



Now we are listening again.

Our elders and deacons have begun a Listening Campaign, calling households throughout the congregation. We want to hear where you have experienced God through Spring Hill, what has been meaningful to you, where you believe we can grow, and what you hope this church will be known for in the years ahead.

But listening cannot be the end of the process. At some point, discernment must become action. Prayer must lead us somewhere. Hope must begin to take shape. I believe we are reaching that point.

One visible beginning will be our Yeoman Workday on September 19. We will focus on the inside of our main building: cleaning, decluttering, organizing, and asking how our physical spaces can better support the ministry God is calling us to do.

A major project will be transforming the current Mission Storage Room into a nursery, allowing babies and young children to remain in the main building during worship. It is a practical change, but also an act of hospitality that says to young families: You belong here, and we are making room for you.

We will need committees to help evaluate spaces connected to their ministries, people familiar with the kitchen, parlor, fellowship hall, and plenty of volunteers willing to clean, organize, carry, and sort. We will also need trucks and trailers to take items to Goodwill, recycling, or the dump.

I hope this will be the first phase of a larger effort to refresh and renew our main building. Sometimes we need to see change to begin believing change is possible. And this is about much more than our building.

In the coming months, our listening and discernment will begin taking shape in our ministries, priorities, stewardship, and shared life. We will have decisions to make about what we strengthen, what we begin, and perhaps what we are ready to release.

So when your elder or deacon calls, share honestly. Tell us what you love. Tell us what you hope for. Tell us where you see God moving. Then help us take the next step.

For several years we have been asking, *"Where is God leading Spring Hill?"*

Perhaps it is time to ask another question: *Are we ready to go?*

I believe we are.

With hope and gratitude,

Rev. Brandon E. Miles



Franz is Asleep on the Couch...Again...

For the past couple of decades, I have been teaching a class on music appreciation (specifically, Western Music appreciation – you know, Bach, Beethoven, and the Boys) and have enjoyed teaching it multiple times to groups of church members and to students; so much so, that it is time for me to bring it to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church!

Starting on Thursday September 24 from 10:30 – Noon in the Choir Room, you are invited to go on a journey of incredible creativity. In addition to music, we will talk about art, architecture, literature, and political events that all tie together to make our Western Culture so rich. Each week we will see visuals and work our way through some of the most glorious music ever written; how it came to be, and how it built on what came before. It will be a journey that will take us to the end of the school year, but it will be great fun with great fellowship along the way. Everyone is welcome and welcome to attend as many of the classes as you are able, without “committing” to weekly attendance. You’ll be invited to bring snacks to share each week, and we will likely have some meals together along the way! You’ll even learn who Franz is and why he is sleeping on the couch.

Let me know if you can join us and I will make sure there is a place for everyone. Musicdirector@shpc.us.

The Chancel Choir is off and running and sounding grand! The Youth and Children’s choirs resume on Sunday, September 13 at 5 PM. The Handbell Choir resumes on Wednesday, September 23 at 6 PM.

Finally, on a personal note: I am pleased to be a part of the Chickasaw Civic Theater’s production of “Come From Away.” It is a true story about a small town in Newfoundland that took in nearly 7000 airline passengers on 9/11 when planes were diverted away from US airspace. I hope you will consider coming to see it. It is a powerful story. The show runs from September 10-20. www.cctshows.com.



September 27, 10:30 am
Kirkin' o' the Tartans





Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care team has planned four lunches between mid-September and May and all church members are invited. The first lunch will be in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, September 16 at noon. Sign-up will be at the front of the sanctuary as well as in the hallway beginning Sunday, August 30. There will

be reminders for each lunch closer to the dates. Let us know on the sign-up sheet if you would like to have a member pick you up.

