

SERMON SERIES
Of First Importance: Celebrating the Risen Lord
April 20 through May 25

SHPC Family,

What are some of the core truths and values that ground how you live, how you interact with other people?

I expect many of us might add to the mix things like love of family, doing one's work with integrity, or being a kind person. Others of us might add things like a drive for excellence in our endeavors, be they professional or otherwise.

This being a church, no doubt many might consider relationship with God or salvation in Christ in the mix too. But even spiritual language like Jesus and God can get abstract—certainly more abstract than the claims of the gospel would be.

Since Easter, we've been looking at one chapter in one of Paul's letters: 1 Corinthians 15. In it, Paul unpacks just why the resurrection of Jesus is so crucial in the life of faith, going so far as to say, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (15:17).

It's possible, even easier, to consider faith just in abstract terms. The divine transcends understanding, after all. But what Paul is saying here is that we can't just let the declarations of Easter stay in abstract, spiritual terms. If Christ is not risen, the whole thing crumbles.

I wonder, then, just how much the resurrection of Jesus practically, tangibly impacts our daily life. If one declares, say, the Apostles' Creed, and if we truly believe it when it says, "The third day he rose again from the dead," it means that the very practice of life in faith hinges upon whether we are living not just for the temporary life we've been born into but for an eternal life to come.

So if you believe it, does your life show it? Are we living with an eternal scope in focus? Do our lives reflect an "All In" approach, as in, if this is true, it changes everything, and if it's not, then this whole church and faith thing is just a big waste of time.

Kind of daunting, when you think about it, but it does crystallize the power of the gospel: that we are not meant to live considering this life alone, but rather the new life, the risen life that God is inviting us into.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Howell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Dr. Jay F. Howell
Pastor | Head of Staff

May 2025 | at a Glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 10a Pottery	2 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G2)	3
4 REACH One Year Anniversary 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Grad Brunch 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 11a Grad Recognition 4-5p LAST SNF FOR THE YEAR in Barron Hall 5-6p Youth Small Groups in The Loft	5 9a Yoga 12p Blackwell	6 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Pottery 6p Session Meeting	7 9:20a Howell 9:30a Zeanah 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise 5p Gale/Kimmey 6p Dotterweich 7p Chancel Choir	8 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 10a Pottery 12p Church and Community Luncheon	9 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G2)	10
11 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream	12 9a Yoga 12p Blackwell 6p Disciple Study	13 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Pottery	14 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/Crocheters/Stitchers 4:30p KidsPraise 5p Gale/Kimmey 6p Dotterweich 6:30p KidsPraise Spring Worship Service 7p Chancel Choir	15 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 10a Pottery	16 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G1)	17
18 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5p SM Supervision	19 9a Yoga 12p Blackwell	20 9a FISH Ministry 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Pottery	21 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/Crocheters/Stitchers 5p Gale/Kimmey 6p Dotterweich 7p Chancel Choir	22 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 10a Pottery 6:30p Men's Fellowship Dinner at Aubrey's	23 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G1)	24
25 8:45a Worship in Barron Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream	26 Church Office is Closed for Memorial Day	27 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Pottery	28 10:30a Dotterweich 4p Knitters/Crocheters/Stitchers 5p Gale/Kimmey 6p Dotterweich 7p Chancel Choir	29 8a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study 10a Pottery 5:30p Table Talk at The Plaid Apron	30 7a L.I.F.E. Group Men's Bible Study (G1)	31

It Doesn't End with Us.

REACH One Year Anniversary

It's hard to believe that this time a year ago, we as a congregation were discerning God's leading into a vision for mission and ministry, impacting the use and comprehensive updates to our building and a deep commitment to supporting Olive Tree Early Learning Academy, a then-new mission supporting households led by single mothers in our city through the Restoration House.

Like big things should be, the scope was daunting, but by the grace of God, SHPC stepped up! We met and surpassed our goals for funding these initiatives, and we have seen the progress already.



One has only to walk or drive past the church to witness the changes taking shape, just from the construction fencing up. We're seeing spaces starting to take shape already for a renovated, connected main office area, new areas for fellowship and connection, and accessibility for all mobility levels from one end of the church building to the other.

And our friends at Olive Tree are wrapping up their second year of school this month, expanding the impact of the broader ministry of Restoration House.

As we give thanks and celebrate the one year anniversary of the REACH Campaign, we offer gratitude for God for how he has led our congregation into this new vision, as well as renew our commitment to one goal on which we did fall short: 100% participation.

Faced last year with increases in construction costs, our Session developed a responsible path forward in initiating construction. Though we are grateful that we met and exceeded our numerical goals, it will take EACH of us all in to see this vision fully come to fruition.

So this month, we'll extend another invitation for all of us to join in this exciting vision, in particular to those for whom last year may not

have been in God's timing to consider a pledge above and beyond our regular annual giving. -Pastor Jay



A Note From Olive Tree Early Learning Academy | Our school received a much-needed upgrade this week with the help of our dear and generous friends at Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church. Our new sign is so beautiful! Our hearts are full of gratitude every time we drive in. Thank you sweet friends for your love, partnership, and provision. -Mandy Watson

JOIN US THROUGH
MAY 25 FOR OUR
SERMON SERIES,
"OF FIRST IMPORTANCE:
CELEBRATING THE
RISEN LORD"



It Changes Everything.

