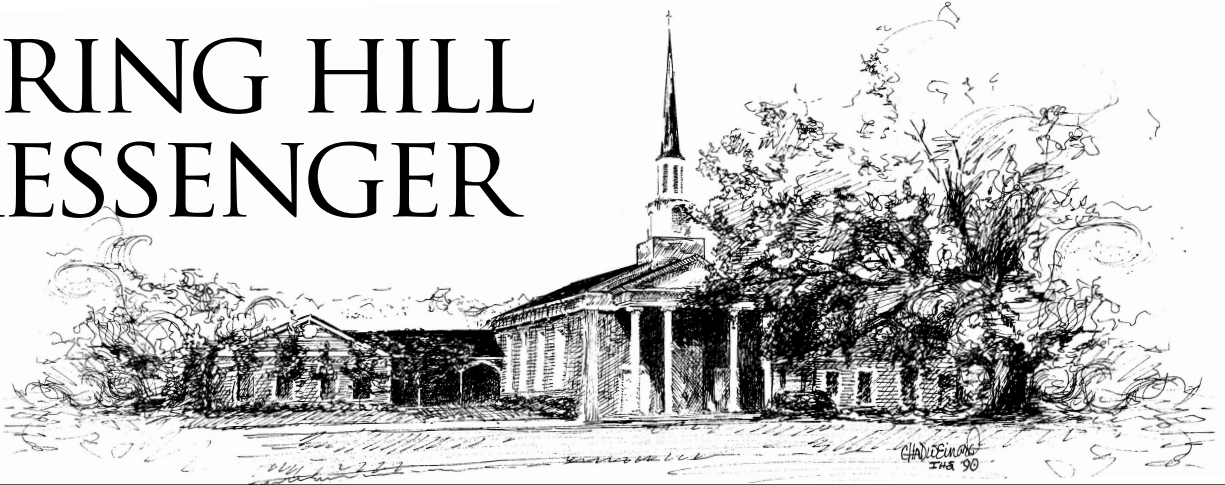


SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

March 2020

RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES

DEAR SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY,

LENT 2020

There is so much in our world that seeks to imprison us in fear and bind us in systems of brokenness. Yet, the core of our Christian faith is the affirmation that in Jesus Christ, God brings “release to the captives” and sets us free from the powers of sin, evil, and death. This Lent, as we prepare to hear the stories of Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection, we will be guided by the witness of those in scripture who endured their own imprisonment for their faith. Each Sunday we will connect these biblical prison stories with firsthand accounts of imprisonment from historical heroes and martyrs. Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a mid-week worship service at 12:15 in the chapel with music for meditation beginning at noon. Journey with us to the cross as we wrestle with our own needs for release and for the liberation of our world today.

Grace and Peace,

Sundays

- 3/1 Joseph in Egypt (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- 3/8 Psalm 107 (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- 3/15 Parable of a Slave (Slave Narratives)
- 3/22 Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (Youth Sunday)
- 3/29 Paul & Silas (Early Christian Martyrs)

Wednesdays

- 2/26 Jesus’ Temptation
- 3/4 Samson
- 3/11 Exiles
- 3/18 John the Baptist
- 3/25 Paul
- 4/1 John of Patmos

Holy Week

- 4/5 Jesus’ Arrest (Palm/Passion Sunday)
- 4/9 The Last Meal (Maundy Thursday)
- 1/10 The Prison of the Tomb (Good Friday)
- 4/12 Resurrection Release (Easter Sunday)

Take Home

Breaking the Chains: A Family-Friendly
Lenten Devotional

Dear Friends,

When things heat up

It's amazing to see all the fun that is ahead in the month of March. From a baby shower, Festival of Faith, VBS registration opening, the Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmation Retreat, and Youth Sunday, I am excited for all that this month will bring! The youth are already deep in their planning for Youth Sunday; they will be preaching and writing liturgy on the same theme as our Lenten series, "Release to the Captives." They are studying the story of Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego from Daniel 3. It's an amazing story. Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego are sent to Babylon during the exile—they are given new names. Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego are their new Babylonian names. They are told they must conform to the empire, but they resist in small and large ways. They refuse to worship the king's idol and are thrown into a fiery furnace. They are thrown into the furnace bound but immediately whether because of the fire or God's providence, their chains come loose. The guards see them walking around in the furnace but with a fourth figure—God. They survive.

Throughout our lives we face pressure to conform, to fit in, to worship false idols. The story of Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego teaches me about faith that is willing to face death, trust in God that holds us together when things heat up. During this season of Lent, with so much before us, it is easy to become distracted—to only focus on the tasks at hand. May we stop and pause to give thanks to our God who breaks our chains, who frees us to be in relationship with God.

