenten DEVOTIONAL

For the past several years we have used A Sanctified Art's worship materials during the Lenten season. One of the gifts of using this material is the availability of a beautiful Lenten devotional filled with visual art, poetry, Scripture, questions, and reflections. The **DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET** is available in an e-reader format and can be accessed by computer or mobile device. *Please help A Sanctified Art protect their work by refraining from sharing this link or posting it on social media.*



## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**3.29.26 | PALM SUNDAY**  
11:00AM IN THE LOFT & SANCTUARY

**4.2.26 | MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
6:15PM IN THE LOFT

**4.3.26 | GOOD FRIDAY**  
12:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

**4.5.26 | EASTER SUNDAY**  
11:00AM IN THE LOFT & SANCTUARY



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2 | 6:15PM IN THE LOFT**

You are invited to join us for dinner at 5:15pm in the Large Dining Room before the Maundy Thursday worship service. This dinner will take the place of our normal Wednesday night meal for the week. Following dinner, you are invited to join us for worship and communion in the Loft at 6:15pm. Please click [HERE](#) to make reservations for dinner (as a reminder reservations are due on Monday, March 30 at 12:00pm). You do not have to attend dinner to come to worship. We hope you will plan on joining us for this special evening.



## GOOD FRIDAY

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AT 12:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

You are invited to join us for a Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 3 at 12:00pm in the Sanctuary as we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The word Tenebrae is Latin for “darkness” or “shadows” and describes a service that offers meditation on the suffering of Christ. Through music, dramatic readings, and the play between light and dark we will remember what it must have felt like in those moments when Christ’s death darkened the world. We invite you to join us as we hold the tension of the now and not yet that Good Friday invites us into remembering.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
10:00AM | FIRST CHURCH CAMPUS

You are invited to join us on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt here on the First Church campus. In addition to age appropriate egg hunts there will also be arts and crafts, snacks, and games. It's a great opportunity to celebrate the Easter season with friends, family, and neighbors.

We also need volunteers to help make this event possible. If you are willing to assist with placing eggs, helping at craft stations, supporting games, or serving in other areas, please reach out to [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com).

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a morning full of joy, color, and Easter delight.

SUNDAY APRIL 5

# EASTER

AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church will celebrate Easter Sunday morning with worship at 11:00am in both the Loft and Sanctuary. If you plan to attend, don't forget to bring flowers to add to our Easter Cross. Flowers can be from your home or garden (or even the grocery store!). As a reminder we have moved our flower cross to the front of our Sanctuary building along 19th Street so that it can serve as a reminder of resurrection and hope to everyone who passes our building. This is a beautiful tradition that we look forward to continuing as we celebrate Easter together.



# FIRST CHURCH 101

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – SUNDAY, MARCH 15

As we enter a new year we will offer another First Church 101 series on four consecutive Sunday morning sessions during the Sunday School hour. From 9:45am – 10:45am we will gather in the Parlor to learn more about the United Methodist Church and First Church in particular. We are excited about this opportunity to dive in and learn together. You are welcome to pick one topic to come and learn more or to join us for all four weeks. Here is the list of weeks and topics that will be covered:

SUNDAY, MARCH 1  
**WAYS TO GET PLUGGED IN**

SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
**FIRST CHURCH TOUR**

SUNDAY, MARCH 15  
**FIRST CHURCH & MEMBERSHIP**

Please click [HERE](#) to let us know you plan to attend.

*While registration is not required, it will help us make sure we have enough snacks and coffee.*

# Joining SUNDAY

**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22** we will host our next Joining Sunday in both the Loft and Sanctuary worship spaces. This is an opportunity to join the church alongside a group of people so that no one has to worry about standing up in front of the congregation alone. If you've been visiting with us at First Church and are interested in learning more about becoming a member (and have not yet attended a First Church 101), reach out to one of our pastors to see about meeting for lunch or coffee to talk more. If you are ready to join, please reach out to Katie Gilbert at [Katie@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Katie@firstchurchbhm.com).

# Wednesday Night **DINNER & PROGRAMMING**

Wednesday Nights will continue this spring through Wednesday, April 22. Please note that we will take a break from our regular schedule on Wednesday, March 25 (for Spring Break) and Wednesday, April 1 (for Holy Week). We will replace April 1 with dinner on April 2 before our Maundy Thursday service.

