



# SPRING HILL MESSENGER August 2024

Dear Saints of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

It is with great joy and anticipation that I come alongside you in your journey of faith as head pastor. My name is Brandon Miles, and my family and I are thrilled to join this vibrant community of faith. As I embark on this new chapter with you, I bring a deep passion for ministry and a heart for building strong, supportive relationships within the church and our broader community. My journey in ministry has been shaped by a commitment to walking alongside others, listening deeply, and discerning together where God is leading us.



One of the practices I am eager to introduce at Spring Hill is a series of dinner groups designed to help us connect more deeply with one another, understand the needs of our community, and strengthen our relationship with God. These gatherings will give us a unique opportunity to share our stories, listen to each other's experiences, and collectively discern God's presence and guidance in our lives.

To begin, church members will host table groups at their homes or even out on the town. Each person or family will have the opportunity to sign up for whichever time or gathering they choose. During these gatherings, we will share a meal, engage in meaningful conversation, and explore how we have experienced God's presence in our lives and community. This will be a time to celebrate our strengths, acknowledge our needs, and envision how we can respond to God's call.

I am excited about the potential for these dinner groups to foster deeper connections and help us collectively discern where God is leading Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. I invite each of you to participate, bringing your unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Together, we will create a space where God's presence is recognized and celebrated, and our shared vision can take root and flourish.

Thank you for welcoming me into your church family. I look forward to walking this journey with you, discovering anew how God is at work among us.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Brandon E. Miles

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Friends,

It feels surreal to be writing this letter because by the time you receive it, I will no longer be a pastor at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. I have tried to make sure that I have left as much as I can for you, so that you have a plan to launch into the fall. While I am only twenty minutes away, and I am sure I will see you at Presbytery events, I grieve that I will no longer be your pastor. However, you are getting a fine pastor and person in Brandon. Two years ago, our Presbytery adopted a policy on pastoral transitions to make boundaries clear on what a pastor can and cannot do when they leave. This is important because a pastor saying "yes" after a transition can stunt a congregation's growth under new leadership. If you would like to read the entire policy, I will have Marcia attach it in the E-News for the next few weeks but here's the cliffs notes version. Bob Madsen plans to come and remind the Session about the contents of this policy in the next month or two.

I cannot return to SHPC to serve in pastoral roles such as officiating weddings, baptisms, or funerals. I know this sounds harsh and hard because for ten years, I have loved doing these things, but these things are no longer mine to do at SHPC. I love this church family. Because of that love, I will not get in the way of Brandon beginning his ministry on firm footing.

While I am not your pastor, this does not mean that I am not your friend. Remember, I am SHPC's greatest cheerleader! I am praying for you and cheering you on from across the bay. I expect to hear amazing things about the work God is doing through you! You are beloved by God, and God is with you on your journey.

I also want to highlight upcoming events to plan for:

August 4—Rev. Brandon Miles' first Sunday in the pulpit

August 11—9:00 am, Volunteer training for people working with children and youth in the Fall.

August 25: Kirkin O' Tartans—Please make the Worship Committee and Marcia's life easy! Go ahead and sign up for the tartan!

September 8: Rally Day kicks off the fall programs at church

October 6: Rev. Eugenia Gamble will speak at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall about her new book Tending the Wild Garden on the fruits of the Spirit.

October 20: Dedication Sunday (Lunch afterwards in the Bullard Building)

A phrase from Psalm 23 keeps leaping into my mind, "my cup overflows." On Sunday, I couldn't help but for the tears to flow remembering the ministry that we have shared together and seeing the love you have for me and that I have for you. I have been filled with love and gratitude for you allowing me to be a part of your lives; for God knitting our lives and ministry together; for God at work in and through you. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow all of us, all the days of our lives as we dwell in the house of the Lord in this life and the life to come.

Grace and Peace,

Anna



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Grace and Peace,

Anna

### Love All Food Pantry Update

Do you know that the Love All Pantry, located at Central Presbyterian Church in Midtown Mobile, serves hundreds of folks in need each week? Volunteers unload and pack food on Monday mornings and distribute food to the community on Tuesday mornings.