I hope you will be there on March 22 to be led by our youth in worship. The stories they have to tell will inspire you and remind you of our God who walks with us through fire.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Anna Fulmer Duke



Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

Thursday, March 26 Easter Egg Hunt from 5:30-7 pm

Registration is Now Open!
Vacation Bible School, June 1-4: Our Vacation Bible School is a little bit earlier this year! Our theme is New Testament Superheroes! VBS registration opened up online February 27, so go to the website to the link for the Google Form to sign up!

Donations Needed: Check out our flyer to see what we need for the Easter Egg Hunt this year! Just a reminder the Easter Egg Hunt will be Thursday, March 26 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Children's ministry news

To begin the month of March, our children's Sunday school and children's church classes will read the story of Zacchaeus from the book of Luke. We will learn about ways to welcome outsiders.

On Sunday March 8, children will continue reading from the book of Luke. They will hear the story of four friends that bring a paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing. We will talk about the faith of these friends and how we can be good friends to others.

Our children will hear another story of faith in Jesus on March 15. They will read about the Roman soldier asking Jesus to heal his servant, and talk about how Jesus related to all people.

We continue stories of Jesus on March 15, by reading about a leper that is healed. Children will discuss our many blessings and thanking God for them.

We will finish March by reading from the book of Matthew. We will hear about Jesus telling his disciples that the greatest commandment to love God with all your heart.

Youth Ministry

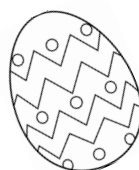
March 15: Final Dress Rehearsal for Youth Sunday

March 20: Confirmation Retreat

March 22: Youth Sunday

April 26: Confirmation Sunday

May 3: High School Senior Breakfast and Graduation Sunday



Opportunities for Fellowship, Service and Study

SPRING CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS!

March 8, 22: Festival of Faith at 9:00 am,
March 15: 9:00 am & 5:00 pm
March 26 Easter Egg Hunt (Thursday) 5:30-7 pm
April 12: No Sunday School (Easter Sunday)
April 19: VBS Work Party (After Church)
Apr. 26: Confirmation Sunday
May 3: Senior Breakfast (High School) and Graduation Sunday
May 17: VBS Packing Party at 9 am
May 24: No Sunday School for Children, Youth, and Current Issues (Memorial Day Weekend)
May 31: Summer Series Begins

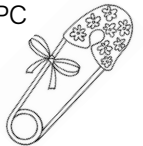


Lillies!

Will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. They will be taken to shut-ins by the Congregational Care Committee following worship. Cost is \$18.00. Please call, email or fill out the form in the hall if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. Deadline is March 30th.

Baby Shower & Lunch

Everyone is invited to a baby shower in the Bullard Building honoring Brian and Anna Duke following worship on March 15. At that time, a church-wide gift will be presented to them. If you would like to donate toward this gift, please submit a check (payable to SHPC and noting on the check that it is for the baby shower) to the church office by March 1. Please join us for lunch and to celebrate baby Duke.



NEW IN THE LIBRARY!

Christian Doctrine by Shirley Guthrie. First published in 1968, a clear, concise study of Theology. It is a classic for laypersons, clergy, and seminary students. The updated edition takes into account new works of Reformed theologians. Buz refers to it often in his classes.

Unafraid; Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times by Adam Hamilton. This was recently used by the Current Issues Class.

On the Brink of Everything; Grace, Gravity and Getting Old by Parker J. Palmer in which the author meditates on the meanings of life – past, present, and future through prose and poetry.

A Gospel of Hope by Walter Brueggemann. This is selected writings which invite us to “be asking from God and imagining about God EXTRAVAGANTLY.”

Inspired; Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again by Rachel Held Evans is about how she rethought Bible stories in new ways to strengthen her faith.

If you have read and enjoyed a book from the church library, please tell us about it. Elisa Baldwin, ebaldwin@southalabama.edu or Lynn Flanagan at lynn0423@aol.com

CLEAN-UP DAY AT MARY B. AUSTIN

Our Church will sponsor a clean-up day at Mary B Austin Elementary School on March 14 starting at 8:00 a.m. This has been an annual event for the last several years. We will be doing some light landscaping, power washing, and shrub trimming. No one is too old or young to take part. So bring a rake and a hand trimmer and join us for a fun time as we make Mary B. look great. Please sign up on the education board by the conference room. If you can bring a power washer please indicate that by your name.



