

"Into the Fire: Following Christ in the Wilderness" February 21 through March 28

SHPC Family,

Two Sundays ago, we began our series "Into the Fire" in Luke 4, looking at Christ's temptations in the desert. Forty days he spent in the wilderness, refusing all the taunts and trials the devil could throw at him, and of course after those forty days, he came out of the wilderness.

And then they lived happily ever after.

Not quite.

"Out of the frying pan and into the fire" is the common phrase our series title "Into the Fire" refers to, and that's about what happened for Jesus. Yes, he came through that time of temptation. He showed us just what kind of Messiah he intended to be. But if we thought that things would suddenly get easy—or even easier—for him, we weren't paying attention.

As we continue into Lent, we'll see how Jesus comes out of the wilderness and begins his ministry, but very quickly we'll see that the road doesn't necessarily become smoother for him. His rejection in Nazareth—his home town—will definitely show us that.

But today it makes me think about the next few months for us as a church. It's starting to feel like in whatever wilderness we've been, particularly due to the pandemic, we're getting closer to the other side of it. I am hopeful that's the case!

But it's not as if the challenges for us will stop—they'll just change.

What will it be like to re-enter life together as a congregation? In some sense, we've never stopped, as the church never stopped being the church, and Christ never stopped calling us to follow him, but I think it's fair to say our congregational life has definitely not been how we're used to or what we'd want it to be.

So what will it be like? How will we balance our eagerness to resume some activities while also recognizing that there likely won't be a declared "all clear, all safe" end to the pandemic?

I continue to be grateful for our congregation's resilience, patience, and flexibility, but I know you're as eager as I am to greet one another on Sundays in person again without restraint!

The good news, though, if we take any encouragement from Christ's journey out of the wilderness, out of the frying pan and into the fire, is the Spirit was with him and was leading him every step of the way, all the way to Jerusalem, to the cross, and out of the tomb.

May we hope to follow just as faithfully.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Howell".

