



The **MESSENGER**
 SPRING HILL
 Baptist Church

Volume 67, Number 2

January 13, 2021

Mobile, Alabama

A worshipping family of believers in Jesus Christ committed to understanding, living and sharing His message of hope for all people.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. JOSHUA 1:9

SHARING
 THE
 GOSPEL

Outside Our Comfort Zone



Esther & John, missionaries from Pakistan, will equip us in sharing the gospel with those who need the Light.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021
SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY
5:30 P.M.

• **Limited Seating – Reservations Required** •

Email Terry@shbc.cc or call the church office, (251) 342-5320
 Register for childcare before Wednesday, January 27.

A special mission offering for Christ followers in Pakistan will be collected.



Esther Ahmad's books, "Defying Jihad" & "Unveiled" will be available to purchase.

Sponsored by Spring Hill Baptist Church WMU and Women's Ministry

KidzQuest

Discovering God through Music & Missions!

Wednesday Nights
 February 3–May 12
 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.

4K–6th grade children
 (nursery provided for volunteers only)

Sign-up required by January 25 in order to ensure COVID compliance in our small group settings.

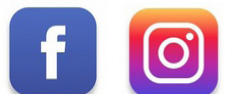


Questions? Contact Erica Holloway at eholloway@shbc.cc

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:11

Follow us @SpringHillBaptist Facebook & Instagram!



Music Ministry News:

February 3	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir rehearsals resume in the choir loft
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Ensemble rehearsals resume in choir suite
February 7	4:00 p.m.	Spring Hill Singers resume
		Jr. High Singers resume
March 31	12:00 p.m.	Organ Meditations on the Cross
April 1	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
April 4		Easter
June 17-27		Spring Hill Singers Tour

All choir rehearsals will be *socially distanced* and choir members are required to *wear a mask*. If you forget your mask, no problem, masks are available in the choir room.

Pending COVID-19 Improvement.

THE CHURCH GATHERED AND SCATTERED

COVID 19 has changed our world drastically. We are all weary and frustrated. We desire desperately to return to normal. And eventually we will have some normalcy. For now, however, vaccines are not complete; masks and social distancing are still the practice, and trying to decide what is best regarding church gatherings and activities remains a balancing act. Your staff is working to develop new and safer ways of gathering and interacting. In the meantime, we ask for your patience, your prudence in following safety guidelines and your prayers as we reinvent what it means to have corporate worship and to engage in discipleship, ministry and outreach. You are encouraged to be engaged in private worship and prayer and to be involved on campus to the extent that you feel safe. Know we are praying for you.

Jr. High Singers & Ringers
Rehearsals resume @ 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 7, 2021
Socially distanced and masked.
Pending COVID Improvement



Lake Forest Ranch Camp
June 19-23, 2021
Completed 3rd-6th grade

To secure your child's spot at camp, a \$100 deposit is due by Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Spring Hill Singers

Rehearsals

resume

February 7, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Pending COVID Improvement

Dream On

Masks are required.

Social Distancing will be observed.

Rescue Mission Ministry

Looking for a way to get involved? Join us as we minister to the men at the Rescue Mission. **Our next ministry date is January 18.** Contact Will, wwright252@aol.com for more information.

Home of Grace for Women

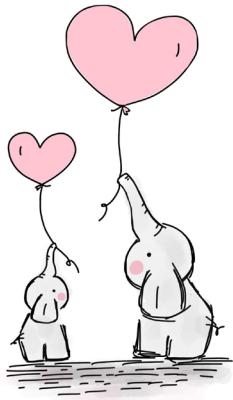
The Home of Grace ministry team will be sharing a meal and encouragement with the ladies on **January 19**. We will not be staying there due to Covid but will need you to drop food by the office prior to our 9:30 a.m. departure. Please call Janice Butler at 634-1566 to get more information.



NEW BIBLE STUDIES FOR LADIES

Our ladies will start a new study, **No Other Gods** by Kelly Minter on Mondays, beginning January 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Backroom of the SHAC. This Bible study will also be available through Zoom. Books are available at the Activities Center for \$16. Text or call Judy Wesson, 251-423-5402 or email jcwau84@aol.com with any questions and if you would like a link for Zoom.

Also, another study available for ladies is **Forgiving What You Can't Forget** by Lysa Terkeurst on Thursdays, beginning January 21 at 9:15 a.m. in the Backroom of the SHAC. Book orders due by Thursday, January 13 (Cost: \$18.50). Please contact Carol Williams, ceec4@comcast.net, to order your book.



VIV Special Event SweetArt

Tuesday, February 9th

6:00-7:00 p.m.

SHBC Dining Hall

Details coming soon!

(VIV=Very Important Valentine!)

TRUSTING IN THE "NO"

Despite what social media may lead us to believe, we all have disappointments and heartbreak. Sometimes, prior to a disappointment, we have prayed and prayed that the outcome would be different. "Dear God, please help me get this promotion or job. Please heal this hurt, disease, broken heart. Please salvage this marriage or friendship. Please help my child be accepted into this program, make the team, get the scholarship."

Does God hear our prayers? Always. Does He answer our prayers? Absolutely. Does He always grant what we ask? No. No, He doesn't, and that's where things get real, because if we aren't careful, prayers that are answered with a resounding "no" can lead to a crisis of faith for us.

