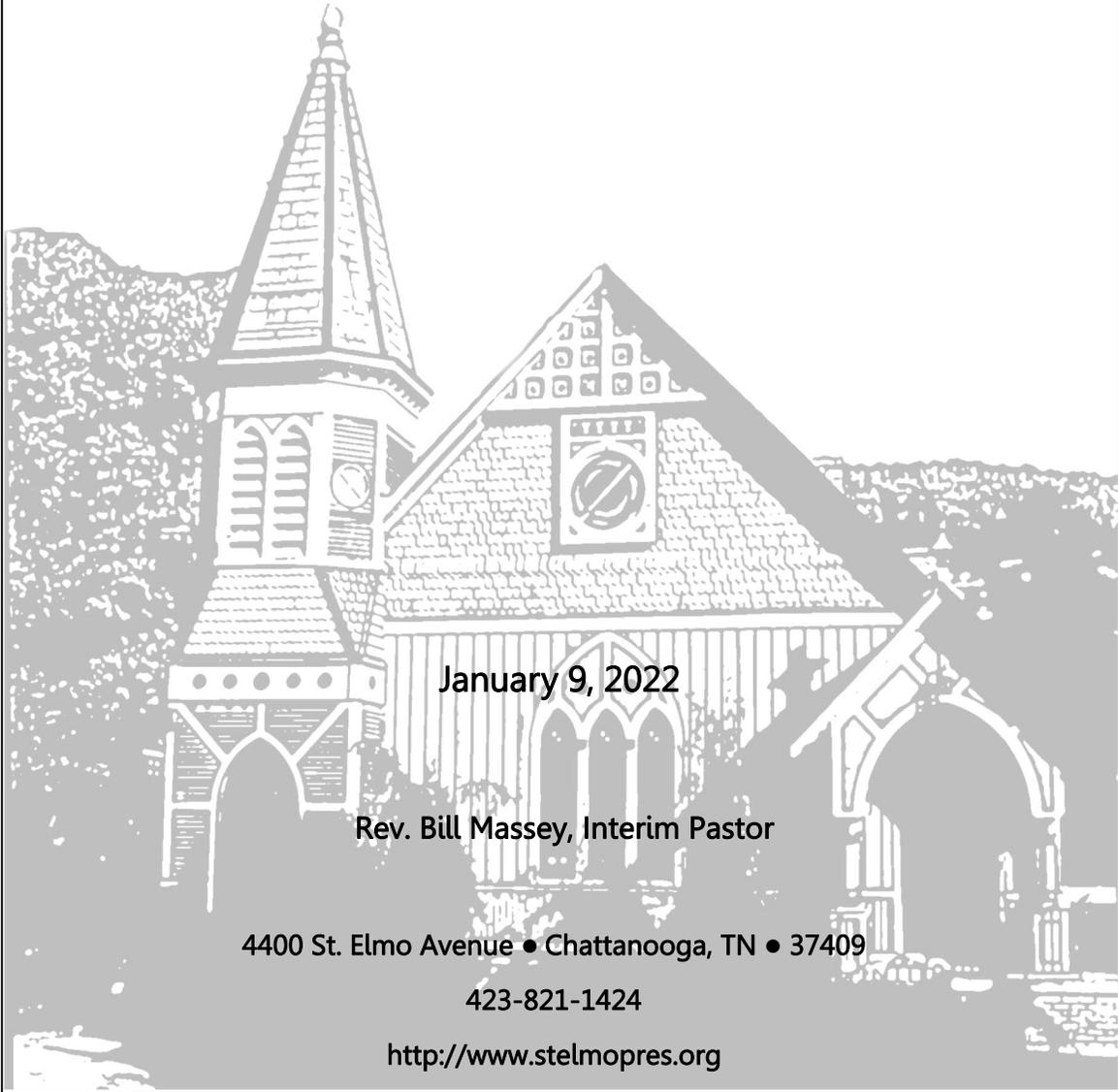


ST. ELMO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

*Our purpose is to know, live out of, and proclaim the wonder
of God's grace in Jesus.*



January 9, 2022

Rev. Bill Massey, Interim Pastor

4400 St. Elmo Avenue • Chattanooga, TN • 37409

423-821-1424

<http://www.stelmopres.org>

**This Week at
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and Community
January 9, 2022
Live stream****

Today

9:30am Sunday School for all
10:30am Morning Worship in person and on YouTube**

Monday January 10

7:00pm Boy Scouts meet — Contact: Jay Green or Ed Sunder

Tuesday January 11

10:00am Women's Study Group meets. Childcare available — Contact: Lynn Hall or Shelley Madueme

