

ST. ELMO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

*Our purpose is to be a Spiritual Family that Knows, Lives Out of, and
Proclaims the Wonder of God's Grace in Jesus.*



September 14, 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
September 14, 2025
and Live streaming on YouTube**

Today

9:15am Sunday School For All
10:30am Worship Service
12:15pm Baby Shower for Madison and Ethan Greene in the Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Youth Group meets — Contact Brad Roberts

Tuesday September 16

10:00am Women's Book Study meets — Contact Amy Daugaard or Shelley Madueme

Wednesday September 17

6:00pm St. Elmo Community Group meets — Contact Jay or Beth Ann Green
6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets — Contact Ed or Betsy Sunder
7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichman

Thursday September 18

12:30pm Men's Bible Study meets — Contact Chris Dodson
7:00pm Women's Evening Book Study at church — Contact Amy Daugaard

Friday September 19

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

Sunday School Nursery

September 14 Kathy Tucker and Betsy Sunder
September 21 Kim Roberts and Kate Tinholt

Worship Service Nursery

September 14 Emma Bunn and Ellie Potter
September 21 Noah and Sarah Pendergrass

Little Lambs

September 14 Jack and Barbara Beckman
September 21 Glen and Becky Wieldraayer

To volunteer for Sunday School Nursery, Worship Nursery, or Little Lambs:

• <https://tinyurl.com/y9aw7h4a>

Navigate between sign ups through the tabs at the top of the page

Upcoming

Sunday, September 21 at 12:10pm

Sunday, September 21 at 1:00pm

Saturday, October 4 Time: TBD

Sunday, October 5 at 10:30am

Saturday, October 25, 11:00am

Saturday, November 1 at 9:00am

Congregational meeting to discuss Elder and Deacon parameters

First College Lunch for students — Contact Beth Ann Green

Men's Fellowship meets at SEPC: Ages 10 and up. There will be SMOKED MEATS!

136th SEPC Anniversary Service and Lunch

Neighborhood Feast Day at the St Elmo Playground/Park until 2:00pm

Fall Church Workday! We NEED YOU! Save the Date!

WORDS OF MEDITATION

People are unique, created in the image of God. Each has the capacity to love, to be faithful, to create beauty, to know truth. Each person is worth our effort, our time, and our prayers. The Christian life is not a series of activities but a relationship with the living God, and through that relationship, love flows out to others. - Edith Schaeffer

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool!

Holy is he! (Psalm 99)

Invocation

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

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Corporate Confession of Sin

O God of grace, Thou hast imputed my sin to my substitute, and hast imputed his righteousness to my soul, clothing me with a bridegroom's robe, decking me with jewels of holiness. But in my Christian walk I am still in rags; my best prayers are stained with sin; my penitential tears are so much impurity; my confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin; my receiving the Spirit is tinctured with selfishness. I need to repent of my repentance; I need my tears to be washed; I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness; I am always standing clothed in filthy garments, and by grace am always receiving change of raiment, for thou dost always justify the ungodly; I am always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal, always saying, Father, forgive me, and thou art always bringing forth the best robe. Every morning let me wear it, every evening return in it, go out to the day's work in it, be married in it, be wound in death in it, stand before the great white throne in it, enter heaven in it shining as the sun. Grant me never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace. Amen. (The Valley of Vision)

Silent Confession of Sin

Hymn of Confession: "I Asked the Lord That I Might Grow" (see pg 5 & 6)

Assurance of Pardon

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. - Ephesians 2:4-7

Hymn of Assurance: "Thy Mercy, My God" (Rejoice! #99)

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

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of the Word: Genesis 14:1-24

Preaching of the Word: "The Lord Will Provide: The Gospel According to Abraham" Part 4 (Mr. Brad Roberts)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies. (Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1648)

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:



- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helen Grace Macallister | <input type="checkbox"/> Our U.S. Governors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David, Gwen, Tirzah, Caleb, and Colin Macallister | <input type="checkbox"/> THE PERSECUTED AFGHANISTAN (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hans, Shelley, Caleb, and Zoë Madueme | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seth, Lydia, Hank, Roy, and Hazel Mayberry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Session: Daniel Wells, Rob Allen, Jay Green, Jeff Hall, Hans Madueme, and Lance Wescher | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel and Gaza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan and Mako Gilchrist: ELI | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covenant College | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Families | |

It's time again to sign up to host college students in your homes. Here is the link:
tinyurl.com/2enb75k2

