

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.*



June 1, 2025

Rev. Daniel Wells, Pastor

4400 St. Elmo Avenue • Chattanooga, TN • 37409
423-821-1424 • <https://www.stelmopres.org>

**This Week at
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and Community
June 1, 2025
and Live streaming on YouTube**

Today

10:30am Worship Service
12:10pm First Sunday Potluck Lunch, everyone invited!

Monday June 2

7:00pm CAHSE meets at 4501 St Elmo Ave. — Contact Cal Boroughs

Tuesday June 3

7:00pm Joint meeting of the Session and Diaconate — Contact any Elder or Ed Sunder

Wednesday June 4

6:00pm North Chattanooga Community Group meets — Contact Ethan or Madison Greene
6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets at Joni Harbert's — Contact Ed or Betsy Sunder
7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets weekly — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann

Thursday June 5

12:30pm Men's Bible Study meets — Contact Chris Dodson

Saturday June 7

9:00am Women's Ensemble practice for June 8

Worship Service Nursery

June 1 The Tinholt Family
June 8 The Lesondak Family

Little Lambs

June 1 Seth and Lydia Mayberry
June 8 Kimberly and Brad Roberts

**2025 PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Chattanooga!
June 23-26**

General Assembly update: Areas of special need are helping with assembling women's tote bags, transporting tote bags, serving in nursery, ushering, serving communion, hosting in seminar rooms, helping chaperone youth events, and we need many adult camp counselors and older youth helpers for children's camp events.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycy9we26> or use the QR code below to access our volunteer registration portal. You can view the opportunities, the schedule, and select your desired way to serve.



**Upcoming
Youth Group meets June 8, July 6, and August 3**

6:00pm-8:00pm

VBS 2025! Sunday, June 15-19

5:30pm-8:00pm

June 22: Annual Congregational Meeting to Present the '25-'26 Budget

WORDS OF MEDITATION

The point of the Christian life is discovering what happened to you at your conversion. - Sinclair Ferguson

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

(Psalm 85)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" (#302)

JESUS GROWS US BY HIS SPIRIT

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. - Colossians 3:23-24

Hymn of Reflection: "Be Still My Soul" (#689)

Recognition of High School Graduates

Nathan Sunder
John Tinholt

Recognition of Rising Middle Schoolers

Simon Wells
Luke Wescher

JESUS RECEIVES OUR GENEROSITY

Offering of Gifts and Thanksgivings

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Praise Him, all creatures here below!

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one!

O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Covenant Children's Lesson

3 and 4 year-olds may go downstairs to Little Lambs

JESUS INTERCEDES FOR US

Intercessory Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

JESUS SPEAKS HIS LOVE TO US

Hymn of Preparation: "Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart" (see p.4)

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of the Word: 1 John 1:1-4

Preaching of the Word: "Assured: Discovering God's Love in 1 John - A Poetic Letter" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary, the mother of God, according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us. (Chalcedonian Creed 451 AD)

JESUS SEALS HIS LOVE TO US

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

It is fitting and right to do so.

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

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come back again.

The Bread ("On Jordan's Stormy Banks" Rejoice! #84, vs 1&2)

The Cup ("On Jordan's Stormy Banks" vs. 3)

Hymn of Meditation: Break Thou the Bread of Life" (#146)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure

I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)

I am bound for promised land,

I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)

I am bound for promised land.

Benediction



Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Newton, Kimbrough



Pen - sive, doubt - ing fear - ful heart, Hear what Christ the Sav - ior
 Fear thou not, nor be a - shamed; All thy sor - rows soon shall
 For a mom - ent I with - drew, And thy heart was filled with
 Though af - flict - ed, temp - est tossed, Com - fort - less a - while thou



says; Ev - 'ry word should joy im - part, Change thy mourn - ing in - to
 end, I who heav'n and earth have framed, Am thy Hus - band and thy
 pain; But my merc - ies I'll re - new; Thou shall soon re - joice a -
 art, Do not think thou can be lost, Thou art grav - en on my



praise. Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee, May He
 Friend; I the High and Hol - ly One, Is - real's
 gain; Though I seem to hide my face, Ver - y
 heart; All thy wastes I will re - pair; Thou shalt



help thee to be - lieve; Then thou pres - ent - ly will
 God, by all a - dored, As thy Sav - ior will be
 soon my wrath shall cease; 'Tis but for a mom - ents
 be re - built a - new; And in thee it shall ap -



see Thou has lit - tle cause to grieve.
 known, Thy Re - deem - er and thy Lord.
 space, End - ing in e - ter - nal peace.
 pear What the God of love can do.