**LOVE ALL PANTRY**  
Inclusive Community Feeding the City

The food pantry may be supported by volunteering your time, donating non-perishable food items in cans or boxes (no glass please), or with monetary donations, which help to purchase the bulk of the food distributed, which is purchased by-the-pound from the local food bank.

Art Soup, the pantry's annual fundraiser, will be held on November 7 this year in an exciting new location, on the outdoor promenade along the Mobile River and inside the atrium at the main entrance of the Gulf Quest Museum in downtown Mobile. Stay tuned about tickets!

That means planning for Art Soup is now under way and volunteers are needed to help the planning committee. If you would enjoy helping to locate and contact soup and supply sponsors for Art Soup or to help in other ways, your time and talents would be welcomed.

If you want to advertise your business or just personally wish to sponsor Art Soup, you may choose a level of sponsorship that would fit your budget.



## **Kirkin' o' the Tartans** & the **Kirkin' o' the Tartans Worship** **and the Launch of the Scottish Reformation** **Sunday, August 25, 10:30 a.m.**

With the procession of tartan banners and the ceremonial grandeur of bagpipes, we commemorate the launch, in late August of 1560, of the Scottish Reformation. The service also includes elements of liturgy and music from Scottish and Celtic traditions, making it distinct from the October commemoration of other Reformation traditions, especially as launched by Martin Luther in the cooler month of October (1517).

If you would like to carry a banner, symbolizing God's gathering of different families, ethnicities, and nations into one family, the Church (Kirk) of Jesus Christ, please call the church office at 251-342-1550 or email Marcia Wear at

[marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org).

And feel free to wear a family tartan, if you have one.

# Coming this Fall

## Conversations with Scripture Sunday School Fall Series



This fall, the Conversations with Scripture Sunday school option returns with three themes that encourage discussion about how scripture can and does relate to our lives and the world today. This small group, intergenerational class, will meet at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Parlor.

We use the PCUSA "Follow Me" series curriculum based on Jesus' practices, actions, and teachings. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum explores where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

Three series will guide us through the fall and into the Advent season while also being mindful of church wide events scheduled during the Sunday school hour:

"Follow Jesus" looks at Jesus' invitation, following Jesus in community, seeing through the lens of love, and teaching others to follow.

"Worship God" examines how the worship actions we do together shape us to be people following Jesus in the world.

"Do Not Fear" is our Advent series that studies many of the 365 times the phrase "do not fear" appears in Scripture.

We appreciate and rely on volunteer facilitators from the class to lead the lesson and discussion. Please contact Daniel or Sara McGough with any questions about the class or to sign up to facilitate a lesson.

***Join us in the Parlor on September 15th!***

### **Fall Current Issues Classes**

**A Deep Dive into Personal Stories of Lives Lived, Lessons Learned,  
and Wisdom for the Ages! Class begins September 8, 2024.**



## Celebrating Sallie

We want to celebrate 36 years of service and dedication to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with Sallie on September 8, following worship with a reception.

### Eugenia Gamble's NEW Book

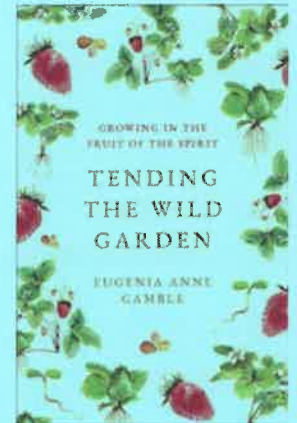
*Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*

Available on August 12<sup>th</sup>!

All Adult Sunday School Classes will meet together at **9:00 on October 6<sup>th</sup>** to hear **Eugenia Gamble** present an overview of her new book, *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*. This will be a churchwide event; and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Follow-up conversation based on this book will be offered in each of the Adult Sunday School Classes on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

You can pre-order a book now or wait until it is released publicly on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$20.00 from Westminster John Knox Press or Amazon (some other sources as well). Eugenia Gamble will bring some books for purchase when she speaks on October 6<sup>th</sup>.



