

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 29, 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 29, 2025
and Live streaming on YouTube**

Today

10:30am Worship Service

Wednesday July 2

7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichman

Thursday July 3

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

Friday July 4 Happy Independence Day!

Worship Service Nursery

June 29 Emma Bunn and TBD

July 6 TBD

Little Lambs

June 29 TBD

July 6 TBD

Rev. Bill Massey, who faithfully led our church from 2020-2023 as Interim Minister, will be installed as Covenant Presbyterian's Assistant Pastor of Discipleship. The installation service will take place on Sunday, July 13th at 6 pm, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 E. Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421.

If you are able, please consider attending this service so that we might celebrate this occasion with Bill, Valerie, and Will.

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.

Community Groups meeting:

July 2 Flintstone CG meets at Tuckers' for Cookout at 6pm. Contact Ed or Betsy Sunder.

August 17, After Worship — Couples' Baby Shower for Brad and Kimberly Roberts

WORDS OF MEDITATION

Remember this, that your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore faint not, hold on and hold up, in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all. - Thomas Brooks

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.

Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!

I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

(Psalm 88)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: "For the Beauty of the Earth" (#116) & "This is My Father's World" (#111)

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Corporate Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. - Romans 8:1-4

Song of Assurance: "How Deep the Father's Love For Us" (Rejoice! #44)

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

No Little Lambs today

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

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of the Word: Zechariah 3:1-10

Preaching of the Word: "From Guilt to Grace" (Mr. Brad Roberts)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

Q. 168. What is the Lord's supper?

A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body. (Westminster Larger Catechism 1647 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 & The Cup ("Abide With Me" Stanzas 1-4, See p.5)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: "Abide With Me" (5th Stanza)

Benediction



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



- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eddie, Micaela, Natalie, and William Sunder | <input type="checkbox"/> Our U.S. Governors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaac Sunder | <input type="checkbox"/> THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN SOMALIA (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John and Sophie Sunder | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samuel and Brooklyn Sunder | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Roberts, our Youth and Children's Ministry Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel-Gaza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David and Lisa Fish: USA/Uganda | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCA: Discipleship Ministries, MTW, Committee on Administration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Families | |

Abide with Me

Lyte, Smith

D G D

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven -
 2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst
 3. I need Thy pres - ence eve - ry pass - ing
 4. I fear no foe with Thee at hand to
 5. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing

3 A D G D

tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
 smile; And, though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean -
 hour. What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's
 bless; Ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -
 eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the

6 A B m G D

bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
 while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
 power? Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can
 ness. Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy vic - to -
 skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows

9 G D A D

flee, Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
 Thee, On to the close Lord, a - bide with me.
 be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bide with me.
 ry? I tri - umph still, a - bide with me.
 flee; In life, in death, Lord, a - bide with me.

Safe Families

Contact: Glen and Becky Wioldraayer

Prayer

Please pray for the new *Parent Café* that Safe Families has started at *Chattanooga Room in the Inn*.

- Pray that we are effective in helping these women build meaningful community and grow in their skills as parents. We are thankful for Sarah Stern, recently hired as program coordinator.

Pray for the Persecuted Church IN SOMALIA (2) Part 1

SERVING THE HIDDEN CHURCH IN SOMALIA

Source: International Christian Concern, aka Persecution.org, May 28, 2025

In one of the world's most hostile environments for Christians, International Christian Concern (ICC) is quietly and carefully meeting with Christians in the shadows.

In a nation where being known as a Christian can lead to forced displacement, imprisonment, and death, ICC works to equip underground believers, shelter persecuted families, and enable secret evangelism. This work helps advance the gospel, encourages isolated believers, and saves lives.

Living Faith in Secrecy

Christians in Somalia live in constant fear for their lives. During our visit to Somalia in 2024, we met with believers in the capital city of Mogadishu who must practice their faith in absolute secrecy. ICC field directors met with members of Somalia's underground church, who confirmed the existence of more than 1,500 hidden believers, many of whom are converts from Islam. Conversion is viewed as an act of betrayal by both militant groups and local communities, forcing believers to abandon their homes, families, and identities.

Safe Houses for the Persecuted

To meet the growing need for secure refuge, ICC has established a network of safe houses within Somalia. These homes are operated by trusted underground church leaders who have themselves survived threats and attacks. Monthly rent support enables these safe houses to continue functioning without financial strain, allowing persecuted converts a place to heal, hide, and grow in their faith. One such safe house has so far sheltered more than 20 believers. These are people who have been forced to flee their villages or families due to their newfound faith in Christ. Through ICC's funding, trusted Somali leaders now provide food, shelter, and spiritual care to these converts — all while keeping their operations hidden from hostile forces. 🙏

David and Lisa Fish USA/Uganda

Praise

- ☒ Lisa, Zeke, and Evie's recent trip to Uganda, where they reconnected with people there and saw the ways God is at work
- ☒ Literacy classes where a retired teacher is helping women learn to read
- ☒ The relationships that are growing out of these literacy classes
- ☒ The tailoring building is almost complete

Prayer

1. For provisions to build a covered area and latrines for the over 300 women who are participating in the adult education classes and Bible study
2. For encouragement and grace for the Fish family as they pursue a full summer of work, ministry, school, and family life

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 was 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.*

Zechariah 3:1-10 ESV

³Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ²And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." ⁵And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. ⁶And the

angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, ⁷"Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. ⁸Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

1. The Accusation

2. The Advocate

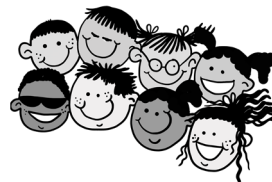
3. The Assurance

Sermon Notes for Kids

Today is _____

Who is the preacher today? _____

What is the scripture for today?









My favorite songs today:

**And the Lord said to
Satan, "The Lord
rebuke you, O Satan!
The Lord, who has
chosen Jerusalem,
rebuke you!"**

--

Then the angel said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you." ...

Use the code to write the words on the lines.		
 = Zechariah	 = clean	 = clothed
 = angel	 = head	 = turban

... Then _____ said, "Put a



_____ on his



_____." So they put a _____



_____ on his



_____ and _____ him,



while the _____



of the LORD stood by.

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 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



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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