

JULY 2024

CONNECTIONS



**CELEBRATING
OUR KIDS**

CITY KIDS ARTS CAMP 2024



HERO HOTLINE

CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD

WE ARE THRILLED TO INVITE YOUR CHILDREN TO OUR UPCOMING ARTS CAMP! THIS EXCITING EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE FROM **MONDAY, JULY 15 THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 18, FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM EACH DAY**. THE COST OF THE CAMP IS JUST \$40. FOR THOSE WHO NEED EXTENDED CARE, WE WILL OFFER AFTERCARE UNTIL 4:00PM FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$35.

THROUGHOUT THE CAMP, CHILDREN WILL PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF ENGAGING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

ART

SCIENCE

RECREATION

MUSIC

**BIBLE
STORIES**

**AFTERNOON
SHOWS**

**AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY,
LUNCH**

OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS “HERO HOTLINE.” CAMPERS WILL EXPLORE BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS AND DISCOVER THE COUNTLESS WAYS GOD PROVIDES. THROUGH THESE ENRICHING ACTIVITIES, WE AIM TO OPEN THE EYES OF OUR CAMPERS TO THE WONDERS AND LOVE OF GOD. IF YOU CAN’T MAKE IT TO ARTS CAMP THIS YEAR BUT STILL WANT TO SUPPORT OUR CITYKIDS, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OR CRAFT SUPPLIES. AND PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR ALL WHO WILL JOIN US FOR THIS WEEK.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR CHILD AT ARTS CAMP, WHERE FAITH, CREATIVITY, QUESTIONS, AND FUN COME TOGETHER! IF YOU HAVEN’T DONE SO ALREADY, WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD [HERE](#).

JULY COMBINED WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During the month of July we will be hosting combined worship services.
Please pay careful attention to the following schedule:

SUNDAY, JULY 7

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

WRAPPING UP IMAGINE SERMON SERIES

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Combined Worship in the Loft

ARTS CAMP CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JULY 14

Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

HYMN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Combined Worship in the Loft

MUSIC SUNDAY

FIRST CHURCH

POOL
Party

FRIDAY, JULY 19 | 6:15PM - 8:15PM

We are excited to host another fantastic pool party at the West Homewood Pool (710 Oak Grove Road, Homewood, AL 35209). Mark your calendars for Friday, July 19 from 6:15pm - 8:15pm. Grab your swimsuits, pack your towels, and join us at the West Homewood Pool for a night of laughter, splashes, and great memories. We look forward to seeing you there. Who knows, we might even have a cannonball contest.

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

LISTEN & LEARN

SUNDAY, JULY 14 DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL | IN THE LOFT

Join us on Sunday, July 14 during the Sunday School hour in the Loft for a presentation on a recent visit to Greece by some of our beloved church family. Renee Harmon, Gladys Schaefer, and Maggie and Justin Banger will lead us in a time of sharing stories, photos, reflections, and more from their spiritual pilgrimage (led by renowned author and lecturer Phil Cousineau) to Greece in April. They visited many places including Athens, Eleusis, Delphi, Ithaca, Olympia, Nauplion, Mycenae, Epidaurus, and Ancient Corinth. Their stories are powerful and the photos are beautiful - you won't want to miss out on hearing about their experiences.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

**SAFE SANCTUARY
TRAINING**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

Come join us for our Safe Sanctuary Training prior to Arts Camp. This is a wonderful way to help ensure our church is a safe place for all of our children, students, and adults. Every three years volunteers must be trained in our Safe Sanctuary policy and have a background check in order to serve in ministry with our children or youth (anyone 18 years and younger). You are invited to come to this training if you think you might be interested in serving with our nursery, children, or youth. A light lunch will be provided with a reservation and donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal. Click [HERE](#) to register now.



