

APRIL 28, 2020

Variations

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9



art by lindsay tadlock

in this issue

YOUTH SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

OPEN CALL FOR 2020 GRADUATES

VBS UPDATES

PIERCE PETTIS CONCERT

VESTAVIA HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH



Visit vhbc.com and click the stay connected button to find updates for our prayer list, online worship schedule, ShelbyNext giving, family resources, and more!



Prayer List



Also, you can find our services on our YouTube channel and Facebook page, as well as updates and reminders on our Instagram page.





Online Giving @ VHBC

Many options are available to give online to VHBC!
Please visit [VHBC.com/stay-connected](https://vhbc.com/stay-connected) to find the links to our Online Giving page and tutorials on how to use our ShelbyNext giving portal on the app and desktop.

Your faithful giving has provided the ability to support our community during this time!

April Needs

145,113.00

April Offering

169,922.23



Shepherd's Encourager

by Dr. Gary Furr

This is a time of many “firsts.” I suspect this is true of everyone. Our church staff, like all congregations and organizations, are having to ask, “How will we do this now that we cannot do it as we once did?” “Touch,” connection, and being together are so crucial to the existence of any organization, but there are particular ways that we do church. Communion, literally “in common,” is ideally done with shared loaf and common cup. But we have done our first “virtual” Maundy Thursday and Easter, too.

As our minds anticipate the weeks ahead, it has raised a lot of interesting challenges. How do we ordain without the laying on of hands? How do we have Sunday School for children and VBS without being in the building? Should we take temperatures and administer tests before baptism? A lot to think about.

On Monday, of course, we did our first online memorial service for Dr. William Poe. The only outside event was the graveside service in Tuscaloosa with eight of us present---three caregivers, his son Allan and daughter Jody, Cherri Morriss, and two funeral directors.



It was a beautiful day and we stood around the outside of the green awning over the grave. Everyone was masked except me. The Lord's Prayer by Malotte and Amazing Grace were sung A cappella. I read a selection from a little book that Dr. Poe had written, a memoir. The chapter I read was about the faithfulness of God in all things.

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It was different, but in other ways, it was the same—we prayed, we worshiped, we remembered. And there was the familiar peace that comes at every graveside. We had finished a responsibility to one another, passed through the door from one part of life to another, and turned to the new time.

What has been a great discovery in this odd time when our love must be imagined and transmitted through symbols across screens is that love abides. Relationship endures. That we had fellowship before the Great Separation enables us not to truly be separated emotionally and spiritually, only physically.

I have marveled at the innovations of my fellow staff members as they have labored creatively to keep our church together, moving and continuing its life. I have appreciated the extraordinary and manifold giftedness of this church and its members in adapting. I don't know what "new normal" will be, but the essential realities of our life in this world are carrying on just fine.

We cannot hug, shake hands, or eat together, but love still connects. We still do the things we need to do, and God shows us new ways that still accomplish it. Even death does not disrupt this extraordinary phenomenon called love among human beings and God.

What matters is that we do not leave the important work of life undone while waiting for things to work out. That is a great mistake we might make. Life is still here to be lived. The work has not changed, only figuring out how to get it done.

Gary



Upcoming Sermons

"It Was Necessary That the Messiah
Should Suffer"

LUKE 24:26

"Do You Love Me"

JOHN 21:15-19

"Follow Me"

JOHN 21:19-23

"I Am Sending Upon You
What My Father Promised"

LUKE 24:49

"I Am With You Always"

MATTHEW 28:20

**PAST SERMONS & SERVICES CAN BE
ACCESSED ON VHBC.COM ON OUR SERMON
ARCHIVES & VIDEO ARCHIVES PAGES.**



vhbc kids

THIS WEEK

CHILDREN ZOOM!

wednesdays

- Kindergarten Friends 3:30 pm
- Girls, grades 1-3 4:00 pm
- Girls, grades 4-6 4:30 pm
- Boys, grades 1-6 4:30 pm

sundays

- Sixers 5:00 pm

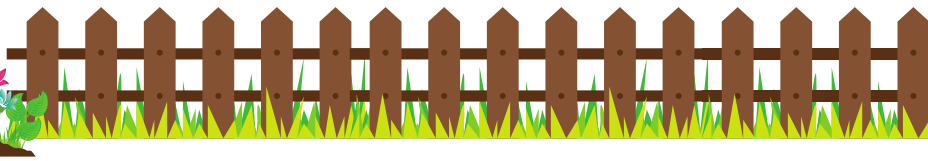
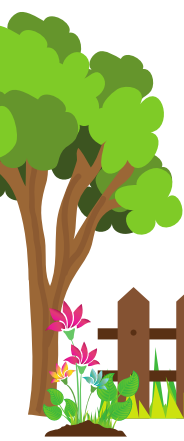
This is the day
the Lord
 has made
 We will
REJOICE
AND BE GLAD
 in it.

PSALM 118:24

Preschool & Children's Teachers are invited to gather Saturday mornings on ZOOM at 10 am.



KEEP READING
 FOR AN UPDATE
 ABOUT VBS!





vhbc kids

THIS SUMMER



VBS WITH VHBC!

June 8-11, 2020

Put on your hard hats and get ready for VBS@Home. VBS is under construction and will be ready for our children on June 8-11. We hope to offer meaningful activities for our children even though we will not meet at the church.

Stay tuned!

Building on the love of Jesus. Philippians 1:6



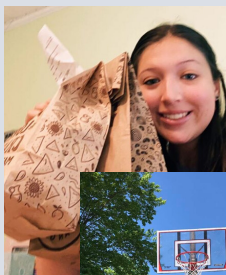
Youth Sunday

HIGHLIGHTS

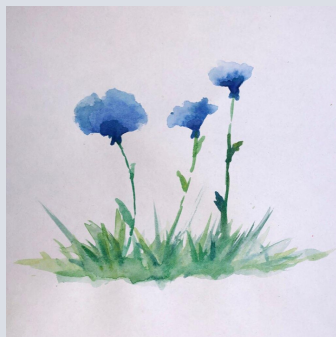


April 26th was **Youth Sunday** at VHBC! If you're on Facebook, you may have seen fun and interesting facts about why we love the Student Ministry.

You may not know that we have over 25 adults serve in our leadership team that handle everything from teaching, to driving, and hosting. Or you may have found out that our students make up 5 different school systems, and over 10 different schools!



We are so blessed to have VHBC as our church home, a beautiful place to call and disciple students into whoever God calls them to be! Check out photos of our students and what they've been up to this year!



VHBC

YOUTH

quarantine

SCHEDULE

insta live
lunch

11:30 AM



YouTube
lesson



Zoom hangout

7:00 PM

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Digital
Sabbath

11:30

Insta Story

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Family Time!

Insta Story
Sunday School

9:30 AM

Zoom
hangout

6:00 PM

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



HEY, 2020 GRADUATES!

We want to hear from you! Are you graduating in May, this summer, or in the fall? Send us your name, school name, and your degree. We want to recognize you for Graduate Recognition Sunday on June 7th!

JUNE 11TH

PIERCE PETTIS CONCERT



Thank
you

Dear Gary, Church Staff,
Church family, a great
medical team, wonderful
Sunday School Class &
Choir Friends,

I will be a winner on this journey! Thank you for
your prayers and your concerns.

-Rosemary Bamberg