



SPRING HILL MESSENGER February 2025

Dear Saints of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church,

Mardi Gras is upon us, but soon, the parades will end, and all the King cake will be eaten. And I want you to know you are invited into a season of Reflection, Renewal, and Fellowship!

Lent is a sacred season of reflection and preparation. It is a time when we journey with Jesus toward the cross, examining our hearts, deepening our faith, and opening ourselves to God's transforming presence. During these forty days, we are invited to slow down, embrace spiritual disciplines, and engage in practices that help us recognize God's movement in our lives.

This year, we will embark on a special Lenten journey together through *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. This book invites us to explore the ways Jesus used table fellowship as a place of connection, teaching, and transformation. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus meeting people at meals—breaking bread with sinners, outsiders, friends, and followers. At these tables, Jesus revealed God's abundant grace, challenged societal norms, and created spaces where all were welcome.

Join Us at the Table

We are inviting members of the congregation to sign up either as a **host** or as a **participant** in a small group gathering. Each group will meet weekly during Lent, sharing a meal and discussing the themes of *Meeting Jesus at the Table*.

Each gathering will include:

- **Table Fellowship** – Sharing a meal and deepening relationships.
- **Guided Reflection** – Using an adapted Weekly Examen to recognize God's presence in our lives.
- **Spiritual Conversation** – Discussing Jesus' table fellowship and how it shapes our faith today.
- **Active Waiting** – Inspired by Henri Nouwen, we will hold space for God's presence in our conversations, prayers, and reflections.

How to Sign Up

We encourage everyone to participate in this meaningful practice of table fellowship. Whether you feel called to host a group in your home, at a local restaurant, or in the church, or if you'd like to join a group, we invite you to sign up and be part of this journey together. Each group will decide when they meet, where they, and how they will be led.

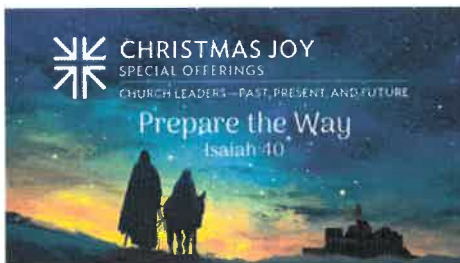
To sign up as a host, please get in touch with the church office. To sign up as a participant, choose which group you would like to join and sign your name on the sheet in the main hallway. A sign up station will be set up by February 9.

As we enter this season of Lent, may we open our hearts to the sacred moments of gathering, sharing, and listening. May we recognize Christ's presence in our meals, our conversations, and our community. And as we journey toward Easter, may we grow together at the table in faith, hope, and love.

Rev. Brandon E. Miles

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, February 9, 2025, immediately following worship** to receive the 2025 budget and elect a new Nominating Committee. The 2024 Nominating Committee is seeking two members of the congregation to serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving or would like to suggest someone who would serve well, please contact Mark Scott at dmarkscott.38@gmail.com. Your participation is vital to the life and leadership of our church!



Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, the PCUSA church lifts up past, present, and future leaders of the church. The Christmas Joy Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and

their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. This year Spring Hill Presbyterian Church collected 677.00 that will go towards helping leaders within our denomination with the support they need most. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to support fellow PCUSA leaders in their journey!

Music Notes



As some of you know, I turned 70 in the summer and our family members live in other places (including Ryan and Margaret-- our son and daughter-in-law-- who are expecting a child in April.) Vera Lynn and I would like to be able to go see our family members more frequently and to travel. And so the time is approaching for me to retire from my position here at SHPC.

I had considered retiring when I turned 70 last summer, but with the church in pastoral transition, and with Anna leaving, I wanted to stay longer, and I decided to stay through another cycle of Christmas and Easter seasons. Brandon is in place now and the church is in good hands.

And thus, I decided to work through May of this year, and then retire.

Brandon and Knox Boteler (chair of personnel committee) indicated their desire for me to help give direction to a national search for a new music director. I will not be deeply involved in the process but will help to get it started by identifying job search channels, especially those of church music professional associations.

What will life look like for me after May? I have to figure that out. But Vera Lynn and I are not planning to move away from Mobile any time soon. We want to stay connected with you - you are our church family and we love you.

I know that I need to stay out of the way of the new music director and give that person space. And I will encourage all of you to fully support that person, whomever it may be.

Thanks be to God that there is a lot of music-making, worship, and fellowship still left through May!

With gratitude to you all, and to God for giving us these twenty-three years together.