As a reminder, dinner begins at 5:15pm and is followed by programming at 6:15pm. The nursery opens at 5:45pm and programming for children begins at 6:00pm. Dinner reservations are due every week by Monday at noon. We are unable to issue refunds and unable to move reservations after Monday's deadline. You can sign up for dinners [HERE](#) and view our spring small group offerings [HERE](#).

# MAKER'S MONTH

Join us on Wednesdays, April 8, 15, and 22 for "Maker's Month," a series of craft nights in collaboration with local makers including Kait Clemmons of Vernal Florals (floral arranging) and Josh Miller of Wild Goose Garden (pottery). In order to compensate these artists and provide supplies, we are asking participants to pay \$45 which covers the cost for all three weeks. Click [HERE](#) to register now.

# SENIOR LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 AT 11:30AM  
IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

We are inviting our senior members (and all who love them!) to join us for lunch on Thursday, March 5 at 11:30am. If you are interested in attending our Senior Lunch, either because you are a senior congregant or because you enjoy being with these friends too, please click [HERE](#) to make a reservation or contact Peg Thompson in our Church Office at 205-254-3186. Deana Solfronk will prepare our meal and the cost is \$10 per person. In addition to good food, we will have the opportunity to enjoy some good music together as well.

## PARENT'S NIGHT OUT A MAGICAL NIGHT OF FUN!

Join us on Saturday, March 14 from 4:30pm to 8:00pm for a special evening featuring Brandon Herring Magic! Brandon, who many of our families may remember from Arts Camp, will be joining us for an interactive magic show where children won't just watch the magic, they'll get to participate and learn a few tricks of their own.

Children ages 6 months through 5th grade are invited to spend the evening enjoying games, activities, dinner, and this one-of-a-kind magic experience, all in a safe and fun environment with our caring staff and volunteers.

The cost is \$25 per child. Spots fill quickly, so be sure to register soon to save your child's place. Register your child [HERE](#) now or email [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com) with any questions.

