

CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2026

CELEBRATING

ALL

PRIDE SIGN MAKING

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 | 5:30PM

AT MONDAY NIGHT BREWING

We're gathering at Monday Night Brewing on Thursday, June 11, at 5:30pm for an evening of creativity, community, and celebration as we gear up for the Pride Parade. Monday Night has a wide selection of food and drinks with plenty of non-alcoholic options available. **ALL AGES are WELCOME!**

Bring your own supplies – posters, markers, glitter, and anything else you'd like – and get ready to create something fabulous. We can't wait to see you there!

Pride PARADE '26

6.13

THIS YEAR, CENTRAL ALABAMA PRIDE IS CELEBRATING 48 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.

PRIDE FEST '26

6.14.26

IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PARADE, WE WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT PRIDEFEST ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14 WHICH BEGINS AT 12:00PM AT LINN PARK.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

www.firstchurchbham.com

GET YOUR PRIDE SWAG!

NEED SOME FRESH "GOD IS LOVE" OR
"OPEN FOR Y'ALL" SWAG FOR PRIDE?
VISIT OUR REDBUBBLE SHOP TO ORDER
ANYTHING YOUR HEART DESIRES!

[SHOP HERE](#)



PRIDE

SILENT

DISCO

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | 4:00PM - 5:30PM

Help us celebrate Pride Month on Sunday, June 28, from 4:00pm-5:30pm for a Silent Disco! We'll gather at The Upstairs at Avondale (201 41st St S, Birmingham, AL 35222) which is located and accessible by staircase or elevator on the side of Avondale Brewing's building. The Upstairs has a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and there are several restaurants within walking distance to have dinner afterwards. You are welcome to come, drink, silently disco-dance with your friends, or just be in fellowship if that's more up your alley.

Because this is our first time hosting a Silent Disco at this venue, we would love for you to let us know you're coming. Registration is not required to attend, but providing an estimated headcount will help our team and Avondale prepare the best possible experience for you. Please **REGISTER** your party and email Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com with any questions.

QUEERLY  *Beloved*

S M A L L G R O U P

As we celebrate Pride this month, we also want to let you know that our Queerly Beloved small group will return this fall as an ongoing class offered on Wednesday nights. Look for more information later this year when the fall options and class lineup for Wednesday Night Dinner & Programming are announced. Queerly Beloved, subtitled No Straight Answers, is an LGBTQIA+ led and centered group, but allies are always welcome. Please reach out to Jordan Pittman at jordan.g.pittman@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in participating.

JESUS *at The Lake*

This June, as school fades away and temperatures rise, our thoughts might turn to the lake. It's time for swimming, fishing, boating, and losing all our cares in cool, refreshing lake water. So, for our June sermon series, we're heading to the Lake with Jesus—or at least bringing stories of the lake to us. Much of Jesus' ministry happened around the Sea of Galilee, a freshwater lake, about 17 miles in circumference, formed by the melted snow of Mt. Hermon flowing into it through the Jordan River. That lake gave life to the whole region of the Galilee and this June we'll look to those stories to enliven our faith and renew our calling to be an Open Place for ALL to Worship, Grow, and Serve. We hope you'll come walk by the waters with Jesus, and maybe on them, as we continue to strive for a world where all are welcomed, affirmed, and honored. As we worship this month, may we renew our call to share God's love with all of creation.

JUNE 7 | JESUS IS CALLING YOU

LUKE 5:1-10

JUNE 14 | IN A BOAT, ON A LAKE, IN A STORM

MATTHEW 8:23-27

JUNE 21 | THE MAN AMONG THE TOMBS

MARK 5:1-20

JUNE 28 | YES WE CAN!

MATTHEW 14:22-33



CHURCH - W I D E
POOL
PARTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 6 | 6:15PM
AT WEST HOMEWOOD PATRIOT POOL

Join us for a fun and relaxing evening at our Church-Wide Pool Party on Saturday, June 6 from 6:15pm to 8:15pm at West Patriot Pool (800 Oak Grove Rd, Homewood, AL 35209). Whether you want to swim, sit poolside and visit with friends, or simply enjoy a sweet treat, there's something for everyone. We'll have desserts to share, plenty of space to relax, and lots of time for fellowship. All are welcome—families, individuals, kids, youth, and adults alike. Best of all, this is a free event. Bring a towel, invite a friend, and come enjoy a great evening with your church community. We can't wait to see you there!



Double YOUR **IMPACT**

FIRST CHURCH MATCHING GRANT CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Double Your Impact campaign. Together we raised a total of **\$147,747.63** which not only eliminates our projected deficit for the coming year but exceeds our original matching goal. Your gifts will help us to meet the financial needs of our growing church. In a world that too often marginalizes people created in the image of God, we are grateful for all of the ways you invest in being an Open Place for ALL to worship, grow, and serve. Thank you!



First Church

SUMMER

BOOK CLUB



This summer we are looking forward to trying something new by hosting a monthly book club while we are on a break from our regular Wednesday Night Programming. Join us on the 2nd Wednesday nights of the month – June 10, July 8, and August 12 – at 6:00pm in the Parlor for a time to come together and talk about books we love. Because we know that some of you might like to read ahead, we are sharing the books now so that all you book-lovers can get a head start before summer arrives.

JUNE 10

The Parable of the Sower

BY OCTAVIA BUTLER

JULY 8

Remarkably Bright Creatures

BY SHELBY VAN PELT

AUGUST 12

Theo of Golden

BY ALAN LEVI

We would love to know you're coming so click [HERE](#) to sign up now.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

MANNA & MERCY RETREAT



Manna and Mercy is the theological foundation for our mission statement and six priorities at First Church. It undergirds everything we do. During this weekend, we will journey through the whole Bible— from Genesis to Revelation – using Daniel Erlander’s book Manna and Mercy as our guide.

