

# 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 6, 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  
July 6, 2025  
and Live streaming on YouTube**

**Today**

10:30am          Worship Service  
12:05pm          Picnic Lunch outside on the lawn

**Wednesday      July 9**

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

**Thursday          July 10**

7:30pm          Session Meeting — Contact any Elder

**Worship Service Nursery**

**July 6**                  Jessica Novikoff and Rebecca Dodson  
**July 13**               Emma Bunn and TBD

**Little Lambs**

**July 6**                  Brooklyn and Samuel Sunder  
**July 13**               Sarah Pendergrass and Lydia Mayberry

**Upcoming**

**Community Groups meeting:**

Chickamauga CG meets July 19 at 6:00pm — Contact Jack or Barbara Beckman

**Rev. Bill Massey's Installation as Asst. Pastor of Discipleship at Covenant Presbyterian**

July 13, 6:00pm, 8451 E. Brainerd Rd.

**Youth Group meets — August 3**

6:00pm-8:00pm

**August 17, After Worship in the Fellowship Hall — Couples' Baby Shower for  
Brad and Kimberly Roberts**

They are registered atxxxxx and  
Amazon

*Please bring a finger food type food to share. Beverages will be provided.*

## WORDS OF MEDITATION

If a Father's love will not make his children delight in him, what will? - John Owen

### Prelude

### Announcements

### Musical Preparation

## JESUS WELCOMES US

### Greeting

### Call to Worship

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

*For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."*

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

*'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'*

(Psalm 89)

### Invocation

**Hymn of Praise:** "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" (#77)

## JESUS HEARS OUR LAMENT

### Corporate Prayer of Lament

*Holy and righteous God, Don't you see? Don't you care, Lord? Fools revile you, daring you to take action. Evil men flaunt their excesses, without conscience or concern. It grieves us; it angers us. Women, children, and the elderly are shown no mercy. When will it end, Lord? When will the day of justice come? We don't question your power; just your timetable. We don't question your plan; just its execution. Our hope is in you, Lord. There is no other God. So until the day you put all things right, Lord, pour out your Spirit upon your people. Grant leaders wisdom, children comfort, and your church courage. Whether by our living or by our dying, we want to honor you. When we're tempted to repay evil for evil, harm for harm, or hatred for hatred, grant us grace and restraint, O Lord. When fears loom and doubts increase, show us Jesus' empty tomb and your occupied throne. You alone, O God, are worthy. We praise, bless, and adore you, in Jesus' name. Amen. ("Every Season Prayers" by Scotty Smith)*

### Silent Prayer of Lament

**Hymn of Lament:** "Afflicted Saint to Christ Draw Near" (see p.5)

### Assurance of Comfort

*But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:8-10*

**Song of Assurance:** "Heal Us" (Rejoice! #38)

## JESUS RECEIVES OUR GENEROSITY

### Offering of Gifts and Thanksgivings

### Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; World without end. Amen, amen.*

### 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**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Reading of the Word:** 1 John 2:28-3:10

**Preaching of the Word:** "Assured: Discovering God's Love in 1 John - Part 5" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

**JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH**

**Confession of Faith**

Q. 74. *What is adoption?*

*A. Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory. (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** ("We Will Feast in the House of Zion" Rejoice! #100)

**The Cup** ("Nothing But the Blood of Jesus" Rejoice! #76)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING**

**Song of Departure**

*We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored!*

*He has done great things, we will say together, we will feast and weep no more!*

**Benediction**



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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan and Kristin Taylor  | <input type="checkbox"/> The U.S. Supreme Court                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moses Taylor                            | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN SOMALIA (2)</b>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke Tinholt                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John David Tinholt                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rob, Elaine, and Kate Tinholt           | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel-Gaza                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Arts and Aesthetics Ministry Group  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron and Katrina Fortune: Swiss L'Abri |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covenant College                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channels of Love                        |   |

# Afflicted Saint, To Christ Draw Near

Jahn Fawcett (1782), Connie Dever (Chorus)

Connie Dever

1. Af - flict - ed saint, to\_ Christ draw near, Your Sa - vior's gra - cious pro - mise  
 2. faith is weak, your\_ foes are strong, and if the con - flict should be  
 3. per - se - cu - tion, rage and flame, still trust in your Re - deem - er's  
 4. called to bear your weigh - ty cross, or sore af - flic - tion, pain or

hear, His faith - ful Word, you\_ can be - lieve, that as your days your strength shall be.  
 long, the Lord will make the\_ temp - ter flee that as your days your strength shall  
 name; in fier - y tri - als you shall see, that as your days your strength shall  
 loss, or deep dis - tress or po - ver - ty, still as your days your strength shall

2. Your be, So sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the vic - t'ry's won; God

shall sup - ply all that you need. Yes, as your days your strength shall be. 3. Should be. 4. When

2018, Praise Factory Music/Sovereign Grace Music

**Praise**

- ☒ Thank God for how far He's brought us—and pray for lasting impact.