Dr. Jay F. Howell
Pastor | Head of Staff

March 2021 | at a Glance

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 10a Staff Meeting via Zoom 6p Grief Care	2	3 10:30a Adult Bible Study via Zoom 5:30p Women 45+ Bible Study via Zoom 6p Study of Christ's Temptations via Zoom 6p Study focusing on Luke & Acts via Zoom 6p Youth Small Groups 6:30p Women's Bible Study w/Erin	4 8a Men's Bible Study via Zoom	5 7a Men's Bible Study via Zoom (Chick-fil-A Bearden group)	6
7 8:30a Worship in Barron Hall 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Kingdom Zoom Sunday School and Youth Sunday School Video posted 10a Adult Zoom Sunday School Classes 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 4p Officer Training 4:30p Stephen Ministry Leader Training	8 10a Staff Meeting via Zoom 6p Grief Care	9 6p Session Meeting via Zoom	10 10:30a Adult Bible Study via Zoom 5:30p Women 45+ Bible Study via Zoom 6p Study of Christ's Temptations via Zoom 6p Study focusing on Luke & Acts via Zoom 6p Youth Small Groups 6:30p Women's Bible Study w/Erin	11 8a Men's Bible Study via Zoom 12p Small Group Study of the Lord's Prayer via Zoom	12	13
14 8:30a Worship in Barron Hall 9:30a Kingdom Zoom Sunday School and Youth Sunday School Video posted 10a Adult Zoom Sunday School Classes 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 5p Stephen Ministry Supervision	15 10a Staff Meeting via Zoom 6p Grief Care Knox County Spring Break Week Begins	16 FISH Ministry food drop off 4:30p Youth help students with homework and serve dinner at Thrive Parkridge	17 10:30a Adult Bible Study via Zoom 5:30p Women 45+ Bible Study via Zoom 6p Study of Christ's Temptations via Zoom 6p Study focusing on Luke & Acts via Zoom 6p Youth Small Groups 6:30p Women's Bible Study w/Erin	18 8a Men's Bible Study via Zoom 12p Small Group Study of the Lord's Prayer via Zoom	19 7a Men's Bible Study via Zoom (Chick-fil-A Bearden group) Knox County Spring Break Week Ends	20
21 8:30a Worship on the Front Lawn (or Barron Hall) 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Kingdom Zoom Sunday School and Youth Sunday School Video posted 10a Adult Zoom Sunday School Classes 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 4:30p Stephen Ministry Leader Training	22 10a Staff Meeting via Zoom 6p Grief Care	23 6:30p Deacon's Meeting via Zoom	24 10:30a Adult Bible Study via Zoom 5:30p Women 45+ Bible Study via Zoom 6p Study of Christ's Temptations via Zoom 6p Study focusing on Luke & Acts via Zoom 6p Youth Small Groups 6:30p Women's Bible Study w/Erin	25 8a Men's Bible Study via Zoom 12p Small Group Study of the Lord's Prayer via Zoom 6P CONFIRMANDS EXAMINED BY SESSION	26	27 Minnow's Food Ministry
28 PALM SUNDAY CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30a Worship on the Front Lawn (or Barron Hall) Confimands join SHPC 9:30a Kingdom Zoom Sunday School and Youth Sunday School Video posted 10a Adult Zoom Sunday School Classes 11a Worship in the Sanctuary Livestream 2p & 4p Easter Egg Hunt 5p Stephen Ministry Supervision	29 10a Staff Meeting	30	31 10:30a Adult Bible Study via Zoom 5:30p Women 45+ Bible Study via Zoom 6p Study of Christ's Temptations via Zoom 6p Study focusing on Luke & Acts via Zoom 6p Youth Small Groups 6:30p Women's Bible Study w/Erin	April 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8a Men's Bible Study via Zoom 6p Maundy Thursday Worship Service in-person and via Livestream	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7a Men's Bible Study via Zoom (Chick-fil-A Bearden group) 12p Good Friday Worship Service in-person and via Livestream	3

Outdoor Worship will resume on March 21!



Join us for the Palm Sunday Service on March 28 at 8:30 a.m. on the front lawn (children will have the opportunity to wave palm branches at this service) or 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary or via livestream



Join us in celebrating our 8th grade Confirmation class! They will become members of Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday, March 28 at the 8:30 a.m. outdoor worship service. More information to come soon.



See the Children Ministries section for information about this year's Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 28.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service | April 1 | at 6:00 p.m. | in the sanctuary and via livestream

Good Friday Service | The Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross | April 2 | at noon in the sanctuary and via livestream

Easter Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunrise Service | 6:45 a.m. on the front lawn

Sunday School | 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Traditional Easter Services | 8:30 a.m. on the front lawn | 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary or via livestream

JOIN US THROUGH MARCH 28 FOR OUR SERMON SERIES, "INTO THE FIRE: FOLLOWING CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS"

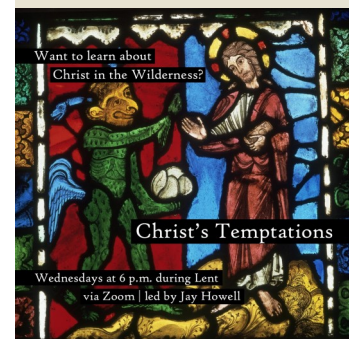


every step of the way.

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Join Jay on Wednesdays at 6p through March 31!

Christ's Temptations | Lenten Bible Study
March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

"Temptation in the Wilderness" (stained glass panel)
Victoria and Albert Museum, London



A Note from Pastor Rachel

On Sunday, February 14, as he was about to receive the sacrament of baptism, little Gibson Graham Frye, held by his father, was leaning head first toward the baptismal font. It was such a living picture of our human eagerness to be God's very own children and to receive the blessing ... to hear the words that we are beloved, that God has a good plan for us from beginning to eternity through His own Son Jesus Christ!

