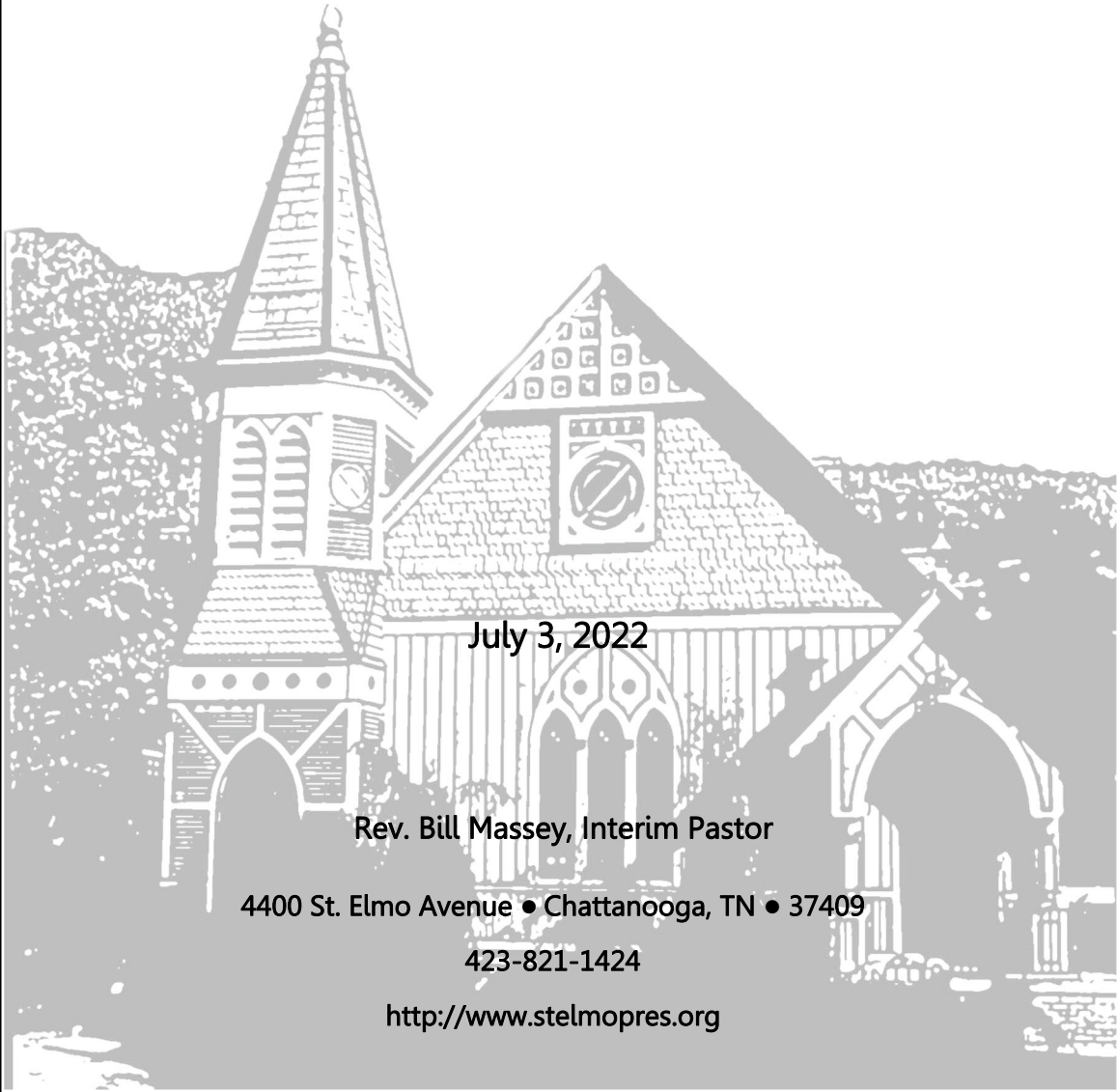


ST. ELMO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

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



July 3, 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
July 3, 2022
Live stream****

Today

9:30am Prayer for VBS in Adult SS room
10:30am Morning Worship in person and on YouTube**
12:10pm First Sunday Potluck Lunch-EVERYONE invited to stay and fellowship

Monday July 4 Independence Day!

