

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 13, 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 September 13

9:15am Sunday School for All (2 classes for adults available)
10:30am Worship Service
5:00pm Free Dinner and Games on the Green Space and concert at 7:00pm by Jeremy Casella —
Contact Daniel Wells for more information

Monday September 14

7:00pm Women's Bible Study meets at church — Contact Edith Dryden
7:00pm Community Association of Historic St Elmo meets at 4501 St Elmo Ave —Contact
cahse.board@gmail.com

Tuesday September 15

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

Wednesday September 16

6:00pm North Chattanooga Community Group meets — Contact Ethan or Madison Greene
7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann

Thursday September 17

10:30am Men's Bible Study meets — Contact Chris Dodson for more information

Friday September 18

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

Saturday September 19

9:00am SPRING CHURCH WORKDAY at 9am-12pm — Contact Don Houston
12:00pm Life in Jesus' Church Inquirers' Class until 2:00pm at Justin and Lucy Heydt's home —
Contact Rev. Daniel Wells

Nursery

Sunday School

September 13 Ashlee Wells and Amy Daugaard
September 20 Ashlee Wells and Margaret Stewart

Worship Service

September 13 Emma Bunn and Kate Tinholt
September 20 Ellie and Bea Potter

Little Lambs

September 13 Jack and Barbara Beckman
September 20 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*
Or you can contact Ashlee Wells.**

Upcoming

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

THE MESSAGE

WORDS OF MEDITATION

The love of Christ is free, unchangeable, and incomprehensible. He loved us when we had no beauty to attract his affections. There is nothing lovely in man. Christ knew all this clearly. . .In eternity past, Christ saw all our faults, and not one after another, but all together. This adds great wonder to the love of Christ. He saw every perverse look, every unkind gesture, every rebellious motion, every disingenuous act. Every heart was visible from eternity. – David Clarkson

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

Keep me safe, Lord, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent, who devise ways to trip my feet.

The arrogant have hidden a snare for me; they have spread out the cords of their net and have set traps for me along my path.

I say to the Lord, “You are my God.” Hear, Lord, my cry for mercy.

Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle. (Psalm 140)

Invocation

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

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold Thy glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Let me find Thy light in my darkness, Thy life in my death, Thy joy in my sorrow, Thy grace in my sin, Thy riches in my poverty Thy glory in my valley. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (The Valley of Vision)

Silent Confession of Sin

Song of Confession: Before the Throne of God Above (Rejoice! #13)

Assurance of Comfort

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Hymn of Assurance: Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

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

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: Genesis 28:10-22 & John 1:47-51

Preaching of the Word: "Unloveable, Yet Loved: The Gospel According to Jacob - You've Been Jacob'd" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. (Nicene Creed, 325 AD)

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Song of Departure: Knowing You, Jesus (Rejoice! #60)

Benediction



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



- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Carlos Ferrer | ☐ The U.S. Supreme Court |
| ☐ Charlie Green | ☐ THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN THE WORLD |
| ☐ Jay and Beth Ann Green | ☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our |
| ☐ Matilda Green | neighbors |
| ☐ Dan and Mako Gilchrist: ELI | |
| ☐ New City Eastlake | |

THE MINISTRY, MISSION, and the MESSAGE

THE MISSION and the MINISTRY

Dan and Mako Gilchrist
Equipping Leaders International

Praise

- ☑ Full Funding: our planned 2026 ministry initiatives have been fully funded through your generous gifts.
- ☑ Completed Trainings: Successful summer courses in "Christ-Centered Preaching" and "Living in Grace."
- ☑ Team Growth: Added new back-office support staff so that we can turn our attention to other necessary organizational changes and development.
- ☑ Life Balance: Maintained strength and wisdom while balancing busy personal and ministry schedules.

Prayer

1. Expansion: Wisdom and resources to expand our work in Tharaka-Nithi and launch new training programs.
2. Fundraising Goal: Reaching our \$75,000 year-end fundraising target to prepare for 2027 ministry opportunities.
3. ELI Leadership: Wisdom for Dan as he leads organizational changes within ELI.
4. Balancing Roles: Energy and wisdom for Dan as he balances his ELI duties with part-time ministry at a local church.

If you'd like to send a gift to our work, please ...
... scan (or click) the QR code to the right; or
... visit <https://donorbox.org/dangilchrist>; or
... text **406140 to 801801**



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN THE WORLD

OUR PRAYERS CAN GO WHERE WE CANNOT. THERE ARE NO BORDERS, NO PRISON WALLS, NO DOORS THAT ARE CLOSED WHEN WE PRAY. ~

BROTHER ANDREW

OPENDOORSUS.ORG

- * Right now, believers in North Korea gather in secret basements to worship.
- * Christians in Afghanistan hide their Bibles beneath floorboards.
- * Pastors in Iran face imprisonment for preaching the Gospel. They feel isolated, forgotten, and desperately alone—but your prayers can reach them instantly.