Every time we witness a baptism in worship, we can reflect on our own, and lean into the waters that one day washed over us. We look back to see what God has done, and we look forward to the wonder of our future in Him.

Our All Church "Stay-Retreat" will be August 13-15, as part of our joyful Rally Day weekend.

It's going to be a great time of intergenerational fellowship, recreation, inspiration, and new small groups forming for the Fall! Mark your calendars for this special weekend on our own church campus. Registration for the "stay-retreat" begins on Monday, July 12!

PRAYING for ONE ANOTHER at SHPC!

By now you should have received a postcard similar to this one from our Prayer Committee, listing the name of another family or individual in our church family for whom we encourage you to PRAY during these weeks of Lent, February 17-April 3. Prayers for blessings, strength, and encouragement are always needed for all of us, especially in the time when we can't be together as usual. The Holy Spirit binds us together, and may also direct you to pray in a certain way for this family or individual. We are GRATEFUL for the gift of prayer! Let the Spirit direct your prayers. If you'd like to be in email contact with the person/family for whom you are praying, contact Becky at rguyton@sequoyahchurch.org.



Missionary Spotlight Andrew & Iris Bornman Mexico

Andrew and Iris Bornman run the agricultural program of the Community Health Evangelism team. They have four children. They say "Our intention of our ministry here has been to combat malnutrition among the Tarahumara through teaching agriculture, and to take advantage of every opportunity to call men to repentance and salvation."

More information on the Bornmans and other missionaries can be found at <http://www.sequoyahchurch.org/international-missionaries/>

SHPC Prayer Chain

Would you like prayer for a specific concern, need, or joy? Each week there are opportunities to receive the fervent prayers of others in our church family. Include your joy, need, or concern (big or small) on the SHPC Prayer Chain by emailing Pam Fritts at fritts1971@gmail.com.



The Prayer Committee of SHPC is encouraging a special time of prayer during the season of Lent (Feb 17 - Easter) by asking every household to pray for another household in our church.

In this time when we can't be together as we normally would, prayer is a wonderful way that we can be 'together' in faith and love! The Lord works through our prayers.

May you and your family be blessed, encouraged, and directed as you pray for the household listed below:

SHPC member/family



"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our Local Mission Focus for March is the Presbytery-wide Habitat for Humanity Build



SHPC has a long partnership with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry, whose vision is “a world where everyone has a decent place to live.” To date, our church has helped sponsor a safe and affordable home to almost 20 families in our community.

This spring we have a unique opportunity to help in another build! The churches in the Presbytery of East Tennessee have united in a collaborative build with Edward Jones Region 86 to provide a new home through Habitat for Norma Catota and her family. The total cost of the build is \$55,000, and the Presbytery is splitting the funding of this home with Edward Jones. As of this time, thirteen churches in the Presbytery, including SHPC, have committed to sending volunteers and/or other financial support. This group build will be a great way to work together with others in our denomination while helping this family experience the joy of owning their own home. The funding from our church for this build comes from a \$1,000 donation from the Local Missions Budget and is in addition to our yearly contribution from Benevolence Funds to HH for our next church-wide build (scheduled for the spring of 2022).

With the support of Edward Jones Region 86 and the Presbytery of East Tennessee, Norma Catota, along with her husband Samuel and their three children Samuel (13), Heighlee (10), and Cristian (2), are ecstatic to

build a home of their own this spring. Having moved to the United States from El Salvador 13 years ago, this home will provide the space they desperately need to study, play, and grow. They are currently living with her mother-in-law in a two-bedroom house. During the pandemic, both Norma and Samuel have reported to their essential workplaces, as Norma works in manufacturing and her husband is a construction worker, while their two older children attend school. However, despite their steady jobs and how hard they work to support their family, Norma and Samuel were still unable to afford a conventional mortgage. After being encouraged by a Knoxville Habitat supporter to apply for the program and being accepted, Norma has been putting in the 500 hours of sweat equity she is earning to prepare for this momentous opportunity.

