



# SPRING HILL MESSENGER March 2022

## Holy Ordinary

*"And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left,  
your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"*

-Isaiah 30:21

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

As the season of Lent dawns upon us, we begin the 40-day journey to the cross and the empty tomb. The annual pattern of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter invites us to focus our spiritual lives in ways that foster intentionality and simplicity. In Lent, we seek to clear away all that distracts our hearts and minds so that we might train our sights on following Christ with all that we are. For some of us, this Lenten intentionality takes the form of "giving things up," rooted in the ancient biblical patterns of fasting and prayer. For others, Lent is a time to take on new practices of faith.

It is in that vein that our church family at SHPC will delve deep into a set of spiritual practices presented in the book *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor is a former Episcopal priest and religion professor at Piedmont College. She has also served as an adjunct professor at our regional seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary (Anna's and my alma mater). Taylor is a highly regarded teacher, lecturer, preacher, and writer. In *An Altar in the World*, she explores (one chapter at a time) a wide range of spiritual practices, all of which are rooted in the biblical witness and Christian tradition. However, she writes for a wide open audience in a way that welcomes everyone, including those new to the Christian faith or even just exploring it. In the pages that follow in this newsletter, you will find information about how you can participate in a weekly discussion group as our church family joins in a "common read" around this book and a special chance to hear the author speak in Mobile.

On Sundays (10:30 AM) and Wednesdays (noon) our worship services will intersect with the common read as we explore passages from the Bible where people of faith engaged these same spiritual practices. We will read about Jacob waking up from his nighttime dream, Mary and Martha balancing work and welcome, Jesus washing his disciple's feet, and many more. Our theme for this sermon series is **Holy Ordinary**, and we hope to learn how to find God's presence in all parts of our life, even and especially in the "ordinary" ones.

We are also organizing some church-wide opportunities to participate together in these spiritual practices through two Outdoor Vespers Services (March 6 and April 3 at 4:00 PM), a walking tour of the Mobile Botanical Gardens (March 19), and our next Act of Hope Mission Project at Mary B. Austin Elementary School (March 26). Details about all of these events can also be found in the pages of this newsletter.

We hope that through study, worship, and action, this year's Lent will be one that ties together many diverse threads of our church's life and ministry. As we begin the journey to the cross, let us open our eyes to the holy presence of God in all the corners of our lives.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'BJ'.

Dear SHPC Friends,

Our faith is full of ordinary elements that God uses in extraordinary ways. Ashes, bread, juice, water, candles—all ordinary things. Yet through the lens of faith, these ordinary elements become holy. Through ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we remember that we come from dust and to dust we shall return. With ordinary water, Jesus was baptized and washed the disciples' feet. With bread and wine, Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples and declared, "This is my body broken for you. This is my blood shed for you." What I love about our faith is that Jesus uses such basic, ordinary elements and makes them holy. It's why I am so excited about our Lenten theme, "Holy Ordinary."

Our faith is not something that is only accessible on Sunday morning in the pews; our faith and relationship with Christ is something we can experience through ordinary moments too. Every time we take a bath, drink water, get caught in the rain, wash dishes or baby feet, we remember we are cleansed, set free, and called beloved in the waters of baptism. Each time we break bread together around our tables at home, at church through a Mardi Gras cake or donuts, or out at a coffee shop, we can remember Christ's words and actions connecting us all through his body and blood. Our lives are opportunities to see God in our midst—to grow closer to God through our ordinary practices. The holy ordinary—the practice of seeing the holy ground we walk on is a concept Barbara Brown Taylor discusses in her book, *An Altar in the World*—a book I am excited that small groups will explore in our **Common Read (which kicks off March 6)**.

I am excited this Lent that we can find God in the holy and ordinary and everything in between--through rocks we will build into an Ebenezer at our **March 6 Vespers service**, in God's creation at the Botanical Gardens on **March 19 at noon "Walking the Earth,"** hearing **Barbara Brown Taylor speak on March 27**, blessing the spaces and people around us at our **April 3 Vespers service**, and of course in our **Wednesday Lenten services** and **Sunday worship**. I hope you will join us as we intentionally draw close to God and journey to the cross together. Let us together find the holy in the ordinary.

