Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

November 2026



What a joyful Dedication Sunday we shared at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church! As we gathered in worship, offered our commitments to God, and celebrated together over lunch, we were reminded once again of the wonderful gift of belonging to this community of faith. I am deeply grateful for everyone who helped make this day possible and for the generosity and faithfulness of this congregation.

Throughout our stewardship season, we have been exploring what it means to Celebrate God's Abundance by Joining God's Work. We began by listening to one another, hearing the hopes, experiences, and dreams of our congregation. Through worship, fellowship, and conversations about faith and generosity, we have been reminded that God is already at work among us. Our calling is to recognize that work and joyfully offer ourselves as participants in God's unfolding vision.

On Dedication Sunday, we received **72 pledges totaling $398,811** toward the ministry of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in 2027. What a meaningful beginning! Each pledge expresses trust in God's faithfulness, confidence in the ministry we share, and hope for what God will accomplish through us. And our stewardship season is not yet finished!

Our goal this year is to increase our overall pledges by 10%, which will help us move forward with calling an Associate Pastor for Discipleship Formation. This is an exciting opportunity to strengthen our ministry with children, youth, and adults, deepen relationships across generations, and expand the ways we nurture faith and serve our community.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge card or completed your Time and Talent form, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to participate in the coming year. Every gift matters, and every member has something meaningful to offer. Together, our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness become a powerful expression of Christ's love in the world.

God is doing wonderful things at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, and there is so much more before us. May we continue to respond with generous hearts, willing hands, and joyful trust in the One who calls us forward. We are not simply supporting the church's work. We are joining in God's work. And what a wonderful privilege that is!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Brandon E. Miles
Pastor, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

MARY LENA HARPER RECEIVES THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)

Each year on PW Sunday, a member of our congregation is recognized for her outstanding leadership and faithful service to the church. On September 13th, the surprise announcement of Mary Lena Harper as this year's recipient was met with applause from the entire congregation.Mary Lena is a multi-talented, artistically creative person, who has been a faithful member of our PW Circles for many years. At one time, Mary Lena contributed her creative talents to the Gardening Circle. In 2018, the Gardening Circle merged with another circle, forming what is now the Morning Circle. In addition to monthly Bible Study, this circle oversees service projects like donations to Ronald McDonald house; and helps to beautify the sanctuary for Advent and Lent each year.

As matriarch of a family of very talented musicians, her grown children provided special music composed in her honor and performed by the family "orchestra." It was such a joyful way for them to add a note of celebration to this occasion. There was a reception in Fellowship Hall, with music, following the award. We thank Stephanie Jacobs for serving as the photographer.



Statement as of September 30, 2026		
Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	$	781,160
Year-to-date Received	$	536,339
Other Receipts	$	83,586
Total Receipts	$	619,925
Benevolences	$	-
Salaries and Services	$	299,822
Programs	$	31,662
Office Expenses	$	18,154
General and Plant Services	$	176,026
Other	$	49,842
Total Expenses	$	575,506
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	$	44,419

October Attendance

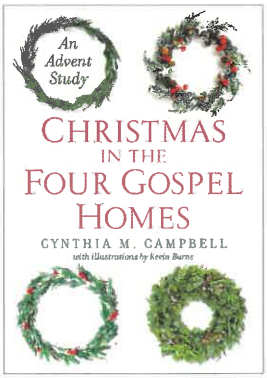
	In Person	Online
October 4	122	81
October 11	140	56
October 18	131	56
October 25	163	94

POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias will be part of the decorations in the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office (251-342-1550), email Marcia Wear (marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org) The cost is $25.00, and the deadline is December 15. These plants will be taken to homebound church members in the name of the church.

Advent Series for Four Sundays



Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes by Cynthia Campbell

"How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes,* beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagines each of the four Gospels as a "house" which the church visits at Christmas."

"For each week of Advent, Cynthia Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspectives of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel."