Would you like to be a part of this special family’s journey to own a home of their own? Simply use the link below to sign-up to volunteer on one of the days our church has been asked to participate.

The link is <https://knoxvillehabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/Sequoyahhillspres/>. Besides the volunteer slots listed on this link, SHPC will have the leadership role on Saturday, May 15. On that day we will need volunteers to help with registration, a reflection leader, drinks and snacks, and a Building Buddy. It would be especially helpful if the Building Buddy was fluent in Spanish as this is the primary

language of the Catota family. To volunteer for these extra positions, contact Cammy Glover directly at the email listed below. Also, there will be some additional volunteer opportunities throughout the build if another church or Edward Jones cannot fulfill all of their volunteer positions on a given Saturday. If you have any other questions, please contact Cammy Glover at cammyglover1605@comcast.net. In advance, thank you for helping to fulfill this dream of becoming a homeowner for the Catota family.
-Cammy Glover,
Local Missions Chair

Support Habitat’s Restore—“Creating the Opportunity for a Better Life”

In addition to the Presbytery-wide build, you can help Habitat for Humanity throughout the year by donating, shopping, and/or volunteering at their Restore at 1511 Downtown West Blvd. Profits from merchandise sales help to provide a way for people in need of decent, affordable housing to fulfill their dream of becoming homeowners. Visit their website: knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com for more information.

GET TO KNOW YOUR SHPC STAFF—BETTER!



Katie McHargue, Business Manager

A verse of Scripture that has meant a lot to you in your life | “Be still, and know that I am God!” Psalm 46:10

Favorite place you’ve ever travelled | Istanbul, Turkey

Favorite ice cream flavor | Dark Chocolate Raspberry

What part of your role at SHPC brings you the most joy | Working with an amazing staff and with a loving congregation

What is one of your most cherished memories growing up | Spending summers at the lake with my best friend

What are you most looking forward to in this year? | Hugs

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EAST TENNESSEE

We had a successful presbytery meeting by Zoom on February 13. Essential business was transacted and good information from the various presbytery committees was presented. Our worship services for the first three meetings in 2021 are focusing on the Matthew 25 initiative proposed by the PCUSA. Our worship service on the 13th focused on “dismantling structural racism” and was very moving and inspiring. There was a reading of teaching elders and ruling elders who had died in 2020 from each church at the end of the service. If you would like to see a recording of the worship service, you can use this link: <https://youtu.be/KqWMylqmZ5s>. I would highly recommend watching it.

The other two parts of the initiative are “eradicating systemic poverty” and “building congregational vitality”. The hope is that our presbytery will vote to become a Matthew 25 presbytery and that individual churches will also strive to be Matthew 25.

This month, I would like to highlight an opportunity for high school students to attend a week-long event at Maryville College this summer. EXPANDING HORIZONS at Maryville College is a week-long summer institute for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade high school students who display a promise for leadership and an eagerness to explore theology in a college setting. Students will spend a week living at Maryville College engaging with professors during class, exploring the Great Smoky Mountains, and building relationships with their peers. Expanding Horizons is a great fit for any student looking to explore theological conversations, enjoy religion classes in school, or are curious how our faith can guide us in responding to our current climate crisis. Expanding Horizons will be held June 13-19, 2021 and offers college scholarships to any students who later apply and attend Maryville College. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.maryvillecollege.edu/about/faith/MAST/expanding-horizons/>

I am on the Board of Church Visitors at Maryville College and each course that MAST, Maryville Adventures in Studying Theology, offers is something I would love to do! The dates this summer do not conflict with anything planned for our youth. I wanted to give parents and students time to consider it. Thank you for your support as I continue as moderator this year! -Karen White