We look forward to serving you! If you want to help in any capacity (sign-ups, serving, clean-ups, driving) please contact Kathy Fountain! The more the merrier! (251) 421-8060



Bible Discovery

Bible Discovery Class Meets in the Conference Room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Join Dr Kent Robinson, Susan Tomlinson, and a great group of folks as we delve into what God has done, is doing, and will do for us, and our salvation through Jesus Christ. Our study book is the Standard Lesson Commentary *We Have a Story to Tell*. These lessons explore the record of God's faithfulness from Genesis to Revelation, and learners will discover how these ancient stories can become our stories too.



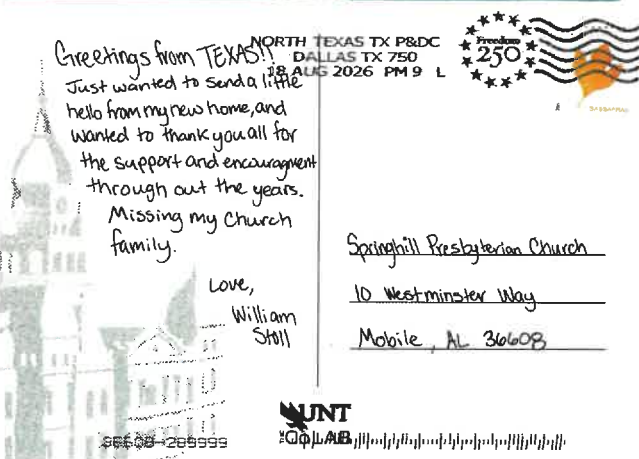
Current Issues Sunday School Class for Fall, 2026

September 6 – Labor Day Weekend: No Sunday School

September 13 – Dale Pfeiffer, President and Director of Driftwood Housing, a group of concerned citizens who build tiny homes for our unsheltered neighbors. Mr. Pfeiffer says, "We are the Humane Society for People." Part of our "Who is your neighbor" theme from last year.

September 20 – Viewing of the film "Sallie's Ashes" – Two of the three producers of the film will provide the context for viewing; and offer some Q&A time afterwards. "Sallie's Ashes" is a documentary focused on the fight against coal ash storage in the Mobile River and Mobile Bay region—an issue that directly affects our area and the waters we all depend on. **We encourage participation from all who are interested in this issue, not just those involved with the Current Issues Class.**

September 27 – Freedom of Religion – Historical roots in the writing of the 1st Amendment. As we continue to Celebrate 250, America is still fighting over what freedom of religion means today. Class discussion around selected articles and our response.



www.shpc.us

Religious Arts Committee

ARTS FIELD TRIP **SEPT 12 10:00 AM**



MEET AT MOBILE MUSEUM OF ART

TOUR LED BY MUSEUM DIRECTOR JON CARFAGNO

Gateway exhibit at the Mobile Museum of Art for Spring Hill Presbyterian Church members.

Welcome this groundbreaking showcase featuring five of the most prolific and influential artists of our time: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Kenny Scharf, KAWS, and Banksy.

We will meet at the museum for a guided tour with the museum's executive director Jon Carfagno and grab lunch together afterwards. Contact Patrick Jacobs if you will be joining.



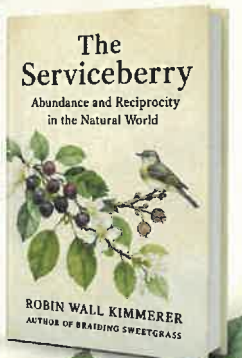
SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BOOK CLUB *All are welcome!*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2026
5:00 PM

— THIS MONTH'S BOOK: —
The Serviceberry
BY ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

From the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, a profound and poetic exploration of reciprocity, gratitude, and the gifts of the natural world.

Through Indigenous wisdom and personal storytelling, Kimmerer invites us to remember that the earth's generosity is not just for us—it is a call to give back.



Book club meets every 4th Sunday of the month in the Parlor.

Good books. Growing together in faith.

Mobile's Singing Children would like to thank the congregation for your support of our car wash. It was a huge success. Thank you for your help in sending our singers to New York City!