I ASKED THE LORD

To play with CD, Capo I

Words by John Newton
Music by Laura Taylor

C F

1.I asked the Lord that I might grow In faith and love and
3.I hoped that in some fa vored hour At once He'd an swer

4 A m

eve - ry grace, _____ Might more of His sal va tion _____ know _____ And
my re quest, _____ And by His love's con strain ing _____ pow'r _____ Sub

7 F G C

seek more _____ ear nest ly _____ His face _____ 2.Twas He who taught me
due my _____ sins _____ and give _____ me rest. _____ 4.In stead of this He

10 F

thus to pray And He I trust has ans wered prayer, _____
made me feel The hid den e vils of my heart, _____

13 A m F

_____ But it has been in such a _____ way _____ As al most _____ drove _____ me to _____
_____ And let the an gry pow'rs of _____ Hell _____ As sault my _____ soul _____ in eve

16 G F G F G

_____ des - pair. _____
_____ ry part. _____

21 C F

5.Yea more with His own hand He seemed In tent to ag gra vate my woe, _____

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25 A m F
 — Crossed all the fair de signs I — schemed, — Cast out my — feel - ings, laid —

28 G F G F G
 — me low. —

33 C F
 6. Lord why is this, I trem bling cried, Wilt Thou pur sue thy

36 A m
 worm to death? — "Tis in this way" the Lord re plied, — "I

39 F G C
 an swer — prayer — for grace — and faith." — 7. "These in ward tri als

42 F
 I em ploy From self and pride to set thee free, —

45 A m F
 — And break thy schemes of earth ly — joy — That thou mayest — seek — thy all —

48 G F G
 — in me, — That thou mayest — seek — thy all — in me, —

51 F G F G F G
 — — — — — —



SEPC Community Groups 2025

Community Groups are where we find community, care, and connection. The way we are ministered to and do ministry is through our Community Groups. Most of these groups are loosely based on geography. They have rhythms of Up (Bible study, devotion, prayer), In (fellowship, recreation), and Out (Mercy, Mission). Each Community Group has 'adopted' one of our mercy ministries, and a couple of missionaries are supported in SEPC's budget.

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

Leaders: Jack and Barbara Beckman

If you live beyond the outer bounds of St Elmo toward Chickamauga and NW Georgia, our Community Group gathers for food and fellowship, devotions and prayer. If you enjoy the sounds of children playing, our multigenerational group is for you! This group meets the first Wednesday and the third Friday of each month.

ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Carol Wildeman and Diane Reichman

This group has been around for a long time in various forms. They excel in caring for one another, which is why they even have members from other churches in this CG. This is our one CG that isn't bound to one geographical area. So, this might be a good place for you if you aren't concerned with being in a CG close to where you live. They meet every Wednesday night.

FLINTSTONE COMMUNITY GROUP

If you are in the Flintstone area this would be a wonderful group for you to check out! They have a meal together and occasionally discuss Pastor Daniel's sermons as well as sharing testimonies and prayer requests. This group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month.

NORTH CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY GROUP

This community group would be perfect for any of you who live north of the river then this CG would be perfect for you. Don't mind Ethan and Philip as they talk about Vols football. This group meets every other Wednesday.

ST ELMO COMMUNITY GROUP

This group has been around for a while and has done a great job with hospitality and community. 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. This group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

**Dan and Mako Gilchrist
Equipping Leaders International**

Praise

- ☑ For safe travel and successful "Christ-Centered Worship" seminars!
- ☑ For the Tharaka-Nithi leaders who conducted six seminars on the book of Ephesians!
- ☑ For the 7-member music team who led workshops on leading worship and "playing with music" workshops in area schools;
- ☑ For the growing number of capable, confident, Biblically-rooted Christian leaders in Tharaka-Nithi!
- ☑ For the Lord's provision through the response of His people toward the needed funds for this year's ministry plans;
- ☑ For a wonderful (if busy and fast!) family summer: Dan gone and back safely from Kenya; Mako tending the home fires, reconnecting with friends, and helping with weddings; Naoki back for the summer from Portugal; Tomoya working his summer job at a local golf club; and Manami serving as a camp counselor at Winshape in Rome, GA.

Prayer

1. For wisdom and skill for Dan in his new role with ELI
2. For wisdom to discern the Lord's leading and provision for growing ELI's Development team and strategy: where are we, what have we learned; how shall we move forward; who shall guide us
3. For the continuing need of sufficient funding for the 2025 ministry year. We are still lacking about \$1000/mo in needed funding for the remainder of 2025 (thank you all who responded with new and increased gifts to bring that number down!)
4. For our personal fundraising goals, relationships, and conversations as we enter the year-end fundraising season
5. For the launch of another school year: Naoki's second year of teaching in Portugal; Tomoya (Junior) and Manami (Sophomore) as they resume their college studies; Mako as she resumes her work as office manager

Women's Book Study, Tuesday mornings, 10-11:30am, and 7:00-8:30pm, Thursdays at SEPC

*We are studying biblical lament using the book "Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy"
by Mark Vroegop.*

Contact Amy Daugaard if you are interested and would like a book.

