



CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2026

GIVING THANKS



UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. In this worship series, we'll explore four stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

11.1 | LETTING GO
EXODUS 1:22; 2:1-10

11.8 | GRIEF THAT INSPIRES ACTION
2 SAMUEL 3:7; 21:1-14

11.15 | LAMENT & LOSS
JOB 28:12-28

11.22 | IN ALL THINGS, GIVE THANKS
JEREMIAH 29:1-7



ALL SAINTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
IN THE LOFT AND SANCTUARY SERVICES

During both worship services on Sunday, November 1, we will remember our loved ones who passed away in the last year. This is a sacred time for us to gather with the "great crowd of witnesses" to be encouraged by their witness as we follow after their example in building God's kingdom on earth.



Joining SUNDAY

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 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 or cannot make the final Sunday in October), reach out to one of our pastors to see about meeting for lunch or coffee to talk more. If you are ready to join (and we hope you are!), please reach out to Katie Gilbert at Katie@firstchurchbhm.com.

Wednesday Night **DINNER & PROGRAMMING**

Please make note of our upcoming Wednesday Night schedule. There will be no dinner and programming on Wednesdays, November 11 (Veteran's Day) and 25 (Thanksgiving holiday). Then, on Wednesday nights, November 18 and December 2, Josh Miller will be hosting another set of Makers Nights!

We will gather in the Large Dining Room to make ornaments on November 18 and then glaze them on December 2. Registration is \$35 per person and must be made by November 10. Click [HERE](#) to sign up now.

If you do not want to make ornaments, you are invited to join Dallas Vice and Jackson Dean to grab a drink after dinner on these dates! Please let them know you are planning to join by emailing Rea Green at Rea@firstchurchbhm.com.

FIRST CHURCH **Dinner groups**

As we get back into the swing of Fall, we are continuing with our dinner groups! Dinner groups are a once a month gathering of 12-15 folks from First Church. They are an excellent way to get to know one another, as well as build community. We have open slots in our new dinner groups, so if you are interested in joining, please sign up [HERE](#). Our groups are divided by location and day/time of the week, so once you sign up, your dinner group leader will reach out to you. Please email Rea (rea@firstchurchbhm.com) with any questions.

WOMEN — AT THE — TABLE

THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 12, & DECEMBER 10

6:00PM – 8:00PM | IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

This November and December all women and female-identifying persons are invited to gather around the table for good food, building connection, and meaningful conversation. Hosted by Katie Gilbert and Laura Quick, each gathering will begin with dinner followed by a short fireside chat to initiate meaningful conversation. Our current planned gatherings will take place on Thursdays, November 12 and December 10 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the Large Dining Room.

Click [**HERE**](#) to read more & to sign up to join us



PAST FORWARD

SMALL GROUP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AFTER WORSHIP

Join us after worship on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15** in the Large Dining Room for lunch and a respectful dialogue about why we are divided as human beings, how our shared history continues to affect us, and what it might look like to begin healing history. We will have lunch together and then Mollie Erickson and Kathy Boswell will lead us in this activity. Click [**HERE**](#) to read more now and register to join us.

On Sunday, November 8,

our confirmands will worship with and serve lunch to our neighbors at Church of the Reconciler. This special project offers our students an opportunity to put their faith into action through service, shared worship, & building relationships.

We invite any other youth and parents who would like to participate to join us! We will meet at First Church and caravan to Church of the Reconciler, leaving by 9:15am. Please arrive a few minutes early and plan to participate until 12:30pm.



CONFIRMATION IN *Action*

SERVING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

If you or your family plan to attend, please email Ashley at Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com.

We look forward to sharing
this meaningful morning together!



YOUTH ADVENT DECORATING LUNCH & MOVIES TO SEE EBENEZER: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Join us on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22** for an afternoon of Advent preparation and a trip to the movies! Youth are encouraged to stay after worship to help decorate for Advent, then enjoy lunch at 1:00pm and a trip to the AMC Vestavia to see Ebenezer featuring Johnny Depp. Once movie showtimes are available, we'll share the schedule and pickup time (parents will need to pick up at AMC Vestavia). Registration is required by **Sunday, November 15** and can be made by clicking [HERE](#).



KIDS AT PLAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 10:00AM

First Church is hosting a Kids at Play event at Veteran's Park in Hoover. We invite you to meet Morgan, her daughter, and other community members for a morning of fun in this fall weather! Bring your kids, or yourself if you are a kid at heart, between 10:00am and 12:00pm to go for a mini hike, play on the playground, and build community. Please bring your own snacks and come enjoy some time outside!

Family Advent Event

Families are invited to join us for an Advent workshop following worship on Sunday, December 6 in the Large Dining Room. Morgan will lead us in creating an Advent wreath to keep at home, and together we will learn about the message of hope and celebrate the holiday season. Lunch will be served, so come hungry and ready to kick off December with us! Click [HERE](#) to sign up now.



