

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.*



Cover: Stephen Crotts

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Daniel Wells, Pastor

**4400 St. Elmo Avenue • Chattanooga, TN • 37409
423-821-1424 • www.stelmopres.org**

**This Week at
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and Community
November 30, 2025
and Live streaming on YouTube**

Today

10:30am Worship Service

Monday December 1

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

7:00pm Women's Thursday Night Book Study will meet on Monday night — Contact Amy Daugaard

Tuesday December 2

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

Wednesday December 3

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

6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets for Friendsgiving at the Houston's in Trenton — Contact Betsy or Ed Sunder

6:00pm North Chattanooga Community Group meets — Contact Ethan or Madison Greene

6:00pm St Elmo Community Group meets — Contact Jay or Beth Ann Green

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

Thursday December 4

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

Saturday December 6

9:00am Advent Choir Practice — Contact Darrell Stewart

10:00am Officer training at SEPC until 11:00am

Sunday School Nursery

December 7 Kate Tinholt and Tirzah Macallister

December 14 Kathy Tucker and Betsy Sunder

Worship Service Nursery

November 30 Brad Roberts and Virginia Strom

December 7 Lydia Mayberry and Ashlee Wells

Little Lambs

November 30 Not meeting today

December 7 The Sunder family

**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, December 7 Annual Christmas Celebration at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 14 Youth Group Christmas Party at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Service at TBD

In the end, darkness is not explained; it is defeated. Night is not justified or solved; it is endured until light overcomes it and it is no more. In the meantime, we do not stop asking our questions of God. He allows us to ask them when we need to because he loves us. And we bring our perplexity into the prayers and practices of the church so that they can shape and direct our own questions. Through its prayers, practices, and gathered worship, the church tells us over and over again, “This is what God is like. This is his name. This is how you know he loves you.

— Tish Harrison Warren, *Prayer in the Night*

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Call to Worship

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” - Isaiah 40:1-5

Advent Candle Lighting

Invocation

Advent Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#194)

Advent Prayer

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

JESUS COMFORTS US IN OUR GRIEF

Silent Prayer of Lament

Advent Hymn of Comfort: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (#221)

Assurance of Comfort

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. - Isaiah 35:1-2

Advent Hymn: “Angels, From the Realms of Glory” (#218)

JESUS RECEIVES OUR GENEROSITY

Offering & Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above ye heavenly Host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!*

JESUS INTERCEDES FOR US

Covenant Children's Lesson

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: Luke 10:17-20 & Isaiah 49:24-26

Preaching of the Word: "Christus Victor: The Melody of Advent // And Ransom Captive Israel" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

Q. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever. (Westminster Larger Catechism #36)

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.

Advent Communion Hymn: "Joy Has Dawned Upon the World" (Rejoice! #59)

The Bread & The Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Advent Hymn of Departure

What a Saviour, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:

Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history!

Benediction

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

☐ Lance, Julie, Drew, Aaron, and Luke Wescher

☐ Zach Wescher

☐ Glen and Becky Wieldraayer

☐ Jim and Carol Wildeman

☐ The Music and Worship Ministry Group

☐ Teresa Harwood: Guatemala

☐ Chattanooga Christian School

☐ Channels of Love

☐ Our U.S. Governors

☐ **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN ERITREA (6)**

☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors

Pray for the Persecuted Church In ERITREA (6)

8 CHRISTIANS ENDURE DECADES OF IMPRISONMENT IN ERITREA

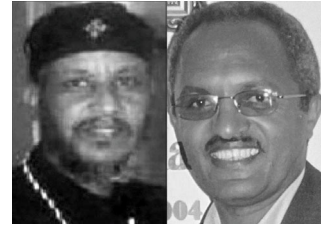
Source: Persecution.org, November 20, 2025

Eight Christians have languished in prison cells in the eastern African nation of Eritrea for between 18 and 21 years for simply following Christ. Despite public outcry and egregious violations of religious liberties, the nation refuses to release the Christians. Eritrean authorities routinely arrest and imprison Christians in horrific conditions under severe authoritarian rule.

The nation recognizes only four religious groups within its borders: the Tewahedo Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical Lutheran churches, and Sunni Islam. All other Christian denominations are unrecognized by the state. "Christians from prohibited denominations are particularly targeted, subjected to arbitrary arrest and lengthy terms of imprisonment often without charge or trial," according to Barnabas Aid. Additionally, churches that are granted permission to operate reportedly receive harassment from authorities as well.

According to a 2025 report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), "as of May 2024, over 350 Christians were imprisoned [in Eritrea]." The report continued, stating that "police at times arrest entire Christian families, including children, during the early morning hours."

Fitsum-Berhan Gebrenegus, Gebremedhin Gebregergis, and Tekleab Mengisteab were detained Nov. 18-19, 2004, though no official charges were made against them. The three men had been part of a movement within the Orthodox Church known as the Medhane Alem (Savior of the World) Church in Asmara. The men are believed to be held in Eritrea's Wengel Mermera Central Criminal Investigation Center, which has been described as a "dungeon-like inner labyrinth of cells" by Church in Chains. Reports of abuse and torture within Eritrea's prison system are rampant, and the nation's treatment of its prisoners may be described as nothing short of inhumane. 🕊️



PCA-Mission to North America Thanksgiving Offering 2025

The 2025 MNA Thanksgiving Offering is dedicated to supporting MNA Disaster Response in aiding those impacted by recent natural disasters like Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Donations help MNA respond with mercy in God's name to communities in need, providing aid and support after devastating events.

We are asking the congregation to consider making a donation in any amount, one time or continuing to the MNA fund. You can designate which one you prefer to give to, or the General Fund.

PCA MNA accepts donations year-round to support various ministries, including

- **Church Planting** and vitality.
- **The PCA Unity Fund**, which supports scholarships for minority candidates for ordination.

Donate by Check:

Mission to North America
P.O. Box 890233

Charlotte, NC 28289-0233

Donate online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ajdce39>

**Scan this QR
code**



Loneliness During the Holidays

Prayer: Please lift up clients who are going into the holidays without family or friends to share the season with—may they experience comfort and peace.

Praise: We thank God that COL can be a community and family to our brothers and sisters during this time, reminding them they are not alone.

Final Thanksgiving Basket Update: By the Lord's grace, the final tally of donations from SEPC was \$1060. This past Monday, eight volunteers from the SEPC family helped pack 30 bags and deliver eight of them directly to clients' homes. (The remaining clients came to the office to pick theirs up themselves.) Many thanks to each of you who participated in serving Channels of Love this way!!

Contact: Virginia Strom

Teresa Harwood
Guatemala

I am about to go visit four Christian schools here in Guatemala that Missionary Ventures International partners with. I'd appreciate prayers for a safe trip there and back to check. I'll be checking in on them to see how the reinforcement classes are going (basically summer English classes), and making sure that everything is ready for an upcoming short-term missions trip that I'll be leading.

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



Find us on Facebook:

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church - pca

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



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