

Spring 2022

# *The Messenger*

NEWSLETTER OF MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## MBPC Staff

Pastor  
Rev. Madison Roberts

Director of Music  
Dewin Tibbs

Organist  
Gary Smoke

Director of Christian Education  
Spencer Bissell

Administrative Assistant  
Sally Gregson

Director of Preschool  
Molly Blackmon

Financial Assistant  
Bernie Gregson

Boy Scout Troop 320  
Scoutmaster: Dave Caskey

Cub Scout Pack 320  
Cubmaster: Connie Caskey

Director of Children's Music  
Allison Sanders

## Contact Us

3405 Brookwood Road  
Mountain Brook, AL 35223

(205)967-5037

[info@mbpcusa.org](mailto:info@mbpcusa.org)

[sgregson@mbpcusa.org](mailto:sgregson@mbpcusa.org)

[www.mbpcusa.org](http://www.mbpcusa.org)



# *Anti-Racism Committee Pilgrimage Trip Reflection*

by Rev. Madison Roberts

On March 17, I, along with 29 other members of the Sheppard's and Lapsley Presbytery, participated in a three-day trip sponsored by the Anti-Racism Committee that took us to Birmingham, then to Selma, and finally to Montgomery. The trip was designed to immerse the participants into the history of the Civil Rights Movement within our Presbytery.

The agenda included visits to the 16th Street Baptist Church, the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, the Montgomery Bus Riot Museum, and the Equal Justice Institute. We also participated in a Selma Racism Workshop and a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. After each of the daily activities the participants then engaged in wonderful conversations about what we had seen and how it made us feel. We heard from our colleagues of all colors and backgrounds and had rich discussions about what we saw and what our Christian response should be. Ultimately, we made lots of progress towards our goal in the Anti-Racism Committee, which is using the Gospel definition of 'neighbor' to become better equipped to meet Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Personally, the topic of racism stirs up several difficult emotions. Accordingly, this makes it a delicate subject to address. And that makes sense, right? Racism and the unjust, oppressive, and violent treatment of many African Americans in the history of our country is not something we are proud of and is very uncomfortable to discuss. Yet, it is vital to healing the wounds created by our history that we first look at each other as neighbors – regardless of where we live or what color we are. As Christ indicated in the parable of the Good Samaritan, EVERYONE is our neighbor if we call ourselves Christians. And, then Christ clearly calls us to go out and love those neighbors.

With this logic in mind and with a heart engaged in working towards healing, I am heavily convicted on how we at MBPC can love our neighbors who may not look like us or who may come from different backgrounds. I want to emphasize the call to LOVE . . . this does not include weighing yourself down with guilt, shaming others, or ignoring the issue altogether. The love we are called to give is the highest level of love humans can offer. It is helpful when thinking about how we should love our neighbor to not gloss over the qualifying phrase in Luke 10:27 (the introductory verse to the parable of the Good Samaritan). In this verse Jesus calls us to love your neighbor as yourself. This is not a casual, one-time only type of love – this is a daily, life-giving love equal to how much we love ourselves.

Moving forward, my hope is that we can create a forum for open conversation about the issue of racism and its effect on our neighbors. I am open to any ideas about how we can do this with a spirit of respect, courage, compassion and of course, love.

So, to all of you in the MBPC community, let us faithfully lead the charge in loving our neighbors – all of them. And in leading this charge, let us lead with love!





## *Miles College Choir Sunday - February 27, 2022*



As we approach Holy Week and the promise of Easter, Christ's commandment for us to love one another becomes more and more pervasive in our readings, and is even the primary focus for our Maundy Thursday service of Communion. Maundy means "mandate", commandment, if you will.

This morning, before sitting down to make commentary on the events of Miles College Sunday my reading in Johns Gospel is leading up to the arrest of Jesus as he is readying the disciples for the upheaval that is about to come in their journey with Jesus. He is trying to assure them that He and the Father are one; that to know Him is to know the Father; that his coming sacrifice and passion for the world will usher in the Spirit and that through the spirit we will be with Jesus and the Father; as part of a vine, and to insure healthy growth and the bearing of fruit we must dwell with Jesus in His word and through the actions in our daily life.

