



**Junior and High School  
Sunday, June 14  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Sunset Hills will host a “**six feet apart**” outdoor campfire on the church park lawn to celebrate the Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer. Bring your own chair, blanket and a friend. Enjoy S’mores, music and more.

R.S.V.P. 402-578-8895 or email [gslechts1@me.com](mailto:gslechts1@me.com)

**Rain Date June 15**  
**[sunsethillschurch.org](http://sunsethillschurch.org) or Facebook**



**Sunset Hills Church**  
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**Sunset Hills Baptist Church**  
**June 2020**  
**Newsletter**

**Pastor Paul Ponders**

“How are you?” I wonder how many times I have been asked that question during my lifetime. I wonder how many times I have asked it of others. “How are you?” It seems as if this is a stronger greeting than “hi”. It gives the illusion that I want to engage with you beyond what the traditional “hi” would encourage.

Some teach that you better not use the expression, “how are you”, unless you really mean it, you really do want to know what’s going on in people’s lives. After hearing this teaching, I tried a season of asking, “how are you”, with emphasis so people would know that I wanted to know what was going on in their lives. Unfortunately, they hadn’t heard the same teaching I had heard. People still moved on without saying much more than, “fine”.

During our COVID-19 days, it seems “fine” is the response we really want to hear. We’re talking more about health and we want to know that people are well, so “fine” means more than it used to, maybe? When I talk with people over the phone these days, the response “fine” means, “I’m feeling ok and my life is a series of routines that makes one day look just like the one before.” And that’s ok too.

But if you listen, it isn’t long before you start to hear things that go beyond health. People are eager to share achievements, anything that makes this time of social isolation not seem a waste. “How am I? I’ve been testing new recipes, I just finished putting in my annual garden, I finally tackled the home project I had been putting off, I binge-watched all 21 years of Law & Order, we stood outside the nursing home and sang ‘happy birthday’ to my grandmother, I started a new Bible study book that is really helping me see God in all this.”

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I could go on and on. Some of us may think these achievements sound pretty run-of-the-mill. And other times in our lives, they just might be. But now, anything sounds good because so many of our days *are* the same.

Maybe we can remember, when this is all over, that the New Normal might be an awareness that we really do want to know how you're doing. We want to know the new things you have accomplished. We really are interested in how God has recently touched your life. Because for many of us, one day starts to look like all the others all the time. We need people to really want to know and some who really want to share.

Are we a church that really cares, wants to know, takes the time to hear another's struggles and victories? How do we get past 'fine' and get on with loving one another?

We are not all "fine".

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:13***

**Upcoming Sermon Schedule**

May 31	May Flowers	<i>Matthew 6:25-34</i>
June 7	Signs	<i>John 20:30-31</i>
June 14	Did God Really Say That?	<i>Genesis 3:1-15</i>
June 21	Does God Laugh?	<i>Proverbs 1:22-28</i>
June 28	Elisha and the She-Bears	<i>2 Kings 2:23-25</i>
July 5	Is It a Mansion or a Room?	<i>John 14:1-3</i>

*Prayers for Health, Healing, and Strength*

**Yvonne Swearingen  
LeRoy Anson**

**Jane Ray  
Amber Dale**

**Mary Engleman  
Nancy Quinnette**

**On-going prayers of well-being for shut-ins and military personnel**

**All who are struggling during the pandemic**

**All Moses Merrill residential camps canceled for 2020**



All summer residential camps for 2020 have been canceled at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center (MMCCC). In a press release, the camp's Leadership Team and region and camp staff said they expect the spread of the coronavirus and COVID-19 will remain during the summer.

"We simply cannot put our camp family, our churches and communities at risk. We will continue to monitor the situation closely until we can reopen our campgrounds to guests and camp family," they said.

All campers who have made a payment can receive a full refund, apply the fees to next year's registration or give them as a gift to the camp.

The camp plans to offer onsite visits to camp by church families in various forms. Please watch for more information on how to reserve a spot.

Camp officials urged the region's churches to continue their support through prayer, engagement and financial giving. They have asked each congregation to prayerfully consider a special gift to MMCCC. Sunset Hills' Executive Council voted at its May meeting to send \$1,000 from its camp scholarship fund. The camp also urged joining the 2300 Team or, if already a member, to consider raising the monthly gift.

