



**ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL TO HOST “FAITH FORUMS”
ACROSS ALABAMA IN APRIL AND MAY**

(MONTGOMERY) – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced his office will host four “[Faith Forums](#)” across the state in April and May. The Faith Forums will engage religious leaders of all faiths and traditions on confronting the challenges posed by increasing violent crime, security risks at places of worship, and the opioid crisis.

The Attorney General’s Faith Forums will be held in Montgomery on April 26, in Mobile on May 1, in Birmingham on May 3, and in Huntsville on May 15.

The Faith Forums are a byproduct of the Attorney General’s service on the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council, which emphasized the need for increased community engagement, and his Initiative on Violent Crime, designed to help communities reclaim their streets and neighborhoods.

“Whether Alabamians realize it or not, we are in a state of emergency on two fronts – violent crime and addiction,” said Attorney General Marshall. “We have the unfortunate distinctions of ranking *first in the nation* for the number of painkiller prescriptions per capita, while also ranking in *the top 10* of states with high violent crime rates. I firmly believe that the faith community can be part of the solution on both fronts and follow in the footsteps of my predecessor, Bill Pryor, in asking for their help. Increased outreach and engagement can be the difference maker in the life of an addict or a would-be criminal – I have witnessed that first hand – but to be successful, we must be willing to reach outside of our own circles and fellowships. These forums will give church leaders tools and guidance on effective engagement, but also an opportunity to shares their own experiences and ideas.”

Keynoting the Faith Forums will be Shannon Royce, Director of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Robert T. Thetford, Treasurer and Operations Manager, Institute for Criminal Justice Education; and Attorney General Steve Marshall.

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Faith Forum Schedule:

April 26, 2018:

Montgomery, 8:30 a.m.-Noon – Church of the Highlands, 4255 Taylor Road, Montgomery, AL 36116

May 1, 2018:

Mobile, 1-4:30 p.m. – Mount Hebron Church Ministries, 2531 Berkley Avenue, Mobile, AL 36617

May 3, 2018:

Birmingham, 1-4:30 p.m. – Briarwood Presbyterian Chapel, 2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, AL 35243

May 15, 2018:

Huntsville, 8:30 a.m.-Noon – The Rock Family Worship Center, 3401 Holmes Avenue, NW, Huntsville, AL 35816

Any interested members of the faith community are urged to attend one of the Attorney General's Faith Forums and may register by emailing rsvp@ago.state.al.us or by telephone at 334-242-7401.

Click this [link](#) to download the Attorney General's Faith Forums flier.