

# 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.*



**February 22, 2026**

**Rev. Daniel Wells, Pastor**

**4400 St. Elmo Avenue • Chattanooga, TN • 37409  
423-821-1424 • [www.stelmopres.org](http://www.stelmopres.org)**

**This Week at  
St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and Community  
February 22, 2026  
and Live streaming on YouTube**

**Today**

9:15am Sunday School for All — Contact Rev. Daniel Wells  
10:30am Worship Service  
6:00pm Youth Group meets — Contact Rev. Wells

**Monday February 23**

7:00pm Women's Evening Bible Study meets at Beth Ann Green's — Contact Edith Dryden

**Tuesday February 24**

10:00am Women's Bible Study meets at Joni Harbert's — Contact Edith Dryden

**Wednesday February 25**

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

**Thursday February 26**

7:30pm Session meets — Contact any Elder

**Sunday School**

Snacks	Shelley M
Nursery	Amy D and TBD
Little Sheep	Naomi & Maisie
Elementary	Abby & Noel
Middle School	Noah P
High School	Ethan G

**Worship**

Nursery	Kate Tinholt & Tirzah Macallister
Little Lambs	Beth Ann & Claire
Intercessory Prayer	Jeff Hall

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**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\*  
Or you can contact Ashlee Wells.**

**Upcoming**

<b>Sunday, March 1 at 12:10pm</b>	<b>First Sunday Potluck Lunch. Please bring a main dish and dessert or side to share</b>
<b>Saturday, March 7 at 5:00pm</b>	<b>Men and Future Men's Fellowship at SEPC</b>
<b>Sunday, March 8 at 2:00am</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn your clocks FORWARD one hour.</b>
<b>Sunday, March 22 at 12:10pm</b>	<b>Baby Shower for Sophie and John Sunder. Everyone is invited!</b>
<b>Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b>
<b>Sunday, April 26</b>	<b>Annual Budgets Due to the Finance Ministry Group (Mark and Ed)</b>

## **WORDS OF MEDITATION**

The God of Christians is not a God who is simply the author of mathematical truths, or of the order of the elements; that is the view of heathens and Epicureans...But the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of Christians, is a God of love and of comfort, a God who fills the soul and heart of those whom he possesses. - Blaise Pascal

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

### **Musical Preparation**

## **JESUS WELCOMES US**

### **Greeting**

### **Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord.

*Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.*

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

*The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. (Psalm 113)*

### **Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise:** Holy, Holy, Holy (#100)

## **JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF**

### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

*Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. - Book of Common Worship*

### **Silent Confession of Sin**

**Song of Confession:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Rejoice! #15)

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. - Joel 2:13-14

**Hymn of Assurance:** Blessed Assurance (#693)

## **JESUS RECEIVES OUR GENEROSITY**

### **Offering of Gifts and Thanksgivings**

### **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!*

### **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:** Isaiah 2:2-5 & Hebrews 12:18-24

**Preaching of the Word:** "Mountain Top Experiences With Jesus: Exploring the Terrain of Matthew" Part 1 (Rev. Daniel Wells)

**JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH**

**Confession of Faith**

*Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us. (Chalcedonian Creed, 451 AD)*

**JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING**

**Hymn of Departure:** There is a Redeemer (Rejoice #96)

**Benediction**



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



- Frank and Cindy Sindler
- Mark, Claire, Peter, and Laurel Slavovsky
- Colleen Stevens
- Kathleen Stevens
- Channels of Love
- Covenant College
- Our Mayors and City/County Officials
- THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN IRAN (10)**
- Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors



**Couples baby shower for John and Sophie Sunder  
Sunday, March 22 in the Fellowship Hall after church  
All are invited!  
Please bring a luncheon type food to share.  
Registry information coming soon.**

**Men & Future Men (ages 10+) Fellowship Gathering**

**Hot Dogs, Crazy Bridge Tourney, Proverbs, and S'mores!**

**Saturday March 7th, 5:00pm. on the church lawn.**

## **Pray for the Persecuted Church in IRAN (10)**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN IRAN NOW, AND HOW YOU CAN PRAY

Source: Opendoorsus.org, February 3, 2026

- Though it's been reported that Iran's streets have been scrubbed of any sign of violence or mass dissent in an attempt by the government to reassert control, our contacts shared that after a month of surveillance and violence, Iranian civilians are still living in fear under a cruel and authoritarian regime:
- Families say they are being charged large sums of money to receive the bodies of their loved ones. Reportedly, authorities have forced grieving parents to sign false death certificates declaring their child was part of the security forces and was killed by protesters or died of natural causes. Refusal to sign means no body, no burial and no closure.
- Even with the internet restored, fear governs every message. Families of the dead have been warned not to speak. People have been told not to post or comment, or even like or follow protest-related content. Our contacts tell us that phones are monitored, and silence is enforced.
- Across the country, families are desperately searching for loved ones as parents move from hospital to hospital, from prison to prison. In cases of arrest, families are often extorted for exorbitant bail amounts; yet even when the money is gathered, many detainees are never freed.
- According to trusted sources, young people are being held in large shed-like detention facilities, executed in secret and then later reported as "killed during protests."
- There has also been a new wave of arrests targeting house churches and Christians in Iran. Now, even meeting a Christian friend feels dangerous. Gathering as a house church is almost impossible.
- Online ministries, already risky, are now under intense monitoring. Even quiet phone conversations with pastors or leaders abroad are filled with fear. Christians know that during times of unrest, the government often looks for groups to accuse of collaboration with Western countries or "acting against national security."



### **Channels of Love**

**Contact: Ginny Strom**

We praise the Lord for the competent and caring direction Centel has given to Channels of Love these past two years. Her first child is due in the middle of March, and the Lord is leading her and her husband back to Texas to be near her family. Please pray (1) for the safe arrival of her son, as hers is a "high-risk" pregnancy, and (2) for energy and peace as she completes her time at COL at the end of the month.

In light of Centel's departure, COL is looking for a new director. We had hoped to have one in place to start the middle of February, but the person to whom we offered the position decided not to take it after all. We are confident the Lord has a perfect and good plan! Please pray (1) that He will bring the next director to us soon and (2) that He will give the board, current staff, and volunteers wisdom to keep things going in the interim.

Finally, please also pray for continued financial provision and for the clients as they face Centel's departure and the arrival of another new person.

### **Sunday School for All at 9:15am — 2 Topics for Adults**

#### **What Does It Mean to Be Presbyterian? From Geneva to St. Elmo (Jessica Novikoff)**

This Sunday School class explores the rich and complex history of Presbyterianism, from its roots in the Reformation to its presence in modern America and our own local context. We are gaining a deeper understanding of the theological foundations, key doctrinal distinctions, historical figures, major movements, and unique governing features that have shaped Presbyterian churches in general and the PCA in particular.

#### **A Bible Study Toolbox (Rev. Jeff Hooker)**

Tools aren't just helpful, they're necessary for doing a job right. And they give you the confidence that you *can* do the job right. Perhaps our lack of confidence in handling God's Word comes from not having the proper tools or the knowledge to use them. So let's work on the tools to read and understand and apply the Bible. We'll practice with both Old and New Testament books.

# 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:  
TBD

- Nursery & Little Lambs: Ashlee Wells, [sepcnursery@gmail.com](mailto:sepcnursery@gmail.com)
- Youth & Children's Ministry: [sepcyouthgp@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](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