Grace and Peace,

Anna

**Lent In Eggs Take Home Devotional:** This Lent we are giving each family with children a Lent In Eggs Devotional. Included are twelve eggs with a symbol inside each one that teaches about Jesus life, death, and resurrection. We hope that twice a week you will open an egg and read about a symbol of our faith. Symbols include: water, bread, a garden, a rock, fish, and more! May these symbols remind you of the Holy Ordinary symbols of our faith. You can pickup your egg carton and devotional booklet in the hallway outside of the library. Please sign your name when you do.



**SHPC and GSPC Youth Lock-In, March 4-5:** We had to postpone our lock-in, but it's back! We can't be at Baytreat, but we will still have fun at SHPC! Save the date for a lock-in for 6:00 pm Friday-noon on Saturday. We know this is the weekend after Mardi Gras, but hope this provides something fun for those in town! Cost is \$20. Sign-up using our Google Form: <https://forms.gle/TVbHeqrW2ghpDy4y5>



**Open Play, and March 5:** Children and their families are invited to join us Saturday, March 5 from 8:30-9:30 am for some open play time on the playground! We will have coffee for the adults and donuts for everyone. We hope that this is a time for fellowship, play, and fun!

## Christian Education

The first small group meetings for our Common Read will begin the week of **March 6**. This book is also available on Kindle and audio versions are available at a discount on Audible if you are a Prime member. The highlight of our common read will be to go and hear Barbara Brown Taylor speak at the Dill Lecture Series at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church on **March 27**. We plan to meet behind the Chapel at 4:30 and all go together via bus or van, depending on the number of people who want to attend. The last common read small groups will meet the week of **April 10** and we will close this time together with a church-wide reception on Easter morning, **April 17** at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to be part of this unifying read as together, we discover how to see the sacred in our everyday lives.

### “WALKING ON THE EARTH

**Putting our faith into action. Finding altars in nearby places. Mobile Botanical Gardens.**

**Saturday, March 19, 2022; 12:30-2:00 pm.**

**Hosted by Judy Stout.**

**Please signup with Sallie or on the pads in the back hall of the sanctuary.**

**Admission: Members free.**

**Non-members– Children (under 3) free; (3-12) \$3; Adults (13+) \$8;**



### DETAILS, DETAILS DETAILS...

#### **COMMON READ: *AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD* BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR**

The common Read small groups will meet beginning March 6. If you have signed up, you will receive an email with information about your small group and where you will be meeting. The small groups will meet for six weeks. Two chapters of *AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD* will be discussed.

- Four groups will meet in person Sundays at 9 AM on March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, & 10.
- One Zoom group will meet at 9 AM on March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, & 10.
- One group will meet on Tuesdays at 11 AM beginning March 8 & ending April 12

Here are Common Read events we hope *everyone* will consider attending:

- **Wednesday Lenten Services** at Noon: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6
- **March 6 & April 3: Vespers** at 4PM using spiritual practices.
- **March 19: 12:30 practice** of walking in the Mobile Botanical Gardens with Judy Stout.
- **March 27: Rev Dr. Brown Taylor** will speak at 5:30 PM in the Dill Lecture series at Dauphin Way Methodist Church. To carpool, (or ride bus) meet at SHPC behind the chapel at 4:30 PM.
- **Easter Sunday, April 17 at 9 AM: Common Read Reception** in the Fellowship Hall.





