

SERMON SERIES

Reach: The Outstretched Mission of the Church
March 31 through May 26

SHPC Family,

I have been looking forward to this season for our church for quite some time. In this season of celebration of the resurrection of the Lord, we will also be considering how we follow that call to go out and to bear witness to that good news in the ways we live, speak, serve, and gather as a church.

A long time ago, the Apostle Paul came to a crossroads, wanting to go in one direction in Asia Minor but was prevented by the Spirit (Acts 16:7). That night, however, Paul had a vision of a “man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ When he had seen the vision, [they] immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them” (16:9-10).

That calling, that vision to cross over and reach out beyond where they had been before reverberates even today. This was the gospel’s first crossing into what we would call continental Europe, and we are direct beneficiaries of Paul’s response—and of the response of countless saints ever since! What would have happened if Paul and his cohort had said, “Eh, actually we’re okay with where we are”? To put it lightly, we wouldn’t be here.

Now that same calling to “cross over,” to reach out, to go beyond where we’re comfortable goes out to us.

This month, we will hear an exciting vision for our church in this next season of life that includes details on planned updates to our building as well as a singular missional focus for impact within our city.

We’re calling it the **REACH** Campaign.

How does our building reflect our calling to be outwardly focused? How does our building convey a sense of welcome to all who enter our doors? How does our building foster fellowship and connection? These are all things we highly value as a congregation. It’s who we are. But does our building help or hinder those goals? Does our building communicate the heart of our calling to be outwardly focused, to “cross over,” to reach out?

We’ll be tackling those tough questions, and I invite you to be with us starting Sunday, April 7, Sunday during worship. For the month of April, we’ll be talking about **this exciting effort that will take EACH of us**, leading up to a **Commitment Sunday on May 5**.

I have every confidence that our church will step up to the call to cross over, to reach out, to go beyond where we’ve been, and I have every hope that this process will not only be fruitful when it comes to buildings and mission efforts, but spiritually transformative for every single one of you.

Come join us!