For four Sundays from Nov. 29 through Dec. 20, you will have an opportunity to engage in small group discussions based on our Advent book selection, which is open to the entire congregation.

Some will choose to meet during the 9:00-10:00 Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall at table groups or in the parlor. Others may form their own small groups using the study book and leader guide chapters within the book. These groups may meet at other times or locations, as they wish.

You will want to have your own copy of the book, which is only 106 pages and easy to read. Books will be available for $10 each on November 8,15, or 22 in the back hall before or after worship; or you may order your own book online.

Let's all engage in this holy season together as we await the birth of Jesus.



"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

CHRISTMAS GIFTS for CHILDREN & SENIOR ADULTS

It's **ANGEL TREE TIME**, and SHPC is sponsoring **25 children** and **25 senior adults** (selected by Catholic Social Services) who need our love and support during the Christmas season.

Our Angel Tree will be in the sanctuary narthex throughout November, beginning 11/1, and we need sponsors for every angel. You might even want to join with another friend or family to sponsor "your angel." Angel cards are usually selected very quickly, so if you are unable to select one in person in early November, but wish to participate, please contact Vera Lynn Sheets (251)-454-6846 or sheetsvl@aol.com, and a card will be selected for you.

Each recipient's name and wish list will be on a GREEN angel card which you take home. Please complete the matching WHITE registry card for your recipient and leave the WHITE card on the tree for our records.

You will select one or more items (totaling approx. $75) from the gift list you choose and wrap and label each one with your recipient's name and angel #. **If there are multiple gifts, please enclose them all in a large, durable, heavy duty, reusable holiday shopping bag.** These work well to contain and support multiple gifts (usually $1-2; found near the registers @TJ Maxx, Marshall's, Home Goods, etc.).

Gifts need to be delivered to the church parlor between Sunday, November 22 and Thursday, December 3 because they will be taken to CSS after 12/3.

Please use your selected GREEN angel card as the gift bag tag.

Current Issues Class Schedule
November 2026



A potpourri of reflection and class discussion, with one guest speaker, and the start of our churchwide Advent Study

Nov. 1 – Is Alabama becoming a "home sweet home," for Data Centers? Review of some local news articles on current and projected data centers in our state. Public Service Commission's call for transparency around projected future cost of power/utilities due to data centers. National backlash. What will be the impact in Alabama? What have other states experienced? Short-term impact? Long-term legacy? Our response as Christians?

Nov. 8 – Election Results Debrief, and Part 1 of PC(USA) series "Why 'Presbyterian' will never be a political party." This 3-part series was compiled in 2026 for the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. Come explore guiding questions in Part 1 on "What does it mean that God alone is Lord of the conscience?" and "What does religious liberty mean, and what does it not mean?"

Nov. 15 – Parts 2-3 of PC(USA) series "Why 'Presbyterian' will never be a political party." Guiding questions include: "What responsibilities do citizens and government have to each other?" "What is the church called to do, and not do, in public life?" Discuss the talking points and share your own perspectives on these issues.

Nov. 22 – Dr. Rhoda Passmore, Women of Welcome – Providing local immigration support, especially for families with loved ones experiencing ICE deportation of a family member. Non-political, pastoral support. Learn more about what this group is doing in Baldwin County and Mobile.

Nov. 29 – Week One of our Churchwide 4-part Advent Study: *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell.
See an accompanying article with details.



Leave the Leaves!

Fallen leaves aren't debris. They're shelter, food, and nesting material for the wildlife living in your yard through winter. Small changes in how you handle them can support a lot more life.