**WE REJOICE** with Sherry Coats on the birth of her granddaughter Mary-Dickson Leigh Coats on January 29, 2022. The parents are Mark & Ashleigh Coats. We also rejoice with Drew & Ginny Sprinkle on the birth of John Wesley Sprinkle born on February 2, 2022. Grandparents are Jo & George Barton; with Tim & Ann Holston on the birth of their granddaughter Charlee Ann on February 12, 2022. The parents are Wesley Holston & Megan Kinzey. and with Molly Wagner on the birth of her grandchildren, Jack David & Stella Marie on February 22, 2022. The parents are Cinthia and Andrew Wagner.

Accounting has a few reminders for the NEW YEAR

1. Contribution envelopes are mailed to your home each quarter. They are great reminders to write your contribution and capital campaign checks and we are glad to provide them for your use.

<sup>A</sup> If you have changed over to automated banking to submit your contributions, you may not want envelopes mailed to you any longer

<sup>B</sup> If you make your contribution once a month, the first quarter mailing should provide enough envelopes for the whole year...just change the date

Just let Susan Richardson (251-342-1550 or [accounting@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:accounting@springhillpresbyterian.org)) know and she will accommodate your request.

2. Payments for multiple purposes (regular contribution, tithe, capital campaign, flowers, etc.) can be made on one check, but PLEASE let us know the breakdown by fund and amount. If there is no notation on the check, note attached, or noted on your contribution envelope, we will assume it is your regular contribution.

3. If you use stock transfers to our Charles Schwab account for contributions, please notify Susan Richardson that it is coming and the fund you are sending it for. Schwab will not divulge the contributor.

4. Your quarterly and annual giving statements are mailed shortly after the end of the quarter. If there are dates in the column labeled "Gift Description", you are making your payments using STRIPE (our online giving software). The dates under "Gift Description" represents the date you made the contribution and the date in the far left hand column represents the date the gift posted to SHPC bank. This information might help if you want a contribution to impact a specific year.

Prayer List

Coco Anderson, Kaye Bradshaw, Frank Callahan, Janet Clarke, Sherry Coats, Edith Cox, Matt Coleman, Ruth Fitzgerald, Amy Britton Foshee, Ann Hafner, Caleb Harrison, Charles Hartley, Jackie Martin Haskew, Lauren Henson, John Langus, Wanda Lawrence, Celia Ledbetter, Kay Korb, Sara Martin, Donna Massa, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Mary Owen, Sherry Porter, Bill Rawson, Carol Rawl, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Janie Sims, Patricia Trammell Stinson, Pat Stoll, Connie Trawick, Gayle Underwood, Nicholas Vrakelos, Babs Warren, Helen Wells, Ronnie Wright and all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Ashton Rubio, Stuart Rubio; The children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program: Eddie, Krystyn, Maylasia, & Milaishia.

**Statement as of January 31, 2022**

Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 863,515
Year-to-date Received	\$ 119,970
Other Receipts	\$ 2,599
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 122,569</b>
Benevolences	\$ 3,642
Salaries and Services	\$ 43,775
Programs	\$ 4,012
Office Expenses	\$ 2,432
General and Plant Services	\$ 12,261
Other	\$ 2,224
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 68,345</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over (under ) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 54,224</b>






## Boy Scouts

Did you know our Boy Scout troop #85 is 77 years old? We were formed in 1945, we meet in the Edington Building from 7-8:30 PM. Please come visit and bring a friend! For more information, call Susan Tomlinson at 251-209-0792 or email [susan48tomlinson@gmail.com](mailto:susan48tomlinson@gmail.com)

**SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP SPRING SPRUCE UP:** Please join us for a morning of service at Mary B. Austin Elementary School on **March 26th** from 8:00-11:30. This has become an annual event for our Partners in Education as we spruce up the campus and enjoy some great fellowship. There is weeding, trimming, power washing etc. to be done so there is something for everyone to do regardless of your age and fitness condition. We have been known to have doughnuts as a bribe. Bring your gardening tools and help us make Mary B. a place that the students can be proud of. Any questions you may have, contact Buddy Porter 251-610-3183.



 **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.

**OUTDOOR VESPERS ON MARCH 6:** At 4:00 PM we will gather outside the sanctuary for a special service based on some of the spiritual practices from our Lenten study. Please bring a rock from your yard so that we can build an Ebenezer together.



