



SPRING HILL MESSENGER

February 2024

Dear SHPC Family,

Worship, fellowship (and food), and almsgiving—these are just some of the opportunities we are planning during the season of Lent. Lent is one of my favorite times in the life of the church. During Lent we take time for reflection and repentance as we journey to the cross. Here at SHPC we continue our **midweek Lenten services at noon in the Chapel** starting February 14 with Ash Wednesday. Our theme for these Wednesday services is “Forgive Us Our Debts.” We will explore the themes forgiveness, jubilee, and debt within Scripture. Just as Christ forgives us, we are called to forgive debts—both the sins people have committed against us as well as financial debts. So many in our world carry the weight of debt—they are burdened by things they have done and have been done to them; they are weighted down by debt from healthcare crisis they could not control. Jesus forgave and healed people. He took spiritual, physical, emotional, relational weight away—sometimes Jesus did this through spit and dirt, through words saying, “your sins are forgiven”, through overturning tables in the Temple, through proclaiming the year of the Jubilee at the start of his ministry. Christ calls us to join him in this sacred work.

During our Lenten services, we will take up a **special offering** to relieve medical debt of those within our community. 100 million people, one in three people in the United States struggle with medical debt. Our Presbytery began the Jubilee Campaign during Advent, an effort to end medical debt in our area. Our goal is to continue this effort. SHPC and our Presbytery are partnering with RIP Medical Debt to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios and then forgive that debt at pennies on the dollar. On average, \$1 is leveraged to abolish \$100 in medical debt! You can see more information about this in our newsletter and hear Dale Hair share about this Feb. 21 in our Wednesday Lenten service.

Following our Wednesday Lenten services, everyone is invited to stay for **lunch together** in the Fellowship Hall. We would love to know how many to expect, so if you plan to stay, please sign-up in the hallway. Lent is a time for prayer, worship, and to deepen our faith. **To see a full schedule for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, keep reading.**

I hope you will consider a spiritual practice you would like to do during these forty days—worship, prayer, Scripture reading, almsgiving, service, Sabbath—so many modes are available. I can’t wait to see how the Spirit moves and stirs within you.

Grace and Peace,

Anna Fulmer Duke

Lent:2024

at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

"A Season of Reflection and Repentance"

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

- February 18: "Where Angels and Demons Live," Rev. Eugenia Gamble
- February 25: "Take Up Your Cross," Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke
- March 3: "When God is Fierce," Eugenia Gamble
- March 10: "Singing in Shackles," Youth Sunday (worship led by youth)
- March 17: "The Kind of Death He was to Die," Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke

Wednesday Lenten Services

"Forgive Us Our Debts"

- February 14: Ash Wednesday Service
- February 21: Jubilee with Dale Hair
- February 28: Forgiveness and Healing
- March 6: Forgiveness and Pilgrimage
- March 13: Forgive Us Our Debts with Bill Oppenheimer
- March 20: Forgiveness and Welcome with Cindy Wilson

These Wednesday noon services in the Chapel will use liturgy from the Iona Community. Each service lasts 30-45 minutes and includes Communion. This year, we will explore the theme of forgiveness. The offering for these Wednesday services will go to abolish medical debt in our state through RIP Medical Debt.

Afterwards, join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

HOLY WEEK



- Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday with Rev. Eugenia Gamble at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
- Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:00 pm with Rev. Bob Madsen in the Chapel
- March 29: Good Friday Service at Noon with Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke in the Chapel
- Sunday, March 31: Easter, "Seized and Silent in the Face of Resurrection"
Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary



Special Lenten Book Club

Tuesdays with Morrie

March 10, 17, and 24

For the three Sundays leading up to Easter, anyone interested is invited to join in reading and discussing the book *Tuesdays with Morrie: an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson* by Mitch Albom.

The Book Club will meet in Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 on March 10, 17, and 24 -- culminating on Palm Sunday. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the back hall starting on Feb. 4th. Please sign up if you plan to participate in this reading/discussion so we will know how many people to expect and plan accordingly.

Originally released in 1997, *Tuesdays with Morrie* topped the NYTimes Non-Fiction Bestseller List for 23 combined weeks in 2000, and as of 2006 had remained on this list for more than four years. Whether you read it long ago, or never before, this is the perfect book for Lenten conversation and reflection on "second chances to discover life through the death of a friend." (Tampa Tribune)

You can purchase a paperback book through Amazon for around \$10; or download to your kindle for around \$13. *For free*, you can check out a book from the Mobile Library (lots of copies available). Take this opportunity as a gift to yourself for Lent!

MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Montreat Women's Conference will be held Aug. 9-11.