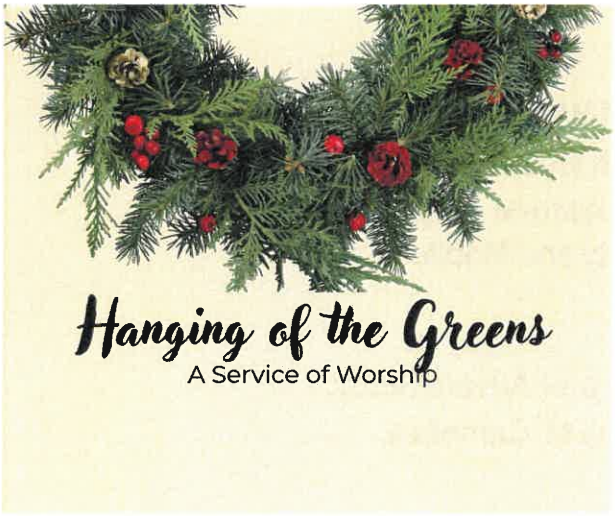
Who needs your leaves

- Bumblebees burrow into leaf litter for winter.
- Moth and butterfly caterpillars cocoon inside it.
- Fireflies hide and lay eggs beneath it.
- Toads and salamanders tuck into damp leaves for shelter and moisture.
- Songbirds forage through fallen leaves for insects and larvae to eat.

Those same leaves return nutrients to your soil and feed your trees. Leaves aren't clutter. They're home to the wildlife you want to see in your yard.

The easiest way to help wildlife is to leave your leaves where they fall.

Source/additional info: https://homegrownnationalpark.org/leave-the-leaves/



HANGING OF THE GREENS – We will once again celebrate the service of the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 22 at 5:30 PM. During the service, we will remember why we decorate for the season of Advent and Christmas and celebrate the meaning of each decoration: from the garlands and wreaths to the Chrismons (Christian tree ornaments) to the nativity set.

Join us for this most meaningful service.

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

People. Practical Help. Lasting Change.

ACATENANGO, GUATEMALA

JUNE 21–25, 2027

COST: TBD

We will be installing stoves and water filters in homes in the area of Acatenango, Guatemala.

THESE SAVE LIVES AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FAMILIES.







HEALTH

No vaccines are required, but we recommend an up to date tetanus shot, Hepatitis A, and Typhoid vaccine. Malaria prophylaxis is not required.

FOOD

Meals are basic but fine. We will eat breakfast and dinner at the hotel and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch.

SAFETY

Some risk comes with any travel, but we will be working in a rural area of Guatemala that is generally considered safe.

REQUIREMENTS

- A current passport
- A servant heart and willingness to work
- Flexibility!
- You will need to be able to lift about 25# and walk 1/4 mile over uneven surfaces.

LEARN MORE

For more details check out the blog from our most recent trip at: www.goguatemala.home.blog.

Be the hands and feet of Jesus. Bring hope. Change lives.

INTERESTED?

Contact Rhoda Passmore

rhodapassmore@gmail.com

251-586-2235

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1		3 Staff Meeting Worship Mission	4 PWCT Children's Church Congregational Care lunch Personnel Handbells Chancel Choir	5 Music Class Westminster Communion Service	6	7 AA
8 Sunday Schools Worship Youth & Children's Choir Dinner Youth Group	9 Balance Group Post Church	10 Presbytery Meeting Communications Christian Education Facilities	11 Veterans Day Office Closed Handbells Chancel Choir	12 Men's Breakfast Bible Study Music Class	13	14 AA Yeoman Workday
15 Sunday Schools Worship Dinner Youth Group	16 Balance Group Current Events	17 Staff Meeting Session Diaconate	18 Morning Circle Children's Church Congregational Care Afternoon Circle Handbells Chancel Choir	19 Newsletter Deadline Music Class Night Circle Ecumenical Service	20	21 AA
22 Sunday Schools Worship-Communion Book Club **Hanging of the Greens** Youth & Children's Choir Dinner Youth Group	23 Balance Group	24 Staff Meeting	25 The office closed at noon.	26 Thanksgiving Holiday	27	28 AA
29 Sunday Schools Worship Youth & Children's Choir Youth Group	30 Balance Group					