The camp's websites and social media platforms will provide frequent updates.

"You have always supported and encouraged us and we are thankful for your commitment to Christ and his Kingdom," the leaders said.



May was a busy month for our Outreach Ministry. Thank you to Lillian Richards, Linda and Rick Wheatley, Pam and Allan Whitebread, Terry Anderson, and Traci Gilmer for putting together and delivering May Day Baskets to ALL of our church family. Then, we couldn't forget the women of our church on Mother's Day. Gina provided a special Mother's Day message from some of our grown "children," that were brought up through our church and Traci and Travis Gilmer provided a drive-through to pick up special Mother's Day gifts.

In June, our Mission Outreach is the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Please read the section of this newsletter that explains where this offering will be used this year. One hundred percent of this offering goes to those in need, not one penny goes to administrative costs.

Traci Gilmer

May	Attendance	Giving
3	—	\$2,505.00
10	—	\$3,170.00
17	21	\$3,066.00
24	22	\$4,503.00
31	TBD	TBD

### SHBC Financial Scoreboard

<b>April Income</b>	<b>\$13,238</b>
<b>April Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,854</b>
<b>YTD Income</b>	<b>\$63,334</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>\$69,297</b>
<b>April Pledges</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>YTD Pledges</b>	<b>101%</b>

### All-age Adult Sunday School June Update

Covid-19 may be keeping us apart physically, however, our faith in God is keeping us together. As soon as it is safe to gather we will begin the 6-part series *The Promises of God*, by Dr. Charles Stanley. The 11-part series, *A Life Beyond Amazing*, by Dr. David Jeremiah will follow. We have a lot to look forward to, especially studying topics tied to God's Word... together.

Until we meet again,  
Ron and Mary Reed

### Stewardship Ministry June Update

Ron Reed

The re-roofing project has now been completed. We are thankful to the ministry of Bob Slechta and Scott Darden for their dedicated work in helping to make this happen.

Storm window proposals for the art glass windows have been studied and a recommendation has been made to the Ministry Council. The project is being placed in God's hands for the time that this work will be possible to do.

Proposals are being finalized to address the erosion control and lawn damage issue along the east edge of the north parking area. We are looking for a solution that will keep us from having to deal with this each spring.

The Stewardship Ministry Leadership Team has an opening to fill. Bob Slechta has withdrawn from the ministry position of Financial Steward due to demands on his time. Please pray about who may be good to call for this important work for our Father and church family. Please contact Ron Reed, or any of your Ministry Council members, if you would like to serve in this ministry, or with your suggestions.

Thanks to each of you on the 2020 Stewardship Ministry Team who have answered God's call to serve.

### Men's Group Study June Update

We have been continuing the study of *The Evolution of the Word* by Marcus J. Borg by way of Zoom. Adult men, young and old, are invited to join us. Please inform us if you'd like to attend on line so we can send you a Zoom invitation by email. Bob Slechta has been helping the group with Zoom. Pastor Bob Molby and Steve Bottum are currently leading this study. Although Covid-19 has separated us for awhile, Zoom has been a wonderful way to continue meeting.

6 Don Zak	
10 Abitha Nallathambi	
12 Ray Marine	
14 Wesley Gilmer	
16 Bob Slechta	
19 Carol Jones	
21 Neal North	
28 Diane Workman	

7 Jacob & Amber Dale	6 years
21 Tom & Kerry Thompson	39 years
28 Trent & Sara Gade	6 years

*Happy Anniversary*

Benson Baptist is running low on 100% cotton material for making masks/and or quilt blocks. Donations would be appreciated. Please email [sunset@sunsethillschurch.org](mailto:sunset@sunsethillschurch.org) or call 402-391-0820 to make arrangements to drop off any donations. Thank you!

Lillian Richards

The Women's Sunday School *Radiant Life* summer study is on order. If you would like a copy please email the church and one will be sent to you. Thank you.

LaShawnda Woods

*Thank You*

Thanks to each of you who prayed for me when I had emergency surgery for a perforated appendix on May 10. Especially to those who reached out to Mary for help and/or encouragement.

May God continue to bless all who pray for, and help, those facing serious trials in life.