YOUTH GROUP • FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER

FAITH • FRIENDS • FOOD • SERVICE • FUN

13

FALL KICKOFF

Dinner • 6:00 PM | Youth Group • 6:30 PM

We're back! Join us for our first night of the fall. Games, choose discussion topics, pack weekend food bags. Come ready to have fun and help make a difference!

20

IDENTITY

Dinner • 6:00 PM | Youth Group • 6:30 PM

Who Do You Say That I Am? Discuss identity, faith, and becoming the person God created you to be.

27

MISSION NIGHT

6:00 PM
Mission Project at Government Street Presbyterian Church. Serve our neighbors and community together.



YOUTH GROUP • FALL 2026

OCTOBER

FAITH. FRIENDSHIP. PURPOSE.

OCT 4

STEWARDSHIP DINNER

6:00 PM

Church-wide stewardship dinner. Youth join congregation and help lead.

OCT 11

NO YOUTH GROUP

Enjoy your Sunday evening!

OCT 18

CONTENTMENT

Blessing of the Animals • 5:30 PM
Dinner • 6:00 PM | Youth Group • 6:30 PM
Topic: Contentment — What does it mean to have enough and find joy?

OCT 25

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Dinner • 6:00 PM
Can or Treat and Sweet Dreams Haunted House. Bring your courage for a fun night together!



Spring Hill Presbyterian Children's Choir is looking forward to an exciting new year with a few fun additions. It is always about helping your kids discover and grow one of God's beautiful gifts: their singing voice.

This year we will be adding more ORFF instruments. Some of the instruments include xylophones, glockenspiels, different sized drums, recorders, and non-pitched percussion instruments. This approach also requires that children sing, chant, clap, dance, pat, and snap fingers along to melodies and rhythms. We hope this approach will give our singers more of a variety of learning!

We hope to see everyone at Kick off! Reach out anytime by calling the church office or email me at shoitt@springhillpresbyterian.org

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

Musically,

Susan Hoitt, Children's Choir Coordinator



BACK -PACK FOR KIDS



Old Shell Road Elementary and Phillips Middle School have relied on the generosity of our SHPC Congregation for years to help their 'food-insecure' students. All of the children have breakfast and lunch at school five days a week. But last year 23 students were suspected by their teachers to need additional support & food for the weekends. The school Counselors confirmed this and food bags were requested from SHPC. Our volunteers order nutritious, easy to prepare meals.

And the Youth Groups pack them in recycled grocery sacks with prayer cards included. Our volunteers deliver these Backpacks for Kids weekly to the schools.

This Mission Outreach team has faithfully researched where to purchase healthy foods economically. But the cost still comes to about \$500 monthly. Please prayerfully consider monetary donation to help these children in need.

Memorials

Ellen Sumrall Ann Wilson

Randy & Vera Lynn Sheets

SHPC Spiritual Writing Group

Bruce & Sylvia Weinard

Melissa Passe &

James Hendler



Perception Challenge:

Our brain has an evolutionary negativity bias. What changes when we transcend this unconscious bias and see ourselves, each other, and all of creation as a gift?

“To name the world as gift is to feel one’s membership in the web of reciprocity. It makes you happy—and it makes you accountable. Conceiving of something as a gift changes your relationship to it in a profound way, even though the physical makeup of the “thing” has not changed. A woolly knit hat that you purchase at the store will keep you warm regardless of its origin, but if it was hand knit by your favorite auntie, then you are in relationship to that “thing” in a very different way: you are responsible for it, and your gratitude has motive force in the world. You’re likely to take much better care of the gift hat than the commodity hat, because it is knit of relationships. This is the power of gift thinking. I imagine if we acknowledged that everything we consume is the gift of Mother Earth, we would take better care of what we are given. Mistreating a gift has emotional and ethical gravity as well as ecological resonance.”

~ Robin Wall Kimmerer: mother, plant ecologist, professor, author of **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants**

See the gifts in your world today.