In Christ,

Dr. Jay F. Howell
Pastor | Head of Staff

April 2024 | at a Glance

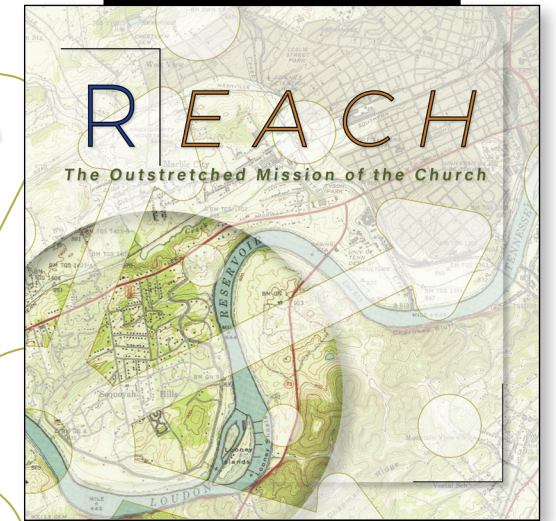
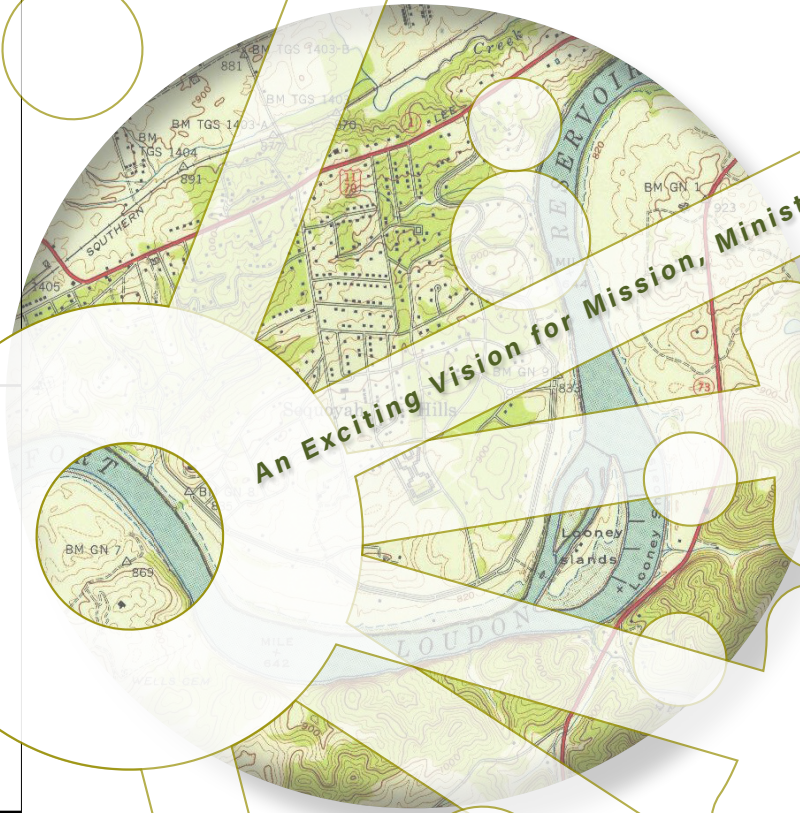
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday The Church Office is Closed	2 9:30a Staff Meeting	3 9a WWW Group 9:20a Howell 10a Yoga 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/ Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise Choir 5:30p Gale/Kimmey 5:45p Couples Disciple 6p Dotterweich 7p Saunders 7p Chancel Choir	4 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study	5 87a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G1) 10a Tai Chi	6
7 REACH KICK-OFF 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5:30-7:00p Youth SNF	8 10a Yoga 12p L.I.F.E. Group Blackwell 6p L.I.F.E. Group Moseley	9 9:30a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting	10 9a WWW Group 9:20a Howell 10a Yoga 10:30a Dotterweich 12p C & C Luncheon 4p Knitters/ Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise Choir 5:30p Gale/Kimmey 5:45p Couples Disciple 6p Dotterweich 7p Saunders 7p Chancel Choir	11 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study	12 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G2) 10a Tai Chi	13
14 REACH 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5:30-7:00p Youth SNF 5p SM Supervision	15 10a Yoga 12p L.I.F.E. Group Blackwell 6p L.I.F.E. Group Moseley	16 9a FISH Ministry 9:30a Staff Meeting	17 9a WWW Group 9:20a Howell 10a Yoga 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/ Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise Choir 5:30p Gale/Kimmey 5:45p 1st Communion Class 5:45p Couples Disciple 6p Dotterweich 7p Saunders 7p Chancel Choir	18 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study	19 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G2) 10a Tai Chi	20
21 REACH 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5:30-7:00p Youth SNF	22 10a Yoga 12p L.I.F.E. Group Blackwell 6p L.I.F.E. Group Moseley	23 9:30a Staff Meeting	24 9a WWW Group 9:20a Howell 10a Yoga 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/ Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise Choir 5:30p Gale/Kimmey 5:45p Couples Disciple 6p Dotterweich 7p Saunders 7p Chancel Choir	25 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 6p Joint Officer's Meeting and New Officer's Exam	26 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G1) 10a Tai Chi 12p Good Friday Service in the Chapel 10a Tai Chi	27
28 REACH 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5:30-7:00p Youth SNF	29 10a Yoga 12p L.I.F.E. Group Blackwell 6p L.I.F.E. Group Moseley	30 9:30a Staff Meeting				

REACH

The Outstretched Mission of the Church

Starting Sunday, April 7, 8:45 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. Worship.
You don't want to miss this!

JOIN US MARCH 31
THROUGH MAY 26
FOR OUR SERMON
SERIES, "REACH: THE
OUTSTRETCHED
MISSION OF THE
CHURCH"



A Vision for Our Future

A long time ago, the Apostle Paul came to a crossroads, wanting to go in one direction in Asia Minor but was prevented by the Spirit (Acts 16:7). That night, however, Paul had a vision of a "man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, [they] immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them" (16:9-10).

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So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" -John 12:13

Dear Jesus, I love to hear you say “Peace, be still” to my troubled heart. The media relentlessly proclaims bad news for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I’ve found that a steady diet of its fare sickens me.

Instead of focusing on fickle, ever-changing news, I choose to tune in to the living Word—You, the One who is always the same: yesterday, today and tomorrow. I want to let Scripture saturate my mind and heart so I can walk steadily along the path of Life with You.