### **Mark Your Calendar!**

#### **Rally Day - Coming on September 8<sup>th</sup>!**

All will gather Sunday morning for a delicious pot-luck breakfast buffet in the Bullard Building at 9:00. Fabulous food and fellowship will be first on the menu. Then we kick-off another year of Christian Education for all age groups with an overview of the many offerings to grow in our faith for our children, youth, and adults.

Whether you have been a long-time member of a particular Adult Sunday School Class, or would like to sample one or two options, time will be available after the general overview on September 8<sup>th</sup> to visit table groups and see what's in store for the various class options.

Sunday School Classes meet from 9:00 - 10:00 am, unless otherwise indicated by teachers.

All are welcome! Back to School and back to Sunday School!

## Statement as of June 30, 2024

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$	784,994
Year-to-date Received	\$	429,108
Other Receipts	\$	32,843
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>461,952</b>
Benevolences	\$	28,640
Salaries and Services	\$	214,668
Programs	\$	13,592
Office Expenses	\$	13,785
General and Plant Services	\$	144,140
Other	\$	15,445
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>430,270</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over (under )Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31,682</b>

## SHPC Fall Series: Join a Small Group for Dinner!

Would you like to connect more deeply with one another at SHPC? Understand the needs of our community? Strengthen our relationship with God? Look for more information to participate in the Small Group Dinner series this fall!



### *A message from the Stewardship Committee*

As we begin to transition from Summer to the busy days of Fall, The Stewardship Committee would like to put a date on your calendar. **Sunday, October 20** is Dedication Sunday. We will hear an inspirational message delivered by our special guest preacher, Rev. Betsy Swetenburg from Northridge Presbyterian

in Dallas, Texas. Then at the conclusion of the 10:30 worship service we will place our pledge cards on the communion table and proceed to the Bullard Building for a celebration lunch.

In the weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday, we will share some brief video presentations from our members. A common theme in these talks is the feeling that Spring Hill Presbyterian Church is a special and loving church family. Our supportive and caring church family is certainly one of the many blessings we enjoy. What is God calling you to give in return for all His gracious gifts? We can look forward to celebrating God's goodness on October 20!



## MEMORIALS

*Jim Adams*

*Richard Britton*

*Rita Hall*

*Wanda Lawrence*

*Sue McLean*

*Margaret Miller*

*Dick Pennington*

*Pat Ray*

*JP Van Hook*

Susan Abrams

Susan & Ralph Goins

Royce Ray

Mary Ruth Andrews

Mac & Betty Graham

Steve Reams

Frank & Jane Callahan

Dale Hair

Susan Schlichting

Michael & Tamara

Katherine Harris

Lewis & Barkley Shreve

Clancy

The Haws Family

Sam Strada

Judy & Andy Falls

Jain Ann Lane

The Lawrence Family

Fyke Farmer

Sara Long

Bill & Sherry Watford

Ruth Fitzgerald

Beverly & William  
McCollum

Mark & Judy Weaver

**THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY** of the congregation are with Lila Pennington on the death of her husband, Richard "Dick" Pennington on June 22, 2024.



### Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Ted Autterson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Lanier Cauley, Janet Clarke, Deneen Massa Cook, Sherry Coats, Sallie Connell, Jamie Crawford, Kathi Dagley, Brom Dixon, 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, Becky Lord, Kay Korb, Jacque Marrero, Lynn Martin, Ernestine McElroy, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Margie Spaulding, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Marcia Willett, Ann Wilson, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.

# August 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Rev Miles 1st Day	2 Montreat Women's Conference	3 AA
4 Worship Back to School Sun- day Reception	5 Outreach Boy Scouts	6 Painting Pals Commit- tees	7 PWCT Al-Anon	8	9	10 AA
11 Training for children's Church Worship	12 Boy Scouts	13 Painting Pals	14 Day & After- noon Circle Al-Anon	15	16	17 AA MSC re- treat Girl Scout Lock-in
18 Worship - Communion	19 MSC Boy Scouts	20 Painting Pals Session Diaconate	21 Chancel Choir Congrega- tional Care Al-Anon	22 Newslet- ter Dead- line	23	24 AA
25 Worship Kirkin o Tartans	26 MSC Boy Scouts	27 Painting Pals MSC	28 Chancel Choir Al-Anon	29	30	31 AA