SESSION RECAP February 9, 2021 via Zoom

- 22 out of 27 elders; Revs. Hamburger, Howell, and Lampley; Clerk of Session Vance Link; Business Manager Katie McHargue
- Clerk of Session Vance Link offered the devotional.
- The main order of the day was looking ahead to 2022 in worship, preaching, and how the gospel might speak to our community’s burdens.
- Report from Endowment Committee (Todd Stamper and Bill Taylor)
- Report from Strategic Development Committee (Elder Jim Harrison)
- Report from Church Health Task Force (Elder Klair Kimmey)
- Report from Clerk of Session and Pastors



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

2021 Easter Egg Hunt at Sequoyah Church

Join us on Sunday, March 28

2:00 p.m. for ages 0-5 | 4:00 p.m. for ages 6-10

Everyone above the age of two will wear masks.
Little Ponderosa will be here with the animals.

At 2:00 p.m., the first hunt will have two sections on the front lawn. | ages 0-2 and ages 3-5

At 4:00 p.m., the second hunt will have two sections as well. | ages 6-8 on the front lawn and 9-10 on the playground

No bunny wants to miss this!



We will provide ALL the eggs for the hunt. We request that you pre-register on our website, and we will have a check-in table by the front office (with temp checks).

Children should bring their own baskets for the hunt.

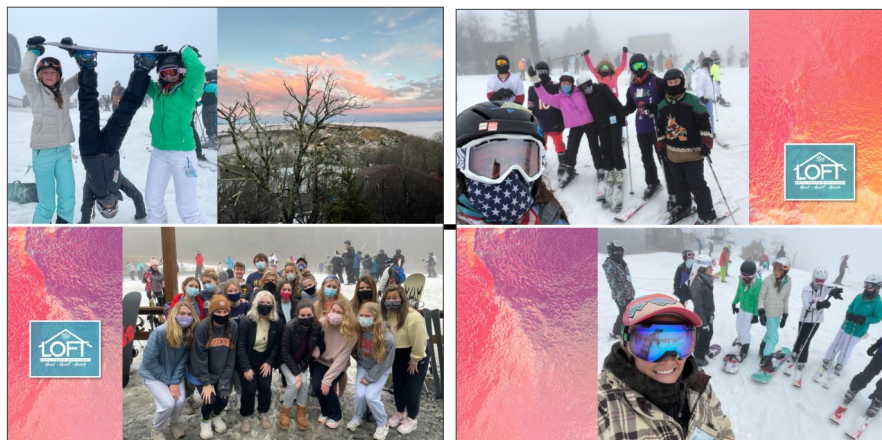
Register now: <https://shpc.wufoo.com/forms/zu03vm105m33zl/>



THE LOFT | YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Ski Trip to Beech Mountain, North Carolina

We talked about Shattered Dreams and how even when our dreams and plans turn out to be different than what we expect, God's plan doesn't change for us. Brene Brown says, "Jesus doesn't say I'll take away the pain, but instead He says, I'll sit with you in it." We were grateful for a time to get away and process the pain of the past year and that God continues to sit with us in it. It was such a gift for our teenagers to get away and be together in God's creation. It was long overdue. Huge thank you to the Benkos for helping us all get to Beech Mountain, and to Matt Reed, Kyle Warren, Anna Klepzig, and Bennett Neece for taking time out of their busy lives to spend three nights with all of our high school friends. -Laura Cutter



SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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865.522.9804 | sequoyahchurch.org

03.21

Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow

CHURCH RECORDS

Birth

Mary Collins Hays
daughter of Marty and Danielle Hays
Wednesday, February 3

Baptisms

Gibson Graham Frye
son of Gib and Katie (Mayfield) Frye
Sunday, February 14

Eleanor Ann Heins
and Cal McClain Heins
children of Jake and Whitney Heins
Sunday, February 21

Deaths

Don Hasson
Monday, February 15

Whitney Dunford
Sunday, February 21



We are thrilled to welcome our talented flower guild volunteers back to the flower room in small numbers. Thanks to Samma and Tommy Bromley for this lovely arrangement in February.