Although I don’t know what tomorrow holds for me, I can be assured of Your presence and my ultimate destination. Hallelujah and Amen!

-SHPC Prayer Committee (excerpts from: Jesus Listens by Sarah Young.)

Happy Spring!

Joy Fellowship has kept us hopping throughout the doldrums of winter with luncheons, outings, and movies. We are so thankful for the Joy Fellowship Committee as they keep the Joy and Fellowship together by helping us feel energized and connected. We had a wonderful luncheon with Buddy’s Barbecue and good information about the missionaries we support around the globe from our own Kent and Dianna Koebke. They also shared how we as a congregation can help our missionaries feel connected and energized through cards and letters as they do the work to which God has called them. Thank you, Kent and Dianna!

We have some great events to look forward to in April. At our Church and Community Luncheon, sponsored by JOY Fellowship, Governor Bill Haslam will speak on “Faith and Politics. Plan to join us on Wednesday, April 10, at noon. Reservation deadline: Friday, April 5. Please call the church office to reserve your spot. You must have a reservation as space is limited. Bring 410 for a boxed lunch from The Lunchbox. We hope everyone will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Please notice that this luncheon is on Wednesday instead of our regular second Thursday.

April’s Movie Monday is April 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fowler Conference Room. We are showing *Boys in the Boat*, a true story about the University of Washington’s rowing competition in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Please join us for the movie, popcorn and drinks. This will be our last movie until September. Come join us for both or either of these events in April! -Rev. Janna Preston



Thrive Papermill is Getting GaGa

Justin Martin and Mike Hall spent a Saturday in late March constructing a GaGa pit for the kids at Thrive Papermill. Justin and Mike look forward to having the youth help them paint their fun and fabulous contribution to the Thrive Papermill playground. One of the main advantages of GaGa Ball is that all children, regardless of their athletic skill level, have the ability to participate and even win.

SESSION RECAP | 03.19.24

- 28 total, including Revs. Garris, Howell, and Lampley, Clerk of Session Susan Hyde, and Business Administrator Tim Thurston
- Devotion from Ned Babb
- Main Order of the Day was a semiannual report from Deacon Moderator Erika Morris, along with dedicated time for prayer for the concerns of our congregation.
- Other business included reports from the Budget & Finance Committee, approving a Gift Acceptance Policy; from the Personnel Committee, approving an expansion of the role of the Minister of Congregational Care to include coordination of some health-related ministries; and an update on the Capital Campaign.
- More detailed minutes of Session meetings are available by request.

Rev. Janna Preston to Help Coordinate Health-Related Ministries

In response to congregational feedback and recommendations from the Health and Wholeness Committee, Rev. Janna Preston, our Minister for Congregational Care, will soon take on some added responsibilities and hours in helping coordinate some of our health-related ministries.

With her background in hospital chaplaincy and familiarity with the church already, Rev. Janna will be able to hit the ground running. She’ll work closely with the Health and Wholeness Committee and the Transportation Committee in resourcing good support of our congregation when health-related challenges arise. Her main role in these added responsibilities will be to help coordinate the work of the broader committees in providing transportation and health-related education. She will also provide support to our members and community, and along with the pastoral staff, develop a deeper referral network of medical professionals who would be able to supplement our congregation’s education and awareness of community resources.

These new responsibilities will be in addition to her responsibilities with Joy Fellowship, Visitation, and Women’s Ministries.



BLESSED

were all those who attended the 2024 Women’s Retreat at Dollywood’s DreamMore Resort last month. Our speaker, Laura Miller, (author of *Take Root: How the Beatitudes Reveal the Astonishing Nature of God’s Garden*), was our speaker and helped us see, explore, and “take root” in the power of the beatitudes. She offered wonderfully thought-provoking presentations and we had some powerful discussions in our small groups. It was wonderful to see the fellowship and community-building that took place throughout our time together with good food, free time, and a very comfortable place to stay. We had 63 participants, some of whom came up just for the day. Thank you to co-chairs Bonnie Marret and Marcelle Morgan, Annie Ayres, Klair Kimmey, Amara Pappas, and all of the committee who helped make the weekend a time to get away, relax, build community and grow spiritually. -Rev. Janna Preston



