

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 20, 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 20

9:15am Sunday School for All (2 classes for adults available)
10:30am Worship Service
12:30pm Third Sunday College Lunches — Contact Jay or Beth Ann Green
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

Monday September 21

7:00pm Women's Bible Study meets at church — Contact Edith Dryden

Tuesday September 22

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

Wednesday September 23

6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets — Contact Ed or Betsy Sunder
7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann

Thursday September 24

7:30pm Session meeting — Contact any Elder

Nursery

Sunday School

September 20 Ashlee Wells and Margaret Stewart
September 27 Ashlee Wells and Pris Strom

Worship Service

September 20 Ellie and Bea Potter
September 27 Marylu Carl and Rob (or Elaine) Tinholt

Little Lambs

September 20 Glen and Becky Wieldraayer
September 27 Beth Ann Green and Claire Slavovsky

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
Sunday, October 4 Youth Group meets at 12:15pm — Contact Lance Wescher

THE MESSAGE

WORDS OF MEDITATION

What the Father is and does, Jesus is and does. And what Jesus is and does, the Father is and does. There is in fact no God behind the back of Jesus, no act of God other than the act of Jesus, no God but the God we see and meet in him. Jesus Christ is the open heart of God, the very love and life of God poured out to redeem humankind, the mighty hand and power of God stretched out to heal and save sinners. - Thomas F. Torrance

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you.

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD; in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.

Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers, from the snares they have laid for me. (Psalm 141)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: From All That Dwells Below the Skies (#7)

JESUS RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ. Amen. - Book of Common Prayer (1552)

Silent Confession of Sin

Hymn of Confession: O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (see p.5)

Assurance of Pardon

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. - 1 John 2:1-2

Hymn of Assurance: Amazing Grace (Rejoice! #4)

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 29:1-30

Preaching of the Word: "Unlovable, Yet Loved: The Gospel According to Jacob - Jacob Gets Jacob'd"
(Rev. Daniel Wells)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance, and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair. (Westminster Confession of Faith XVIII.4, 1647)

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.

***The Bread** Jesus, I, My Cross Have Taken — (Rejoice! #54, Stanzas 1-2)

***The Cup** Jesus, I, My Cross Have Taken — (Stanzas 3-5)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: Jesus, I, My Cross Have Taken — (Stanza 6)

Benediction



*Communion: wine is in the outer ring, juice in the inner rings.

*Gluten free bread in the center cup.

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



- ☐ Ethan, Madison, and Henry Greene
- ☐ Jeff and Lynn Hall
- ☐ Joni Harbert
- ☐ Jeff and Nancy Hooker
- ☐ Choices Pregnancy Center
- ☐ Ridgehaven

- ☐ Our Mayors and City/County Officials
- ☐ **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PAKISTAN (8)**
- ☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors

THE MESSAGE

Oh the Deep, Deep Love

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis, 1834-1925

Alt. and chorus by Bob Kauflin, 2008

Music by Bob Kauflin, 2008

Chords: Dsus4 D D2 D F#m7 G2

Oh the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast un - meas - ured, bound - less, free, roll - ing
Oh the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread his praise from shore to shore, how he
Oh the deep, deep love of Je - sus, far sur - pass - ing all the rest. It's an

6 Chords: Dsus4 D D2 D Em7 A/E D

as a might - y o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me. Un - der -
came to pay our ran - som through the sav - ing cross he bore; how he
o - cean full of bless - ing in the midst of ev - 'ry test. Oh the

10 Chords: A/C# Em Bm G2 D

neath me, all a - round me is the cur - rent of your love, lead - ing
watch - es o'er his loved ones, those he died to make his own, how for
deep, deep love of Je - sus, might - y Sav - ior, pre - cious friend ! You will

14 Chords: A/C# Em G2 Em7 A/C# Bm A

on - ward, lead - ing home - ward to your glo - rious rest a - bove.
them he's in - ter - ced - ing, plead - ing now be - fore the throne. Oh the
bring us home to glo - ry, where your love will nev - er end.

19 Chords: A/C# Bm G2 D Em G2 D

deep, deep love, all I need and trust is the deep, deep love of Je - sus.

THE MISSION and THE MINISTRY

CHOICES Pregnancy Center

Contact: John or Kathy Tucker

Dear Friends. There is much activity going on at Choices and it's not just business as usual but the Lord's Business is going according to His perfect plan. Here are just a few items that will be of interest to you.