Randy Sheets

Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Youth Director



Hi! My name is Lily Davidson. I'm from Florence, Alabama and I moved to Mobile in 2019 to study elementary education at the University of South Alabama. After graduation this past year, I decided to stay and am currently a substitute teacher at St. Paul's. In my free time you can find me babysitting, reading, or enjoying quality time with my friends.

I spent the past 5 years working with kids of all ages and I am very excited about this new opportunity to work with the youth of SHPC!

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 and every 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

Budget & Finance Chair



WE REJOICE WITH Isabelle and Paul Bierwagen on the birth of their son, Ethan Paul, on January 5, 2025. The grandparents are Cindy and David Campbell.

Sermon Series

This Sunday, February 2, we begin an inspiring four-week sermon series on **hearing God's voice**. Each week, we'll explore how God speaks into our lives and how we are shaped, directed, healed, and called to reconciliation through that voice.

We start with "**Hard of Hearing**" as we reflect on **Jeremiah 1:4-10** and **Luke 4:21-30**, discovering how God's voice shapes who we are and calls us into a life of purpose and faith.

In the coming weeks, we'll hear how God's voice:

- **Directs us** in responding to God's call, as we reflect on Isaiah's and the disciples' willingness to follow.
- **Heals us**, offering wholeness and blessing in the midst of life's challenges.
- **Calls us to reconciliation**, inspiring us to love and forgive as we seek to live in harmony with one another.

Each service will invite us deeper into the mystery and grace of a God who speaks and transforms. Come and join us on this journey as we learn to listen and respond to God's voice in our lives.

We look forward to worshiping with you!



Sunday Schools in February

Seeking a Deeper Understanding of Advent, Epiphany, and Lent?

Our pastor, Rev. Brandon Miles, will lead us on a three-Sunday exploration and comparison of these important seasonal observances on our church calendar. This series is churchwide. All Adult Sunday School Classes and members of the congregation are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 on Feb. 9, 16, and 23 to go deeper into the following:

February 9: Comparing Advent, Epiphany, and Lent.

February 16: Exploring scripture passages from Advent to Epiphany.

February 23: Exploring scripture passages from Epiphany to Lent.

Join us for stimulating conversation as we travel together discussing the Sundays leading up to Christmas and ending with Easter.

Children's Sunday School lessons in February
will come from the Gospel of Luke.

Feb. 2 – Luke 4:21-30 “Jesus announces Good News to the Poor”

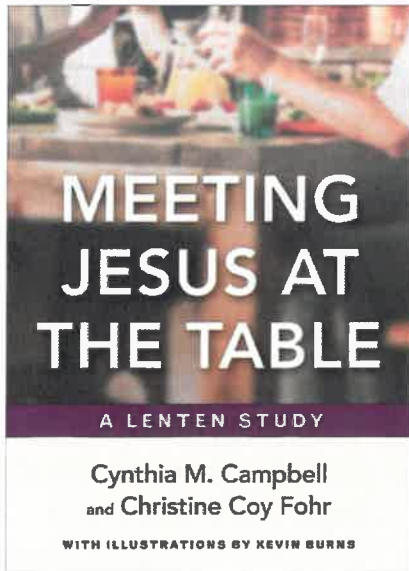
Feb. 9 – Luke 5:1-11 “Jesus Calls Disciples to Fish for People”

Feb. 16 – Luke 6:17-26 “Blessings and Woes”

Feb. 23 – Luke 6:27-38 “Love for Enemies”

A New Approach to a Lenten

Book Study this March!



“Reading *Meeting Jesus at the Table* is like going on a glorious progressive dinner. At each stop, we gather at a different table with Jesus, learning how to love, serve, and expand the hospitality of God’s grace to others. Each chapter is like the perfect bite. Add this study to your Lenten menu and enjoy the feast!” Ma-

grey R. deVega, author of *The Bible Year: A Journey through Scripture in 365 Days*.

This year’s Lenten book study comes with a new twist – and three different options for weekly table conversations with food, starting on March 9th, through Easter on April 20th.

Choose your preferred day and time from the following:

Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast treats served.

Wednesdays at noon for a Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall. (No prior chapel service.)

Form your own small group and choose the day/time that works best for the group. Decide what food your group wants to provide, and where you will meet (home, restaurant, etc.)

Beginning on February 9th, there will be tables in the hall before or after worship for you to sign up for your choice of how you will participate. Books will be available for \$10 each; or you may order your own copy (print or Kindle) through the PC(USA) bookstore or Amazon.



