



SPRING HILL MESSENGER April 2023

Wherever we go.

Most of you know that I was recently away. This was my annual, traditional, “brother trip.” It is now traditional because we have done it twice. My older brother, I am the middle child, suggested that we travel together. At his age, he wisely said, “We can’t wait.” This year we traveled to Costa Rica. It is one of those places I have heard of but never visited. I have known many people who have vacationed there. I have one childhood friend who lives there most of the year. His visa makes it necessary for him to return to the U. S. every 90 days.

The best part about traveling with my brothers is that we have fun together. We like each other. We laugh a lot. We start stories with, “Remember when. . .” The pictures accompanying this article can be viewed symbolically. One shows a well-known animal famous for its slow movement. When you saw that picture, you may have thought that I was going to write about one of the seven deadly sins. When I took this picture of the sloth, it was moving. It was not moving so fast that I had to use special film to capture it, but it was moving.

The sloth is to Costa Rica like the koala is to Australia. They represent. They may even be a symbol. The sloth is not as immediately recognized with Costa Rica as the koala is with Australia. The sloth represents lifestyle, or a particular characteristic. Of course, most of that is not fair. The sloth has adapted to its environment. It has survived. Like all of the animals we saw in the rain forest and the cloud forest. The birds, insects, flowers, and bats have all learned how to survive.



As I listen to the stories people tell about their lives, I realize how valuable it is to survive. The survival of some people is miraculous. The bravery of some people amazes me. Like the young woman in the colorful dress in the picture with me. She is very brave. She is dancing with me. I am not known as a dancer. When I told my wife that I had danced, even moved my feet, she said she wanted video proof. The evening of the dance was another opportunity for the three of us to share stories of our dancing experiences. We remembered when we were forced to attend dance classes when we were in the 6th grade. None of us are good dancers. One of my sons is a good dancer. He has performed on stage. One of my brothers has a daughter that has danced on stage. Maybe that gene skips a generation. Our Dad loved to dance.

Wherever we go we take memories with us. Sometimes we hear someone use the expression that we all carry “baggage” with us in life. Today, I am not thinking about carrying baggage. I am thinking about the memories we make when we travel. I am thinking about the memories we take with us when we relocate. Every year during Lent, I remember loss. I remember those I have loved and lost. There is something about the coming resurrection that helps me remember those who have gone before me, particularly those who have shown me the way. Wherever we go, those saints go with us. They are not baggage in the sense of weighing us down. They are our traveling companions. They walk with us.

Peace.

Cary

Dear SHPC Friends,

Holy Week is upon us. With each passing year of ministry, the patterns of Holy Week impact me more deeply. Every year we remember Jesus' death and resurrection and remember death does not have the final word. Our culture struggles with the concept of death. Although all of us will have to face death, society can almost gloss over and hide the pain, suffering, and grief of losing someone that we love. Death is difficult. I recently was talking with a church member about the difficulty of death—the longer I serve this church, the greater the grief because I miss so many saints. Grief sneaks up at such surprising moments—walking down the hallways of the church and seeing someone's photo, looking at the church grounds and remembering those who have cared for them, walking through our Memorial Garden and seeing the names, hearing the choir singing and missing certain voices.

During Holy Week, we face the realities of death. Jesus dies on the cross at the age of 33 at the hands of the state, the people, and religious leaders. His disciples, not knowing what to do, fearful of losing their lives, run away and hide. On Good Friday, we leave the Chapel in darkness with no Charge or Benediction, in silence remembering the grief, sorrow, and pain of death.

We leave on Good Friday with no Benediction because we know that the story is not over and neither is our worship. Our worship continues on Easter morning when the women stumbled upon an empty tomb. Christ, though he died, is alive. He is risen! Death is not the final word. God conquers, overcomes death for us. Nothing in life and in death can separate us from God's love. I need the rituals of Holy Week to remind me of these truths—to process suffering, pain, and death in this world, and live in hope. Holy Week and the rituals of the church give me a container to hold grief, love, and hope together. I hope you will join us at **10:30 am on Palm Sunday (April 2), 6:00 pm on Maundy Thursday in the Chapel (April 6), noon on Good Friday in the Chapel (April 7), and 10:30 am Easter morning (April 9)** as we remember, grieve, rejoice, and worship our risen Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

PS Don't forget to look inside our newsletter for an incredible story from VBS 2022 written by Harvie Jordan, 2023 VBS information, wonderful news from our Creation Care Task Force, and more! So many amazing things are happening at SHPC that are worthy of celebration!



SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 at 10:30 am

Procession of Palms

Music by the Children's Choirs, Youth and Chancel Choirs

Solo by Mary-Bradley Knighton, Pat Ray Memorial Singer

"Donkeys, Hosannas, and Jesus" Sermon by Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 pm (Chapel)

Service of Word and Sacrament

Music by Vocal Ensemble

"Glory" Sermon by Dr. Cary Speaker

Good Friday Service, April 7 at Noon (Chapel)

Tenebrae Service based on the passion account from Matthew's Gospel

Solo by Dr. Patrick Jacobs

"The Shadow of the Cross" Reflections by Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke

Easter Sunday Service, April 9 at 10:30 am,

Music by the Chancel Choir, Brass, and Timpani

"Failure" Sermon by Dr. Cary Speaker

Common Read Reception at 9:00 am



Lenten Prayer Tree

This year we again have the Lenten prayer tree located outside the sanctuary, available anytime during Lent. Ribbons will be available in the hallway and the Narthex, but you can bring your own ribbon, string, or thread to tie on a branch and we'll all watch it blossom by Easter.

Theology 101

Beginning Wednesday, April 19 at noon, Theology 101 will offer three new classes. The topics are *Resurrection, the Trinity, and the Sovereignty of God*.

We will meet in the fellowship hall.

Mark your calendars for April 19, April 26 and May 3.

MEMORIALS

*Anne Frazer Drake
Elizabeth Britton
Jane Doty Bulwinkle
Vivian Fulmer
Neal Howell
John Langus
Wanda Lawrence
Sue McLean
Joe S. Reams Jr
Gladys Sheets
Patricia Stinson
Malcolm Sumrall
Patsy Torbert
Nick Vrakelos*

Received from

Cort & Susan Schlichting
Tad & Carolyn Wikle
Hal & Lynne Daugherty
Jeremy & Juliann Hillman
John & Dora Hinkle
Molly Lankford
Steve & Celia Ledbetter
Dr. & Mrs. E. Russel March
Lynne R. Pickens
Randy & Vera Lynn Sheets
David & Patricia Sullivan
Mark & Judy Weaver

Update-Covid 19 for Spring Hill Presbyterian Church March 2023

As we emerge from the Coronavirus epidemic, we are grateful to be gathering once again in worship and for other activities in our church and in our community. We rejoice at being together, but we are also mindful that Coronavirus continues to circulate in our community.

Our church remains a mask-friendly congregation. We encourage you to wear a mask if you are in a high-risk category, are in close contact with an individual in a high-risk category or feel more comfortable wearing a mask for indoor gatherings.

High risk categories include adults over 65 years of age, individuals of any age with chronic medical conditions or those who are immunocompromised.

We recommend all members and visitors to follow guidelines from the CDC, ADPH and Mobile County Health Department regarding: staying up to date on vaccinations and boosters (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>)

-testing and isolating when sick or with significant exposure (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html)

- monitoring level of virus in our community: CDC: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Alabama Department of Health: [https://alpublichealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?](https://alpublichealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d84846411471404c83313bfe7ab2a367)

[appid=d84846411471404c83313bfe7ab2a367](https://alpublichealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d84846411471404c83313bfe7ab2a367)

Mobile County Health Department: <https://mchd.org/?s=covid>

Respectfully, Susan Baker

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Neal Andrews, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Kaye Bradshaw, Richard Britton, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, Andrea Wiik Hinton, Bonney Irwin, Bill Layfield, Steve Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Gordon Marsh, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Emma Munderloh, Mary Owen, Bernice Riedeburg, Cort Schlichting, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Carol Sumrall, Pat Stoll, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Whorton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio; The children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program: Angelo, Eddie, Maylasia, & Milaishia.

Children's Ministry Opportunities

KidsLead is for children 3K to 5th grade at 9:00 am upstairs in the Bullard Building. During this hour our kids will learn a guiding Scripture then engage in Mission Projects. In April, KidsLead will be lead by the Porters.