Visiting Choir:

March 9-13 we will be hosting a group of high school and college aged singers and adult chaperones from the School of Music of the University of Mexico in Mexico City. These young people will be in Mobile to perform at an international choral conference (which Dr. Randy Sheets is part of organizing), and they will be staying at the church in the Bullard Building. In order to show them our Christian hospitality, we are asking for your help through the donation of items described below. For more information about how you can help, contact Don Fry (251-422-8466).

Here's what we need:

Gently used air mattress to return, or donate.

Any bottle of shampoo or soap.

Breakfast foods in David's Diner.

Potluck Dinner foods in David's Diner.

Sign up to help on Choir Bulletin board.



**Music for Meditation
In the Chapel
Wednesdays during Lent
Fifteen minutes of music beginning at noon
Preceding the Celtic Worship Services**

Feb. 26 (Ash Wednesday): **Sarah Wright** (soprano) and **Scott Wright** (baritone)

March 4: Organ music by Randy Sheets

March 11: **Janice Britton**, pianist

March 18: Organ music by Randy Sheets

March 25: Flute and Classical Guitar music by **Annette and Bret Heim**

April 1: **Dr. Patrick Jacobs** (baritone)

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church presents
the

2020 Festival of Faith



March 8 @ 9:00 AM –**Aimee Risser**, CEO & President of
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Alabama

March 15 @ 9:00 AM –**Rev. Eugenia Gamble**, PC(USA)
minister and author of 2019-2020 Horizon's Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A
Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*

March 15 @ 5:00 PM—**Rev. Christopher Williams**, Retired Alabama State Trooper
and Pastor of Yorktown Missionary Baptist Church in Africatown

March 19 @ 7:00 PM & March 20 @ 10:15 AM—**Dr. Bill Brown**, Professor of Old
Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary (*These Lectures are held in partnership
with the Christus Theological Institute at Spring Hill College and will occur on the college's
campus in Byrne Hall.*)

March 22 @ 9:00 AM—**Sallie Hunter**, Member of South Alabama Presbytery's
international mission partnership with Chiséc Presbytery in Guatemala



**Memorials have been received
for the following:**

Martha Shenese
Doris McGowan
Jo Harrison

From the following:

Kelsey Russell
Dr. Marion and Melinda McMurphy
Mostellar & Shreve LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Coit
Jim and Cynthia Hyde
Janet and Bill Hayes
Carol Townsend
Sammey and Bonney Families
Dick and Lila Pennington
William and Catherine Cox
Betty Jackson
Sam and Jennifer McMurray
Louis and Jane Williams
Lawrence Hughey
Erin Wheeler
Rebecca Wilson
Joseph Henry
Eugenia Foster
David & Barbara Hannan

Statement as of December 31, 2019

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 860,365
Year-to-date Received	\$ 94,763
Other Receipts	\$ 2,923
Total Receipts	\$ 97,686
Benevolences	\$ 2,536
Salaries and Services	\$ 41,534
Programs	\$ 190
Office Expenses	\$ 2,866
General and Plant Services	\$ 14,796
Other	\$ 2,885
Total Expenses	\$ 64,807
Excess Receipts over Expenses (Deficit)	\$ 32,879

CHUCH CALENDAR: March 2020

3	Committees
4	10:00 am - PWCT Congregational Care Lenten Service in Chapel - 12:15 pm; (Music for meditation starts at noon.)
5	Writing & Spirituality
8	Festival of Faith - 9:00 am Communion
9	Outreach - 4 pm
10	Breakfast Bible Study - 9:00 am
11	Day Circle - 10:00 am Lenten Service in Chapel - 12:15 pm; (Music for meditation starts at noon) Night Circle 6:00 pm
14	Wedding
15	Festival of Faith - 9:00 am Shower for Anna & Brian following worship
16	Deadline for the April Newsletter - 9 am
17	Session - 6:00 pm Diaconate - 7:00 pm
18	Lenten Service in Chapel - 12:15 pm; (Music for meditation starts at noon)
20	Confirmation Retreat
20-21	Presbytery at Central Presbyterian
22	Festival of Faith Youth Sunday
25	Lenten Service in Chapel - 12:15 pm; (Music for meditation starts at noon)
26	Easter Egg Hunt - 5:30 pm
31	Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10:00 am



We Share in Sorrow

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with Matthew Patterson in the death of his mother, Helen Murphy, on February 2 in Vanderpool, Texas, with Randy Sheets in the death of his father, Hershel Sheets, on February 8 in Covington, Georgia, and to Babs Warren on the death of her husband Frank Warren February 14, 2020 in Phenix City, Alabama.



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
10 Westminster Way
Mobile, AL 36608

www.shpc.us

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March