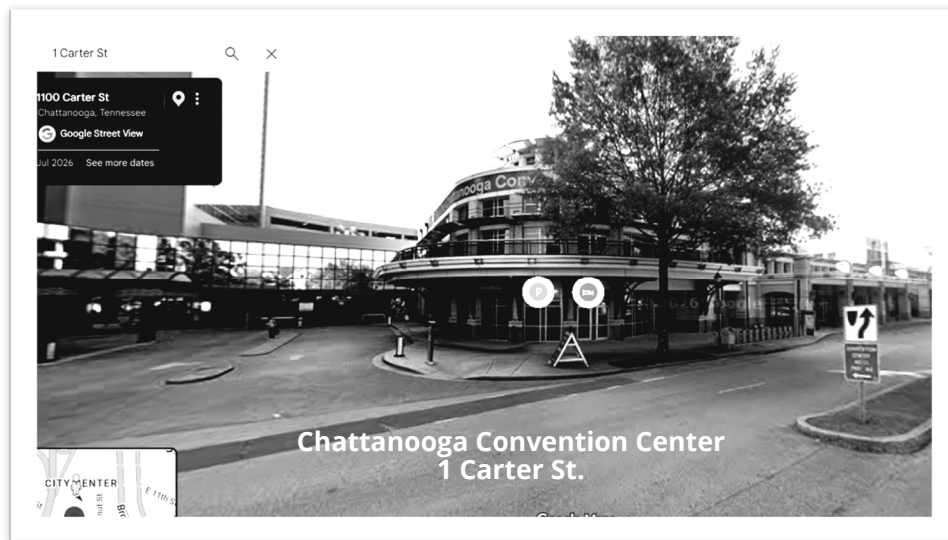
- First is the Monthly August Statistics: Total Pregnancy Tests were 118; Total Ultrasounds were 120; Family Services Appointments were 323 and Men's Services 253; Early Prenatal Care Appointments were 31 and no Abortion Pill Reversals and 3 After Abortion Follow ups. Here is what is truly amazing. There were 544 spiritual discussions, 74 Gospel Presentations and 1 profession of faith. Please be in prayer for the ongoing work of Choices, even in this heat wave.
- Just this afternoon I got a text asking us to pray for a client who is struggling after choosing life and feels very alone in her pregnancy. May Choices have many opportunities to pour into her and that she'll connect with a church family soon.
- Coming Up on 10-29-26 at 6:30 pm at the Convention Center, 1 Carter St., will be the Choices Fundraising Banquet. Thanks to you who have chosen Life and Financially support this ministry. **If you would be inspired to attend this life-saving event please contact John or Kathy Tucker. Our Keynote Speaker will be Kelly Lester. Kelly is a former abortion clinic worker.**

Have you had enough?" It was just four words, but it was a turning point question in Kelly Lester's life.

For 15 years, Kelly had been running from the Lord, desperate to fill the hurting places in her heart with men, drugs, and every other kind of coping mechanism. But after nearly losing her life in a violent domestic fight, Kelly came to a place of surrender to the question God was asking of her.

But God, do you know the things I've done?

"Yes, Kelly, but if you follow me, I will make beauty from ashes."



THE MISSION and the MESSAGE

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PAKISTAN (8)

CHRISTIAN WOMAN SHOT BY MUSLIM IN PAKISTAN

Source: Persecution.org, September 14, 2026

A 21-year-old woman was fatally shot inside her home in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, by her Muslim neighbor, according to a report by Christian Daily International. Her killer then abducted her 16-year-old stepbrother, coercing him to confess to her murder.

1. Pray for Saba's family, especially her stepbrother and her daughters.
2. Pray that Saba's killer will be brought to justice.



Christian Teen Beaten for Protecting Women in Pakistan

Source: Persecution.org, September 14, 2026

A 17-year-old Christian man named Ikhlāq Masih was severely beaten by a mob in Nasrat Colony, a town in Ajnīanwala, Sheikhupura, Pakistan, where many Christians reside.

1. Pray for Ikhlāq's healing and restoration.
2. Pray that those who beat him will be brought to justice. 🙏🙏

Children's Catechism

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?

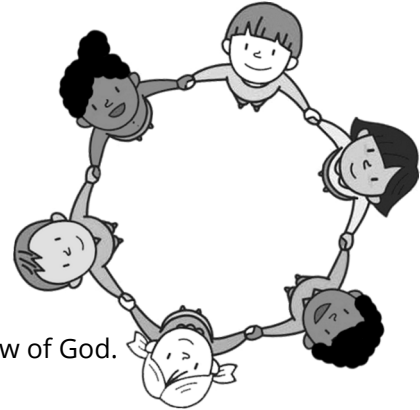
A28 No. He sinned against God.

Q29 What is sin?

A29 Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q30 What is meant by lack of conformity?

A30 Not being or doing what God requires.



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

Widows Harvest

It is time to collect paper and soap products for Widow's Harvest. The women really appreciate this expression of our care for them.

We will begin collecting September 27th and continue until October 18th. We plan to deliver the bags of products on Tuesday, October 20th. This is a list of what to contribute.

We fill 35 bags in total.

- ☐ **Laundry detergent** If possible please donate the pods, but liquid is also fine.
 - ☐ **Liquid dish soap**
 - ☐ **Face soap** bar soap like Dove
 - ☐ **Liquid hand soap**
 - ☐ **Kleenex**
 - ☐ **Paper towels**
 - ☐ **Clorox wipes**
 - ☐ **Toilet Paper** We need 70 rolls of toilet paper, we give them each 2.
 - ☐ **Also Small, Medium and Large sizes of Depends.** You can purchase any amount of these you like. Lisa Eames distributes these as needed. They are needed regularly.
-

*Thank you,
Joni*

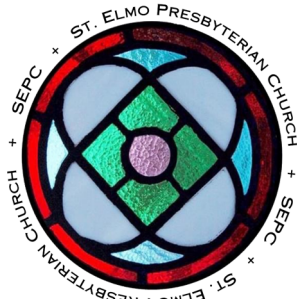
for the Chickamauga Community Group

Defend the cause of the fatherless,

plead the case of the widow.

Isaiah 1:17

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** — Meets during Sunday School and the first Sunday of the month at 12:15pm— 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 3-4xper 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 Sundays during Sunday School. Also, they meet on the first Sunday of each month during the church's First Sunday Potluck lunch. 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/3hpcnxju>
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