



SPRING HILL MESSENGER April 2024

Dear SHPC Friends,

It feels strange to write this letter knowing when you will read it, it will be Eastertide. Right now, I am so deeply entrenched in Holy Week worship preparations, it's hard to wrap my mind around the season of Easter. Throughout our lives, we hold this tension between Good Friday and Easter—trying to wrap our heads around the reality of suffering and death in this world, while trusting the promise of resurrection. Recently, I have been reminded how creation holds this tension. I've been reading a devotional "All Creation Waits" by Gayle Boss that looks at one animal each chapter to explore how they face entering the darkness and cold of winter. She believes animals live into the truth year after year: "the dark is not an end, but the way a new beginning comes." Consider the squirrel who hides nuts week after week, month after month in preparation of winter. The clever squirrel who pretends to store his nut one place, so onlooking rival squirrels are fooled. When winter comes, He has a map of nuts, and he slowly but surely finds each to survive. Or consider the painted turtle who we often see sunning themselves in the heat of the summer on a log. As it gets cooler, an ancient turtle signal tells her, "Take a deep breath." She slips off her log and swims for the warmer bottom of the pond. She closes her eyes and buries herself. She settles herself into a deep stillness. Her heart slows. Her body temperature drops. "To survive a cold that would kill her, or slow her so that predators would kill her, she slows herself beyond breath in a place where breath is not possible. And waits." Radical stillness and simplicity save her. I like to think she trusts. One day the world will warm again and so will she. This spring, I challenge you to look around you to the natural world to see how God might be speaking to you. Take a walk. Sit outside. Creation has so much to teach us if we have eyes to see.

As you might know, SHPC is an Earth Care Congregation, and we received our recertification at the end of February. The Earth Care Congregation certification is "designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to 'till and keep' the garden." I think this is something to celebrate! We take notice of the creatures around us because God loves them and calls them "good."

April 22 at 6:00 pm, we will have an outdoor vespers service to celebrate Earth Day with our Scouts. Join us for outdoor worship as we give thanks for the gift of our world and the ministry of Scouting that helps our youth love and care for God's earth. **April 28 is Confirmation Sunday!** This year we have ten confirmands who have gone through an 8-month class each Sunday morning exploring what they believe and why. Our Confirmands will join the church during worship and we will have a reception following. Make sure to add **Vacation Bible School** to your calendar **June 17-20**. Our theme is "Splash!" and will explore water throughout Scripture.

I love this quote by Meister Eckhart: "Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spend enough time with the tiniest creature, even a caterpillar, I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature." Take the time to watch a caterpillar, or be like Jesus: consider the bird of the air, the lilies of the field. God has something to teach us, right here, right now.

Grace and Peace,
Anna

Bible Discovery

Join us during April at 9:15 in the Conference Room as we journey with Jesus to the cross through readings from Mark, Luke and John.

Conversations with Scriptures

April 7: Join us for our series "Celebrate Communion" as we discuss sharing a meal with verses from the New Testament. We meet in the Parlor Sundays at 9:00 am.

April 14: Join us for our series "Celebrate Communion" as we discuss being fed with verses from the Old and New Testaments. We meet in the Parlor.

April 21: Join us for our series "Celebrate Communion" as we discuss feeding others with verses from the Old and New Testaments. We meet in the Parlor.

April 28: Join us for our series "Follow Jesus" as we discuss accepting Jesus' invitation with verses from the Book of John. We meet in the Parlor.

Calling all Presbyterian Women! Join us on May 8th for our Birthday Celebration and Luncheon.



Who: All women members of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church are invited.

(You don't have to be in one of our church's Circles.)

When: Wednesday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m. beginning with worship in the Sanctuary, followed by a delicious variety of salads at the luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

What: During the worship service, we will collect donations for the annual Birthday Offering. Over the past 102 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted over 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people.

This year's theme for Presbyterian Women has been a study of *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. We have explored how the lives of those who encountered Jesus, as related in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, were changed; and how they changed others as a result. We close out our study looking at how people encountered Jesus through the work of the disciples. Anna Fulmer-Duke will lead this lesson. We hope you'll be a part of this special time for fellowship with the women in our congregation.

Statement as of February 29, 2024

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$	784,994
Year-to-date Received	\$	206,784
Other Receipts	\$	5,468
Total Receipts	\$	212,252
Benevolences	\$	14,506
Salaries and Services	\$	74,331
Programs	\$	3,390
Office Expenses	\$	4,716
General and Plant Services	\$	23,380
Other	\$	6,103
Total Expenses	\$	126,426
Excess Receipts over (under) Expenses	\$	85,826

Earth Day and Scouts Vespers

Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:00 am Confirmands will meet with Session in Bullard (Mentors attend; Families are welcome)
10:30 Worship, Reception following in the Fellowship Hall



LOVE ALL PANTRY
Inclusive Community Feeding the City

Do you know that one of the newest local mission programs supported by Spring Hill Presbyterian Church's Mission Committee is Love All Food Pantry, which is a Loaves and Fish Community Ministry?

At Love All Food Pantry, volunteers pack and organize a large assortment of purchased and donated food every Monday morning to give out to folks on Tuesday mornings. Hundreds of people rely on this supplement of food each week.

