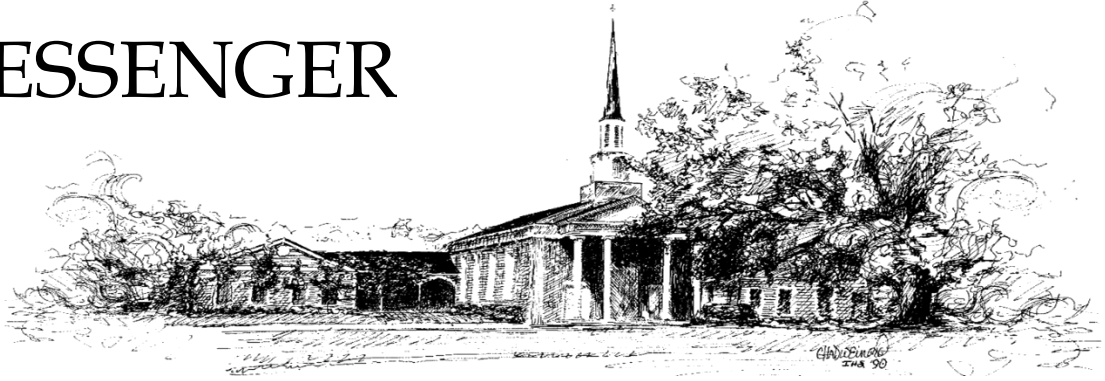


# SPRING HILL MESSENGER



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Alabama

October 2020

## Shelter in Grace, Serve in Place

Dear Spring Hill Presbyterian Church Family,

“A month of Sundays” – that’s how long it’s been since we have been physically together in our sanctuary for worship. 30 weeks – literally a month of Sundays. We’ve learned to cope and adapt and adjust. We’ve gotten somewhat used to Sunday school on Zoom, worship online, outdoor vespers services, and cardboard cutouts of fans at baseball games. It still doesn’t feel right, but by now we’ve been feeling “not right” for over half a year so the emotional territory is more familiar than it once was. We’ve stayed busy as a church family during this season, and we’ve found Sunday nights to be a particularly special time for our church family to gather safely outside. A full schedule of upcoming Sunday night activities for all ages is included in the pages that follow. Please save those dates and make plans to be together with your church family.

It’s been a month of Sundays since we safely gathered in the sanctuary, and over that time the rate of coronavirus infection has steadily increased, spiked over the summer, and begun a steady decline in the recent weeks (as of the time I am writing this letter). In the spring, our session approved a 4-Step plan for phased reentry into patterns of the church once it was safe to do so. We are still in Step 2 of that plan. However, the session has approved recommendations from the Worship Committee and Coronavirus Commission for new in-person worship protocols to begin on Sunday, October 18. Those details of the protocols are included in this newsletter. Please prayerfully read through them as you decide whether and when you might consider returning to worship in-person on Sunday mornings.

It’s been a month of Sundays with disruptions to our patterns, canceled events, and frustrating details to navigate. On a grander scale, of course, this time has been filled with grief and loss as over 1 million fellow human beings have died from this virus around the globe. We’ve seen jobs lost from the pandemic, social discord, political divisions, and natural disasters. So much is not as it should be, and yet, in the midst of so many disasters, you have been faithful still. This church family has continued to be present in creative ways. You have reached out to those in need, supported families in their grief, fed hungry children, and served your neighbors through the recent storm. You have also been faithful in your stewardship and giving to the church’s mission and ministry. In this month of October, we invite you to continue that prayerful pattern of generosity through our fall stewardship campaign. Dedication Sunday will be October 18. You should all have received a pledge card and narrative budget brochure in the mail. We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to the church for the coming year and make your pledge on or before Dedication Sunday.

Friends, it’s been a month of Sundays since we have been together like normal. And though I miss being with our church family so so much, I rest assured in the hope that we are still being held in the palm of God’s all-loving hand this day and every day. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Buz

## *A Word from Pastor Anna*

Dear Friends,

Where is God in the midst of disaster? How do we respond when the unthinkable happens? These are questions close to my heart right now as we are still living with a pandemic and experienced a hurricane. Hurricanes and pandemics are overwhelming. I want to say, "Can we just have one crisis at a time?" In our Word in the Week Bible study, we just explored the story of Noah and the ark. In case you have forgotten the story, take a look at Genesis 6-9. God sees what has happened to creation, and God is grieved. There is evil in the human heart; God wishes he hadn't created humans, so God decides to erase humanity and creation from the earth. It's frightening! But God doesn't wipe out everything; God saves Noah and two of each type of animal.