Wednesday January 12

7:00pm Wednesday night small group meets — Contact: Carol or Jim Wildeman
7:00pm Flintstone small group meets — Contact: John or Kathy Tucker

Thursday January 13

7:30pm Session meets — Contact any Elder

Sunday School Nursery

January 9: Kathy Tucker and Tammy Steele
January 16: Joseph and Amy Nichols, Lydia Mayberry

Worship Service Nursery

January 9: Kathy Tucker and Lance & Julie Wescher
January 16: Marylu Carl and Fran Snow

Nursery volunteer sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/yp8trcc>

Nursery Director: Lydia Mayberry, lydiakarstin@gmail.com, (423) 400-0506



**Worship Greeters for Sunday mornings!
January - Joni Harbert**

****COVID information update**

**We will continue with our current policy.
Masks are REQUIRED in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.
Masks are encouraged in the Sanctuary on Sundays.**

Upcoming

January 29 9:00am Hixson Presbyterian Church: All ladies of the TN Valley Presbytery—See flyer
February 6 6:00pm Music at SEPC — Contact: Darrell Stewart

FOR REFLECTION BEFORE WORSHIP

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." — Acts 1:4-5

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain will celebrate 69 years on the throne this February. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. The queen *ascended* her throne in 1952. It was a time of great rejoicing. In honor of her *ascent* to her throne, *gifts* were given by the Queen to her subjects throughout her realms. In Canada, for example, three million bronze coronation medallions were struck by the Canadian mint and given to school-children across the country. In Newfoundland 90,000 boxes of sweets were given to children many of them air-dropped from the heavens by the Royal Canadian Air Force. *Gifts* sent down from heaven to honor the monarch's *ascent* to the throne is the picture we have in Acts 2. Three days after he died for the sin of the world, Jesus Christ arose from the dead. Forty days after that, he ascended up into heaven, sat down on his throne and his Father crowned him with all authority in heaven and earth. Thus, the newly coronated King sends down from heaven the gift of his Holy Spirit on the subjects of his realm, his church. — Bill Massey

MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

HYMN #726 — *Spirit of the Living God*

MUSIC

WE PRAISE YOU, LORD

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Psalm 47:1-2; 93:1; Hebrews 4:14, 16*

L - Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

P - **For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

L - The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.

P - **He has established the world; it shall never be moved.**

L - Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

P - **Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

HYMN #289 — *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *from Heidelberg Catechism Q #26*

P - I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND SHARING OF THANKSGIVINGS

OUR RETURN TO GOD, OUR SAVIOR

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION – *The Valley of Vision*

P - Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten. Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. *Amen.*

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON— *Zephaniah 3:17*

L – The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

REJOICE! #23 — *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RECEIVING OF GOD'S WORD

READING OF GOD'S WORD — *John 4:43-54*

SERMON — *"The Blossoming of Faith"*

REJOICE #70 — *My Dwelling Place*

BENEDICTION

L – Having heard the Gospel,

P - Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ALL - Thanks be to God!



Please pray for these individuals and groups this week:

- Grady, Nicole, James, and Colin Dickinson
 - Chris and Rebecca Dodson
 - Al and Joye Duke
 - Hannah Eames

 - The Mercy Ministry Group
 - David and Lisa Fish: Uganda
 - Family Promise
 - Covenant Theological Seminary

 - Our U.S. Governors
 - The Persecuted Church in IRAN (8)
- Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors
 - Pastoral Search Committee:**
 - Spiritual protection for the committee and its members
 - Wisdom as we establish our timeline, gather information and prepare to create church and pastor profiles
 - That the Lord would prepare the right man for being the next pastor at SEPC

David and Lisa Fish
Uganda

Praise

- Joyful Christmas celebrations with our school, members of our community, the women of Buwundo Beads and Crafts, the staff at Good Shepherd's Fold, and the missionaries and children in residence here.
- God's love for us in Jesus.

Prayer

- For God's guidance and provision as we begin a new semester.
- The ongoing impact of the pandemic.

Family Promise

Contact: Seth and Lydia Mayberry

- Prayers for the houses that are still undergoing renovations and are not yet ready for occupancy. There were a lot of unforeseen problems which have been addressed, and they are moving forward. Pray that they will be ready to start hosting before March 2022.
- Pray for E'tienne Easley, their Director of Development, as she leads their organization and carries out essential executive director duties while they search for a new director.
- Continue to pray specifically "for our staff as many changes are happening and we ask for strength through it all."