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“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.” On Sunday, April 13, 2025, our 2024-25 Confirmands reaffirmed the baptismal vows made on their behalf when they were given the gift of Baptism as infants. We celebrate and welcome the newest members of Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, our 2024-2025 Confirmation Class. **“Everyone who acknowledges me before all, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.”**

TIME TO PRAY

Lord God, In May we foolishly designate a single day to honoring our mothers. Yet, you posed the question “Who is my mother . . . ?” in Matt. 12: 48. Then you responded with “. . . whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my mother . . .” Help us Lord to do likewise, honoring all women every day. Lead us to respect their opinions and wisdom as Ruth did with Naomi; help us to love them even when we find that difficult; help us to learn from them directly and indirectly by their actions; help us to forgive them their trespasses for Christ’s sake.

And open our eyes to their needs at each stage of their life and respond with compassion, patience, and generosity. In His precious name we pray. Amen.

-shared by SHPC Prayer Ministries



NEW OFFERING PLATES were made possible from donations made in memory of Frank Marion Addicks. At his family’s request, this designation was approved by the SHPC worship committee.

We are continually grateful for all of you and the light and joy that your fellowship brings to SHPC. On Thursday, April 10, at JOY Fellowship’s Church and Community Luncheon, we welcomed Victor Ashe, who shared wonderful stories of his time as the U.S. Ambassador to Poland. **On Thursday, May 8, at noon in Barron Hall, we look forward to welcoming former All-American collegiate and professional basketball player, Michelle Marciniak, now with the Center for Sports, Peace, and Society.** We will have a chicken pesto sandwich, chips, and a cookie from The Tomato Head. The cost of lunch is \$15. Please RSVP to the church office at 865-522-9804 by Monday, May 5. There is no Monday Movie Matinee due to Memorial Day. If you are new to SHPC or newly retired, know that you have some great ways to connect or reconnect with past friends and make new ones.



**HE IS RISEN.
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Additional photos from Holy Week can be found on our Instagram and Facebook social media accounts.

Whether you need reminding or whether you don’t, whether you’ve heard it before more times than you can count, or whether you’ve heard it for the first time today, if it’s true, something changed those many years ago outside Jerusalem when instead of a stone face, those disciples found an opening in the rock, and instead of a body, they found wrappings and cloth rolled neatly by the side, clear signals, clearer than any telescope could detect, that a new life, a fuller life, a resurrected life was at work within the world.

Friends, may the Spirit of new life blow into your world this day, may you be free of this superficial life, and may you find that learning to breathe again brings you into a life, a risen life, a life in Christ, deeper and fuller than any you had ever known; may you not just breathe; may you sing.

-Pastor Jay | shared from Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 sermon “Reminding”





In August of 2023 I received a call from a young mother and soon-to-be University of Tennessee Doctoral student—the call came from Ghana, Africa. After about a half hour of talking with this mother and hearing of how she would be leaving her 3 yr old daughter and husband in Ghana to come to Knoxville with her 10 month old son—with no source of

transportation or relational support-I knew we needed to welcome this family into our Olive Tree community.

My second phone call that day was to my friend, Cammy Glover at our partnering church, Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian. By the end of that short phone call, there was a plan in place to come around this family.

Over the course of a year and a half of school, Cammy either made or organized over 400 trips back and forth each day to transport our little Ghanaian community member to Olive Tree. She not only rallied and organized her team weekly, but she supported and walked alongside the whole family, welcoming them-providing day to day relational support while also affirming their dignity.

I could go on and on about the hours and hours beyond serving this family that Cammy has given to our little school. This award pales in comparison to the value of the love, service, and collaboration she has brought to our Olive Tree community. -Mandy Watson

Missionary Spotlight

Tim and Debbie

Tim and Debbie served with Antioch Partners (TAP) nine years in Brazil, and now in TN. Tim is the Business as Missions (BAM) Coordinator for TAP, focused on raising awareness and mobilizing new BAM entrepreneurs.

They serve as mentors in some of the most spiritually needy parts of the world For more information go to the sequoyahchurch.org/Outreach/International Missionaries

-Barbara Eldridge, International Missionaries Liaison



Our Local Mission and Benevolence Committee would like you, your Sunday school class, or L.I.F.E. Group to consider signing up to serve alongside our mission partner, Thrive!

End-of-Year Celebrations | May 16

Host a picnic or celebration at one of our program sites to help us close out the school year with joy and fun!

Provide a Training Meal | June 1-6

Support our summer intern training by providing lunch for about 60 people. We eat together every day during this important week of preparation!

Provide a Program Meal

Offer a meal for our kids during a program night! Meals would serve up to 48 students.