Religious Arts

The SHPC Religious Arts Committee has scheduled a Family Art Fun Night with dinner on Sunday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m. The activity will follow a dinner in David's Diner and the Art will take place in the craft studio upstairs.

This month's activity will be "Zentangle". This is drawing practice that anyone can enjoy. Zentangle is a useful, mindfulness practice using ink and geometry to make beautiful designs. We will enjoy the leadership of two Certified Zentangle Teachers, who will get everyone started and make sure the concepts stick! All supplies will be provided. We will limit seating to 30 persons, so register soon!

Through the Zentangle Method of drawing, you can

- Relax
- Focus
- Expand your imagination
- Trust your creativity
- Increase your awareness
- Respond confidently to the unexpected
- Discover the fun and healing in creative expression
- Feel gratitude and appreciation for this beautiful world and all that you can do

And perhaps most importantly . . . Have fun!

Listening to the Quiet

The Creation Care Team invites you to watch this short video from the E.O. Wilson Foundation, narrated by Harrison Ford. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06uYTjKwS1E> (4.5 minutes)



"The quiet voices are the most important." E.O. Wilson, an Alabama native, biologist, and naturalist, known for developing the field of sociobiology. (1929-2021)

MEMORIALS

George Barton Sallie Connell Amelia Daugherty
Norma Haas Steve Ledbetter Kaye Mims
Kenneth W. Wear Jr.

Marcy Harris

Jain Ann Lane

Gary & Tricia Garstechi

Luann Rice

Kimi & Allen Oaks



*Our Thoughts
and Prayers
are With you*

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Ruth Fitzgerald upon the death of her Sister Norma Haas on December 18, 2024.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are to the family of Amelia Daugherty upon her death on January 3, 2025, in Jackson Ms.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Marian Boteler on the death of her mother Stephanie Sullivan Cleverdon on January 24, 2024.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are with Susan Schlichting on the death of son in law, John Jennings (Erica) in Nashville Tn. on January 26, 2024.

Statement as of December 31, 2024

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 784,994
Year-to-date Received	\$ 737,451
Other Receipts	\$ 107,062
Total Receipts	\$ 844,513
Benevolences	\$ 49,587
Salaries and Services	\$ 445,839
Programs	\$ 28,861
Office Expenses	\$ 26,805
General and Plant Services	\$ 340,636
Other	\$ 24,850
Total Expenses	\$ 916,578
Excess Receipts over (under)Expenses	\$ (72,065)

Prayer List

Ted Autterson, Barbara Beach, Cammie Belue, Frank Callahan, John Carr, Lanier Cauley, Janet Clarke, Jamie Crawford, Cathi Dagley, Bron Dixon, Chrissy Ennen, Ruth Fitzgerald, Mary Lee Franks, Gwen Greer, Ann Hafner, Charles Hall, Bill Harris, Marcy Harris, Lauren Henson, Betty Jackson, Bill Layfield, Celia Ledbetter, Paula Letterman, Kay Korb, Jacque Marrero, Lynn Martin, Ernestine McElroy, Betty Minto, Ann Nicolson, Mary Owen, Susan Schlichting, Margie Wikle Spaulding, Pat Stoll, Carol Sumrall, Gayle Underwood, Johnny Walton, Babs Warren, Ann Wilson, Andy Wharton, Ronnie Wright

February 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Schools @ 9:00 Worship @ 10:30 Youth Singers & Children's Choir @ 5:00 Youth, children & parents Dinner @ 6:00 Youth Group @ 6:30</p>						<p>1 Dauphin Island Pa- rade</p>
<p>2 Sunday Schools Worship Communion Alphabet Gener- ation's Children's Choirs Youth Group</p>	<p>3 Outreach Committee</p>	<p>4 Committee Meetings</p>	<p>5 PWCT Children's Chapel Spring Hill Ringers Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Sunday Schools Worship</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Finance Committee</p>	<p>12 Circles Children's Chapel Spring Hill Ringers Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 MBA Break- fast</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Sunday Schools Worship Alphabet Gener- ation's Children's Choirs Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Session Diaconate</p>	<p>19 Children's Chapel Congregational Care Spring Hill Ringers Choir</p>	<p>20 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 Youth Lock in</p>
<p>23 Sunday Schools Worship Alphabet Gener- ation's Children's Choirs Art/Dinner</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Children's Chapel Spring Hill Ringers Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	