

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.*



October 4, 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 October 4

9:15am Sunday School for All (2 classes for adults available)
10:30am Worship Service
12:10pm Anniversary Lunch — Everyone please stay! Youth Group meets as well.

Monday October 5

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

Tuesday October 6

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

Wednesday October 7

6:00pm Chickamauga Community Group meets — Contact Jack or Barbara Beckman
6:00pm Flintstone Community Group meets — Contact Betsy or Ed Sunder
6:00pm St Elmo Community Group meets — Contact Jay or Beth Ann Green
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 October 8

7:30pm Session meets — Contact any Elder

Nursery

Sunday School

October 4 Ashlee Wells and Madison Greene
October 11 Betsy Sunder and TBD

Worship Service

October 4 Jennifer or Kedric W. and Michaela Sunder
October 11 Gwen Macallister and Joni Harbert

Little Lambs

October 4 Sanders
October 11 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.**

College Students
Join us
Learn more



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 MESSAGE

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

The church is Christ's body, and he loves it as his own body. He has bought it with his blood, and he will never forsake it. He nourishes it, cherishes it, and will present it to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. The church is safe because Christ is faithful to his church.

- Charles Spurgeon

Prelude

Announcements

Musical Preparation

JESUS WELCOMES US

Greeting

Call to Worship

Christ loved his church and gave himself up for her.

He is sanctifying her, cleansing her, and preparing her for glory.

And because the church belongs to Christ, He has promised: 'I will build my church,

And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' (Matthew 16:18 & Ephesians 5:25-27)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: O God Beyond All Praising (#660)

JESUS HEARS OUR PLEDGE OF FAITH

Confession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, Amen. (Apostles' Creed, 2nd cent)

Hymn of Assurance: God Moves in a Mysterious Way (#128)

JESUS GROWS HIS CHURCH

Membership Vows (Book of Church Order 57-5)

Reception of New Members

- Justin Heydt
- Lucy Heydt
- Otto Heydt
- Forest Heydt
- Naomi Todd
- Luke Wescher
- Grace Wu

JESUS WASHES US

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:11-15

Homily

Prayer of Consecration

Sacrament of Baptism

Grace Wu

Hymn of Assurance: O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer (Rejoice! #81)

JESUS RECEIVES OUR GENEROSITY

Offering of Gifts and Thanksgivings

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; World without end. Amen. Amen.

Covenant Children's Lesson

Children ages 3-4 may go downstairs for 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: Isaiah 61:1-5 & Revelation 19:6

Preaching of the Word: "She Must and Shall Go Free" (Rev. Daniel Wells)

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 (Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted - Stanza 1, see p.5)

The Cup (Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted - Stanzas 2-3)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of Departure: Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted - Stanza 4)

Benediction



THE MISSION and THE MINISTRY

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



- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ David, Gwen, Caleb, and Colin Macallister | ☐ Our U.S. Senators |
| ☐ Helen Grace Macallister | ☐ THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN NEPAL (46) |
| ☐ Tirzah Macallister | ☐ Pray for our faithful witness to our neighbors |
| ☐ Seth, Lydia, Hank, Roy, Hazel and baby Mayberry | |
| ☐ RUF-UTC | |
| ☐ RUF | |

THE MESSAGE

Come, Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted

Swain, Twit

Em D/F# G Em D/F#

1.Come, ye souls by sin af - flic - ted, Bowed with fruit - less sorr - ow
 2.Take His ea - sy yoke and wear - it; Love will make your o - be - dience
 3.Bless - ed are the eyes that see - Him, Bless'd the ears that hear His
 4.Sweet as home to pil - grims wea - ry, Light to new - ly o - pened

4 G C Em C

down; By the bro - ken law con - vic - ted, Through the cross, be - hold the
 sweet. Christ will give you strength to bear - it, While His grace shall guide your
 voice; Bless - ed are the souls that trust - Him, And in Him a - lone re -
 eyes, Like full springs in de - serts drea - ry Is the rest the cross sup -

8 D C Em G D

crown; Look to Je - sus, Look to Je - sus, Look to Je - sus; Mer - cy flows through
 feet Safe to glo - ry, Safe to glo - ry, Safe to glo - ry, Where His ran - somed
 joice; His comm - and - ments, His comm - and - ments, His comm - and - ments Then be - come their
 plies; All who taste it, All who taste it, All who taste it Shall to rest im -

12 C D G

Him a - lone. _____
 cap - tives meet. _____
 hap - py choice. _____
 mor - tal rise. _____

2.Take His
 3.Bless - ed
 4.Sweet as

THE MISSION and THE MINISTRY



The 137th Church Anniversary Lunch



Today, after the church service in the Fellowship Hall.

The church will provide BBQ pork and chicken, regular buns, and gluten-free buns.

Thank you to everyone who can help clean up after the lunch!

We look forward to celebrating 137 years of God's faithfulness to St. Elmo Presbyterian Church!

Pray for the Persecuted Church IN LALITPUR, NEPAL (46), MYANMAR (14)

WE SOMETIMES MUST HIDE WHERE WE ARE GOING AND CHANGE WHERE WE GATHER.

Source: Persecution.org, September 25, 2026

[A narrative] The Church That Gathers in Secret

One of my first visits to persecuted believers was in Lalitpur. I traveled about 30 minutes south of the city by motorbike, then walked another 10 minutes along a rough path. When I arrived, more than 50 ducks greeted me. They belonged to Md. Riyaz, a Muslim-background believer and Rohingya refugee from Myanmar, who raises them to earn a living. But behind this unusual sight is a painful story.

Rafiq carries the double burden of being a refugee struggling to find work in a foreign land and a Christian rejected by the Muslim community he once belonged to. His own community drove him from the refugee camp. He has faced repeated threats, including attempts on his life.

Even attending Bible study requires caution. Sometimes he leaves home wearing his work clothes so others will think he is simply going to work. Meeting other believers can be a matter of personal safety.

Rafiq is not alone. About a dozen Muslim-background believers gather for Bible study and fellowship, but they cannot meet openly or regularly in one place. They move from location to location, careful not to leave a footprint that could expose them to danger.

As I listened, I thought of the early believers in Acts, gathering wherever they could and carrying the gospel quietly amid opposition.

Perhaps this is what the church in Lalitpur would say to us. "We cannot always meet openly. We sometimes must hide where we are going and change where we gather. But we have not stopped following Jesus."

I came to encourage a small and vulnerable church. Instead, I was reminded that sometimes faithfulness means continuing to gather when gathering is dangerous. 🙏🙏

Insert p.2

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.
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*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