When God says "no" after we have earnestly and fervently prayed for something, we shake our heads (maybe even our fists) in disbelief and then the questions begin. The questions absolutely consume us. Did I not pray hard enough? Did I pray the wrong way? Is this some sort of punishment? Why did You say "yes" to someone else? Is the one you said "yes" to a better person, Christian, mom, dad? Do You love me? Do You care how this makes me feel? I'm trying so hard to follow You - for what? If we're really honest, we feel like God has hurt our feelings, and there's nothing about feeling that way that feels good. Doesn't He care about us?

Then to add insult to injury, there's the social media post applauding God for answering his/her prayer, and of course, the answer was "yes." You never see a post where someone is praising God for slamming a door shut or saying "no" to something you thought you really needed or something that you thought was so right for your life. In fact, sometimes we're tempted to believe that prayers are always answered with a "yes" and that's such a dangerous, false temptation, because when we are told "no," we're not always sure what to do with that. Sometimes, the "no" is so, so painful in the moment.

So what do we do when God has said "no" and we're drowning in the "whys" and ever so subtly our faith begins to waver and we find ourselves at the intersection of what we know to be true about God and how we feel in that moment? We cling with white knuckles to what we know to be true about God. We trace God's fingerprints through our past with Him and proclaim what we know of Him. Do we believe He is good? Do we believe that He loves us with a love that we simply can't fathom? Do we believe that He knows the bigger picture? Do we believe that He knows what we need more than we do? Have we seen Him shut a door, because there was something better down the road? Can

THIS WEEK AT SPRING HILL

Sunday, January 17

8:45 a.m..... Contemporary Worship Service

9:45 a.m..... Sunday School

11:00 a.m..... Traditional Worship Service

No Jr. High Singers or Spring Hill Singers Rehearsal

Monday, January 18

8:30 a.m..... Waterfront Rescue Mission

5:30 p.m..... Students: The Guild

6:00 p.m..... Ladies' Bible Study: *No Other Gods*

Tuesday, January 19

9:30 a.m..... Home of Grace

Wednesday, January 20

No Adult Ensemble or Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 21

9:15 a.m..... Ladies' Bible Study: *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*

Friday, January 22

Saturday, January 23



Students (Grades 7 - 12)
Join us for the Workshop on
Wednesday Nights starting February 3
from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
in the Gym

Social Distancing will be observed.

He be trusted? Does He truly care about every detail of our lives? Can the One who lovingly crafted us in our mother's womb really want what is best for us?

As we plunge into a new year, what better time to affirm in our own hearts and in the hearts of our families what we know to be true about our Heavenly Father? What better time to trace our grace-filled history with the One who loved us so much that He gave His One and Only Son? As we begin a new year filled with hope and possibilities, let's leap back into the Father's lap and ask Him to give us the faith to trust in His goodness, grace, mercy, love, and plan with an unwavering trust ... even when His answer is no.

Erica Holloway
Minister to Children & Families

Church Office 342-5320

Dr. Rob Jackson Interim Pastor
Rev. Terry Richey Associate Pastor
Rev. Randy Grim Minister of Music
Rev. Josh Karl Student & College Pastor
Erica Holloway.....Minister to Children & Families
Rev. Bill Taylor Asst. Minister of Music
Gretchen Crane Communications Director
Denise Marsh Financial Manager
Debbie Rice Children's Music Coordinator
Missy Powell Pianist

Activities Center 342-5375

Colleen Smith ... Recreation/Activities Coordinator
Enrique Castillo Recreation Ministry Assistant
Ashley Johnson Upward Sports Director

**Weekday Preschool Education Office
342-6044**

In case of emergency over the weekend,
you may reach the minister on call
at 342-5320.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

THE MESSENGER, (UPS 512-220), IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY, (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MARDI GRAS, JULY 4, THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS).
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 2 SOUTH MCGREGOR AVE.
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LISTENING – THE BEGINNING OF LOVING

Our Christ scandalized the first century culture by showing love. He chose to engage with enemies of “the righteous ones” by eating with tax collectors and sinners. He engaged with those who had been “tainted” by their worldly practices. Jesus touched the leper and heard the cry of those suffering whether physically or spiritually.

It wasn't the oppressive Roman government that Jesus stood against but the oppressive rule of the religious who should have known better. Why else would they consider him a threat? They had chosen to corroborate with Rome in order to keep their power to the neglect of those who needed God the most. They had turned a deaf ear to the cries of the sick, the outcasts and the lonely sinners caught in the traps of their own sin. Rather than offering hope, they offered only condemnation.

Conversely, Christ entered the scene and heard the cry. Time and again we see His response to the lonely broken-hearted ones, the blind beggar, the sinful woman, Matthew, Zacchaeus, the widow, the bent over woman, and the paralytic to name a few. Jesus Himself wept over the hopeless despair of the people of Jerusalem. Even when they weren't calling for Him, He could hear their heart's cry.

We as Christ-ones are called to love, but if we aren't listening, how can we hear the needs and respond. Love takes time. Love takes patient listening. Love means often being silent and sitting without offering some trite solution or pious scripture quoted in haste. It is hard to hear the needs of individuals when everyone is shouting, so we must train ourselves to tune in. That training comes from spending time with God connecting with His heart so we can connect with others.

Many times, we presume to know another but until we listen, actively listen, we truly don't know. Consider what others value; ask about their fears, experiences, perspective. Listen without judging. Really hear their heart. Then, allow the Holy Spirit to guide in responding in love.

I'll practice this more and encourage you to join me in it as well.

Be God's,

Terry

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12