Please take this with you to pray for these individuals and groups this week:



- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diane Reichmann | <input type="checkbox"/> The U.S. Supreme Court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cecelia Reynolds | <input type="checkbox"/> THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN IRAN/ Refugees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brad and Kimberly and baby Roberts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael, Carla Rae, Charlie, and Ollie Scholten | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Music and Worship Ministry Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel-Gaza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frank and Cindy Sindler: EFI | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covenant College | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOICES Pregnancy Center | |

Ladies of SEPC,

We are organizing a women's ensemble to sing Sunday, June 8 for the preparation for worship time. If you haven't sung with us before please come this Saturday, May 31, 9 AM, in the sanctuary for a 1 hour practice. We will practice again on Saturday, June 7th at the same time as well as on Sunday morning of June 8th before the worship service.

Please let Margaret Stewart or Lynn Hall know, if you haven't already, if you are able to sing with us. And a special note to any of you sopranos out there, please come! So far we are in short supply of sopranos! We look forward to singing with you!

In Him,
Margaret Stewart and
Lynn Hall



**Frank and Cindy Sindler
Equipping Farmers International**

Praise

- ☒ Frank's ablation seems to have helped. He is slowly getting back up to his normal pace, and his stamina is returning.
- ☒ Our internship in Knoxville is going wonderfully. We have already gotten notes from the interns as to how great an impact it is having in their lives. There are 12 interns who made it. Three are from South Asia. Two are from Latin America and the rest are from the US colleges plus one high school student.

Prayer

1. Pray for Frank's full recovery and a clean bill of health at his June 9th follow-up with the doctor.
 2. Pray for our 12 interns as they continue to explore global ministry and agriculture and what God might intend for their lives long term.
 3. Pray for our East Asia and Agriculture director as they are in the Philippines. This is EFI's first visit there, and we already have 9 organizations asking us to partner with them. Pray for the vision-casting meetings that Jerry and Michael will do and for travel for Jerry on to Cambodia and Laos after the Philippines to meet with other partners.
 4. Pray for the team at EFI starting work on the oral learners' version of our farmer's training. This is the first curriculum of this type, and we believe it will have a huge impact on the millions of small farmers around the world.
 5. Pray for our leadership team as we complete our initial phase of strategic planning. The overall goal we have decided is achievable is to see these two things within 20 years.
- Holistic Abundance for Every Church
 - Ending world hunger through the church is in sight. This will mean we will need to reach hundreds of millions of small farmers through their churches in over 110 countries around the world. With God all things are possible.

CHOICES Pregnancy Center

Contact: John Tucker

A Baby Shower? Yes, and you are invited. All you have to do is bring some clothes, wipes, diapers, baby detergent, diaper bags (new) and put them in or next to the container designated Choices that's downstairs next to the Mercy Ministry Bulletin Board. You see our Baby Boutique at Choices is dangerously low, and we need the donations to provide especially summer clothes for newborns thru 4T. Your kind gifts will help us restock our bare shelves and empower a mom or dad to choose life and embrace their God given role as a parent. The baby shower will take place on June 24th from 6am-6pm at the Choices Center and we invite you to park and tour the center at 951 Eastgate Loop Suite 1000 Chattanooga, TN 37411.

1. Please pray that God will provide for our clients needs at the Baby Shower.
2. Please pray for our new staff and volunteers to become familiar with the ministry of Choices this summer.
3. Please pray for our ongoing ministry during the summer.

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church

Invites your kids to gear up and climb with us the path that is



Join us on a VBS adventure filled with inspiring stories, exciting activities, fun games, and impactful relationships.

Upward Bound VBS runs from
June 15 - 19, 5:30pm - 8:00pm
for children 3 years old - completed 5th grade.
Light dinner for Kids provided.

Registration ends June 8, 2025.
PLEASE go to this registration link for important information.
<http://c.planetreg.com/VBS2025>

Please plan to pick up your children at 8:00pm from the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday evening you are invited to join us for our final assembly in the Sanctuary, from 7:45 - 8:10pm

Pray for the Persecuted Church IN IRAN(9)/Refugees

IRANIAN-CHRISTIAN CONVERT WHO FLED PERSECUTION IN IRAN, NEEDS TO FIND A COUNTRY THAT WILL GRANT HER ASYLUM BY JUNE 7

Source: International Christian Concern/Persecution.org, May 20, 2025

Artemis Ghasemzadeh, an Iranian-Christian convert who fled persecution in Iran, has less than three weeks to find a country that will grant her asylum. Her humanitarian visa expires on June 7. If she isn't granted asylum before then, she could be returned to Iran, where she will likely face extreme persecution for leaving Islam.



Today, International Christian Concern (ICC) released an emergency petition

(<https://www.persecution.org/take-action/emergency-petition/>) calling on governments worldwide to grant asylum to Ghasemzadeh, who is in Panama; her brother, Shahin, who is detained in Texas; and several other Iranian-Christian refugees. The petition also asks the country or countries that do grant them asylum to facilitate their safe resettlement and provide each Iranian-Christian refugee access to legal counsel, medical care, and support as they integrate into a secure, new life.

Ghasemzadeh's journey began months ago when she fled Iran with her brother, first to Dubai and then to Mexico, where they hired a smuggler to take them into the United States. The siblings were detained together for five days in San Diego and then separated: Ghasemzadeh to Panama with other refugees, and her brother to a Houston detention facility, where he remains.