Over the course of the narrative, God changes. By the end, God still sees evil in the human heart (8:21), but God promises to never again destroy every living creature. God establishes a covenant and the sign is a bow – a rainbow. The bow is set in the clouds, so that God remembers. God in many ways in this story is a realist; God knows that humans will mess up and do evil. But God decides to not give up on creation. Chaos and the flood are not the last word. The last word is God's word, "I will remember my covenant." Never again God promises will this happen; why not? What's changed? God has changed – grace is in the heart of God.

We don't often think about God changing in Scripture, but I love this story of God's commitment solidifying, compassion and patience growing, even while humanity does not change. If we will not grow, God's love will grow large enough to fit us, even our broken pieces. While there is still evil in the world and we still go through unspeakable hardships, pandemics, and hurricanes, God is with us. Our hope depends on God, and the Lord will remember God's covenant forever. With pandemics and hurricanes swirling about, I give thanks that we worship a God whose love will not let us go.

Grace and Peace,

Anna Fulmer Duke

**The Prayers and Sympathy of the congregation** go to family of Becky Jones on her death September 2 and to Sherry Coats on the death of her husband, Dick Coats on September 27.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the **Daily Devotional** that are given out weekly will not be available for the fourth quarter of this year (October- December). Hopefully they will be available starting in January of 2021.

**Tai Chi Outside and Online (via Zoom), led by Randy Sheets**

### **TAI CHI CLASSES**

#### ***In Person Outside or Online via Zoom***

Join Randy every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. for Tai Chi!

In-person: Masked and Distanced, and in shade in front of the sanctuary

Contact Randy: [randall@springhillpresbyterian.org](mailto:randall@springhillpresbyterian.org) or 342-1550 ext 15.

To participate via Zoom click the following link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203166209?pwd=VFdLc1kvT0pLdXBpcjJaR0ptb0JmUT09>

<b>Statement as of August 31, 2020</b>	
Total Annual Budgeted Revenue	\$ 860,365
Year-to-date Received	\$ 562,368
Other Receipts	\$ 22,569
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 584,937</b>
Benevolences	\$ 35,299
Salaries and Services	\$ 313,811
Programs	\$ 6,214
Office Expenses	\$ 14,962
General and Plant Services	\$ 115,292
Other	\$ 24,880
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 510,458</b>
<b>Excess Receipts over Expenses (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 74,478</b>

**Prayer List**

Kaye Bradshaw, Edith Cox, Bobby Gewin, Jerry Headrick, Robert Hennig, Lauren Henson, Kay Korb, Norma Magee, Ernestine McElroy, Sue McLean, Marilyn Michel, Margaret Miller, Betty Minto, Cort Schlichting, William Shreve, Gladys Sheets, Ransome Sheets, Nicholas Vrakelos, all our military members: Haley Harrell, Susanna Hedrick, Stuart Rubio; **the children in our Big Brother/Big Sister program:** Krystyn, Maylasia, Makenzie, Milaishia, Morgan, Taliah & Xayvion.

## Memorials

Andy Harper Ashley Brown Becky Jones Pat Ray Robert Edington  
Dick Bradley Herchel Sheets Jeff Stoll Nancy McCrummen

Susan Abrams  
Herman & Angela Adam  
James & Nancy Adams  
American Equity Underwriters, Inc  
Michael & Margaret Anderson  
Gerald & Margaret Armentrout  
Joyce & Bob Baker  
Dick & Norma Baymiller  
Kay Braswell  
Louis & Moren Braswell  
Stephanie and Bennie Bray  
Janet Brown  
Jean Brown  
Nancy & Fred Coats  
Mitch & Sally Cobb  
Alison & Sidney Johnson Copeland  
Joan Crawford  
Frank & Cathi Dagley  
Lynne & Hal Daugherty  
Day Circle  
Doctors Clinic of Monroeville  
Barbara Drey  
Pat & Virginia Edington  
Arthur Emery III