In Christ's love

Ron Reed

Sunset Hills Baptist Church  
Ministry Council Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2020

**Attendees:** Pastor Paul; Terry Anderson, Moderator; Scott Darden, Treasurer/Vice Moderator; Don Zak, Music/Worship; Gina Slechta, Prayer; Traci Gilmer, Mission/Outreach; LaShawnda Woods, Discipleship; Ron Reed, Stewardship; Pam Hamlin, Shepherding; Pastor Jason Workman, Safety/Security; Jason Rich, Pastor/ Staff Relations; Telly Woods, Clerk/Pastor Staff Relations

**Devotion & Prayer (Pastor Paul):** *Psalms 126: When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

As we look to get back on track to some sense of normalcy during this COVID-19 pandemic, let us understand that we may have to do some things differently going forward.

**Sunday Services:** We have resumed Sunday worship services in the sanctuary. In order to remain compliant with the state and local COVID-19 safety guidelines, we ask that all members and guests who would like to attend Sunday services, contact the church office to register. Please contact the church office for details.

**Treasurer Report (Scott Darden):** Scott Darden presented the treasurer's report for April 2020. The motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved.

**Stewardship (Ron Reed):** The Stewardship Ministry team is looking for someone to take over the Financial Stewardship position. If you are interested in working with the Stewardship team, please contact Ron Reed.

**Prayer (Gina Slechta):** Prayer Ministry team will host the Youth Day of Prayer service/ activities on June 14, 2020 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. More details to come.

**Mission & Outreach (Traci Gilmer):** Please be on the lookout for information on this year's One Great Hour of Sharing. Our goal this year is \$1,800. If you have any questions, please contact Traci Gilmer.

**Discipleship (LaShawnda Woods):** Children's, Adult, and Women's Sunday School at the church have been cancelled pending updated COVID-19 guidance from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. We are currently exploring alternative options for Sunday School.

Camp Moses Merrell has cancelled all camp activities due to health and safety concerns. To help offset the negative financial impact of the decision to close camp, the Ministry Council approved a \$1,000.00 donation to Camp Moses Merrill.

If you are interested in working on or with a ministry team, please feel free to contact one of our Sunset Hills Baptist Church ministry team leaders or members for more information. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Complete copies of all Ministry Council meeting minutes are available in the church office.

# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

As the United States and the globe deal with the death and devastation wrought by the coronavirus, the OGHs COVID RESPONSE is a two-part appeal: one part for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico through American Baptist Home Missions; the second part for international relief through International Ministries.

Funds raised for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico will be utilized by ABHMS for COVID RECOVERY: Renewing Hope and Service—currently being developed to address the far-reaching needs created by the current pandemic. Moreover, OGHs contributions will support American Baptist regions and churches dealing with current challenges, as well as those bound to follow in the weeks and years ahead.

Specifically, OGHs donations appeal will assist with immediate needs, such as unemployment or loss of income, housing, hunger and access to healthcare. Donations will also fund programs supporting the well-being and mental health of faith leaders, congregations and communities. In the current context of social distancing, as churches seek to connect with members through online connections, the need for enhanced technology has emerged in many churches. Churches may apply for \$5,000 OGHs grants to help with any COVID-19 related needs.

OGHS COVID RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL funds given for global relief will be used by IM to respond to requests by international partners for emergency grants. Gifts will meet immediate needs for feeding, housing and providing healthcare for persons impacted by COVID-19, with particular support for emergent and unmet needs of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant populations. Funds will also support IM's global partners at risk of suspending vital services to vulnerable members of their communities and will facilitate activities and programs focused on sustainable solutions that address the long-term impact of the pandemic.

IM recognizes these days as sacred time to support one another and remain connected as an American Baptist family. Past decades of disasters did not affect our entire nation, but today American Baptists across the country are adjusting their lives in these harsh realities of COVID-19. IM stands with you in prayer for the many needs within your own congregations and communities in the coming months.

So, as you can see the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering this year is more important than ever before. Please prayerfully think about giving generously this year! Our church's goal this year is \$1,800. Let's see how close we can get to our goal, or even surpass it!! You can mail in your OGHs Offering to the church, but please write OGHs offering on your check in the memo line.