

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 22, 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 22, 2025
and Live streaming on YouTube**

Today

10:30am Worship Service
12:05pm Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday June 23

General Assembly

Tuesday June 24

General Assembly

Wednesday June 25.

7:00pm The Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann
General Assembly

Thursday June 26

General Assembly

Friday June 27

6:00pm Chickamauga Community Group meets at Beckmans' — Contact Jack or Barbara Beckman

Worship Service Nursery

June 22 Joni Harbert and Virginia Strom

June 29 Emma Bunn and TBD

Little Lambs

June 22 Betsy Sunder and Priscilla Strom

June 29 TBD

Upcoming

Youth Group meets July 6, and August 3

6:00pm-8:00pm

July 6, After Worship — Picnic Lunch on the Lawn

Bring your own lunch, drink and lawn chair or blanket to sit on the church lawn.

WORDS OF MEDITATION

To be so completely guilty, and given over to despair
To look into your Judge's face, and see a Savior there
Jubilee, Jubilee, Jesus is that Jubilee
Debts forgiven, slaves set free, Jesus is our Jubilee. - Michael Card

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

On the holy mount stands the city he founded; the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God.

The Lord records as he registers the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah
Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you." (Psalm 87)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (#457)

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

HOLY LORD, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find thy mind in thy Word, of neglect to seek thee in my daily life. My transgressions and short-comings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless thee that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ; go on to subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but do thou rule over me in liberty and power. I thank thee that many of my prayers have been refused — I have asked amiss and do not have, I have prayed from lusts and been rejected, I have longed for Egypt and been given a wilderness. Go on with thy patient work, answering 'no' to my wrongful prayers, and fitting me to accept it. Purge me from every false desire, every base aspiration, everything contrary to thy rule. I thank thee for thy wisdom and thy love, for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject, for sometimes putting me into the furnace to refine my gold and remove my dross. No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin. If thou shouldst give me choice to live in pleasure and keep my sins, or to have them burnt away with trial, give me sanctified affliction. Deliver me from every evil habit, every accretion of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of thy grace in me, every-thing that prevents me taking delight in thee. Then I shall bless thee, God of Jeshurun, for helping me to be upright. ("Confession and Petition" in The Valley of Vision)

Silent Confession of Sin

Hymn of Confession: "Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul" (Rejoice! #23)

Assurance of Pardon

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband," declares the LORD. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." - Jeremiah 31:31-34

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!

Philippians Prayer Song.....VBS Kids

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.5)

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of the Word: 1 John 2:12-27

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

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

Q. 75. What is sanctification?

A. *Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God hath, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy, are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them, renewed in their whole man after the image of God; having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces, put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened, as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life. (Westminster Larger Catechism 1647 AD)*

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: "Be Thou My Vision" (#642)

Benediction



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



☐ Priscilla Strom

☐ Virginia Strom

☐ Bennett and Ashe Sunder

☐ Ed, Betsy, and Nathan Sunder

☐ The Diaconate: David Macallister, Michael Scholten, Paul Sims, Ed Sunder, Rob Tinholt, and Kedric Webster; Gwen Macallister and Jessica Novikoff

☐ Todd and Liz Crusey: Perth via London

☐ RUF-UTC: Davis Mooney

☐ Project 52

☐ Our U.S. Senators

☐ **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors

☐ Israel-Gaza

☐ Ukraine

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

Newton, Kimbrough

G A D Bmin G

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

5 A G A D Bmin G

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

9 A G A D

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

12 G A Bmin A Bdim7

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 - ent's
 be re - built a - new; And in thee it shall ap -

15 Bmin G A D

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.

Project 52

Contact: Rob Allen

Thanks for SEPC's support over the years.

Praise

- ☑ P52 completed two successful and safe weeks (June 2-5 & June 9-12) serving Walker County with Restoration Southside Church and Signal Mountain Presbyterian.

Prayer

1. Pray that P52's relationship with Walker County will continue to grow positively. Catoosa County is still in the infant stages.
2. Pray for God ordained funding.
3. Pray for our board of directors and the decisions they need to make.