Ruth Fitzgerald  
James Frasier  
Esther & Buddy Gray  
Dale Hair  
Tom & Lanie Hall,  
Patrick and Lindsey Hannahan  
Joanne & Ric Heinzen  
Melanie Helm  
Lynn & Jerry Hennig  
Richard & Paula Henry  
Suzanne Hermann  
Carlton & Jo Ann Holley  
Lawrence Hughey  
Kris & VS Hurst  
Warren Koffler  
Linda Langston  
Donna and Debbie Long  
Sara Long  
Kathy Marrero  
Sue & Roy Martino  
Norman McCrummen  
Billy & Sue McLean  
Bobby & Sue McNeely,  
Peggy Melton

Andrea & Parks Moore  
Beth & Henry Morrisette  
Ann Mosley  
Thomas & Rebecca Myers  
Kathryn Drey Peffen  
Clayton Pennington  
Kimberley Peterson  
Luann Rice  
Ann & Ben Rowe  
Alice & Mike Russell  
William Scheffler  
Susan & Cort Schlichting  
Barkley & Lewis Shreve  
Jane Sims  
Sandra & Bobby Smallwood  
Somerville Homeowners Assn  
The Moses Foundation  
The Strada Family  
Tobin, Terry & Carol  
Judy & Mark Weaver  
Bruce & Sylvia Weinard,  
Helen Wells  
Erin Wheeler  
Jo Ann & Wirth Yarbororugh

## Fall 2020 Children's Ministry Events:

- **Sunday, Oct 4:** Elementary Choir Zoom and Cherub Choir Video from 4:00-4:30 pm, BLAST from 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Oct. 11:** BLAST from 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Oct. 18:** Elementary Choir Zoom and Cherub Choir Video from 4:00-4:30 pm, Vespers at 6:00 pm (Stewardship)
- **Sunday, Oct. 25:** Halloween BLAST 5:00-6:00 pm (please wear a costume!)
- **Sunday, Nov. 1:** BLAST from 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Nov. 8:** Elementary Choir Zoom and Cherub Choir Video from 4:00-4:30 pm, Vespers at 5:00 pm (Anders Duke's Baptism)
- **Sunday, Nov. 15:** BLAST, 5:00-6:00 pm

Don't forget to schedule your Pastries with a Pastor visit with Anna this fall by emailing or texting 803-517-7444.



## Fall 2020 Youth Ministry Events:

- **Sunday, Oct 4:** Youth Small Groups from 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Oct. 11:** Youth Small Groups, 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Oct. 18:** Vespers at 6:00 pm (Stewardship)
- **Sunday, Oct. 25:** Halloween-Themed Youth Small Groups 5:00-6:00 pm (Wear a Costume!)
- **Sunday, Nov. 1:** Youth Small Groups, 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Nov. 8:** Vespers at 5:00 pm (Anders Duke's Baptism)
- **Sunday, Nov. 15:** Youth Small Groups, 5:00-6:00 pm

**Spring Hill Presbyterian Church**  
**Welcome Back to In-Person Worship**  
**Our Journey to Returning from a Season of Separation**

In April, the Session of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church adopted a four-step plan to guide decision-making about our return to in-person activity at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Out of an abundance of caution, SHPC has consulted all the resources available for how to safely begin regathering for worship in our sanctuary, while honoring the directives provided by federal, state, and local government. This information is found as follows and will be made available in the Sunday bulletin and reinforced via signage posted throughout the facility.

**Before and After Worship**

- ❖ SHPC has engaged Gulf Professional Services (GPS) to ensure that the facility is thoroughly and properly cleaned and sanitized to CDC and health and hazard standards and beyond.
- ❖ There will be no time of fellowship either before or after the service.
- ❖ Pastors will not stand immediately out of the narthex, thereby avoiding the formation of a line.

**Attending Worship**

- ❖ Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. in-person and simulcast by live-stream via YouTube and Facebook.
- ❖ SHPC welcomes all who desire to worship in person.
- ❖ If you are in a “high risk category” we ask you to say home. Also, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please wait until you have been symptom free for at least 10 days before making plans to attend these services.
- ❖ Anyone developing a cough or other medical issue during the course of worship may leave the room or seek the assistance of an usher.