In addition to donations, volunteers are always needed and welcomed on Monday and Tuesday mornings, whether they are individuals or groups. Delivery drivers are also needed on Tuesdays.

Linda Madsen is on the Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Mission Committee and is the liaison to the Love All Food Pantry. Linda usually volunteers at the pantry on Monday mornings and delivers food on second Tuesdays with Vera Lynn Sheets. You may call or text Linda with questions @ (334) 343-8177.

The food pantry is located at 1260 Dauphin Street in Mobile, inside Central Presbyterian Church. You may call and get more information at (251) 432-0591 or go to Loveallpantry.org. Linda and Vera Lynn say to come and join the fun!

What's Up with the Current Issues Class in April? Timely Topics and Special Guest Speakers!

We are so fortunate this month to have truly knowledgeable speakers to talk about the crisis in the Middle East, the War in Ukraine, and Climate Issues. Here is the schedule:

April 7 – Scott Rye, Chair of the Board for Mosaic Middle East, a UK-based Christian charity working across ethnic and religious divides, to bring hope, help, and healing to displaced refugees. Scott lives in Daphne; but will be with us to share his deep knowledge about the history of the Middle East and the work of his organization.

April 14 – Dr. Mara Kozelsky, Associate Professor of History at USA, and author of several books on Russia and Crimea, will talk about the connections between the past and present underlying today's crisis in Ukraine. Where do we go from here?

April 21 – Veronica Culberson, "Honey of the Hill" Bee-Keeper for the Mobile Botanical Garden, specializes in helping people understand pollination and the importance of natural diversity in our environment. With Earth Day on Monday, April 22, we welcome Veronica (and her honey) to discuss her contribution to our environment, and our responsibility.

April 28 – Fellowship and Fabulous Conversation! Session meets with the Confirmands this Sunday, so class members in Fellowship Hall are encouraged to discuss a book or movie they saw recently that was meaningful for them...and why? Refreshments available.

April with Religious Arts



APRIL

Art in the Library

The artists of **Tuesday Painting Pals** will display recent works.

SUNDAY April 7

Mobile Symphony: (Mozart Requiem) Buy your tickets in advance, then sign up in the hall if you want to join the group. (Lunch arrangements will be included).

☛ Call Bonney with any questions 251-680-2060.



Count me in for Lunch!!

MAY and JUNE

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Art in the Library

The **Art for All** group will display their talents and there will be a reception Sunday afternoon, May 5.



Graduation Sunday & Senior Breakfast

Sunday May 5 @ 9:00 am

**We need people to make casseroles,
fruit and goodies.**

Want to help: Contact Deb Fry

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.

MEMORIALS

*Richard Britton Edith Cox Rita Hall Linda Langston
Katherine Marriott Margaret Miller Gwin Williams*

Susan Abrams	Jain Ann Lane	Susan Schlichting
Marie Canfield	Shirley McDaniel	Sam Strada
Mitch & Sally Cobb	Anna Penner	Dianne Swanzy
Dick & Norma Baymiller	Royce Ray	Karie Riddle
Hilda Gewin	Steve Rouse	Ron Batchelder
Mary Lena Harper		Bob Sexton

THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Patrick Jacobs upon the death of his father, Ed Jacobs, on March 8, 2024.

THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with the family of Margaret Miller upon her death, March 12, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Nancy Adams and her family upon the death of Jim Adams on March 16, 2024. A Service will be April 6 at 10:00 am. A reception will follow.

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Lanier Cauley, Janet Clarke, Deneen Massa Cook, Sherry Coats, Sallie Connell, Jamie Crawford, Rhen Druhan, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks, Dean Graves, Gwen Greer, Charles Hall, Ann Hafner, Bill Harris, Lauren Henson, Bill Layfield, Celia Ledbetter, Steve Ledbetter, Paula Letterman, Kay Korb, Jacque Marrero, Lynn Martin, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Janie Sims, Margie Spaulding, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, J.P. Van Hook, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.

Vacation Bible School
is scheduled for
June 17 through 20th.
Please mark your calendars!
Registration information will be
sent closer to the date.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church office closed Art for All PNC Girl Scouts Boy Scouts	2 Painting Pals MSC Committees	3 PWCT Children's Chapel SHR Chancel choir AL Anon	4	5	6 AA Adams Memorial Service
7 Sunday School Worship Religious Arts- Mobile Sympho- ny	8 Art for All Staff meeting MSC PNC Boy Scouts	9 Painting Pals MSC	10 Day Circle Children's Chapel Night Circle SHR Chancel choir AL Anon	11	12	13 AA
14 Sunday School Worship	15 Art for All Staff meeting MSC PNC Boy Scouts	16 Painting Pals MSC	17 Children's Chapel Congregational Care SHR Chancel choir AL Anon	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20 AA
21 Session Sunday School Worship - Com- munion Art Association	22 Art for All Staff meeting MSC PNC Scout Vesper Service Earth Day	23 Painting Pals MSC Session Diaconate	24 Children's Chapel SHR Chancel choir AL Anon	25	26	27 AA Miller Memorial Service
28 Sunday School Worship - Confirmation Reception	29 Art for All Staff meeting MSC PNC Boy Scouts	30 Painting Pals MSC				