The conference is open to women of all ages and it's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, learning and lots of fun! Registration for the conference opens February 1, so we need to gauge interest and start planning. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Leslie Sweeney, lsweeney400@gmail.com, 251-401-6248.



Lenten Lunches! The Fellowship Committee invites you to come have a light lunch in Fellowship Hall after each of the Lenten services. A signup sheet will be in the hall for your convenience. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be appreciated.

Nominating Committee 2024

February 4 we will have a congregational meeting to elect the 2024 nominating committee.

Here is whose been nominated to serve.

Mark Scott - Chair - Elder

Lynn Hennig PW - Representative

Jodi Morvant - Elder Representative

Vera Lynn Sheets - Choir Representative

Michael Olivera - Deacon Representative

Stephanie Jacobs - At Large

Cindy Campbell - Deacon Representative

At Large

Clark Powell - Youth Representative

*To recommend candidates for Elders & Deacons, complete a form in the hallway or contact one of the committee members.

Current Issues Class Schedule for February

Feb. 4 – Boys & Girls Clubs: Doing Whatever it Takes for Kids in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Stephanie Jacobs and Brenda Carlisle, Director of Philanthropy for the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Feb. 11 – Choir member Alla Zakarova will Tell Her Story: Growing up in Russia and what she was told about America; then coming to the U.S. and her impressions. What is it like today in Russia since the war with Ukraine began?

Feb. 18 – (1st Sunday of Lent) – Christian Nationalism: What is it? What are its historical roots? How is it manifested in today's political sphere? How do we respond? Dale Hair and Molly Wagner

Feb. 25 – All Adult Sunday School Classes meet together in Fellowship Hall to form small discussion groups around questions regarding their new STAR word. Anna will lead.

Join us in person in Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00, or remotely online via Zoom using the link provided in the weekly E-News. All are welcome!

Youth Lock-in
February 24-25

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

Birmingham
Southern
Choir Concert
March 21 @ 7:00 pm

Easter Egg Hunt
(Please note the date changel) Our Easter Egg Hunt will be **Sunday, March 17 at 5:00 pm**. Choirs will rehearse at 4:00 pm, so that our children can fully enjoy the hunt! This event is for the entire community, so please invite family and friends!

Lenten Prayer Tree -

This year, we will 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.



Statement as of December 31, 2023

Total Annual Budgeted Rev-	\$	765,766
Year-to-date Received	\$	760,786
Other Receipts	\$	74,416
Total Receipts	\$	835,202
Benevolences	\$	55,393
Salaries and Services	\$	478,177
Programs	\$	30,943
Office Expenses	\$	25,794
General and Plant Services	\$	279,493
Other	\$	24,536
Total Expenses	\$	894,336
Excess Receipts over	\$	(59,133)

Noticed in our parking lot:

At least

- 4 gas/electric hybrids
- 1 plugin hybrid
- 2 all electric vehicles

-- Good Work SHPC

The Creation Care Team



Thank you, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church!

My heart is full of gratitude and joy as we come together as a community of faith. I extend my thanks to each one of you for your generous spirit and commitment to the mission of our church:

"To glorify God and to make disciples who witness and serve."

Over the past few weeks, we have received pledge increases from over 40 families in our congregation.

While we still have a budget deficit in our projection for 2024, the Budget & Finance Committee has carefully considered our options. We have determined the savings from prior years should be utilized to fund our budget requests from our dedicated committees this year.

Your pledge giving allows us to build a foundation of financial stability, and it is this reserve that will now be drawn upon to ensure our ongoing ministries and initiatives remain strong.

Your pledges and contributions have not only demonstrated your dedication to the values that bind us together but have also paved the way for the continued growth and impact of our church.

If you haven't made a pledge for 2024 or would like to increase your pledge, please contact Susan Richardson in the church office. It is never too late to do so!

Together, we can overcome any challenges that come our way and continue to grow our faith. I look forward to growing in my personal faith journey with you, my church family, this year and many years to come.

Blessed be to God!

Amy Powell

MEMORIALS

Edith Cox Linda Langston Gwin Williams

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Erin Baker

Walter Cleverdon Paul Macon Maribyn Michel Alan Michel

SHPC Day Circle
Susan Baker
Hal & Lynn Daugherty
Royce Ray
Lewis & Barkley Shreve
Jane Sims
Jane Williams
Susan Schlichting

Jane Ann Lain
Ernest Bulwinkle
Sallie Connell
Ruth Fitzgerald
Susan Abrams
Century Book Club
Junell Sullivan & Family
Lynn & Jerry Hennig

Bruce & Sylvia Weinard
Stephanie Eggleston
Stewarts Chapel Church
W. Frank Lee
Susan Richardson
Nancy & James Adams
Mark & Judy Weaver
Sue Jardine



*Our Thoughts
and Prayers
are With you*

THE PRAYERS AND THE SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Sara McGough on the death of her grandmother, Betty Hyder on December 8, 2023; family of Gwin Williams on her death, on December 17, 2023; Marian Boteler on the death of her father, Walter Cleverdon, December 27, 2023; the family of Edith Cox upon her death on January 8, 2024, at the age of 100 in California; to the family of Linda Langston upon her death on January 20, 2024; to the family of Marilyn Michel on December 6, 2023 and Alan Michel on January 7, 2024; to the family of Richard Britton on his death on January 25, 2024.