2026 *Advent* CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

11:00AM - First Sunday in Advent (*Sanctuary & Loft*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

11:00am - Second Sunday in Advent (*Sanctuary & Loft*)

12:00pm - Family Advent Event (*Large Dining Room*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00pm - Christmas Caroling (*Fair Haven*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

11:00am - Third Sunday in Advent (*Sanctuary & Loft*)

4:00pm - Beers & Carols (*Monday Night Brewing*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

11:00am - Fourth Sunday in Advent (*Sanctuary & Loft*)

6:00pm - Longest Night Service (*Sanctuary*)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:30pm - Christmas Eve Service (*Loft*)

5:30pm - Christmas Eve Service (*Sanctuary*)

Christmas CAROLING

AT Fair Haven

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Last year we had such a wonderful evening of singing carols and visiting friends at Fair Haven that we are bringing it back again this year! On Wednesday, December 9 you are invited to meet us at the main entrance of Fair Haven Senior Living Center (1424 Montclair Rd, Birmingham, AL 35210) at 6:00pm to go caroling around the halls of the community. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to join us and help spread cheer this holiday season.





Each year Project 12/25 focuses on making the holidays more meaningful for our most vulnerable neighbors. We found last year's partnership with The Arc of Central Alabama so meaningful that we are excited to partner with them again for their "Gifts for All" initiative!

Through this initiative, The Arc helps fulfill holiday wants and needs for individuals living in their residential housing, many of whom do not have families of their own. Our church will sponsor 30 individuals, providing gifts based on their personal wish lists.

Click [**HERE**](#) to sign up to shop for an individual. If you are unable to shop, we invite you to give to Project 12/25 and we will shop on your behalf. Click [**HERE**](#) and select the "Project 12/25" fund to donate.

Thank you for helping our neighbors feel remembered, valued, and celebrated this Christmas!



ADVENT Decorations

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, FOLLOWING WORSHIP



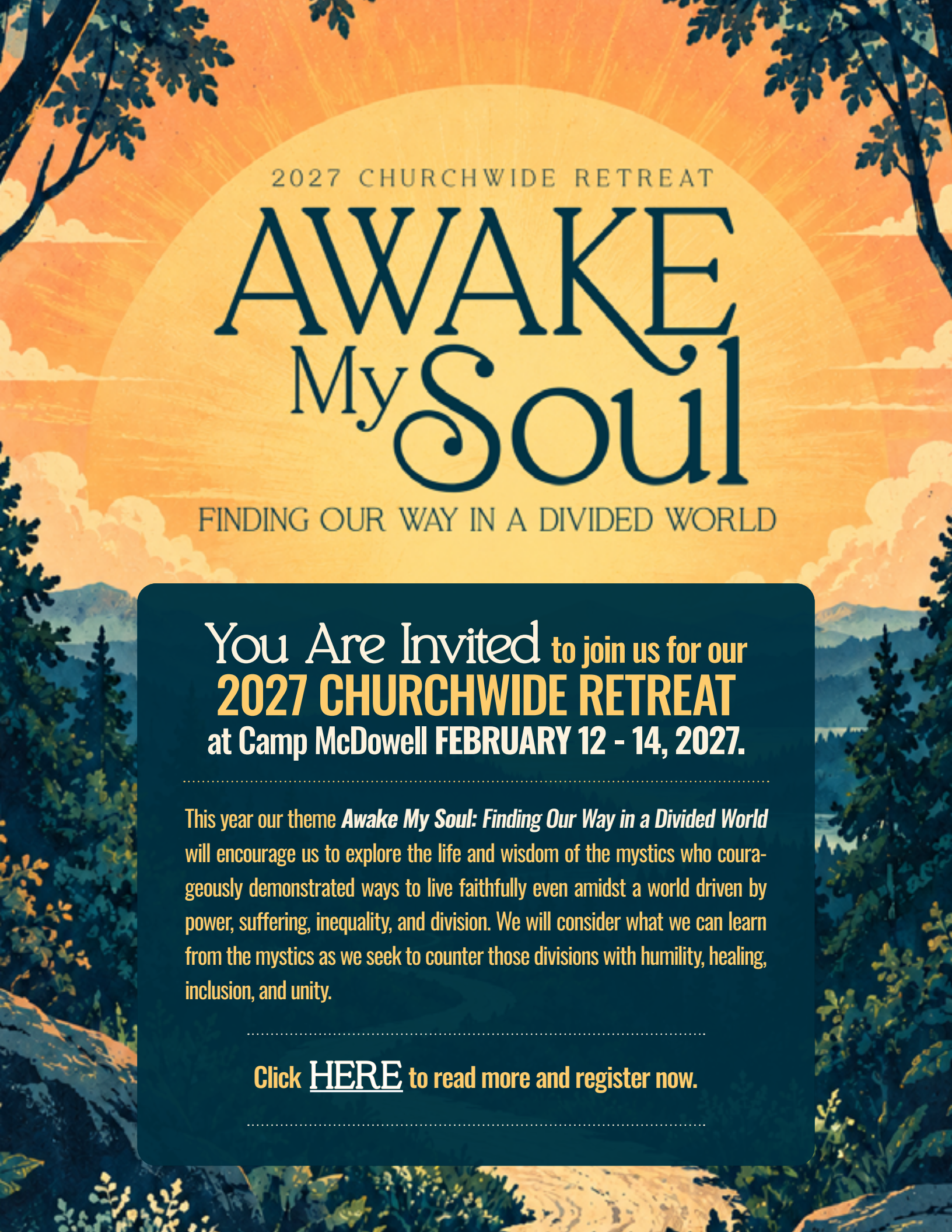
Join your church family after worship to help decorate for Advent. You are welcome to bring a lunch from home if you choose and then help us get to work adorning our church for Advent. The Sanctuary, Loft, and Welcome Center will have trees, bows, garland, and wreaths to be hung. With many hands this work is easier, more fun, and finished before 2:00pm.