Pray for the Persecuted Church IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

CHRISTIANITY STEADILY GROWING IN ASIA AMID PERSECUTION

Source: International Christian Concern, May 27, 2025

Although Christians throughout Asia are increasingly facing severe persecution, the gospel is spreading, and more people are putting their trust in Christ in many East Asian and Southeast Asian nations.

Christian researchers, missiologists, and missions organizations have reported the increase, which is similar to International Christian Concern (ICC)'s own figures. ICC reported that in 2024, there were roughly 415 million Christians in Asia, comprising 8% of the total Asian population. In 2010, Christians made up only 3% of the population in Asia.

Missiologists and commentators believe this steady increase in Asia is due to a combination of spiritual hunger amid modernization, strong community support, active missionary work, and the faith's ability to adapt to local cultures. Growth has been even more rapid in recent years, with Christianity growing by about 1.6% per year from 2020 to 2025, according to The Economist.

This growth is occurring within a challenging environment and in the face of relentless opposition to Christian teachings. Murder, violence, political and social isolation, unjust laws against conversion to Christianity, opposition to church buildings and services, increased surveillance against believers, restrictions on Bibles and Christian materials, and regular harassment, arrests, and imprisonments are just some of the things Asian Christians face daily.

...conservative estimates would equal *more than 85 million to about 130 million Christians in China alone*, a country with intense, systemic persecution and opposition to the gospel.

In *South Korea*, Christianity has experienced significant growth since the 1960s, making the country *second only to the United States in the number of Christian missionaries it sends overseas*. In *Mongolia*, Christianity was almost non-existent in the 1990s and 2000s. *Now, there are hundreds of Christian fellowships and churches. Christianity is also continuing to grow steadily across the region in Communist, Buddhist, and Islam-dominated nations like Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.* 🙏

Todd and Liz Crusey



The Down Underground

Perth by way of London - The Crusey Family Update

Prayer

1. Work: Please pray for the ongoing transition at the church. With Iain Clements now in his role as senior minister, we are still sorting out my role and responsibilities. Pray for patience and humility as Iain and I find a rhythm with one another and that I can be an encouragement and support to him as he now leads the church.
2. Pray for a new family at the church. They've been coming since Christmas and are very new Christians. Pray for wisdom as Iain and I seek to disciple this family of 4 (mom, dad, and 2 kids).
3. Family: we are into the last month of school, so it's a very busy time with year end activities. Finn will also be moving up from the infants school to the juniors school for next year (early elementary to upper elementary). It's a new set of buildings on the same campus, but a new head teacher (principal) and classes are mixed in with "the big kids" (years 3 through 6, so roughly 8 years old up to 11 years old). Finn is both excited and nervous about this transition.
4. Pray for our ongoing friendships with unbelievers. Especially for opportunities to share the gospel and to invite friends to church. 3 families in particular have expressed interest in coming to church, but haven't yet come to a service. Pray for both boldness and patience and for the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of these friends.
5. Pray for me as well as my change of responsibilities at Immanuel gives me more freedom to preach at other churches. This Sunday I'll be preaching at a sister church, Hounslow Town Church. This is the church where Liz volunteers to teach ESL. They have a large number of refugees and asylum seekers in the church, including many from Iran. Pray for the comfort and compassion that comes from Christ alone to be made clear as I preach a sermon on prayer from Ephesians 1:15-23.

SEPC Community Groups 2025 **Summer Project!**

We encourage you to use the next 2-3 months to try out any of our five Community Groups. Whether you aren't plugged into a Community Group or you have sporadically attended one of our small groups through the years, this summer would be a good time to see why we are emphasizing Community Groups as the hub for our ministry and mission at SEPC.

So, if you would like to plug into one of these Spiritual Families and experience Community, Connection, and Care, then reach out to the Community Group leaders and see when they will have their next gathering.