John 15:12: This is my commandment, that you love on another as I have loved you. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

(cont. on page 4)

The Saturday morning before Miles College Sunday back in February, I was delighted to see so many in our congregation and outside of our congregation extending themselves in the love sharing act of honoring the Miles College Choir and hosting them that 4th Sunday in February. It was heartwarming to see so many of our members and staff working together to ready the fellowship hall for a large meal, which meant pulling down the extra chairs from the balcony, rolling in all the extra tables, removing and cleaning the riser seats for pre-schoolers, Tim and Chris completing structural changes to the choir room, shoring up old benches where people may sit, pulling out all of the flatware to set up for 150 plus, moving pianos, Gary learning the choir's music as he was called upon to accompany the choir. It was like a bee hive at the church that morning. I remember being warmed by all of this busyness in a church's expression of welcome to a group we may not know, but whose relevance to our congregation has come about organically through the 20 year plus relationship we have Valerie R. Harris and her many contributions to our worship over the decades. Also, our children's choir director Allison Sanders, is teaching voice at Miles. You may have met Feordis Pearson, who is a recent graduate of Miles and now sings with our choir each Sunday. This is God pruning and tending the vine of which we are grafted in. We have no way of knowing the ways our lives help to bring about fruit, or even exactly what that fruit may be, but we do know that fruit of our living and service ultimately glorifies God. This gives us joy.

Miles College Sunday is set next year is February 26 (fourth Sunday in February). As we move through the coming year, be thinking and praying about and for Miles College Choir. Imagine ways you can help to tend this branch of the vine through your membership or relationship with MBPC, and think and pray about other organic communities our church touches, and the potential for a congregation to change the world through our service, our dwelling in Christ, and through our love for others. I pray that God feeds us with the Spirit, and increases our joy in faithful service.

Dewin Tibbs

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## A Fun Worship Opportunity

I feel that it is truly a privilege to worship at MBPC in our Sanctuary on Sundays. The liturgy is carefully curated to flow with the scriptural lessons, the acolytes do a great job of setting the tone at the beginning of worship, we have a moment just for children, and of course the music! There are several purposes for worship and it affects everyone differently. But the primary purpose of worship is an outward facing act that glorifies God. While the side effect is often a sense of personal fulfillment, worship is really about how we can express our thanks for all God has given us and send up our praises about who God is.

So, with that being said, I am excited to offer you a fun opportunity to worship with us on Sundays. I am sure those who have heard our Chancel Choir have more than appreciated their exceptional talent. Of course, we would love for you to join our Chancel Choir if singing is your thing. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:45 – 8:00. But, if you can't make the Chancel Choir rehearsals or you just want to "dip your toe" in the choir water, then I'd like to invite you to consider joining the Congregational Choir. The plan for the Congregational choir is to meet once or twice a month for about 30 minutes just after the service on Sunday. The Congregational Choir will rehearse upcoming hymns and a worship anthem to be sung during a designated service. You don't have to worry about any harmony parts – just good, ole' fashioned melody! In addition, Dewin will send you digital music files of the pieces we will sing, so you can learn the music during the week while you wait in carpool on your way to work.

We also have a really cool idea for how the Congregational Choir will perform during the service – but to learn more about that, you need to join up!

To join the Congregational Choir, simply e-mail Dewin Tibbs at [dewintibbs@gmail.com](mailto:dewintibbs@gmail.com) and let him know you want to join.

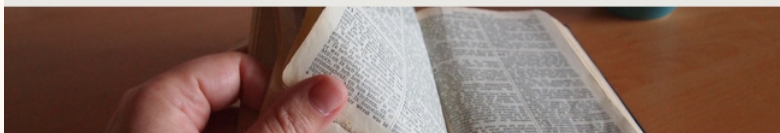
We hope to hear you soon!

Madison

Pastor, Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church



## Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church



### COME AND JOIN US! MENS GROUP

Friday, April 15

7:00 AM

Small breakfast and coffee served  
Call Sally at church office -(205)967-5037,  
or email [sgregson@mbpcusa.org](mailto:sgregson@mbpcusa.org)  
by Tuesday, April 12 if you plan to attend  
so we can plan breakfast.



ALL MEN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

## P.W. Synod Gathering

June 24-25, 2022 - Online Event



### Fueled to Serve

Key Note Speaker: Carol Bechtel the author of  
the 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study, "Cele-  
brating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest  
and Delight"

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to  
serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its  
various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10

### Presbyterian Women

June 24-25, 2022

Synod of the Living Waters  
Triennial Gathering  
A Virtual Gathering



## MONTREAT

Women's Connection

August 12-14, 2022

Registration Now Open  
(Please contact the registrar  
at [susana@montreat.org](mailto:susana@montreat.org)  
or call 828.419.9829 for assistance)

Sarah Bessey – Key Leader



Sarah Bessey is the editor of the New York Times bestselling book *A Rhythm of Prayer*. She is also the author of three popular and critically acclaimed books: *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things*; *Out of Sorts: Making Peace with an Evolving Faith*; and *Jesus Feminist*. Sarah co-leads *Evolving Faith*, a conference and community for wanderers and wonderers and she serves as president of the board for Heartline Ministries in Haiti. She lives in Calgary, Alberta with her husband and their four children.