Wednesday July 6

7:00pm Wednesday night small group meets — Contact: Carol or Jim Wildeman

Thursday July 7

12:00pm Men's Bible Study meets — Contact: Pastor Bill Massey

Worship Service Nursery

July 3: Rebecca Dodson and Joni Harbert
July 10: Nicole Dickinson and Cindy Sindler

Nursery volunteer sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/yp8trcc>
Nursery Director: Lydia Mayberry, lydiakarstin@gmail.com, (423) 400-0506



Worship Greeters for Sunday mornings!

July 3rd: Nathan and Isaac Sunder
July rest of the month: Rebecca Dodson, Glen and Becky Wieldraayer
August: John and Kathy Tucker
September: Glen and Becky Wieldraayer
October: TBD
November: Joni Harbert
Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2xjcw432> to sign up to help!

Upcoming

July 17 VBS meeting after worship
July 18 Ukraine donations due to church by 6pm
July 21&22 Person of Jesus Seminar at SEPC — Contact: Frank Sindler and see announcement
August 1-5 VBS! GENESIS 1: 9am-12pm, and finale on the 5th at 7:00pm and ice cream after!
August 16 Women's Bible Study will resume — Contact: Lynn Hall or Shelley Madueme

FOR REFLECTION BEFORE WORSHIP

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

"A change in clothing or other externals doesn't make a new creation, as some imagine. It happens through the renewal of the mind by the Holy Spirit. This is subsequently followed by a change in the body, limbs, and senses. For when the heart receives new light, new judgment, and new impulses through the gospel, the external senses are also renewed. Then the ears have the desire to hear God's Word instead of human ideas and dreams. The mouth and the tongue no longer praise their works, righteousness, and rules, but joyfully praise God's mercy, which was revealed in Christ. These are not merely changes in words, but real changes. They include a new mind, new will, new senses, and also new ways of behaving. The eyes, ears, mouth, and tongue not only see, hear, and speak differently than before, but the mind itself resolves and follows a different way of living." — Martin Luther

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

L - You are the Sovereign One, O God, and rightly to be blessed. Your name shall ever be upon our lips. You have heard the poor and saved them from trouble.

P - You have enlightened believers; their faces reflect your radiance. Aglow with the splendor of your promised redemption, help us, now, to worship you, the God of our Salvation. Amen.

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

WE PRAISE YOU, LORD

CALL TO WORSHIP – Isaiah 41:14

L - *I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.*

HYMN #97 — *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer Creator*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54

L - Christian what do you believe?

P - I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND SHARING OF THANKSGIVINGS

*Baskets are passed to help with the Deacons' Fund. Plates are for regular tithes and offerings.

OUR RETURN TO GOD, OUR SAVIOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — *The Valley of Vision*

P - O Lord, no day of my life has passed that has not proven that I am guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart. Praise has often been praiseless sound. Even my best works are filthy when compared to your glory. Blessed Jesus, enable me to hear your voice assuring me that by your wounds I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that you were made sin for me that I might be righteous in you. Forgive the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow I have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive me, the times I have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm I have done that makes it hard for me to forgive myself. Assure me that my great and many sins are all forgiven, buried in the ocean of your cleansing blood. Enable me always to cling to your cross that I may have hope. Flood me every moment with descending grace and joy.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON — Romans 8:33-34

L - *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?*

P - It is God who justifies.

L - *Who is to condemn?*

P - *Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

REJOICE! #1 — *A Debtor to Mercy Alone*

REJOICE! #4 — *Amazing Grace*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RECEIVING OF GOD'S WORD

READING OF GOD'S WORD – *Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:15-16, 25-27, 29-32*

SERMON – *Powerful Words*

THE LORD'S SUPPER*

L – The Lord be with you.

P – *And also with you.*

L – Lift up your hearts.

P – *We lift them up to the Lord.*

L – Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

P – *It is fitting and right to do so.*

L – People of God, as you come to the table, what do you proclaim?

