

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.*



August 23, 2026

Rev. Daniel Wells, Pastor

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

THE MINISTRY and the MISSION

This Week at St. Elmo Presbyterian Church and Community and Live streaming on YouTube

Sunday August 23

10:30am Worship Service

Wednesday August 26

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

Thursday August 27

7:30pm Session meets — Contact any Elder

Saturday August 29

9:00am Women's Ensemble practice — Contact Margaret Stewart or Lynn Hall

10:00am Child Protection Policy Training — Contact Jessica Novikoff

Nursery

Worship Service

August 23 John and Kathy Tucker

August 30 Ginny Strom and Ashlee Wells

Little Lambs

SummerPlease check the "Busy Bags" in back

TO VOLUNTEER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY, WORSHIP NURSERY, OR LITTLE LAMBS:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y9AW7H4A](https://tinyurl.com/y9aw7h4a)

***Navigate between sign ups through the tabs at the top of the page*
Or you can contact Ashlee Wells.**

Sunday, September 13th

Green Space Event (Food & Lawn Games) at 5pm
Jeremy Casella concert at 7pm in the Sanctuary (free event)
See insert p.3

Upcoming

Sunday, August 30 Sunday School for all begins — More information coming. *The Fortunes will be with us.*

Sunday, August 30 Little Lambs resumes!

Monday, August 31 Women's Monday Evening Bible Study meets — Contact Edith Dryden

Saturday, September 5 Women's Bible Study Brunch-both groups at Margaret Stewart's house

Tuesday, September 8 Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets — Contact Edith Dryden

Saturday, September 19 Fall Church Workday 9:00am-12:00pm

Sunday, October 4 137th Anniversary Service and Lunch — Contact Jennifer Webster

THE MESSAGE

WORDS OF MEDITATION

I sometimes hear old people, including Christian people who should know better, say, “I don’t want to be a burden to anyone else. I’m happy to carry on living so long as I can look after myself, but as soon as I become a burden I would rather die.” But this is wrong. We are all designed to be a burden to others. You are designed to be a burden to me, and I am designed to be a burden to you. And the life of the family, including the life of the local church family, should be one of “mutual burdensomeness.” “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). - John Stott

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.

On the willows we hung up our lyres.

How shall we sing the Lord’s songs in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! (Psalm 137)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: Come, Christians, Join to Sing (#302)

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Corporate Confession of Sin

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless...no one does good, not even one...Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive...The venom of asps is under their lips...Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness...Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known...There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- (Romans 3:10-18, quoting from various Psalms)

Silent Confession of Sin

Song of Confession: He Will Hold Me Fast (Rejoice! #36)

Assurance of Pardon

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. - Romans 3:23-26

Hymn of Assurance: O Great God of Highest Heaven (Rejoice! #80)

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

Children may use the activity bags located in the back of the sanctuary during the service

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: Numbers 6:22-27 & Luke 24:50-53

Preaching of the Word: "Lift Up Your Hearts: Meeting With Jesus in Worship // Jesus Smiles Upon Us" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshiping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.
(Westminster Confession of Faith XXI.1, 1647)

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: All Glory Be To Christ

*1. Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ!*

Refrain

*All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing—all glory be to Christ!* (continued on p.3)
*2. His will be done. His kingdom come on earth as is above.
Who is Himself our daily bread. Praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price.
We'll take a cup of kindness yet; all glory be to Christ!*

Refrain

*All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing—all glory be to Christ!*

*3. When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new.
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e'er his people be, all glory be to Christ!*

Refrain

Benediction



THE MINISTRY and the MISSION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Beginning Sunday, September 6

APPROACHING AGORA

Christians in the Public Square

Explore Christian living in the context of the public square and the implications of following Christ in a pluralistic and digital society.

The class will begin with a biblical and historical survey of Christian thinkers on the subject and culminate in application on various topics, including *Christian Nationalism* and the *online public square*.

Teachers: Dr. Philip Bunn & Ethan Greene

Meeting Place:
Downstairs Sunday School Room

READING THE BIBLE

With a Christ-Centered Lens

When Jesus helped the disciples on the road to Emmaus to read the Old Testament so that Jesus was the center of their reading, Luke 24:32 says that their hearts “burned” within them. How can we read the Bibles (especially the Old Testament) so that Jesus is at the center of our reading while also respecting the integrity of the Bible's meaning?

In this class we will see that Jesus is the truer and better. He is the fulfillment. He is God's Yes and Amen in all of Scripture. He is the Hero of the story. We will learn together how Jesus wants us to read the Bible so that it is *truly* all about Him.

Teacher: Pastor Daniel

Meeting Place:
Fellowship Hall

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

- ☐ Susan Young
- ☐ Rob Allen
- ☐ Jack and Barbara Beckman
- ☐ Cal and Susan Boroughs
- ☐ Widows Harvest Ministries
- ☐ Covenant College

- ☐ President Trump and Vice-President Vance
- ☐ **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN THE WORLD**
- ☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors

Gospel Generosity: Jesus and his person, work, and heart are the reason to be a cheerful giver, see 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:7. Let's commit ourselves to the Message, Ministry, and Mission of SEPC.