Over the course of the retreat, we will:

- Learn how the original context shapes the meaning of Scripture
- Read the Bible through the lens of Jesus’ life, teaching, death, and resurrection
- Learn that we value inclusivity and social justice not in spite of the Bible but because of it
- Be challenged to live in a way that brings life to ourselves, our families, & to the whole world
- Live into our identities as God’s children created in love, by love, and for love

This retreat will take place in the Loft at First Church August 14 - 16 and will be led by our First Church pastoral staff. The cost is \$75 which covers your Manna and Mercy book, lunch on both Saturday and Sunday, as well as snacks and coffee throughout the weekend. We will begin on Friday evening, August 14 with Session 1 and then reconvene on Saturday, August 15 from approximately 9:00am – 5:00pm with Sessions 2 and 3, and conclude on Sunday, August 16 with lunch after worship and Session 4 from approximately 1:00pm – 2:30pm.

Click **HERE** to register to join us.

July **SCHEDULE & SERMON SERIES**

As we look ahead to the remainder of our summer, we want to share information about our July sermon series as well as invite you to make note of our adjusted schedule for Sunday mornings. During July our Sunday School classes will meet together in the Large Dining Room to hear from four different First Church authors (more details to come). Then, in worship, we will use movies to guide our conversations about life and faith in the world today. We are sharing this list now in case you need to spend this month catching up on the movies you've missed!



This summer we're heading to the movies! Join us for worship in July for Summer at the Movies, a fun and meaningful sermon series where we'll explore powerful themes from some of our favorite films and connect them to our faith journey. Whether you're a movie lover or just curious, there's a seat for you. Grab a friend and come experience the stories of cinema that inspire, challenge, and remind us of who we are called to be.

7.5 | BARBIE

GENESIS 3:1-7, PSALM 139

Combined in the Sanctuary – Katie Gilbert preaching

7.12 | K-POP DEMON HUNTERS

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Combined in the Sanctuary – Rea Green preaching

7.19 | FERNGULLY: THE LAST RAINFOREST

GENESIS 1 & PSALM 104

Combined in the Loft – Jonathan Goss preaching

7.26 | SISTER ACT

MATTHEW 5:14-16

Combined in the Loft – Kevin Thomas preaching



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.

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.



GET READY

for one of the best weeks of the summer — our Youth Summer Trip is just around the corner on July 20–23! This year we’re heading to YMCA Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, Alabama, and we’re inviting all rising 6th through 12th graders to come along for an unforgettable adventure. Throughout the week, youth will jump into classic camp activities on the water and around camp, build friendships, and compete in team challenges that will keep the energy high. Expect plenty of laughter, late-night conversations, and the kind of moments that turn into stories our youth will tell for years.

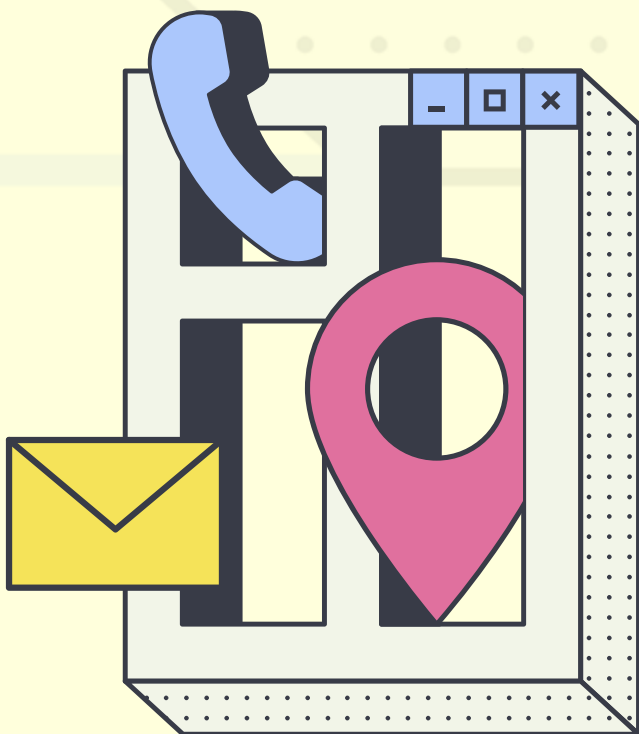
One of the highlights of the trip will be a full day at Montgomery Whitewater, where students will experience the thrill of whitewater rafting together.

The cost of the trip is \$150 and includes all meals, whitewater rafting, and all lake activities for the week. Click [HERE](#) to sign up now. Please contact Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com for any questions.



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.



UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION FORM FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

We are so grateful for each and every child and student who is part of our church family. In order to care for them well and create a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment, we are asking all families to take a few moments to complete our updated **CHILDREN & YOUTH INFORMATION FORM**. This form helps us celebrate your children in meaningful ways, like recognizing birthdays, while also equipping our team with important details such as allergies, accessibility needs, and any behavioral or developmental information that will help us support your child with care and intention. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

"WHAT MAKES YOU
COME ALIVE?"

This fall the Academy for Spiritual Formation is hosting a 4-day opportunity from October 5-9 at Camp Sumatanga. This year's theme is Alive with Christ and the speakers will be Dr. Luther Smith and Nathan and Vivianne Foster. We will explore Howard Thurman's question: "What makes you come alive?" Click [HERE](#) to read more and register now.

Please reach out to Hanna Schock at hannaschock@bellsouth.net for questions.

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
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an OPEN place for ALL to **WORSHIP, GROW,** and **SERVE**

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