FIRST CHURCH BIRMINGHAM
**HOSPITALITY
GUIDES**

AS A RESULT OF OUR LEARNING AND STUDY AROUND HOSPITALITY THIS SPRING, WE ARE LAUNCHING A NEW PHASE OF OUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY HERE AT FIRST CHURCH. BEGINNING ON BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 YOU WILL SEE “WELCOME GUIDES” PRESENT ON OUR CAMPUS IN ADDITION TO “GREETERS” ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. THESE “WELCOME GUIDES” ARE INTENDED TO HELP VISITORS FEEL AT EASE AS THEY ENTER OUR SPACE, NAVIGATE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, THE NURSERY, FIND OUR WORSHIP SPACES, AND BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITY. ALONG WITH “WELCOME GUIDES,” YOU WILL SEE THE ADDITION OF VISITOR PARKING ON 6TH AVE S AS WELL AS ENHANCED AND MORE SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION FOR GUESTS ON OUR WEBSITE. A TRAINING FOR GUIDES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 FROM 9:30AM – 11:00AM AT FIRST CHURCH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A WELCOME GUIDE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO KATIE GILBERT AT [KATIE@FIRST-CHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katie@first-churchbhm.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SAVE THE DATE

★ BACK 2 SCHOOL

BASH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

SAVE THE DATE AS WE MAKE PLANS TO CELEBRATE
BACK TO SCHOOL AT THE HOOVER SPLASH PAD
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 FROM 4:00PM - 5:30PM.



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.

CITY KIDS VISIT THE



GEORGIA
AQUARIUM

TUESDAY, JULY 23, ALL DAY

Are you ready for a splash-tastic adventure? CityKids are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 23 for an unforgettable trip to the Georgia Aquarium. We'll spend the day exploring amazing exhibits, meeting fascinating sea creatures, and having tons of fun with friends.

DETAILS:

- Drop-off: 7:30 AM in the church parking lot
- Pick-up: 4:30 PM in the church parking lot
- Cost: \$50
- Bring Sack Lunch
- Register by July 15 [HERE](#)

Bring your curiosity, a big smile, and get ready for an ocean of fun. This is one adventure you will not want to miss!

JULY 11 AT MOE'S BBQ IN VESTAVIA AT 7:00PM

MOM'S
Night Out

Once a month a group of First Church moms gather together at a local restaurant for good food and good conversation. This month's gathering is on Thursday, July 11 at Moe's BBQ in Vestavia. If you are interested in joining us or learning more information, please reach out to Jessica Yarbrough at jessicay731@gmail.com.

T W E N T Y - T W E N T Y F O U R

S W A L K S I D E

F I L M F E S T I V A L

EACH YEAR FIRST CHURCH PARTNERS WITH SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN MOVIES IN OUR LOFT WORSHIP SPACE. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR LOVE AND HOSPITALITY WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE FESTIVAL OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEKEND. ONE OF THE WAYS WE DO THIS IS BY PROVIDING CONCESSIONS FOR PURCHASE (JUST LIKE VISITING ANY OF THE OTHER VENUES WHO HOST AROUND TOWN!).

THE SIDEWALK FILM FESTIVAL WILL BE **AUGUST 23-27** AND VOLUNTEER SHIFTS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ONE TO TWO HOURS IN LENGTH ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HELPING OVER THE WEEKEND, CONTACT [KATIE@FIRSTCHURCHBHM.COM](mailto:katie@firstchurchbhm.com).

**PRIDE
THANK YOU!**

We want to say a big “THANK YOU” to all of you who helped make Pride happen this year. Several of you donated supplies for the parade which helped our team create beautiful, hand-built totems to carry at the parade. Others donated their time and came to be in fellowship with us before the parade started, and then almost 100 of you marched in the parade with us! We also want especially to thank our Pride Team. These lay members met once a month leading up to Pride dreaming of what it would look like, what we’d need to get done, and they executed it all beautifully. We are grateful for you!

PRIVATE SCREENING OF

INSIDE OUT



You are invited to join us on **TUESDAY, JULY 9 AT 6:00PM** for a private screening of Inside Out 2 at Birmingham Premiere Lux Cinemas (501 Lakeshore Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35209). This special event will provide a fun and engaging way for everyone to connect with their emotions through the magic of film. Tickets are \$5 each. Bring the entire family out for this fun filled event. Click [HERE](#) to buy your tickets now.

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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