Ghasemzadeh spent a month at an unsanitary camp near the Darién Gap jungle, choosing to sleep outdoors, before moving to a hotel in Panama City with UNICEF support. She is now staying with two Christian families from Iran and asylum-seekers from China, Vietnam, and Pakistan. They were initially given 30 days to leave the country but received a two-month reprieve.

Ghasemzadeh and her brother knew the challenges and risks of their journey. They were caught in the timing and dragnet of changing U.S. immigration policies and executive orders. Still, they were desperate to flee oppression in Iran, where converts to Christianity must hide their faith and worship as part of an underground house church, a growing and loose collection of believers who use apps to connect and support each other. Christian friends were caught and arrested.

Lawyers from New York, Mexico, and Colombia are helping Ghasemzadeh and the other refugees in Panama find a country that will accept them. So far, potential sponsors have fallen through. ***Ghasemzadeh recently told ICC she would "rather die" than go back to Iran, knowing the fate that awaits her.***

"I have many nightmares now. I don't have my hometown, I don't have the USA, and I don't have a safe country; I don't know the next step, where should I live ... it's really scary for me," she told ICC staffers. "It's a trip where you never come back to your country, and it may be the last time you see all of your family; maybe you can visit your family in the country, maybe not."

1. Pray for Artemis and the other Christian Iranian refugees who are seeking asylum
2. Pray that more people sign the petition, making it a more effective tool to help Christian Iranian refugees find a safe, new home 🙏🙏

Assured: Discovering God's Love in 1 John

A Poetic Letter

Author: John

Date: 85-95AD

Audience: Churches in Ephesus and surrounding areas (Same churches in Revelation 2-3?)

Purpose: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." - 1 John 5:13

Also, there are deceivers and false teachers out there. John mentions "false prophets" (1 John 4:1) "antichrists" (2:18) and "many deceivers" (2 John 7, being "led astray" 1 John 2:26).

Big Ideas: No NT book mentions "God" as frequently as 1 John (Romans is also up there), and no NT book mentions "love" as frequently as 1 John. Also, John has a lot to say about sin, atonement, obedience, and fellowship with fellow Christians.

1 John 1:1-4 ESV

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1. What aspects of God and God's love do you hope to discover as we explore 1 John together?
2. Why is the Apostle John uniquely qualified to give us a letter about this God of love and what He can do?

Sermon Notes for Kids

Today is _____

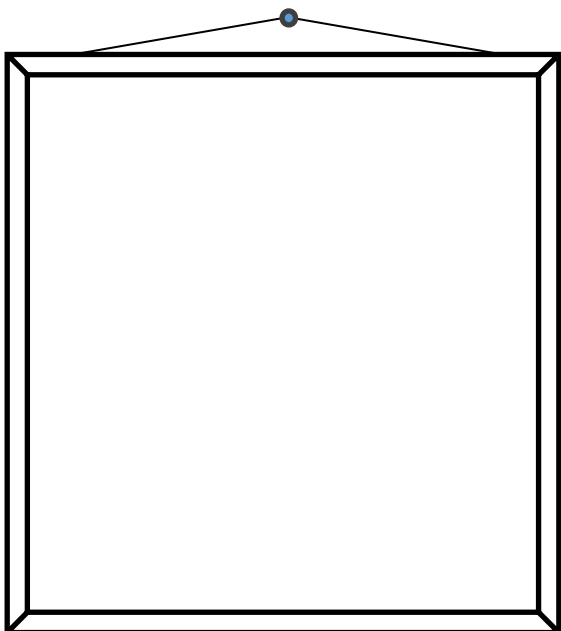
Who is the preacher today? _____

What is the scripture for today?



My favorite songs today:

**...our
fellowship is
with the
Father and
with his Son
Jesus Christ.**



Welcome to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church pca

Sunday School for Children and Adults

Sunday School begins at 9:15am. Adults meet in the Adult Sunday School room downstairs and kindergarten through youth group begin in the Fellowship Hall for snacks before proceeding to their rooms in the Sunday School wing. Sunday School breaks for the summer months.

Little Lambs

Children from 3 through 4 years old can attend their own worship service downstairs after the offering is taken.

Nursery Available

Nursery is available during Sunday School and worship for babies and for toddlers until they are old enough for Little Lambs. If you can help us in our nursery, please contact: Brad Roberts.

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/yp8tree>

High School and Middle School Youth Group

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

Christian Education Staff/Volunteers Contact Information

- Nursery Director: Brad Roberts;
sepcnursery@gmail dot com
- Director of Youth and Children's Ministry: Brad Roberts; sepcyouthgp@gmail dot com,
704-776-zero 1 zero6



Online donations/offerings:

You can use this QR code or you may go to -

<https://tinyurl.com/mr7h9e89>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/StElmoPresPCA>

To join the St. Elmo Presbyterian



Church Email List: Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/3hpcnxju>

1. Enter your email address in the gray box
2. Enter your name in the gray box
3. Password is optional
4. 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