

JUNE 2024

CONNECTIONS



CELEBRATING
A NEW DAY

A vibrant background image showing a crowd of people at a Pride event. In the foreground, a large, colorful rainbow flag is partially visible. The overall scene is festive and celebratory.

Pride

PARADE 2024

HAPPY PRIDE! THIS YEAR CENTRAL ALABAMA PRIDE IS CELEBRATING 46 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.

A colorful background featuring a large rainbow arching across the top. Several circular rainbow patterns are scattered throughout the scene. The overall aesthetic is bright and celebratory.

PRIDE FEST '24

IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PRIDE PARADE, WE WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT PRIDEFEST ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9 WHICH BEGINS AT 11:00AM AT LINN PARK.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE MICHAEL CONWAY
ANNUAL DISPLAY OF THE

AIDS MEMORIAL

QUILT

Woodlawn UMC is once again hosting the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display during Pride week. You are invited to come and see the display at Woodlawn (139 54th St N) on any of the following dates and times: Wednesday, June 5 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Thursday, June 6 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Friday, June 7 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Saturday, June 8 from 10:00am - 4:00pm, and Sunday, June 9 from 1:00pm-4:00pm. They are also looking for volunteers to help with the display. Contact Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com if you are interested in signing up to help.

INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6:00PM

THE SOUTHSIDE INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES IS HOSTING AN INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6:00PM AT WOODLAWN UMC. MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE SO WE HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER COMING TO SUPPORT THEM AS WELL AS THE BROADER INTERFAITH COMMUNITY FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE.

imagine

an OPEN PLACE for ALL

Over a decade ago, First Church identified 6 priorities that are central to who we are and who we want to be. These priorities help us decide what we say “yes” to and what we say “no” to as we seek to live out our mission statement to be “an OPEN place for ALL to worship, grow, and serve.” When people join into the membership of our church not only do they make a covenant vow to uphold this part of God’s Kin-dom with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, but they also affirm that they plan to do that by committing to a life of faith that seeks to be an OPEN place for ALL by living out our 6 priorities.

In this sermon series we will spend time each week reflecting on these priorities, their groundedness in Scripture, and how we might embody them. Different artists from within our congregation have created art that portrays the individual priorities so that together we might imagine the expansive ways we can understand them. Their art is now displayed in the Education Building for all to see. This sermon series is truly a work of art by our congregation. Each week we will reflect upon the art lovingly offered by people in our community as we study the meaning of these priorities in our individual lives and in the life of our church.

Click [HERE](#) to see the art and read the artists’ descriptions.

JUNE 2 *
**Encouraging
Authenticity**

ESTHER 7:1-6, COLOSSIANS 3:1-14

JUNE 9
**Creating an
Inclusive Community**

RUTH 4:13-17, ACTS 10

JUNE 16
Doing Justice

ISAIAH 2:1-5, AMOS 5: 18-24

JUNE 23
**Embodying
Diversity**

JOHN 10:7-16, REV. 7:1-10

JUNE 30
**Practicing
Hospitality**

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13, LUKE 10:25-37

JULY 7
**Embracing
Tough Questions**

PSALM 22, MARK 7:24-30

LAITY SUNDAY *

imagine GUEST PREACHERS

JUNE 2:
David Olsen
(SANCTUARY)

JUNE 2:
Barry Cole
(LOFT)

JUNE 9:
Isaac Guazo
(SANCTUARY)

JUNE 30:
Stephanie Heupel
(SANCTUARY)

THE
imagine
art gallery

ARTIST RECEPTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 | 12:00PM-1:00PM

Join us after worship on Sunday, June 2, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm for a reception thanking our church family artists for their incredible gifts that are displayed in our Education Building. Grab a cup of lemonade and a cookie as you explore the art and talk to the artists about their creation. Likewise, if you are an artist who would like to offer a work of art that embodies one of our priorities, please contact Stephanie York Arnold at Stephanie@firstchurchbhm.com.

THE POWER OF Plant-Based LIVING

A SUMMER SMALL GROUP

You're invited to join us every other Thursday evening from June 6 through August 8 as we explore the ways in which plant-based living can benefit our health, world, and environment. The hope of this group is to inspire the act of looking at all facets of plant-based eating – the ethical, humanitarian, nutritional, and environmental implications – and to equip members with tools to modify their lifestyle however they see fit. This group is open and welcome to anyone - from devoted plant-based individuals to those who are simply curious. You'll hear from experts on different topics such as ethical farming, nutrition, carbon emissions, and more. Sign-ups are highly encouraged for this group as we will need a head count for meals each meeting (all meals will be plant-based).