You can find her online at [sarahbessey.com](http://sarahbessey.com).

# Upcoming Events at Living River

<https://www.livingriver.org>

LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP 2022				
Dates	Drop Off / Pick Up	Camp	Grade- Rising	Rate
June 12-17	3 pm Sun / noon Fri	High School Work & Mission Camp	9- college freshman	\$500
June 12-17	3 pm Sun / noon Fri	Middle School Night Owl & Mission	6-8	\$500
June 19-23	5 pm Sun / 3 pm Thurs	Elementary	2-6	\$400
June 24-26	3 pm Fri / noon Sun	You & Me Camp	Pre- K to 6	Adult \$150, Kid \$100
June 27 - July 2	3 pm Mon / noon Sat	Creative Elementary Camp	K-5	\$500
June 27 - July 2	3 pm Mon / noon Sat	Creative Middle School Camp	6-8	\$500
LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP is the camping program for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Presbyterian Church (USA). Scholarship information is available at <a href="https://www.livingriver.org">livingriver.org</a> . All are welcome.				

Register Now for Summer Camp!

The Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley is grateful again to be able to offer scholarships for summer camp at Living River. After you have registered for camp, use the link below to apply for a scholarship. Our scholarship funds are limited, so be sure to apply early! Scholarships are limited to one scholarship/child for the season. Although there are no restrictions for church affiliation in the application, priority will be given to members of churches in the presbytery or have connections to one of the churches. It's going to be a great summer!!!

Apply here: <https://form.jotform.com/pagoodma/2020-living-river-presbytery-schola>



## You and Me Retreat @Living River

SPONSORED BY THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY  
AND THE LIVING RIVER PROGRAM COMMITTEE

April 22-24

Friday - Sunday

Theme: This is Our Prayer

Cost: Adults \$100, Kids \$60

What: Kids' track will have keynote presentations, singing, energizers, crafts, activities. Adults' track will have fellowship with other adults and family activities. Campfire and S'mores for all!

Housing: In bunk cabins, moms/grands with daughters, dads/grands with sons, limited housing for mixed-gender families

Registration: [livingriver.org](https://www.livingriver.org)



# Holy<sup>+</sup>Week **SCHEDULE**

*Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church*

<u>April 14 - Maundy Thursday</u> Worship Service in the Sanctuary	7:00PM
<u>April 15 - Good Friday</u> Worship Service in the Sanctuary	12:00PM
<u>April 17 - Easter Sunday</u> Sunrise Service in the Courtyard Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall Easter Egg Hunt Worship Service in the Sanctuary	6:15AM 9:00AM 9:30AM 11:00AM

[www.mbpccusa.org](http://www.mbpccusa.org)



Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church  
*We Invite All to Celebrate  
Christ's Resurrection with Us*

Sunrise Service 6:15 AM

Breakfast 9:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 AM

Easter Worship Service 11:00 AM

Join us for fellowship  
and feasting!

## Wednesday Night Dinner

**6:00-6:45 PM**

\$10 per person or \$20 per family  
MBPC Fellowship Hall

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
SGREGSON@MBPCUSA.ORG  
(205)967-5037.

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

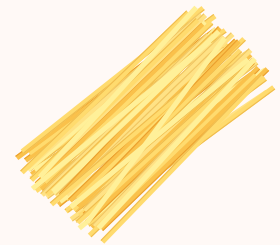
Wednesdays: 5:00 – 6:00 PM  
in the Reception Room



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
SGREGSON@MBPCUSA.ORG



The Magic City Harvest  
donation item for April is boxed spaghetti.  
The donation box is located in the narthex when  
you come in the front doors of the church.



## Volunteers Needed

Wednesday Night Dinners:  
We are looking for volunteers to  
help prepare and serve meals for  
our Wednesday Night Dinners  
during the month of May. If you  
can help out, contact the church  
office (205)967-5037, or email  
sgregson@mbpcusa.org.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care team is here for you!  
If you or anyone you know may be experiencing hardship  
whether, from death,  
illness, hospitalization, or other, please let us know.  
We care and want to help.