**Prayer**

1. Pray for clear direction and purpose in all we do.
2. Pray for unity and connection among our team, volunteers, and clients.

**Pray for the Persecuted Church IN SOMALIA (2) Part 2****SERVING THE HIDDEN CHURCH IN SOMALIA**

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

**Missionary Work in Hostile Territory**

In the northern region of Somalia, a female missionary supported by ICC is quietly leading a one-woman outreach through her work as a nurse.

While serving in local hospitals, she uses her medical skills as a bridge to reach women and children with the hope of the gospel. Her presence has led to secret conversions and the formation of underground believer networks in previously unreached areas.

Despite language barriers, a lack of funding, and constant threats, she has continued her mission for more than two years. ICC provides basic monthly support to cover food, rent, and transportation — an essential lifeline for someone living without legal protections or a sending organization. *Her story remains unpublished to protect her identity and the identities of those she helps.*

**Emergency Relief for Survivors**

In 2023, a Somali believer and underground church leader was targeted by militants. His farm was burned down by al-Shabab operatives in a targeted attack due to his faith.

Forced to flee with his family, they survived a harrowing weeklong escape to Mogadishu. With no food or shelter, ICC intervened to provide \$4,000 in emergency aid, which covered rent, food, clothing, and relocation to a secure place. *Today, that believer continues to serve the underground church discreetly from the safety of his new home.*

**A Quiet, Lasting Influence**

***Every project ICC undertakes in Somalia is marked “Confidential — Do Not Publish,” and for good reason. Publishing names or locations could lead to imprisonment or even execution for beneficiaries. That's why stories are told anonymously, and project reports omit any identifying information.***

But even in silence, the effects are undeniable. Through safe houses, missionary support, emergency relief, and educational assistance, ICC is empowering Somali Christians to live out their faith — no matter the cost.

*In a land where churches cannot be built and believers cannot speak freely, ICC ensures that the light of Christ is not extinguished. Please pray for hidden believers in Somalia — that God would protect their lives, strengthen their faith, and continue building his church in the shadows. 🙏*

## **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](mailto:carol.wildeman@gmail.com); [dmreichmann@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:edsunder@gmail.com); [Betsysunder@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ethangreene94@gmail.com); [mmbgreene97@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jay.green@covenant.edu); [ba.green70@gmail.com](mailto: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

God's Own Children

1 John 2:28-3:10

1 John 2:28-3:10 ESV

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

<sup>30</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins,

and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.



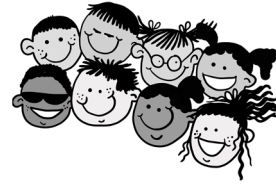
# Sermon Notes for Kids

Today is \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the preacher today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the scripture for today?

\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite songs today:


**Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil...**

--

## What will we be like in the future?

Fill in letters to complete the statement.  
Use the numbered letters to find how we should mature.

A young CAL<sub>1</sub> matures into a C<sub>2</sub>W.

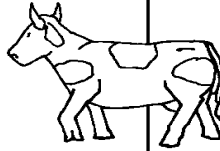

A young <sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>T matures into a HORS<sub>5</sub>.


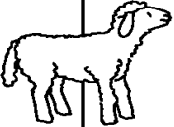
A young K<sub>6</sub>TTE<sub>7</sub> matures into a C<sub>8</sub>T.

A young <sub>9</sub>I<sub>10</sub> matures into a <sub>11</sub>OA<sub>12</sub>.

A young FA<sub>13</sub>N matures into a DEE<sub>14</sub>.

A young LA<sub>15</sub><sub>16</sub> matures into a <sub>17</sub><sub>18</sub>EE<sub>19</sub>.

“

<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>					
<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	...	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	,	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>			
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	.”		

# 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](http://www.stelmopres.org/events)



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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](mailto: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