April 2: Backpack for Kids

April 9: Easter, Children join adults in the Fellowship Hall for the Common Read

April 16: VBS Projects with Anna

April 23: Make Cards

April 30: Make Exam Care Packages for College Students

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Dates

April 2: Youth Group, 6:00-7:30—Youth Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and Holy Week Worship

April 9: Easter, No Youth Group

April 16: Spring Break, No Youth Group

April 23: Crossroads from 11:30-12:30 pm—Make Crosses

April 30: Sundaes on Sunday at the River, After church

May 7: Graduation Sunday; Senior Breakfast at 9:00 am; Montreat Meeting after Worship; Youth VBS Work Party at 6:00 pm

To subscribe to our Remind and receive weekly text messages, send a text to: 81010 and text this message: @springhill.

Youth Sunday School is for youth grades 6-12. Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:00 am in the Youth Room upstairs in the Bullard Building. April 9 our youth will join the adults in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am for a celebration of our Common Read.

Graduation Sunday will be May 7. Join us at 9:00 am to celebrate our high school seniors at our Senior Breakfast. If you have a graduate (from high school, college, or other program), please let Marcia know at marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org, so we can include them in our June and July Newsletter.





DONATION DAY FOR PHFC

These pictures show the stages of filling the truck on March 18.



Earth Care Congregation

A recognition to celebrate! Our application has been approved and on March 13th Spring Hill Presbyterian Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the PCUSA's Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Earth Care Congregation (ECC) certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden. An article with more information will be in the May newsletter. Below in the PCUSA link about the program:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>



Earth Day Celebration

KIDS CRAFTS
FOOD
OUTDOOR GAMES
FREE PLANTS & SEEDS



FREE!!

FACE PAINTING
DOOR PRIZES

SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023
10AM-2PM
MOBILE JAPANESE GARDENS
 700 FOREST HILL DR.
 (ACROSS FROM LANGAN PARK)



DON'T MISS THE
ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWCASE
FEATURING
DRIVE ELECTRIC ALABAMA



A Hymn Festival

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

In our Sanctuary

Come and Sing!

Four Centuries of the Roaring Twenties

We will sing hymns from the 1720s, 1820s, 1920s, and even the 2020s, in this program curated and led by the noted hymnology scholar Dr. Nancy Graham, with members of the Mobile Chapter of The American Guild of Organists in the choir and serving as organists and pianists.

The program, hosted by the SHPC Religious Arts Committee, is open to the public—Come and Sing!



Make Some New Friends at VBS



My friendship bracelet means the world to me. I made it with my small tribe of first and second graders last summer at VBS - the first time I had ever participated for the full week of activities.

Sitting on a tiny chair in the Art Room, my fat fingers struggled to thread the colorful little beads on to a flexible, fuzzy length of pipe cleaner. But the tiny people with the big hearts and even bigger grins helped me order and fashion those iridescent plastic beads into an acceptable piece of Bible School jewelry, marking that I belonged to them now. And my heart sang.

We spent the mornings together for a whole week, hearing bible stories and talking about what they might mean, and crafting wind chimes and bracelets and paper hearts to wear about our necks. We played games and listened to inspiring messages from folks in our community doing good things in the world and we participated in some of our church's ongoing mission projects.

And my heart sang some more.

I'm wearing my friendship bracelet again now as we prepare for our 2023 Vacation Bible School at Spring Hill Presbyterian. This year's theme is called ***Passport to Peace*** and we will be emphasizing the Peace aspects of the curriculum - a message from God that is too often ignored in a world that is actually desperately struggling to find some.

Come and join us. Register your kids, your grandkids, your neighbor's kids and find a volunteer spot for yourself, too. ***Passport to Peace*** runs from June 19th through June 23rd this summer and you will soon see opportunities to sign up and participate in some brief training sessions - along with preparation workdays and decorating parties. So pull down those tie dyed shirts, fringed jackets, headbands and love beads from the attic, if you still have them, and come Vacation Bible Schooling with us in June. The joy of being with all the kids and youth helpers as they learn and laugh and love is the best vacation ever. ***And I promise your heart will sing too!***

"Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God." Matthew 5:9

Harvie Jordan, for the 2023 VBS Team

Statement as of February 28, 2023

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 765,766
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Year-to-date Received	\$ 184,269
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Other Receipts	\$ 6,186
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Total Receipts	\$ 190,455
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Benevolences	\$ 12,778
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Salaries and Services	\$ 76,963
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Programs	\$ 2,333
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Office Expenses	\$ 4,623
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General and Plant Services	\$ 28,084
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Other	\$ 5,068
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Total Expenses	\$ 129,849
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Excess Receipts over (under) Expenses	\$ 60,606
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Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee appreciates the congregation's participation in the survey and numerous listening sessions. We have thoughtfully collected and condensed your responses to include in the Ministry Information Form (MIF). Bob Madsen led us in a very productive workshop and we are now on the third draft of the MIF. We are working very well together! We continue to ask for your prayers in this process and if you have specific candidates you would like us to consider, please let us know. You can reach us at

shpcmobile.pnc@gmail.com.