CHRISTMAS EVE FLOWERS

This Advent season you have the opportunity to remember or honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to decorate our altar on Christmas Eve. You are invited to take your flower home with you at the conclusion of worship on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are available for \$18 each. We will be taking orders until we run out or until the end of the day **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6.**

Click [HERE](#) to place your order now.



2027 CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

AWAKE My Soul

FINDING OUR WAY IN A DIVIDED WORLD

You Are Invited to join us for our
2027 CHURCHWIDE RETREAT
at Camp McDowell FEBRUARY 12 - 14, 2027.

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This year our theme *Awake My Soul: Finding Our Way in a Divided World* will encourage us to explore the life and wisdom of the mystics who courageously demonstrated ways to live faithfully even amidst a world driven by power, suffering, inequality, and division. We will consider what we can learn from the mystics as we seek to counter those divisions with humility, healing, inclusion, and unity.

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

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EVERY **4TH SUNDAY** OF THE MONTH

Packing
SACK LUNCHES
FOR *CHURCH OF THE Reconciler*

On every 4th Sunday of the month we will pack sack lunches for Church of the Reconciler. Join us on Sunday, November 22, immediately following worship in the Large Dining Room to make sandwiches and pack lunches for our neighbors. All are welcome to stay and lend a hand!

You can also help by purchasing needed supplies. Donation tickets listing the items we need will be available after worship on Sunday, November 8. Pick up a ticket and help us prepare for this shared ministry of care!

JULY 2027

PANAMA
★ LEARN AND SERVE ★

First Church plans to return to Panama in July 2027 and we are beginning the work of building a team. Panama is a beautiful country, with even greater beauty in its people. First Church has been deeply connected to Panama and the people there for over 16 years. Our connection is through a United Methodist missionary, Rhett Thompson, who has served in Panama for over 35 years. Rhett has connected us with people in Panama whom we now know by name. Through these connections, many folks here at First Church have had life-changing experiences in Panama. A \$50 deposit is due by January 30, 2027. If you have any questions, please email Jonathan@firstchurchbhm.com.

CLICK [**HERE**](#) TO READ MORE AND SIGN UP NOW.

FIRST CHURCH NIGHT AT

SWEENEY TODD

This November you are invited to join our neighbors at Terrific New Theater (2112 5th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203) for a production of Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd featuring our very own Patrick Evans and Caleb Clark with Richard Byrd on the keyboard. We are encouraging anyone who wants to join us to purchase tickets for the 7:30pm show on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**. Tickets are available for purchase by clicking [HERE](#). Anyone who would like to join us is invited to park in our back lot and walk over to the theater around 6:40pm. If you plan to attend please email Katie@firstchurchbhm.com to let us know.

Please note that while this is a brilliant musical there are some difficult themes as it is based on a Victorian horror story. It is not suitable for children. If you have specific questions about the content, please reach out to Patrick Evans at Patrick@firstchurchbhm.com.

THANK YOU

As we continue to grow more fully into living a generous life, we celebrate that we have already received more than half of the number of pledges we had in 2026. Thank you! We are grateful for the ways you are seeking to give with intention and hope for what is still ahead. While these gifts have created a firm foundation, we still have ground to cover to meet our growing budget. Click [HERE](#) to make your 2027 pledge now.



CHARGE CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 6:00PM

Every year we gather as a community of faith to celebrate all that we have accomplished in the past year, nominate and approve new lay leadership, as well as ratify parts of our annual operating budget. On Tuesday, December 1, our District Superintendent, Mary Henley, will lead this year's Charge Conference in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend. We hope you will make plans to join us.

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

KEVIN THOMAS Senior Pastor	Kevin@firstchurchbhm.com
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an OPEN place for ALL to **WORSHIP, GROW,** and **SERVE**

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