CHICKAMAUGA COMMUNITY GROUP...This new CG had a great first meeting! Their next meeting will be Friday, June 27th at 6:00pm. **Leaders:** Jack and Barbara Beckman (jack.beckman@covenant.edu; barbarabeckman5354@gmail.com)

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Carol Wildeman and Diane Reichman
(carol.wildeman@gmail.com; dmreichmann@gmail.com)

This group is open to anyone who lives in any location, and there are members of other churches that attend this group. Please contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann for any other details.

This group meets every Wednesday in various homes. They excel in caring for one another. So, this might be a good place for you if you aren't concerned with being in a CG close to where you live. I also appreciate this CG's emphasis on Micah 6:8 as they do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

FLINTSTONE COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Ed & Betsy Sunder (edsunder@gmail.com; Betsysunder@gmail.com)

If you are in the Flintstone area this would be a wonderful group for you to check out! They occasionally discuss Pastor Daniel's sermons (Thankfully, they are very kind in their discussions). And they usually have the best location to watch fireworks every Fourth of July. They will be meeting on the first Wednesday of every month during the summer. Their next meeting is July 2. Let Ed and Betsy know if you'd like to join them!

NORTH CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Ethan and Madison Greene (ethangreene94@gmail.com; mmbgreene97@gmail.com)

Will meet every other Wednesday at different hosts' homes.

Another one of our new CGs! For any of you who live north of the river then this CG would be perfect for you.

ST ELMO COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Jay and Beth Ann Green (jay.green@covenant.edu; ba.green70@gmail.com) *This group has been around for a while and has done a great job with hospitality and community. They have met on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Moving forward, this CG will focus on the St Elmo neighborhood as its mission field and will help SEPC be involved with the neighborhood's calendar and rhythms. If being involved with the St Elmo neighborhood is important to you then definitely check out this CG.*

Assured: Discovering God's Love in 1 John - Little Children"

1 John 2:12-27

1 John 2:12-27 ESV

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have over-come the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. ¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They

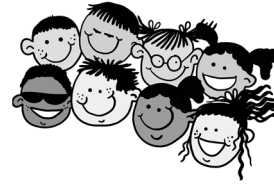
went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us — eternal life. ²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Sermon Notes for Kids

Today is _____

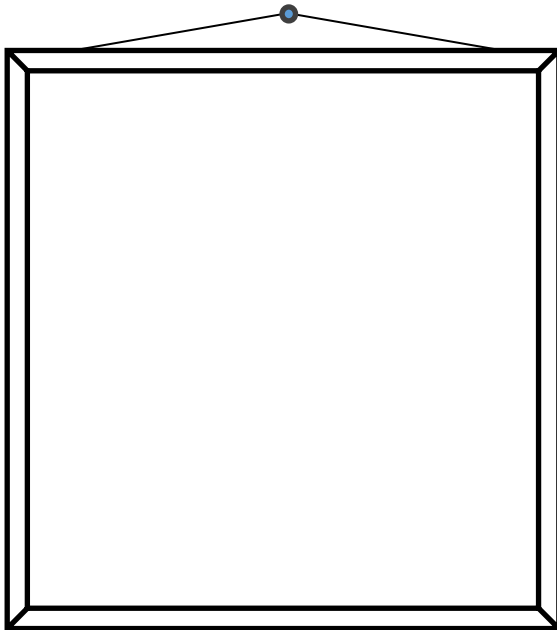
Who is the preacher today? _____

What is the scripture for today?




My favorite songs today:


**Do not love the
world or the
things in the
world.**




But anyone who hates a brother or sister
is in the darkness. ... They do not know where they
are going, because ...

Use the code to write the letters on the blanks.

 = A


 = D


 = I


 = M


 = S


 = B


 = E


 = K

 = N

 = T

 = H

 = L

 = R





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Welcome to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church pca

Sunday School breaks for Summer and Resumes in September

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/yp8trcc>

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.com
- Director of Youth and Children's Ministry: Brad Roberts;
sepcyouthgp@gmail.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



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<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