A BIG THANK YOU
to all of our guests and volunteers on Sunday, March 24 for a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt, with over 1,000 eggs hidden. Our sweet friends found them all!
-Mary Emily Morris



On Palm Sunday, March 24 we celebrated the 2024 Confirmation Class: received into the membership of SHPC by Profession of Faith were Anna Benko, Edward Brabham, Emory Carter, Caroline Copenhaver, Weston Daniel, Anna Doiron, Emma Doiron, Chloe Dye, Jackson Dye, Mac Kuester, Charlotte LeRoy, Alex Lindsay, Madeleine Martin, Lila Melson, Quinn Saunders, Owen Sayle, and Caroline White. Thanks be to God for our 2024 class, sponsors, and leadership.



RSVP now: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWbYXceUDnR-SWJ10N9aFCXB4X04SS3SnhpAmnTd6wa3S7tQ/viewform>



Looking back | Over the past month, our students have been busy serving with the Loaves and Fishes ministry, helping out a family from the church, and sending a team to Thrive. We are grateful for the many ways we have been able to serve in March. On Sunday nights, we have specifically been learning about the records/CDS/music that play in our minds. What theme song plays over and over in your head? Is it a positive message or a negative one? The world loves to have us think we aren't enough or worthy, but that isn't true. God is and will be faithful. The students have been challenged to shift how they think and live into the truth that God has great plans for their lives.

Wrap-up March | We wrapped it up with celebrating the 18 confirmand students meeting with Session, a movie night, and more service opportunities.

Looking ahead | In April, we have some great things coming up. On April 5, the middle school students will have their "Lock Out" event, and then on April 10, we are having our first-ever Dad and Daughter night for middle and high school girls. We will provide dinner and mini-golfing around the campus.

Ask a student about a new rubber band that they will be wearing. If not, ask them where it is. It should not be REACHING too much to ask them that question.

God is good and faithful; we appreciate your continued prayers and encouragement.

Do you need help around your house? Lawn work? Window washing? Painting? Please let us know. -Brandon Bajema

Register for Scuba VBS Now!

Join us on June 3-7 for a fun week learning more about our most precious and important friendship, the one with God! Children attending VBS without a parent must be 4 years old (by June 1, 2024) through rising 5th graders. Nursery care is available for VBS volunteers with younger children. Register participants and volunteers at sequoyahchurch.org under Latest Information, or use link now: <https://shpc.wufoo.com/forms/m1hifc2u0us8fhc/>



The Scuba dive will begin at 9:00 a.m. and we will resurface at noon on Monday through Thursday. Children, with their parents, are invited to the "Family Celebration on the Lawn" on Friday, June 7, from 11:00-1:00 p.m.!



SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3700 Keowee Avenue | Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

865.522.9804. | sequoyahchurch.org

04.24

Our Meal Ministry | SHPC has some great cooks, and our Meal Team is ready to help any member of our congregation at a time of need, such as illness, recovery, loss, or welcoming a new baby into your home. If this ministry could help you or someone you know, please text or email Helen Bruner at (865) 368-4107, <mailto:helen.bruner44@gmail.com>, or Jennifer White at (865) 363-9684, <mailto:jennifer6178@hotmail.com>. If you would like to participate in this ministry and furnish a meal to someone in need, please let us know!

CHURCH RECORDS

BIRTHS

Edith Locke Ammons
daughter of Franklin and
Lauren Ammons
Wednesday, March 27

Maggie June Bowman
daughter of Matt and Lauren
Bowman
Saturday, March 9

BAPTISMS

Chloe and Jackson Dye
children of Clay and Shelley Dye
Sunday, March 24



Missionary Spotlight Botho and Gisela Heinz in Germany

Botho is a global worker with Theologischer Schulungs-Service (TSS) since 1990. He began his career in 1977. His ministry with TSS started out in the former Soviet Union and has included ministries in Poland, Hungary, Austria, Romania and Croatia. Through World Reach he has ministered in Kenya, the U.S. and Canada.

-Kent and Dianna Koebke, International Missionaries Co-Chairs

Our upcoming First Communion Class will be on Wednesday, April 17, at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary for all children, second grade and up, who have not yet been welcomed to The Lord's Table.

Email Mary Emily, memorris@sequoyahchurch.org, if you want to learn more or plan to attend.