MONDAY, JUNE 1 - THURSDAY, JUNE 4

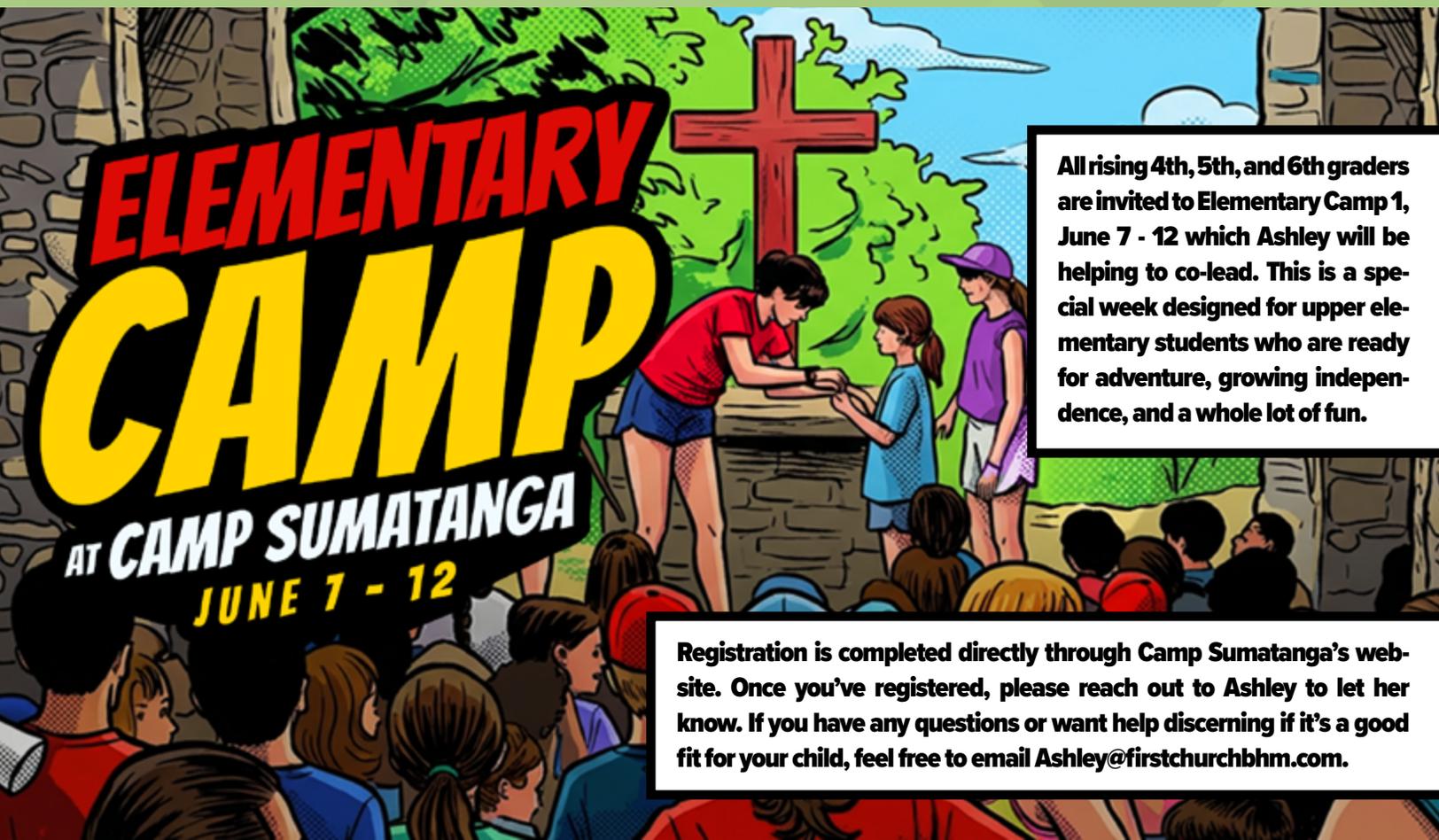
# Creation Camp



Designed for children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade, Creation Camp is a First Church spin on Gross Out Camp that we have participated in over the past several years. It will keep the same fun, hands-on spirit with a renewed focus on creation care, curiosity, and outdoor learning.

Creation Camp will run daily June 1-4 from 8:30am – 4:00pm with transportation provided from the church. Ashley along with Hanna and Bill Schock will lead outdoor creek experiences and teaching experiments. The kids will spend their days exploring the outdoors, getting muddy, asking big questions, and learning how humans can help care for God's creation.

The cost for the week is \$130 and will include water, a camp t-shirt, and an afternoon snack. Children will need to bring a sack lunch and morning snack each day. Click [HERE](#) to register your child now. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com).



## ELEMENTARY CAMP AT CAMP SUMATANGA JUNE 7 - 12

All rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to Elementary Camp 1, June 7 - 12 which Ashley will be helping to co-lead. This is a special week designed for upper elementary students who are ready for adventure, growing independence, and a whole lot of fun.

Registration is completed directly through Camp Sumatanga's website. Once you've registered, please reach out to Ashley to let her know. If you have any questions or want help discerning if it's a good fit for your child, feel free to email [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com).

# Youth SUMMER Trip

Our youth are headed out for an unforgettable summer adventure June 15–17. Students will meet at the church at 8:00am to kick off a high-energy trip packed with fun, connection, and memory-making experiences.

This trip includes a visit to Six Flags, Beat the Bomb Atlanta, and an Atlanta Braves game. The cost for the trip is \$175, which includes some of our meals along the way. Spots are limited to 20 total participants (students and adults) and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Click [HERE](#) to register now.

## COUNSELORS IN TRAINING

NEEDED SUMMER 2026

We are excited to invite our youth to be part of something meaningful and fun this summer by serving as Counselors in Training (CITs) for two of our biggest children's events of the year.

Creation Camp will take place June 1–4 and Arts Camp will be held July 13–16. These camps bring together dozens of children for days filled with creativity, faith, friendship, and discovery — and they are even better when our youth step in to lead alongside our adult volunteers.

Counselors in Training will help provide guidance, leadership, and lots of fun for our younger kids by assisting with small groups, games, crafts, and activities. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to grow in confidence, responsibility, and connection to our church community while making a real difference in the lives of children. If you have a youth who would be interested in being part of this program this summer, please reach out to [Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com) to learn more and get signed up.



# UPDATE YOUR **CONTACT** **INFORMATION**

We know a lot can change over time. 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**

9:45am **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

11:00am **LOFT & SANCTUARY IN PERSON WORSHIP**

11:00am **LIVE STREAM**

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**

518 North 19th Street • Birmingham AL 35203  
205-254-3186 • [www.firstchurchbhm.com](http://www.firstchurchbhm.com)