Diane Beck (205) 915-0903  
Karen Ogle (585) 267-6140  
Becca Roberts (404) 861-8387  
Mindy Faircloth (919) 389-0038  
Molly Trueb (205) 540-5769  
Bill Heslop (972) 743-3426  
Sue Wellman (205) 482-8556  
Katherine Robinson (205) 706-4506  
Judy Wilson (205) 967-8935



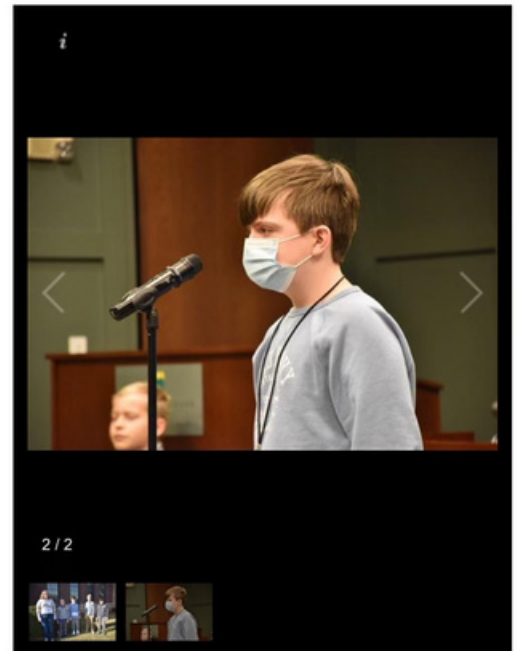
# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ben Brown, son of Richard and Katherine, who won the 2022 District Spelling Bee back in January inside the Mountain Brook Board of Education building!

Ben's winning word in the 14th round was "teenagers."

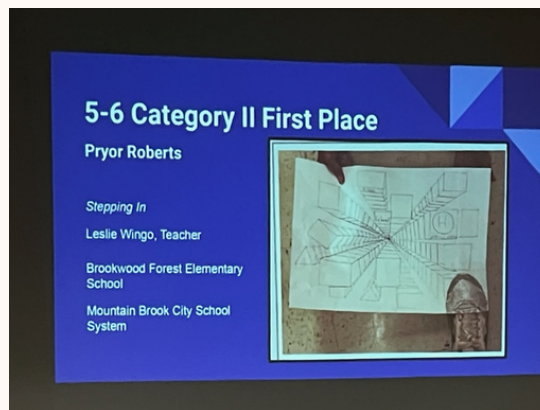
Congratulations to Ben on a job well done!!!

## MBS Students Compete in District Spelling Bee



**Pryor Roberts** won the first place for the Grades 5-6, Category II for his entry, "Stepping Out" in the 2022 Alabama State Superintendent Art Show. Pryor's piece won in the photography division, although it is a photograph of a drawing he did showing him stepping into a world of skyscrapers. Madison and Carolyn went with Pryor to Montgomery to the Capitol where he received a certificate from the State Superintendent as well as a sketchbook and colored pencil set.

Congratulations, Pryor!





# MBPC Preschool Photos

## Valentine's Day



## Mardi Gras Parade



## Meeting Mrs. Morgan's Baby



## Mrs. Molly's Baby Shower





Saint Patrick's Day



Children's Theater Fieldtrip



Our toddler class during Teacher Appreciation Week.



Read Across America



Spring Cleaning



We enjoyed a fun visit from the Mountain Brook Fire Department.



Dentist Visit

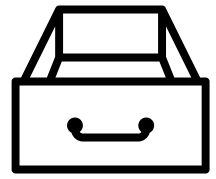


Wacky Wednesday





# Drawer Build Day Photos



Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped us on our Drawer Build Day!

The drawers we built will be used to make several chests of drawers for the Presbyterian Home for Children's on campus housing units.

These units provide temporary housing to at-need children and their female caregivers.





# MR. ROGERS DAY AT MBPC

*March 20, 2022*

"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person." - Fred Rogers

On March 20, we had a reception after worship in honor of Mr. Rogers Day. Thanks to everyone who brought treats and shared in this fun time of fellowship with us.



I have always wanted to have a  
neighbor  
Just like you!

I've always wanted to live in a  
Neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this  
beautiful day;

Since we're together we might  
as well say,

Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?

Won't you be my neighbor??



MBPC  
YOUTH

BIRMINGHAM  
BARONS



# Baseball Night

ALL  
AGES

FRIENDS  
WELCOME

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23: 5PM**

**REGIONS FIELD**

1401 1ST AVE S, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

RSVP:

[SBISSELL@MBPCUSA.ORG](mailto:SBISSELL@MBPCUSA.ORG)



# Advent Season Photos