You can register [HERE](#) or email Katherine@firstchurchbhm.com for any questions.

FIRST CHURCH

POOL Party

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 & JULY 19
FROM 6:15PM - 8:15PM

We are excited to host two fantastic pool parties at the West Homewood Pool (710 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL 35209). Mark your calendars for Friday, June 14 and July 19 from 6:15pm - 8:15pm. Our pool parties are family friendly events, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for children and parents alike. So grab your swimsuits, pack your towels, and join us at the West Homewood Pool for two nights of laughter, splashes, and great memories. We look forward to seeing you there. Who knows, we might even have a cannonball contest.



THURSDAY, JULY 11
8:00AM – 4:00PM
GRADES 6TH - 12TH

Are you ready for an adrenaline-pumping adventure? **FIRST CHURCH YOUTH** are invited to join us on **THURSDAY, JULY 11** for an epic white water rafting trip in Montgomery, Alabama. This is your chance to experience the thrill of conquering the rapids with your friends and experience a day you won't soon forget. The cost for the day is \$60 which includes the rafting experience itself as well as transportation to and from Montgomery. Students will need to bring a sack lunch.

This adventure is perfect for all experience levels, whether you're a seasoned rafter or a first-timer looking for some fun. Spots are limited, so make sure to secure your place by clicking [HERE](#) now.

PASSPORT *choices*

JUNE 23-28 | GRADES 6TH-12TH

Get ready for the best week of your life! We are thrilled to invite all **YOUTH** to summer camp from Sunday, June 23 through Friday, June 28. This is not just any camp—it's an adventure packed week with fun, friendships, and unforgettable experiences.

PASSPORTchoices is a 6-day, 5-night creative summer camp that allows students the freedom to customize their camp experience, explore their passions, and inform their faith journey. Small group Bible studies will be split into Middle School and High School ages and led by the PASSPORT summer teams. Youth will choose an afternoon option designed to help them cultivate their unique interests like service, leadership, music, creative arts, or photography. Everyone has a unique experience during the day before gathering for worship and a nightly party in the evening. You don't want to miss out on what promises to be the highlight of your summer. Click [HERE](#) to register now.

CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP 2024



CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD

ARTS CAMP IS BACK!

JULY 15 - 18 | 9:00AM - 1:00PM

During Arts Camp students will explore how they can be HEROES in their everyday lives. We will learn through crafts, science, song, dance, recreation, and more.

OUR HEROES WILL DIVE INTO THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

- **HEROES are Called to Follow Jesus.**
- **HEROES are Called to Help Others.**
- **HEROES are to Work Together.**
- **HEROES are called to show Grace!**

We are excited to offer Arts Camp at a rate of \$40 per camper which includes lunch and a morning snack. An extended Care option will be available for \$35 per camper and will run until 4:00pm each day. An afternoon snack will be provided.

Click [HERE](#) to register now!

CONGRATS!

FIRST CHURCH

COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS



MELANY MORGAN & SAWYER ARNOLD

were awarded the Living Church Fund college scholarship for the 2024/2025 school year.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about our recipients.

OCTOBER 7-11, 2024 AT CAMP SUMATANGA

WELCOMING THE WILDERNESS

A 4-DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The Academy of Spiritual Formation invites you to “Welcoming the Wilderness,” a 4-Day Academy that will explore the wilderness as metaphor in scripture as well as a literal reality, and explore spiritual practices to guide us along the way. Anyone who desires to deepen their relationship with God through an intentional balanced daily rhythm of prayer, worship, study, and reflection is invited to attend. The 4-day Academy will be led by Rev. Dr. Larry Peacock, a United Methodist pastor, retreat leader, and spiritual director, as well as Dr. Noel Forlini Burt, author and instructor at Samford University. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register. First Church member Hanna Schock is serving on the leadership team for this event. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Hanna by email at hannaschock@bellsouth.net or by phone at 205-910-7931.



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.

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: Stephanie York Arnold Stephanie@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: Ron Dates Ron@firstchurchbhm.com
Wedding Director: Betsy Pate Betsy@firstchurchbhm.com
Executive Director of Early Learning Center: Cassandra Copeland ELC@firstchurchbhm.com
Nursery Coordinator: Andrea Hayes Andrea@firstchurchbhm.com



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

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