

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 6, 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 6

9:15am Sunday School for All
10:30am Worship Service
12:15pm First Sunday Potluck Lunch. EVERYONE INVITED! Youth Group Kick-Off!

Tuesday September 8

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

Wednesday September 9

6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets (2nd & 4th Wednesday in Sept only) — Contact Ed or Betsy Sunder
7:00pm Ecumenical Community Group meets — Contact Carol Wildeman or Diane Reichmann

Thursday September 10

7:30pm Session Meeting — Contact any Elder: Daniel Wells, Rob Allen, Jay Green, Ethan Greene, Hans Madueme, and Lance Wescher

Saturday September 12

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 6 Ashlee Wells and Madison Greene
September 13 Ashlee Wells and Amy Dugaard

Worship Service

September 6 Brooklyn Sunder and Lisa Eames
September 13 Emma Bunn and Kate Tinholt

Little Lambs

September 6 The Sunder Family
September 13 Jack and Barbara Beckman

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

Saturday, September 19 Fall Church Workday 9:00am-12:00pm: we will be cleaning and touching up paint inside, making minor repairs, and trimming bushes and spreading mulch outside. —Contact Don Houston

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

THE MESSAGE

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

It's as if Jesus said, 'The truth is, I cannot live without you, I shall never be quiet till I have you where I am, that so we may never part again; that is the reason of it. Heaven shall not hold me, nor my Father's company, if I have not you with me, my heart is set upon you; and if I have any glory, you shall have part of it.' - Thomas Goodwin

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (#38)

JESUS HEARS OUR LAMENT

Corporate Prayer of Lament

Holy and righteous God, Don't you see? Don't you care, Lord? Fools revile you, daring you to take action. Evil men flaunt their excesses, without conscience or concern. It grieves us; it angers us. Women, children, and the elderly are shown no mercy. When will it end, Lord? When will the day of justice come? We don't question your power; just your timetable. We don't question your plan; just its execution. Our hope is in you, Lord. There is no other God. So until the day you put all things right, Lord, pour out your Spirit upon your people. Grant leaders wisdom, children comfort, and your church courage. Whether by our living or by our dying, we want to honor you. When we're tempted to repay evil for evil, harm for harm, or hatred for hatred, grant us grace and restraint, O Lord. When fears loom and doubts increase, show us Jesus' empty tomb and your occupied throne. You alone, O God, are worthy. We praise, bless, and adore you, in Jesus' name. Amen. (Every Season Prayers by Scotty Smith)

Silent Prayer of Lament

Hymn of Confession: Afflicted, Saint To Christ Draw Near (see insert p.3)

Assurance of Comfort

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Hymn of Comfort: Great is Thy Faithfulness (#32)

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 For Illumination

Reading of the Word: Genesis 26:34-28:9

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

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

To represent to us this spiritual and heavenly bread Christ has instituted an earthly and visible bread as the sacrament of his body and wine as the sacrament of his blood. He did this to testify to us that just as truly as we take and hold the sacrament in our hands and eat and drink it with our mouths, by which our life is then sustained, so truly we receive into our souls, for our spiritual life, the true body and true blood of Christ, our only Savior. We receive these by faith, which is the hand and mouth of our souls. (Belgic Confession of Faith XXXV, 1647)

JESUS SEALS HIS LOVE TO US

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn: Behold the Lamb (Rejoice! #14 - 1st Stanza)

Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. (continued on page 3)

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* (Behold the Lamb - 2nd Stanza)

The Cup* (Behold the Lamb - 3rd Stanza)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: Behold the Lamb (4th Stanza)

Benediction



*Communion: wine is in the outer ring, juice in the inner rings.
Gluten free bread in the center cup.