Adult Sunday School Options

- **Reading Scripture for All It's Worth**
- **A Cloud of Witnesses: A Survey of American Christianity Through Biography**

Safe Families Contact: Kedric Webster

Mission Statement: *Safe Families for Children (SFFC) hosts vulnerable children and creates extended family-like supports for families facing a crisis through a community of compassionate volunteers to keep children safe and families together.*

Leaders and Employees-Pray for local staff

1. Jennifer Wallace, outreach coordinator, connecting with supporting churches, volunteers, partner organizations, and gaining support in the community
2. Sarah Stern, equipping volunteers to serve families in crisis and working with families in crisis, navigating needs requests, hosting arrangements, family friending, referrals to community resources, etc.

Pray for the Persecuted Church In Afghanistan (10)

Note: FMI— Facilitate,

TALIBAN RESTRICTIONS DRIVE WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN DESPERATE FOR HOPE

Mobilize, Inspire


Source: Mission Network News, September 8, 2025

Eastern Afghanistan has continued to reel with aftershocks since a 6.0-magnitude quake struck on August 31. The death toll surpassed 2,200 last week and is expected to rise as recovery work continues. But for local women, the quake is only one crisis among many. Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan four years ago, the militant group has tightened restrictions on women's travel, education, employment, and even the use of their voices. The UN reports that these abuses of women's rights are being normalized.

Recently, Nehemiah* with FMI heard directly from Afghan pastors about the social boycott women are enduring: "Many women feel trapped, silenced, and powerless. This isolation has further increased levels of depression, anxiety and hopelessness among women, while also placing immense pressure [on] families, who relied on women's income."

Yet in places of despair, the light of the gospel shines. It just has to be shared carefully. In Afghanistan and similar cultures, a man may only speak with a woman if they are related.

"In many cases, FMI's pastors' wives are the ones who go and talk to these deprived women who [do not find] hope in [the] Taliban system, but they find hope in Jesus Christ," says Nehemiah. "This is the only channel we have at the moment where women feel connected and encouraged."

1. "Pray for FMI partners in Afghanistan and their wives, who are really struggling and [who] put their lives on [the] line every day," says Nehemiah.
2. "Pray for their safety, their wisdom. [Ask] God [to] open avenues and doors for these pastors and their wives so they can connect with other Afghan families, women, children, so they can do ministry." 

The Lord Will Provide: The Gospel According to Abraham

Part 4 (Mr. Brad Roberts)

Genesis 14:1-24

Genesis 14:1-24 ESV

¹⁴ In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ² these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³ And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴ Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. ⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶ and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as Elparan on the border of the wilderness. ⁷ Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon tamar. ⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. ¹¹ So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹² They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way. ¹³ Then one who had escaped came and

told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. ¹⁴ When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people. ¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹ And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' ²⁴ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

Sermon outline:

I. What is going on?

II. What does this mean?

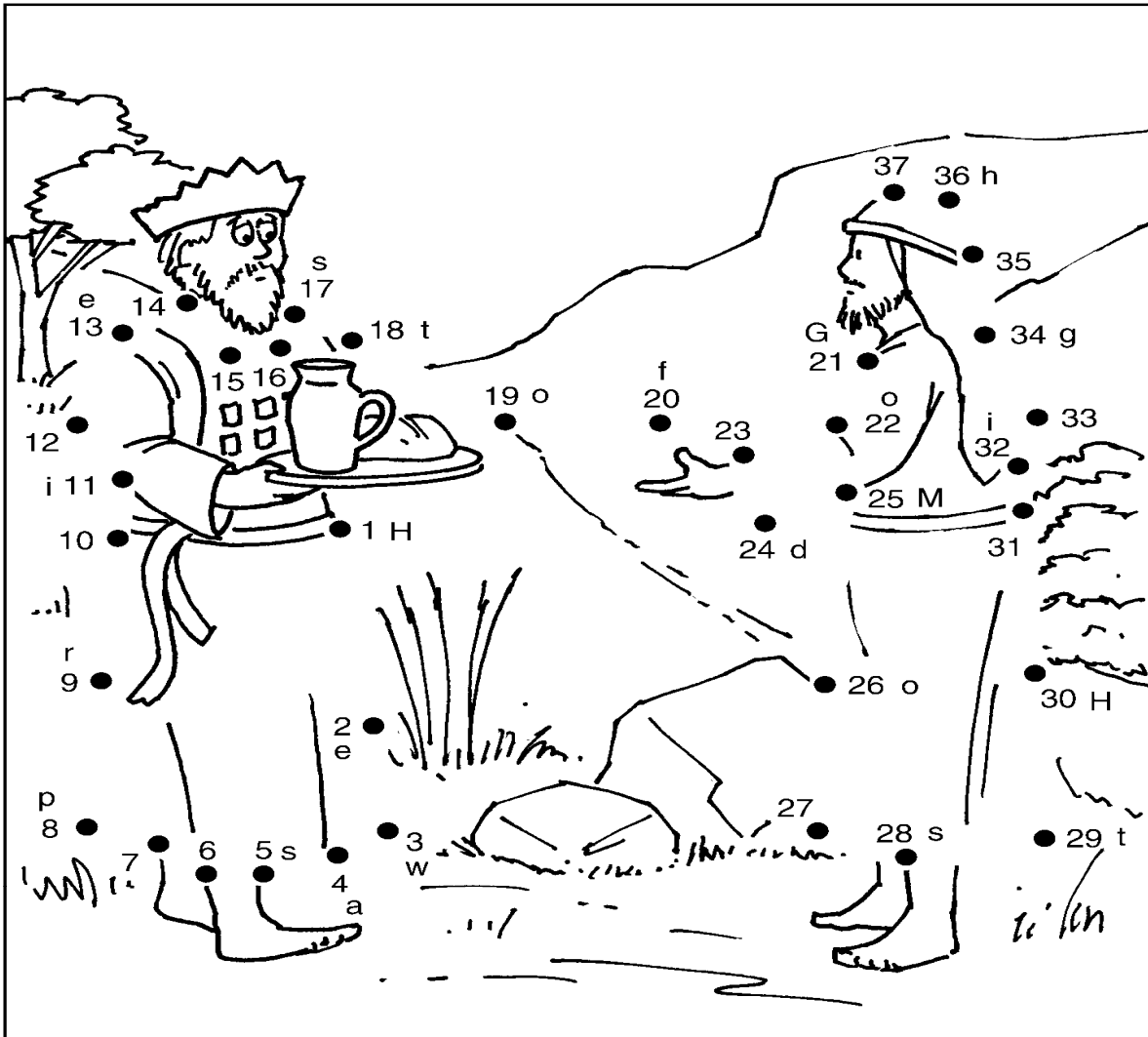
a. The Choice is yours: Sodom or Salem?

b. The Blessing is yours: Salvation.

"If Abraham the forefather of Israel and all of the priests, humbled himself before Melchizedek, then so should the Hebrews before the one whom Melchizedek typified, Jesus the Son of God. So should we — and the church of today--everywhere!" -

Melchizedek was not just the king of Salem. What else was he?

Connect the dots and transfer the letters
to the spaces below to read the words of the answer.



_____.

Sermon Notes for Kids

Today is _____

Who is the preacher today? _____

What is the scripture for today?



My favorite songs today:

Blessed be Abram by
God Most High.
Possessor of heaven
and earth, and blessed
be God Most High...

--

Welcome to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church pca

Sunday School for Children and Adults

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:15am. Adults have two options: one class meets in the Adult Sunday School room downstairs, the other class meets in the Fellowship Hall. Children, 3 y/o through 12th grade, begin with a time of fellowship in the Sunday School wing, before proceeding to their classes. Sunday School breaks for the summer months.

Little Lambs

During Worship, children from 3 through 4 years old are welcome to attend their own Bible Lesson time downstairs after the Covenant Children's Lesson in the Sanctuary.

Nursery Available

During Sunday School and Worship, the nursery is available for babies through 2 y/o, when they are ready for Little Lambs. A Mother's room adjacent to the Nursery is also available.

Youth Group

Youth Group for Middle and High School students meets on Sunday nights from 6 - 8pm, and typically taking a break on the first Sunday of the month. Youth Group meets once a month during the Summer months.

Christian Education Contact Information

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry:
Brad Roberts, cell: 704-776-0106

- Nursery & Little Lambs:
sepcnursery@gmail.com
- Youth & Children's Ministry:
sepcyouthgp@gmail.com

Parent Committee Chair: Lance Wescher



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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To join the St. Elmo Presbyterian Church Email List:

1. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3hpenxju>
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