Pray for the Persecuted Church in IRAN (8)

IRAN PLANTS LEADERS INSIDE MINORITY FAITH GROUPS

Source: MNN, December 31, 2021

The Islamic regime in Iran seeks even more power over religious minorities. According to a report linked at our website, Iran is planting its own leaders inside different faith groups to protect and advance its interests. As Iranian leaders tighten their grip, people become even more desperate for truth and freedom. UnfoldingWord partners with church networks in Iran to translate God's Word into minority languages. Find your place in the story!

- Pray God will bless the efforts of Bible translators and church planters in Iran. Pray this work leads untold thousands to Christ.
- Pray Iranian Christians will be protected from attack and persecution from the authorities and the public.
- Pray that God would comfort the families of martyrs and heal their wounds. 🙏🙏

The world's largest library of Bible study videos—available anytime, anywhere

The Right Now Media App is now available to the people of St. Elmo Pres Church. Right Now Media is a Christian streaming service with a library of over 20,000 digital videos for children, youth, young adults, parents, married and seniors. Everyone in the church is able to use this service. There is something that applies Scripture clearly in age-appropriate situations for all age groups. It can also be used by families to assist in teaching their children Christian doctrine, ethics, and problem solving from a Christian perspective. If you have not received an email about this already, please reach out to Lance Wescher, lance.wescher@covenant.edu, to make sure that you get connected to this great resource.

Sermon Title: "The Blossoming of Faith"

John 4:43-54 ESV

⁴³ After the two days he departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) ⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast. ⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come

down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

Sermon Intro: As the gardener cherishes his rose bushes so our Lord cherishes faith. He *plants* it and he *nurtures* it so that it might *blossom* into a living, loving union with him. Jesus is nurturing the official's faith in that way here! The big question is: do we have it? Whether we do or don't is *the* most important truth about us as far as the divine Gardener is concerned. And the process God took this man through gets us there.

1. The Planting of Faith

2. The Nurturing of Faith

3. The Blossoming of Faith

Sermon Notes
FOR KIDS



Date: _____

Hymns or Song Titles we sang today: Put a star by your favorite song we sang today.

Today's Text: _____ Book _____ Chapter _____ Verse _____

What is one important thing you learned from the sermon today? _____

Listen for certain words in the sermon,
and put a mark by them when you hear Pastor Bill say them.

Sermon Words

GALILEE		PLANT	
NURTURE		BLOSSOM	
FAITH		THE WORD	
LIVE			

Fill in the blank:

"And he himself believed, and all his _____"

(John 4:53)



So Jesus asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to

So Jesus came again to
Cana in _____, where he
had made the water **wine**. And at
_____ there was an
official whose _____ was
ill. **WHEN THIS MAN
HEARD THAT _____**
HAD COME FROM JUDEA
TO GALILEE, *he went _____*
_____ and asked him to come
down and _____ his son,
for _____ was at the point of _____.

Welcome to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church pca
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday School for Children and Adults

Begins at 9:30am. Children downstairs in the SS hallway. Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall with masks.

Sunday School for kindergarten children through youth group age — contact: Rob and Elaine Tinholt

Little Lambs Worship Program for Three and Four Year-Olds TBD

Nursery Available

Nursery is provided for babies through the age of two during Sunday School and worship. If you can help us in our nursery, please contact: Lydia Mayberry.

Sign up to volunteer in the nursely at: stelmopres.org. Click on "Connect-Grow-Serve" then "Nursery..." then scroll down to Sign up for Sunday Nursery...".

You can also go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yp8trcc>

Past Sermons and Church Calendar

Sermons online: <https://soundcloud.com/SEPC4400/sets>

Calendar online: www.stelmopres.org/events



Find us on Facebook:
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church - pca
[facebook.com/StElmoPresPCA](https://www.facebook.com/StElmoPresPCA)

High School and Middle School Youth Group

Coordinators/Contacts: Lance and Julie Wescher

Youth Group meets Sunday nights from 6:00pm-8:00pm, except for the first Sunday of each month.

Christian Education Staff Contact Information

- Nursery Director: Lydia Mayberry
- Youth Interns: Aden Hunt and Matilda Green, Daehla Smith, Isaac Kvale



To join the St. Elmo Presbyterian Church Email List:

1. Go to: <http://lists.st-elmo.org/mailman/listinfo/sepc>
2. Enter your email address in the gray box
3. Enter your name in the gray box
4. Password is optional
5. Click "Subscribe" and you will be added to the list. You will receive an email with directions for sending an email to the list and also unsubscribing. If you have difficulty signing on, please email Jay Green at jay.green@covenant.edu.

Parking

*Please do not park in front of driveways, or IN driveways, or in front of garages.
Please try to park on the side streets and not on St. Elmo Avenue (painted bike lanes).*

Also, park to the right of the road (in the direction you are going) so that you are not ticketed by the police.

Permission to print music and lyrics: CCLI#418158