### *Lilies*

Lilies will be a part of the sanctuary decorations for worship Easter Sunday, April 17 The plants will be taken to shut-ins by the Congregational Care Committee in the name of the church following worship. Cost: \$20.00. Please call or email [sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:sconnell@springhillpresbyterian.org) if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one by helping to decorate the sanctuary. *Deadline is April 4, 2022.*



**Save the Date! July 20-24:** Vacation Bible School kicks off Monday, July 20 and will be through Thursday, July 24 from 9:00-11:30 am. We are starting to recruit volunteers, so if you are interested in helping talk to Dianne Oveson [mobiledi@bellsouth.net](mailto:mobiledi@bellsouth.net). Our theme is Compassion Camp, changing the world through loving kindness.

Registration for VBS will begin March 6.

**Thursday, Apr. 7: Easter Egg Hunt**

**July 20-24: Middle School Montreat**

# Lent 2022: Holy Ordinary

## Sundays

- 3/6 Waking Up
- 3/13 Walking
- 3/20 Community
- 3/27 Calling (Youth Sunday)
- 4/3 Blessing

## Special Events

- 3/6 Outdoor Vespers (4:00 PM)
- 3/19 Walking Tour (Botanical Gardens)
- 3/26 Act of Hope: School Clean-Up
- 3/27 Barbara Brown Taylor Lecture  
4:30PM at Dauphin Way UMC
- 4/3 Outdoor Vespers (4:00PM)

## Wednesdays

- 2/26 Paying Attention
- 3/4 Washing Feet
- 3/11 Getting Lost
- 3/18 Keeping Sabbath
- 3/25 Pain
- 4/1 Prayer

## Holy Week

- 4/10 Palm/**Passion** Sunday
- 4/14 Maundy Thursday
- 4/15 Good Friday
- 4/17 Easter Sunday



**ASH WEDNESDAY/LENTEN SERIES:** On March 2 we will gather at noon in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday worship service which begins the season of Lent. During this service, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and those desiring to do so can receive the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. This service also begins our weekly Lenten Worship services every Wednesday during Lent, which will include liturgy drawn from the Celtic Christian tradition of Iona, Scotland.

## COVID UPDATE

**"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." – John 10:10**

Over the last two years our congregation's Coronavirus Commission has worked diligently, prayerfully, and responsibly to guide our church family through the uncharted waters of ministry in the time of COVID. When the Omicron variant of the virus resulted in a rapid rise of infections and hospitalizations, our Commission decided to return to requiring masks at SHPC. At that time, we shared the hope that this would be a temporary measure in effect until the risk for our community diminished. **The Commission has now decided to change our policy at the church to make masking optional.** While many in our church will choose to no longer wear masks, many others will continue to do so. We want to make sure that everyone is empowered to make their own health decisions. **Thus, we will continue to be a "mask-friendly" congregation.**

This is an important transition moment in our process of returning to more normalcy, but it is critical for us all to remember that the virus is still something that we need to take seriously. If you have any symptoms (even if you suspect or "know" that they are being caused by something else), you need to stay home. If you have been exposed to someone with the virus, you need to follow CDC protocols. If you are in a "high risk category", please take CDC-recommended precautions. Vaccinations, boosters, and testing are all still important. Also, we need to be aware that if trends change or new variants emerge, we may need to return to wearing masks. We certainly hope and pray that this will not be the case.

# Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School



June 27-30, 9:00-11:30 am  
K4-5th grade (must be 4 or older)  
To register go to [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us)  
10 Westminster Way, Mobile, AL • 342-1550



Have a Youth (6-12 grades) who needs service hours and want to help our community? Have them join us for ServeMOB during VBS. Register at [www.shpc.us](http://www.shpc.us)



# SPRING HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT 2022

## HOLY ORDINARY

*This Lent our preaching, worship, and education will be inspired by Barbara Brown Taylor's book, An Altar in the World. We hope that you will join us as we seek to find the holy in ordinary.*



- Sign up for **Common Read** which kicks off March 6.
- Join us on Wednesdays during Lent at Noon for our **Lenten Services**
- March 6 and April 3, **Vespers** at 4:00 pm, using spiritual practices
- March 19: **Practice of Walking in the Botanical Gardens**
- March 27: **Carpool to hear Barbara Brown Taylor at 4:30 pm**

Sundays: Common Read small groups at 9:00, Worship at 10:30 on March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10

Wednesday Lenten Services at Noon on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

Easter Egg Hunt, April 7, Storytime at 5:45 pm, Hunt at 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service, April 14 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service, April 15 at Noon

Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am, Common Read Reception at 9:00 am





**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**6 - 9 p.m.**

**benefitting arts education at Mary B. Austin**

**Join us for this fun, adults-only evening featuring a student art show, live and silent auction, and heavy hors d'oeuvres as we raise money for year-round arts education at Mary B. Austin! Attire is dressy casual.**

**Tickets are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door, and are on sale now!**



**Help us meet our goal of \$25,000 - become a sponsor at**

**<https://forms.gle/REbq2a4hWK4tsgau8>**

**In the 14 years since its inception, Art from the Heart has successfully raised the funds necessary to ensure every child at Mary B. Austin can develop his or her artistic abilities and experience firsthand how fun the arts can be!**

**The Mobile County Public School System generously provides weekly art instruction for 3rd - 5th graders during the first semester of the school year. Art from the Heart helps us bridge the gap in funds provided by MCPSS and make weekly art instruction and supplies available to all students in grades K-5 for the full school year.**

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Worship starts at 10:30 AM                      Word In the Week-Noon                      Sunday Schools are at 9:00 AM                      Vespers 4:00 PM                      Youth/ Blast are at 11:30 AM                      Youth/Children's                      Choirs are at 4:00 PM                      MSC-Mobile's Singing Children</p>		<p>1                      Office closed</p>	<p>2 Ash Wednesday                      Noon Service                      PWCT                      Spring Hill Ringers                      Chancel Ensemble</p>	<p>3                      AA</p>	<p>4                      Youth Lock In</p>	<p>5                      Open Play                      AA</p>
<p>6                      Common Read                      Worship-Communion                      Youth Singers                      Children's Choir                      Vespers</p>	<p>7                      Outreach Committee                      MSC                      Girl Scouts                      Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8                      Committees                      Common Read</p>	<p>9                      Lent Service                      PW Day Circle                      PW Night Circle                      Spring Hill Ringers                      Chancel Ensemble</p>	<p>10                      Art from the Heart                      AA</p>	<p>11                      Confirmation Retreat</p>	<p>12                      Presbytery Meeting                      AA</p>
<p>13                      Common Read                      Worship</p>	<p>14                      MSC                      Girl Scouts                      Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15                      Common Read                      Session                      Diaconate</p>	<p>16                      Lent Service                      Congregational Care                      Spring Hill Ringers                      Chancel Ensemble</p>	<p>17                      AA  </p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19                      Yeoman Workday                      Botanical Gardens                      AA</p>
<p>20                      Common Read                      Worship                      Youth Singers                      Children's Choir</p>	<p>21                      Newsletter Deadline                      MSC                      Girl Scouts                      Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22                      Common Read</p>	<p>23                      Lent Service                      Spring Hill Ringers                      Chancel Ensemble</p>	<p>24                      Spiritual Writing Group                      AA</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26                      Mary B. Austin- Clean-up                      AA</p>
<p>27                      Common Read                      Worship-Youth Sunday                      Barbara Brown Taylor -                      Lecture</p>	<p>28                      MSC                      Girl Scouts                      Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29                      Common Read</p>	<p>30                      Lent Service                      Spring Hill Ringers                      Chancel Ensemble</p>	<p>31                      AA</p>		