THE MINISTRY, MISSION, and the MESSAGE

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

- ☐ Chris and Rebecca Dodson
- ☐ Jeff and Edith Dryden
- ☐ Al and Joye Duke
- ☐ Lisa Eames

- ☐ Channels of Love
- ☐ Covenant Seminary

- ☐ Our U.S. Governors
- ☐ **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN MYANMAR (14)**
- ☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors



Sunday, September 13th

- **Green Space Event** (*Food & Lawn Games*) at 5pm
- **Jeremy Casella concert** at 7pm
in the Sanctuary (*free event*)

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 MINISTRY and the MISSION

Afflicted Saint, To Christ Draw Near

Fawcett, Dever

1. Af - flict - ed saint, to_ Christ draw near, Your Sa - vior's gra - cious pro - mise
 2. faith is weak, your_ foes are strong, and if the con - flict should be
 3. per - se - cu - tion, rage and flame, still trust in your Re - deem - er's
 4. called to bear your weigh - ty cross, or sore af - flic - tion, pain or

8

hear, His faith - ful Word, you_ can be - lieve, that as your days your strength shall be.
 long, the Lord will make the_ temp - ter flee, that as your days your strength shall
 name; in fier - y tri - als you shall see, that as your days your strength shall
 loss, or deep dis - tress or po - ver - ty, still as your days your strength shall

17

2,3,4 Chorus

2. Your
 be, So sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the vic - t'ry's won; God

27

2,3 4.

shall sup - ply all that you need. Yes, as your days your strength shall be. 3. Should be.
 4. When



Q20 Do you have a soul as well as a body?
A20 Yes. And my soul is going to last forever.

Q21 How do you know your soul will last forever?
A21 Because the Bible tells me so.

Q22 In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?
A22 He made them holy and happy.

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.

THE MISSION

Channels of Love

Contact: Ginny Strom

Praise

- ☑ For the Lord's sustaining grace for Sheila (Interim Director) and Carina (staff member) as they labor hard to maintain our usual programs with clients and keep up with paperwork and recordkeeping.
- ☑ For our Board of Directors and small group of volunteers as they have stepped up to help.
- ☑ For some financial gifts in response to our recent appeal letter.
- ☑ For clients who regularly attend Bible studies and social events and for several clients who have reconnected with us recently.

Prayer

1. For joy and energy each day during this period without an Executive Director.
2. For the Lord's provision of generous, regular giving to build our finances so that we can hire a new Executive Director early in 2027.
3. For several clients who are currently going through hard times of various kinds. May the Lord be their hope and work powerfully on their behalf!

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN MYANMAR (14)

BAPTIST PASTOR MARTYRED IN MYANMAR BY MILITARY DICTATORSHIP

Source: Persecution.org, August 28, 2026

The Burma Research Institute (BRI) has confirmed that Rev. William and another Chin Christian, Nam Ceu, were extrajudicially (carried out without due process or trial) murdered on June 4 by the Burmese military dictatorship. "But grief demands action. We call on the international community, and especially the United States, to hold those responsible accountable," said Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops, Burma Research Institute (BRI) Board Chairman and former Associate General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA. Dr. Stoops had traveled through Chungcung village during a visit to Hakha before the 2021 military coup.



A memorial service was held in Chungcung on August 26, 2026, at approximately 1:30pm, Burma time, attended by residents and pastors from Hakha — more than three months after his arrest. He had served as senior pastor for more than 25 years of Chungcung Baptist Church in Chin state. Rev. William is survived by his wife and five children.



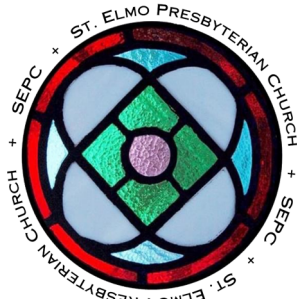
He was arrested with Ceu in May and had been detained by the military since then. Sources told the BRI that Rev. William and Ceu were killed for allegedly supporting the Hakha Chinland Defense Force (CDF), which is fighting against the Burmese military dictatorship.

The BRI also reports that Chungcung village has been regularly and brutally attacked since the military junta took power in 2021, and the Chungcung Baptist Church itself had been destroyed and looted in October 2021. 🙏🙏

Women's Bible Study

- The Monday Evening Bible Study next meeting is at 7:00-8:30pm at the church. 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.

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 & 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.

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