**Navigating the Facility**

- ❖ Masks are required while inside the facility as well as when entering or exiting. Please place your mask on your face as you exit your vehicle and come to the building. If you do not have a mask, please see an usher upon entering and you will be provided with a mask.
- ❖ Upon arrival, please enter the sanctuary through the Narthex, not any other entry point (other doors will be locked).
- ❖ When entering the sanctuary, an usher will be available to assist with locating a seat, ensuring filling in from front to back and maintaining social distancing while seated.
- ❖ Please refrain from personal contact with anyone other than a family member – no hugs or handshakes. Always maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance and in various locations throughout the facility.
- ❖ The sanctuary can safely seat approximately 100 people with 6 feet distancing and 16 feet from worship leaders.
- ❖ Pews have been roped off to maintain a safe distance for the duration of worship. Please honor the barriers put in place. If your family needs more space to sit together, please ask an usher to assist you as we do have contingency plans for this situation.
- ❖ Upon entering, please fill in the available pews starting at the front, then filling in towards the back. This allows for minimal contact amongst worshippers.
- ❖ The balcony will be open for seating (ideally for families of 4 or more), again filling in from the front to the back.
- ❖ The Fellowship Hall will also be available for worship. Please enter and exit via the side door by the Sanctuary. Chairs will be set up with proper spacing and bulletins will be available in each chair. An usher will be available for assistance.
- ❖ Restrooms are available and will be limited in use to one person at a time. Each person is required to clean/sanitize after each use. Cleaning wipes will be available
- ❖ Water fountains will not be in use. If you should need hydration, a limited supply of water bottles will be made available in the narthex.

**Worship Modifications**

- ❖ Please observe social distancing while inside the facility.

- ❖ Hymns and scripture texts will be included in the service bulletin, which will be placed in each pew prior to the service. Please do not use the hymnals or pew Bibles.
- ❖ All singing in the service will be done by a cantor. We encourage you to follow along and meditate using the hymn settings found in the back of the service bulletin, but please do not sing along.
- ❖ The congregation will not engage in responsive or unison reading or in singing.
- ❖ An invitation to stand is indicated by an asterisk \* preceding the service element.
- ❖ Children will remain in their pews with their families for the Children's Message. Children will remain in the pews with their families for the entirety of the service. There will be no separate Children's Church.
- ❖ Offering plates will be made available near the exits but will not be passed during the service.
- ❖ Pastors, cantors, organist and other musicians will not be required to wear a mask while leading their portions of the service but will be sufficiently distanced from each other and the congregation.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the service, ushers will be present in each aisle to dismiss those seated in a safe, orderly fashion (one pew at a time). Please exit the sanctuary through the exist closest to your pew:
  - The front half of the pews will exit through the side doors on either side of the pulpit and lectern.
  - The back half of the pews and the balcony will exit through the side doors in the Narthex.
- ❖ Pastors will not stand immediately out of the narthex, thereby avoiding the formation of a line.
- ❖ Please continue to observe social distancing while on campus. Designated baskets will be available to recycle your service bulletin if you choose not to keep it.

### **Music in Worship**

We continue to monitor scientific research regarding the safety of singing in groups; research asserts that singing (and playing wind instruments) is very risky, since it energetically propels aerosolized droplets through the air, where they settle on surfaces and can be transmitted by touch, and through air currents, where they are inhaled by others. Therefore, when we move into Step 3 of our re-opening plan, we will continue to follow the protocols that have been in place in Step 2: we will not have singing (or playing of wind instruments) by groups of people, either by the congregation or by choirs or ensembles.

Because of the size and configuration of our chancel area and sanctuary, we cannot safely expand the numbers of singers or wind players in the choir area and thus, one singer (or more than one singer from the same household) will do all of the singing in worship. Though we will not be able to sing as a congregation, we will meditate on the songs being sung, remembering how it feels to sing aloud, and singing aloud in the safety of our homes.

We will continue to follow the protocols regarding worship leadership that we have followed in Step 2:

- Each worship leader operates in their own space, separated from others by at least 6', and not sharing a podium, microphone, or music stand with anyone else.
- Worship leaders are separated from the congregation by at least 16'.
- We limit the persons in chancel area to: One or two pastors (one at the lectern and one at the Communion table or in the pulpit), the singer (or singers from the same household) are positioned on the pulpit side, where they are not projecting directly into the space of a pastor, Organist, & Instrumentalist (playing a non-wind instrument) .

We will, of course, monitor the continuing research, and modify our practices accordingly.

### **Communion**

- ❖ Communion will not be celebrated during our in-person worship at this time.
- ❖ We will however continue to celebrate communion during special on-line services.

### **Vespers**

- ❖ Because of the possibility of larger crowds for special events and to include those who are not comfortable worshipping inside, we will continue Sunday Evening Vespers services outside twice per month.