For Online Giving for Your Tithes and Offerings



You can use this QR code or you may go to -
<https://tinyurl.com/mr7h9e89>

Permission to print music and lyrics: CCLI#418158

Permission to show movies/videos: CVLI# 505553334

THE MINISTRY and the MISSION

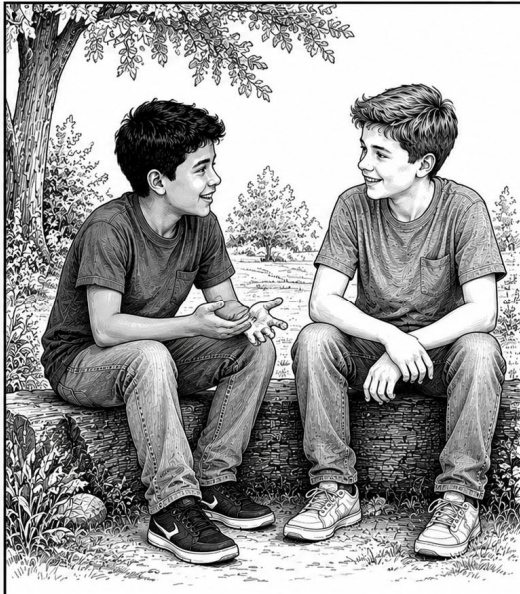
Women's Bible Study Events

- Brunch on Saturday September 5 at 10:00-11:30 at Margaret Stewart's house.
If you've been interested in joining, you are welcome to come!
Please bring brunch food along.
- The Monday Evening Bible Study will have their first meeting on Monday evening, August 31 at 7:00-8:30pm (venue still to be determined). Please contact Edith Dryden if you're interested in joining.
- The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will have their first meeting on Tuesday morning September 8 at 10:00-11:30 in Joni Harbert's house. Please contact Edith Dryden if you're interested in joining.

Women's Ensemble Practice

We are going to have our women's ensemble singing Sunday, August 30; one practice left on the 29th at 9:00am at the church.

We will sing a song from our ensemble book, so bring it along if you have a copy. If you have not sung with us before or it's been a while, please come sing if you can. Please let us know if you can sing on August 30.
Thanks, Margaret and Lynn



Q15 Who wrote the Bible?

A15 *Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

Q16 Who were our first parents?

A16 *Adam and Eve.*

Q17 How did God create man?

A17 *God created man, male and female, after his own image.*

Q18 Of what were our first parents made?

A18 *God made Adam's body out of the ground and Eve's body out of a rib from Adam.*

Q19 What else did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?

A19 *He gave them souls that will last forever.*

THE MISSION

Widows Harvest Ministries

Thank you for praying for Widows Harvest Ministries. With prayer as the main focus of one arm of our ministry, we covet your prayers and are grateful for them! We give thanks for God's faithful provision of volunteer groups and individuals who served throughout the summer, completing over 25 projects for local widows; for the safety of the volunteers and staff as they worked in the heat and humidity; for the widows whose hearts were made glad through being seen and cared for; for the many ways the widows ministered to the volunteers; and for successful hip replacement surgery for Joyce Fears, leader of the Tuesday prayer meetings.

Prayer

1. For God to provide volunteers for the upcoming fall schedule
2. For Joyce's full recovery and return to leading the meetings
3. For the widows who are leading in her place
4. That we would all have the mind of Christ, live out of His redemption and serve others with gladness

We thank God for you and pray for you as well!

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

2026	<u>Types of Persecution</u>
1 North Korea	
2 Somalia	<u>Violent Attacks:</u> Physical assaults, destruction of churches, and targeted killings, particularly concentrated in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
3 Yemen	
4 Sudan	<u>State Surveillance & Control:</u> Heavy electronic monitoring, forced closures of unregistered house churches, and legal restrictions on sharing the faith (prominent in nations like China and Iran).
5 Eritrea	
6 Syria	<u>Social and Legal Marginalization:</u> Loss of employment, denial of civil rights, forced marriages, and coerced religious conversions.
7 Nigeria	
8 Pakistan	Would you like information on a specific country, or details on organizations that provide aid and support to persecuted believers? Check with persecution.org or opendoorsus.org .
9 Libya	
10 Iran	
11 Afghanistan	
12 India	
13 Saudi Arabia	Fathiful Until the End - Central African Republic (22)
14 Myanmar	Priest Killed After Baptizing 175 People
15 Mali	A day after he baptized 175 people, a 36-year-old Catholic priest was killed by gunmen in the Central African Republic. Father Crépin Martial Monga, vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish in Zémio, in the Diocese of Bangassou, was shot in the head at around 6:40 p.m. on June 29 as he drove to his parish residence.
16 Burkina Faso	
17 China	
18 Iraq	
19 Maldives	
20 Algeria	



1. Pray for Father Monga's church and loved ones.
2. Pray for those he baptized the day before his death. Pray that they would be living testimonies of Monga's faithfulness and Christ's love in the CAR. 🙏🙏

Source: Persecution.org, July 27, 2026

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. Busy Bags in the back are available in the summer months.

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
- 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