Prayer List

Jim Adams, Coco Anderson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Janet Clarke, Deneen Massa Cook, Sherry Coats, Sallie Connell, Jamie Crawford, Rhen Druhan, Chrisy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks, Dean Graves, Gwen Greer, 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: Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio.



LILIES will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship Easter Sunday, March 31. The plants will be taken to home-bound members by the Congregational Care Committee in the name of the church following worship. Cost: \$20.00. Please call or email marcia@springhillpresbyterian.org if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one or by helping to decorate the sanctuary.

Deadline is March 18.

RIP Medical Debt

A Special Lenten Offering to Benefit Alabama

Our Own Jubilee Campaign

“One of the greatest pictures of the kingdom of God that we find in the Old Testament is what’s called the Year of Jubilee. In Leviticus, we learn that one of the most important things that happened in the Year of Jubilee is that people were forgiven for debts and obligations that they could not repay. This was an expression of mutual responsibility and care for the vulnerable.”

“During this past Advent, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope along with other churches in the Presbytery of South Alabama (PSA) participated in a special offering to help end medical debt in Alabama (with an emphasis on the counties where there is a PSA church located). PSA partnered with RIP Medical Debt to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios and then forgive that debt at pennies on the dollar. **On average, \$1 is leveraged to abolish \$100 in medical debt!**

When debt relief recipients open the yellow envelope from RIP, they are told that their debt has been bought by PSA churches and erased with no strings attached. They owe nothing on the debt and face no tax penalty.”*

How RIP Works

You make a donation.

RIP uses data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4x the federal poverty level (varies by state, family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of their annual income.

- RIP buys uncollectible medical debt in bundles, at a steep discount – millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation relieves about 100x its value in medical debt.
- Together we wipe out medical debt.

People across the country receive letters that their debt has been erased. They have no tax consequences or penalties to consider. Just like that, they’re free of medical debt.

Results of the PSA Advent Offering, and Our Goal for Lent



The Advent Jubilee Campaign set a goal of reaching \$40,000. Amazingly, they exceeded their goal and raised in excess of \$64,787. “This donation will be able to buy \$11.8 million in existing medical debt in Alabama – or approximately 75% of the medical debt in Alabama.”

Now it’s our turn. Spring Hill, and perhaps some other churches in our Presbytery, will continue the Jubilee celebration with our own special Lenten offering – continuing through the end of March. To completely erase *all* medical debt in our state would take another \$9,300.

While this amount of money is an aspirational goal, every dollar counts, and every dollar x 100 is magical. In this Lenten season, instead of “giving up” something you enjoy, let’s “give forward” something that can change a life forever! I think we can do this. Jubilee contributions will be taken during the Wednesday Lenten services, online, and on Sunday mornings.

*Direct quotes are from initial information provided by Matt McCollum, Senior Pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Fairhope, AL.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Activities</p> <p>Sunday Schools are at 9:00 AM</p> <p>Current Events</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Conversations with Scripture</p> <p>Youth Sunday School</p> <p>Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Worship starts at 10:30 AM</p> <p>Alphabet Generations 5:00 PM</p> <p>Youth & Children's Choirs 5:00 PM</p> <p>Youth Group 6:00 PM</p>						
4 Worship Congregational Meeting Annual Report	5 Staff Meeting Outreach Committee Girl Scouts MSC U-Kirk	6 MSC Committees	7 PWCT Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir Al-Anon	8	9	10 AA
11 Worship	12 Mardi Gras Holiday Church Office Closed	13 	14 12:00 Lenten Service Lunch Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir Al-Anon 	15	16	17 AA
18 Worship Communion	19 Staff Meeting MSC	20 MSC Session Diaconate	21 12:00 Lenten Service Lunch Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir Congregational Care Al-Anon	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Youth Lock-In AA
25 Worship	26 Staff Meeting MSC	27 MSC	28 12:00 Lenten Service Lunch Spring Hill Ringers Chancel Choir Al-Anon	29		