Lead a Summer Elective

Commit to leading a fun and engaging weekly activity for our summer program. It's just one hour each week for 6 weeks! Popular ideas include: water games - gardening - crafts - soccer/sports - baking/cooking, etc

Elective Locations, Days, and Times:

Papermill | Tuesdays/Thursdays at 12:50p or 1:50p
Westland | Mondays/Wednesdays at 12:50p or 1:50p
Lonsdale | Mondays/Wednesdays at 12:50p or 1:50p
West View | Mondays/Wednesdays at 12:50p or 1:50p
New Hopewell | Tuesdays/Thursdays at 12:50p or 1:50p

Organize a Service Project

Gather your group to help with gardening, painting, clean-up, or light construction projects at our sites. Great for youth groups, Sunday schools or families!

Learn more, sign up to volunteer at Thrive now!

<https://www.helpusthrive.com/volunteer>



SESSION RECAP | 04.08.25

- 21 total, including Revs. Garris, Lampley, and Howell; Clerk of Session Susan Hyde; and Business Administrator Tim Thurston
- Devotion from Rebecca Carey
- Main Order of the Day was discernment on Jeremiah 17, Rest, and Busyness in the Church.
- Other business included reports on REACH Construction progress, from Clerk of Session Susan Hyde, and from the Pastors.
- More detailed minutes of Session meetings are available by request.



The PC(USA) General Assembly mandated unification of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly. As a result PC(USA) created a Unification Commission and is eliminating the role we think of as a classic International Missionary. SHPC supports four missionaries affiliated with PC(USA), and all four were "concluded" (i.e. terminated) as of March 2025.

The revised model for Global Ecumenical Liaisons, the new name for mission co-workers, has three sub-teams: one based in the US with an international focus, one working in the domestic realm, and a third team of site coordinators for Young Adult Volunteers. One SHPC team was given the opportunity to apply for the new positions, but they turned down the offer.

Rev. Mienda Uriarte, director of World Mission, discussed the ongoing transformation. The organization will be reduced from 79 to 44 employees and will increasingly rely on global ecumenical partnerships, for which it is named. Rev. Uriarte noted that prior financial levels of individual, congregation, and mid council support will enable the IUA to send 30-plus global ecumenical advisors, including international Young Adult Volunteer site coordinators, to serve alongside Presbyterians in the U.S. and partners all around the world.

Our committee is still reading about the new organization and are unsure of the specifics for the future. Each of our four teams must decide their future plans, but one option is to request sponsorship by another sending agency and continue working in their prior mission area. We have eight other missionary teams that are supported/sent by other agencies e.g. Pioneers, Operation Mobilization, Outreach, and The Antioch Partners.

At this time the IMC is looking for possible replacements if any of our four PC(USA) Missionaries come out of the field. If you have questions please contact Kent and Dianna Koebke at <mailto:kdcoecke84@gmail.com>.



Youth End of the Semester Party on Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 p.m.

All youth are invited to meet in Barron Hall for sno-cones, food, and games! Small groups will meet afterwards from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Our Annual Church and Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 13. More photos can be found on our Instagram and Facebook social media accounts.



Sign up now for VBS, at sequoyahchurch.org. Join us for the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

As we trek the northern tundra, we'll discover how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Guiding us towards Jesus, True North VBS reveals that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

Direct sign-up link for VBS:

<https://forms.gle/JyVLEtsCqzJ6kiKz8>

Direct sign-up link for VBS youth volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A-4CA9A82EA6F8C52-56217025-vbsyouth>

Direct sign-up link for Extreme VBS:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A-4CA9A82EA6F8C52-56217313-extreme>

Children attending VBS without a parent must be 4 years old (by June 1, 2025) through rising 5th graders. Nursery care is available for VBS volunteers with younger children.

SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3700 Keowee Avenue | Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

865.522.9804. | sequoyahchurch.org

05.25

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!

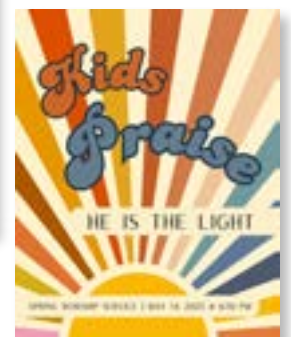
CHURCH RECORDS

DEATH

Bert Henry

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Our four-year-olds made "Helmets of Salvation" while studying the Armor of God. Thanks to Susan Hyde for sharing the sweet photo!



Join us for the KidsPraise Spring Worship Service on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Our next Men's Fellowship Dinner (the third Thursday each month) is Thursday, May 15, at Aubrey's Restaurant at 6005 Brookvale Ln, Knoxville, TN 37919, 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Rev. Ben Garris, <mailto:bgarris@sequoyahchurch.org> or Mark Layne, <mailto:marklayne2@gmail.com>. We hope you can join us and invite a friend along. -Pastor Ben

Our next Table Talk is on Thursday, May 22, at The Plaid Apron, 1210 Kenesaw Ave, 37919 | Join us for a wonderful time of fellowship for women who have lost their spouse. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. for dinner at different restaurants in town (Dutch Treat). Questions, call Becky or Rev. Janna Preston at 865-522-9804.