Spring Hill
presbyterian Church

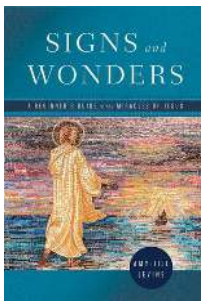


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 19-22
9:00-11:30
AM

K4-5th grade (must be 4 or older)
10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL, 342-1550

TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.SHPC.US
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 1, 2023



Lenten Common Read Wraps Up for 2023

The “Why”

The purpose of the Common Read was to engage the congregation in small group conversations around the same scripture-based book, and to promote engagement and fellowship as we explored the miracles of Jesus together.

The “How”

Sixty-nine people registered to participate in this year’s Common Read discussions around the book *Signs and Wonders: The Miracles of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. In all, there were seven small groups – with five in-person on Sunday mornings, one via Zoom, and one additional group on Tuesday mornings.

The Finale

April 2nd – (Palm Sunday) Last Sunday for six small group sessions

April 4th – Last Tuesday for one small group session

April 9th – (Easter Sunday) Churchwide Common Read Closure & Celebration, a time for fellowship, reflection, and feedback. **All are welcome – 9:00 in Fellowship Hall.**

With Thanks to Our Small Group Facilitators

A special thank you to: Sue Martino and Barkley Shreve, Donna and Lee Lagomarsino, Royce Ray and Linda Madsen, Stephanie and Patrick Jacobs, Maria Brutkiewicz and Mary Alyce Davis, Susan Abrams with Billy McLean and Lynn Flanagan, and Leslie Sweeney and Vera Lynn Sheets. *We couldn’t have done it without your leadership!*

Appreciation for Our Participants

Thanks to all who faithfully read the book chapters each week and contributed to the conversations. We grow personally and collectively as a congregation through this type of collaboration. The question is *not* whether you always agreed with the author, but what you learned through dialogue and how you interacted with each other.



Current Issues Class Resumes after Lenten Common Read

There are three remaining Sundays in April after the Easter Sunday celebration in the Fellowship Hall that concludes the Common Read.

April 16 – Rabbi Steve Silberman from Ahavas Chesed Synagogue in Mobile will talk about the formation of his congregation and how the Jewish people have maintained their identity and faith in the midst of diaspora.

April 23 – Dr. Cary Speaker, our interim pastor, will talk about his journey as an interim pastor and his insights from multiple congregations where he has served.

April 30 – Amy Patterson will lead a discussion following a 30-minute video on Alabama’s birding trails from PBS *Discovering Alabama*.



April 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Schools 9:00 a.m.
 BLAST & Crossroads 11:30 a.m.—2nd & 4th
 Sunday
 Choir & ABC Generation 5:00 p.m.



1

2
 Common Read
 Worship—Palm Sun-
 day/Communion
 Alphabet Genera-
 tions
 Youth/Childrens

3
 Outreach
 MSC
 PNC

4
 MSC
 Common Read

5
 PWCT
 Chancel Choir

6
 Maundy Thurs-
 day
 6:00 PM Wor-
 ship

7
 Good Friday
 12:00 PM
 Worship

8

9
 Common Read
 Reception
 Worship—Easter

10
 MSC
 PNC

11
 MSC
 Committees

12
 Day Circle
 Night Circle
 Spring Hill Ringers
 Chancel Choir

13
 Tai Chi

14

15
 Yeoman
 Workday

16
 Worship

17
 MSC
 PNC

18
 MSC

19
 Congregational Care
 Spring Hill Ringers
 Chancel Choir

20
 Tai Chi
 AGO Hymn
 Sing

21

22
 Earth Day

23
 Worship
 Alphabet Genera-
 tions
 Youth/Childrens

24
 MSC
 PNC

25
 MSC
 Session
 Diaconate

26
 PWCT
 Spring Hill Ringers
 Chancel Choir

27
 Tai Chi
 MSC & MSO

28

29

30
 Worship
 Alphabet Genera-
 tions
 Youth/Childrens