Statement as of July 31, 2026

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 781,160
Year-to-date Received	\$ 438,393
Other Receipts	\$ 69,808
Total Receipts	\$ 508,200
Benevolences	\$ -
Salaries and Services	\$ 232,670
Programs	\$ 34,192
Office Expenses	\$ 14,357
General and Plant Services	\$ 138,547
Other	\$ 38,821
Total Expenses	\$ 458,587
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ 49,613

Attendance for July

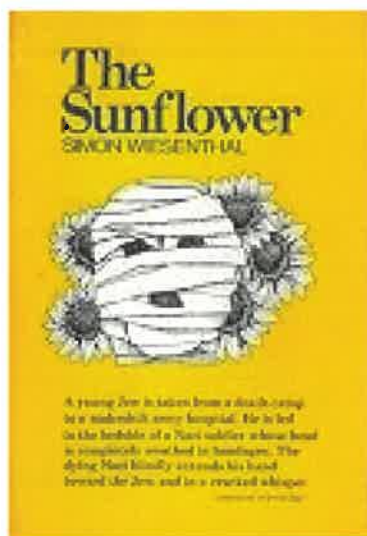
	In person	Online
August 5	110	75
August 12	144	55
August 16	139	71
August 26	135	56



\$75 | Contact

Ann Magee (251) 232-2646

Newsletter Deadline August 16.



Prayer List:

Margaret Armentrout, Trey Andrews, Ted Auttersson, Barbara Beach, Jim Beach, Chester W. Brown, Frank Callahan, John Carr, Lanier Cauley, Mary Clark, Jamie Crawford, Cathi Dagley, Drew Delaney, Helen Delaney, Rosemary Delaney, Pat Edington, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks, Ann Hafner, Perry Hand, Tommy Hightower, Staci Hand, Tom Hand, Bill Harris, Marcy Harris, the Hensley Family, Mary Holley, Ann Holston, Sue Jardine, Bill Layfield, Sara Long, Lynn Martin, Norman McCrummen, Ernestine McElroy, Zachary McMickens, Anne Meador, the Mosteller Family, Dianne Oveson, Jenny Oveson, Mary Owen, Buddy Porter, John Porter, Steve Reams, Christina Rives, Jim Root, Susan Schlichting, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Malcolm Warren, Calvin Weaver, Bruce Weinard, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright and our military members: Ashton & Stuart Rubio.

Men's Breakfast

Thursday September 8

7:00 AM

Conference Room

Join us for breakfast and Bible study.

September 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1 Staff Meeting Painting Pals Christian Ed Mission Worship MSC	2 PWCT Ct -Life Mem- ber meeting Chancel Choir AI-non	3 Westminster Communion Service MSC Board Meeting	4 Girl Scouts	5 AA
6 Holy Grounds Worship	7 Labor Day Office is closed	8 Staff Meeting Painting Pals Communica- tions Facilities MSC	9 Morning Circle Children's Chapel Day Circle Chancel Choir AI-non	10 Men's Break- fast Bible Study PEO	11 Dwell Set-up	12 AA Dwell Wellness Fair Graffiti Satur- day Mobile Muse- um of Art.
13 All Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship -PW Youth & Children's Choirs Dinner Youth Group	14 Balance Group Post Church MSC	15 Staff Meeting Painting Pals Session Diaconate MSC	16 Children's Chapel Congregational Care CC Lunch Chancel Choir AI-non	17 DAR Luncheon Night Circle Newsletter Deadline	18	19 AA Yeoman Workday
20 All Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship Youth & Children's Choirs Wholeness & Heal- ing Service Dinner	21 Blue Chips Balance Group MSC	22 Staff Meeting Painting Pals MSC	23 Meet me at the Pole Children's Chapel Handbells Chancel Choir AI-non	24 Music History Class	25	26 AA MBA Clean-Up
27 All Sunday Schools Holy Grounds Worship -Kirkin Book Club Youth & Children's Choirs Youth Group	28 Balance Group MSC	29 Staff Meeting Painting Pals MSC	30 Children's Chapel Handbells Chancel Choir AI-non			