Every prayer you lift creates a bridge of hope that spans continents, crosses borders, and penetrates prison walls. Our persecuted brothers and sisters consistently tell us that knowing Christians worldwide are praying sustains their faith when everything else fails. Through our World Watch List research and field reports, your prayers target the most urgent needs with precision and purpose.

You don't have to feel helpless watching persecution from a distance. Your faithful prayers are already making an eternal difference. 🙏🙏

SEPC CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, September 19, at 9:00am — 12:00pm noon

Young or old, skilled or unskilled—everyone is welcome!

Join us for a fun morning of fellowship and work as we improve our church facilities, inside and out.

INSIDE

- Deep cleaning: bathrooms, kitchen & nursery
- Window cleaning
- Paint touch-ups
- Clean out a closet
- Minor repairs

★ Cinnamon rolls

OUTSIDE

- Trimming & mulching
- Weeding & digging
- Removing stray trees

★ Pizza (even GF!)

PLEASE BRING

**Cleaning supplies • Paint brushes • Hedge clippers • Loppers • Pruning shears
Weed-digging tools • Garden & leaf rakes • Leaf blowers • Brooms for spider webs**

From the B&G, Don Houston, and Deacons

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From the B&G, Don Houston, and Deacons



Q23 What covenant did God make with Adam?

A23 *The covenant of life.*

Q24 What is a Covenant?

A24 *A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word.*

Q25 In the covenant of life, what did God require Adam to do?

A25 *To obey God perfectly.*

Q26 What did God promise in the covenant of life?

A26 *To reward Adam with life if he obeyed God perfectly.*

Q27 What did God threaten in the covenant of life?

A27 *To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed God.*

Q28 Did Adam keep the covenant of life?

A28 *No. He sinned against God.*

NASHVILLE SINGER-SONGWRITER

Jeremy Casella

LIVING ROOM SHOW

SONGS • STORIES • LAUGHTER • COMMUNITY



This Sunday, September 13th, we will welcome Nashville singer-songwriter Jeremy Casella to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church for a special **FREE** Living Room Show at 7:00 p.m.

It will be a 75-minute acoustic evening of songs, stories, laughter, and meaningful conversation – one man, one guitar, and a room full of friends and neighbors. Every guest will also receive a **free** Jeremy Casella album.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church



Free dinner

(hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones, and more)

and **lawn games** will be outdoors on the Green Space beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The concert runs from 7:00–8:15 p.m.

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church
4400 St Elmo Ave.
Chattanooga, TN

This is open to the public. | No RSVP is needed – just come and bring a friend!

THE MINISTRY and the MESSAGE

Women's Bible Study

The Monday Evening Bible Study at 7:00pm-8:30pm at the church, and the Tuesday Morning Bible Study at Joni Harbert's at 10:00am-11:30pm are led by Edith Dryden. Please contact her if you would like to join in.

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

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



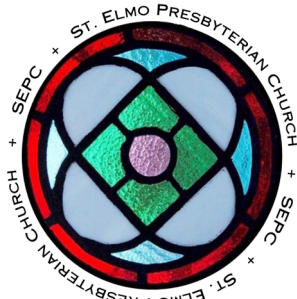
You can use this QR code or you may go to -

<https://tinyurl.com/mr7h9e89>

Permission to print music and lyrics: CCLI#418158

Permission to show movies/videos: CVLI# 505553334

THE MISSION and the MINISTRY



SEPC Community Groups 2026

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 few of missionaries who 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 (jack.beckman@covenant.edu; barbarabeckman5354@gmail.com)

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 (carol.wildeman@gmail.com; dmreichmann@gmail.com)

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. I also appreciate this CG's emphasis on Micah 6:8 as they do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. They meet every Wednesday night.

FLINTSTONE COMMUNITY GROUP

Leaders: Ed & Betsy Sunder (edsunder@gmail.com; Betsysunder@gmail.com)

If you are in the Flintstone area this would be a wonderful group for you to check out! They have a meal together, fellowship, 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

Leaders: Ethan and Madison Greene (ethangreene94@gmail.com; mmbgreene97@gmail.com)

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

Leaders: Jay and Beth Ann Green (jay.green@covenant.edu; ba.green70@gmail.com)

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 Wednesday and the third Sunday of each month.

SEPC Small Groups and Contacts

- **Men's Thursday Bible Study** — Meets the first and third Thursday of each month — Chris Dodson
- **Youth Group** — Meet 2nd through fifth Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm — Lance Wescher
- **Women's Fellowship** — Monday night or Tuesday morning Bible Study and various activities through out the year — Edith Dryden or Shelley Madueme
- **Young Adult/College Group** — Lunches 2-3x per semester at members' homes — Jay and Beth Ann Green

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

- Nursery & Little Lambs: Ashlee Wells, sepcnursery@gmail.com
- Children's Discipleship Coordinator: Jessica Novikoff
- Youth 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