P – *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come back again.*

INSTITUTION, PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL - Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

REJOICE! #68 – *My All in All*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew and Kali Haun | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Search Committee: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Himebook | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spiritual protection for the committee and its members. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don and Carrie Houston | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're celebrating finishing our church and pastor profiles. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aden Hunt | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're looking forward to engaging in the thorough evaluation of candidates over the summer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West African Reformed Mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Lord would prepare the right man for being the next pastor at SEPC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Widows' Harvest Ministries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUF-UTC: John Mark Scruggs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our U.S. Senators | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Persecuted Church in the World | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Pray for Ukraine and Vladimir Putin</i>• VBS |

Nursery Update

To visit registry: www.babylist.com/sepcnursery. Have items sent to the church.



If you have suggestions for other items you do not see on registry, please reach out and I will absolutely consider them (based on age-appropriateness, ease of cleaning, etc). We will also accept book donations, provided they are in good condition and age appropriate (for 1-2 year olds).

Donating toys to the church qualifies as a deductible charitable donation. Donation acknowledgement letters for non-cash donations may be provided to you upon request. Forward your receipt to sepctreas@gmail.com.

Right Now Media is available to the Church Family and Friends of SEPC. This fabulous streaming library is available to you for unlimited times and best of all it is free. To load on your cell phone: Download the orange RightNow Media App at the **GooglePlay Store**, or the **Apple Store** if you have an iphone, and with your email set up an account.

From the email that Lance originally sent us:

1. Use this link for your computer. This tool will direct you straight to the Registration Page for our Church's account. <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/StElmoPC>
2. (For cell phones) There is a text code for our church as well. All you need to do is text **STELMOPC** to the number **49775** to receive a text with the "Invite Link" and sign up for their free RightNow Media account. Questions? Contact John Tucker.

Mission Control to Church!

What: Plan now for an out-of-this-world summertime adventure! Join SEPC's VBS flight crew and cruise the cosmos with Genesis 1: Space Probe, a spectacular VBS odyssey in search of the Lord of the Universe!

When: August 1-5, 9am-12pm

Who: Astronauts age 4 through rising 6th graders

Where: St. Elmo Presbyterian Church, 4400 St. Elmo Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37409; 423-821-1424,
www.stelmopres.org

Questions? Excited to reach zero gravity with us?
Call the church or contact Commander Valerie Massey at 717-341-6516.

Pray for the Persecuted Church in the World

LIVING IN A VIOLENT WORLD — 7 LESSONS FROM PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS PART 1

Source: Opendoorsusa.org, June 14, 2022

At times, it feels like our country is facing a violence epidemic, from tragic school shootings and inner-city gang warfare to R-rated movies and best-selling video games. It may seem like national violence is a surging river with no cut-off point, ready to take us under its current.

However, violence is nothing new to persecuted Christians in Afghanistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Iran, Pakistan and many more countries where believers suffer for their faith. Our brothers and sisters in the persecuted church live in threat of violence each and every day; some have the scars and wounds to prove it. It's by their actions and discipline we're able to learn how to live in a violent world. And it's through them that we're able to study, adapt and grow closer to Christ.

Here are 7 things we can learn from the persecuted church about living in a violent world:

1. Always give thanks When violence seems to walk up to our very doors, where is our focus? Are we dwelling on the attackers and our own fears?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ." It can be easy to get caught up in a narrative and be on the hunt for answers to such horrific acts, but the Bible instructs us to give thanks. When we least feel like it, our praise matters most.

[The rest of this article will be sent to the church email list on Tuesday.] 🙏🙏

**West African Reformed Mission
Theological Education working with Muslims/Christians**

Prayer

- Pray for Burkina Faso to find a greater degree of security and peace through the government's new plan to deal with increasing violence from Islamic insurgents.
- Pray for Cindy's brother Rev Tom Cox who is training of elders and those aspiring to be elders in Sierra Leone. They are currently studying the WCF.
- Pray for the Lord to bless the ministry of Bible School in Gambia in (August) to equip elders and aspiring elders to teach and preach the word. Pray for the prep of those who will be teaching.
- Pray for the Park Cities PCA teams in Sénégal this month. This church sent a team of young people to work with outreach to kids in a rural area called Djilas. This weekend another team departs to lead a ministry week to the Presbyterian church of Sénégal pastors, pastoral interns, wives and kids. Pray for growth in the Lord for all the participants of both weeks.

Person of Jesus Seminar at St. Elmo Presbyterian Church

Join us for this 2-day seminar:

(New Changed Dates) July 21st, 6pm-8pm and July 22nd

8:30am-12pm hosted by the International Discipleship Coalition & seeJesus.

For registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4h2eesrs>



This is a QR code that goes to the internet link

Frank Sindler is the liaison for this if you have questions.

Widows' Harvest Ministries

Contact: Lisa Eames

Thanksgiving

- We give thanks for our return to in-person meetings! It is a smaller group of about 20 widows who are joining us and several still call the conference call line to listen in as well. We held a memorial service for the 22 widows who have passed away in the last three years. We mourn their absence and rejoice in their home-going.
- We give thanks for the 5 mission teams that are serving with us for a week at a time. We've washed 5 houses, painted 3 houses and 1 house's trim; built a ramp, repaired a step and done 2 large yard work projects. We've also had several groups sign up for half-day projects which will also be a help.

Prayer

- Please continue to pray for the safety and stamina of volunteers and staff as they serve widows; for spiritual growth for all involved; for safety and encouragement for the widows in the prayer ministry; and for on-going volunteers to serve.

VBS 2022 Prayer List

Pray onward for:

- Giving thanks to God for his many provisions already for VBS: volunteers, the means to have VBS at SEPC,
- For the Bible Storytellers, Teachers and Activity Leaders (Crafts, Recreation,
- Music, Snacks, Powerpoint, Registration) this is preparation time for everybody!
- For Valerie for the many details to remember and accomplish,
- For the VBS shipment of materials to arrive soon with all the necessary items,

- Registration is live now and the VBS banner is out front so pray for the Lord to put VBS sign up into the hearts of parents and children,
- For the work of the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts young and old for receiving the good news of Jesus as their Savior,
- That Satan would have no foothold in our preparations etc.,
- For health, strength-physically, spiritually, emotionally for all the volunteers and the children,
- That God would bless us with good weather for the week of VBS.



Sermon Title: Powerful Words

Exodus 20:16 ESV

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Ephesians 4:15-16, 25-27, 29-32 ESV

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love...

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the

sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil...

²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Sermon Intro: We are beings created in the image and likeness of God. And so, just as God spoke in the beginning and brought everything into being by the word of his power, so our words too have great power. What a privilege it is to be created in the image of God but also what a responsibility as well! In the Ten Commandments, the Lord commands those created in his image to speak truthfully. And Paul in his letter to the Ephesians reminds us that our words have the power to build-up and to tear-down. Using words as God commands represents a real challenge for us! We are used to massaging the truth to personal advantage. Let's consider two realities:

1. Words that Tear-Down

2. Words that Build-Up



Good words should come from a pure heart.



Fill in the missing letters to make a word that means the same as the word in parentheses. Then put those same letters in the blanks to complete each statement.

____ EDOM (LIBERTY) ____ CH (TIMEPIECE)

TRA ____ (RUBBISH) ____ ROR (MISTAKE)

A mineral salt spring cannot give _____.

____ D (ANCIENT) N ____ T (ABODE)

____ Y (VINE)

A fig tree cannot yield _____.

OF ____ CE (WORKPLACE) JO ____ (SHAKES)

A grapevine cannot bear _____.

OC ____ (HAPPEN) ____ ING ____ (BURN)

The tongue that praises God should not _____ men.

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Craƒes for Ukraine

A joint initiative of the PCA

Go to stelmopres.org or SEPC Facebook page to sign up.

Or <https://tinyurl.com/u9cvzjad>

Donation timeline will close on July 18.

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

TRUTH		WORDS	
POWER		IMAGE	
FALSEHOOD		FORGIVE	
BITTERNESS		MALICE	

Fill in the blank:

You shall not bear _____ witness against your neighbor.

Welcome to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church pca

Sunday School for Children and Adults

Sunday School breaks for the summer.

Nursery Available

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

Sign up to volunteer in the nursery 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>

First Sunday Potluck Lunch

First Sunday of every month we have a potluck lunch! Everyone is welcome. If you are able, please bring a main dish to serve 10-12 and either a dessert or side dish for 10-12 people.

Calendar online: www.stelmopres.org/events



Find us on Facebook:

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church -
pca

<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.

Youth Group breaks for summer.

Christian Education Staff Contact Information

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

**COVID information update

Masks are OPTIONAL in the Sanctuary on Sundays. Masks are REQUIRED in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.



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