

CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2026

**EXPERIENCING
THE RESURRECTION**

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.



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.

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



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.

LIVING THE RESURRECTION

Nobody expected Jesus to rise from the dead. Who could blame them? Death is one thing in life we can count on being permanent. So, when Jesus shows up with the disciples after his death, they're frightened and doubt what they're seeing. If death is defeated, we must question everything we thought we knew. As the reality of resurrection sinks in, the disciples discover beautiful diversity in God as women become the first preachers of the resurrection. They discover that doubts do not scare God away, rather God meets us as we embrace tough questions. Jesus calls the disciples to a love that has no boundaries or borders. Even after the disciples denied and deserted Jesus, he showed up on the shores of the Sea of Galilee to share breakfast. This Easter season, in the midst of wars, division, and political unrest, the resurrection reminds us that love wins!

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
**JESUS APPEARS
TO MARY MAGDALENE**

John 20:11-18

.....

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
DOUBTING THOMAS

John 20:19-29

.....

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
**JESUS APPEARS
TO THE DISCIPLES**

Luke 24:36-49

.....

SUNDAY, MAY 3
BREAKFAST IN GALILEE

John 21:1-14



Double **YOUR IMPACT**

When we passed our 2026 budget, we did so with a projected deficit of \$133,510. In recent weeks, a generous donor has offered the opportunity to match up to \$67,000 and balance our budget for the coming year. For six weeks this Spring, from Sunday, April 5 through Sunday, May 10, you will have the opportunity to Double Your Impact. Every gift given beyond your 2026 pledge will be matched dollar for dollar. This is a wonderful opportunity to magnify the impact of your generosity in the coming year. Click [HERE](#) and select the “Double Your Impact” fund to make your gift now.

Wednesday Night **DINNER & PROGRAMMING**

Wednesday Nights will continue until April 22. As a reminder, we will not meet for dinner on April 1 due to Holy Week. Instead, we will have dinner before our Maundy Thursday service on April 2. On Wednesday, April 8 we will launch our small groups for the month featuring, "The Atonement: What Did Jesus Say?" and our Maker's Month group featuring local artists.

Dinner will begin at 5:15pm on Wednesdays 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. Please note that we are unable to issue refunds and are 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 in April (8th, 15th, and 22nd) for "Maker's Month," a series of crafts in collaboration with local makers and church members including Kait Clemmons of Vernal Florals who will lead us in floral arranging, and Josh Miller of Wild Goose Garden who will lead us in pottery making. To fairly compensate these artists and be able to provide enough supplies for our group, we are asking participants to pay \$45 when signing up. Click [HERE](#) to register.

EARTH DAY HIKE

AT RED MOUNTAIN PARK

Join us for a church-wide hike (weather permitting) on Saturday, April 18. We'll plan to meet at the Red Mountain Park Venice Road entrance (2019 Venice Road, Birmingham, AL 35211) at 9:00am to soak up some beautiful Spring weather together. This hike is open to all ages, hiking levels, and furry friends. Sign up [HERE](#) to let us know you're coming. Please reach out to Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com with any questions.

Pride

PLANNING MEETING

We are inviting all those interested in learning more about Pride at First Church to attend a planning meeting **AFTER WORSHIP** on **APRIL 19** in the Loft Lounge. In this meeting we will share important dates and activities related to Pride, ways to volunteer, and brainstorm ideas for upcoming events. If you have any questions, please email Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com.

C H U R C H W I D E

Spring Cleaning

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:00am – 11:00am

We are excited to announce a Church-wide Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 25 and would love for you to join us. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the church through service, ensuring our facilities remain a welcoming and beautiful space for worship and community. Beyond the work, it will be a time of fellowship as we labor side by side. Whether you can help carry things to a dumpster or prefer indoor organizing and cleaning, we have a task for everyone. Please wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty. We'll meet in the courtyard at 9:00am and plan to wrap up by 11:00am.

MONDAY, JUNE 1 - THURSDAY, JUNE 4



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.



Arts Camp will take place **MONDAY, JULY 13 - FRIDAY, JULY 17** from 9:00am – 1:00pm. We are returning to a five-day format so kids can dive even deeper into the creative process. Lunch will be served daily so campers can refuel before jumping back into the fun. Arts Camp is open to children who have completed 4K through teens.

Our theme is “The Creation Project.” For one week, our church will transform into a working production lot—First Church Studios—where creativity, collaboration, and imagination take center stage. Throughout the week, children will have the opportunity to explore theater, dance, visual art, and video, learning what it takes to bring a production to life. Whether your child loves being on stage, prefers creating behind the scenes, enjoys painting and designing, or is curious about storytelling through film, there will be a place for them to shine.

Campers will work together, learn new skills, and discover new ways to express their creativity. Along the way, we’ll reflect on how God’s very first creative project—a garden—reminds us that beautiful things grow through diversity, collaboration, and care. The week will build toward a special celebration where families can see what the children have created together.

The cost for the week is \$85 with an additional \$40 for optional aftercare which will run from 1:00pm – 4:00pm each day. **REGISTRATION** is now open. We encourage families to sign up early so your child doesn’t miss out on this creative, laughter-filled week.



ARTS CAMP VOLUNTEER MEETING

4.12.26

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
IN LARGE DINING ROOM

As you read above, Arts Camp (July 13–17) is taking on a new creative vision with the theme, “The Creation Project.” To help bring this vision to life, we’re inviting adults to join us for an Arts Camp Volunteer Gathering and lunch on Sunday, April 12, immediately following worship. This will be a chance to hear more about the direction of camp, learn about the different creative areas, and discover how your gifts and interests can help mentor and encourage kids during the week. Whether you enjoy performing, creating, organizing, or supporting behind the scenes, there will be a place for you. If you plan to join us for lunch, please sign up [HERE](#).

Youth SUMMER MER 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.

New!



AA MEETING

We are pleased to announce that First Church will begin hosting an open AA meeting on Thursdays in the First Church Parlor from 5:15pm - 6:15pm, beginning Thursday, April 9. The meeting will be followed by a time for building connection from 6:15pm - 6:45pm. Anyone is welcome to join. For questions or more information, contact Bert Pitts at drbertpitts@aol.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**

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