



GERMANTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
C·H·U·R·C·H



*October 24, 2021*

*8:30A.M. & 11:00A.M.*

[WWW.GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG](http://WWW.GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG)

*\*Please stand.*

*Please silence electronic devices.*

## **GATHERING**

PRELUDE

*Amazing Grace: Prelude*

Adolphus Hailstork

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Will Jones

STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT “Engaging Our Potential”

Mrs. Tracy Whitaker

CHIME INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(8:30) Mrs. Pam Graddy

(11:00) Mr. Greg Morgan

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; praises of God shall continually be in my mouth.

**People: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

**People: I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

Leader: Look to the Lord, and be radiant; so your face shall never be ashamed.

**People: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God.**

\*HYMN 466

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

\*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

**Holy God, have mercy upon us. We need your grace daily, just as we need food and water. Your love nourishes our souls, and it fuels us to live well and rightly. We, however, cannot help but denigrate your love through our sin. For this, and for our sin, we repent. We grieve our sin and pray for mercy, in the name of our Lord who embodied your love.**

*(Time of personal prayer)*

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

**People: Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

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.**

\*SHARING OF GRACE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

***THE WORD***

MEDITATION IN MUSIC

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Craig Courtney

Karen Schowalter Cooper, mezzo-soprano

Ethan Baskin, tenor

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Grey Smith

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup>They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Upside Down Kingdom: Who Really Are the Blind Ones?

Dr. Jones

***RESPONSE TO THE WORD***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Wiggins

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; 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 quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mike Lyle

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

*I Will Extol Thee, O God*  
Christina Crouse, soprano

Michael Costa

*Open unto me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them and I will praise Him!  
I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.  
I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.*

\*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Wiggins

## *SENDING*

\*HYMN 280

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

Dr. Jones

\*POSTLUDE

*Amazing Grace: Recessional*

Adolphus Hailstork

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## *WORSHIP ARTS TODAY*

On the cover: Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. *Healing of the Man Born Blind*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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**Welcome to worship** online and limited onsite with Germantown Presbyterian Church. Our sincere prayer is that you will find a place here among those who already call GPC home. We know these are difficult days, and we are so glad you can join our service in the way you feel most comfortable. We are truly glad God brought you here!



Scan the QR code to sign into the online Friendship Pad.

**Interested in joining GPC?** *You are welcome here!* For more information on how to join, please contact Amy Phillips at (901) 647-6433 or amybirdwellphillips@gmail.com.

**GPC's pastors** can always be reached in an emergency or crisis. Please call the church, 901-754-5195, and then press 1 to reach the on-call pastor.

**The baby rose** on the baptismal font is given to the glory of God to celebrate the birth of Robert Goodwin Canter on October 12, 2021 in Birmingham, AL to Maggie (Fesmire) and Ted Canter. Robert's grandparents are GPC members Karen and Bill Fesmire.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Leader for October



The Fifth Grade Bridge program exists to guide children as they begin to live lives of faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage friendships among one another, to actively participate in worship and church life, and to successfully transition to GPC youth. Throughout the year you will see 5th-graders reading scripture in worship, participating in retreats and fellowship activities, gathering to meet junior high students, mentoring younger GPCKids at VBS, and serving in the community through Mission 901. The October worship leader is Grey Smith.

Grey Odom Smith is our Worship Leader today. He is the son of Tracey and Rush Smith and big brother to Susie. Grey attends school at Forest Hill Elementary School.

*Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements*  
*Week of October 24, 2021*

***Engaging Our Potential:*** In 2018 Germantown Presbyterian Church finished Phase II of our Campus Master Plan. This phase encompassed a new Education Building and a renovated Evans Chapel. The Education Building includes a stunning Warren Hall, and historic Evans Chapel is a sacred space on our campus, and the recent renovations have made the entire chapel building fully accessible for persons with physical limitations. The rooms adjacent to the chapel house essential counseling and recovery ministries as well as offer a Community Room below the chapel for larger groups in the community. All that remains is to retire the debt of \$1.5 million. We also need to fund our ongoing and new ministries for the next two years. Our total need for 2022-2023 is \$5.6 million.

This year GPC is doing something new by combining our regular annual funding campaign with a debt-retirement campaign into one consolidated effort, and we're calling it *Engaging Our Potential*. You will see more and more information on this as we move further into October and into November leading up to Commitment Sunday on November 21, but the gist is that *Engaging Our Potential* is a two-year financial stewardship campaign to fund our annual operations budget and to eliminate the remaining \$1.5 million of capital debt. While this is new for GPC, this method has been very successful for many churches and educational institutions over the last ten years. Watch for more material in your mail and around the church, and if you have any questions, you can call Fred Turverey or Alex Ivy at 901-754-5195.

Please prayerfully consider a commitment to *Engaging Our Potential* that will include your annual giving for two years AND a commitment to debt retirement.

**Church Family Prayer Program:** Members of the congregation are randomly selected each week to be lifted up. This week please pray for: Martha Day; Susan Hanlon; Lorri & Robbie Hughes; Kathy McCoy; Christy & Walter Smalley; Tracy & Emmett Whitaker, Archie, Emmett.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Members of the congregation are offered unique and fun volunteer experiences. See list below and see how you can plug in.

- JoyLife901 Breakfast Club – Friday, October 29 – volunteer decorators and hosts (8:30am-11:30am)
- PEACE Sunday School classroom – Sunday, December 5 – classroom helper (9:40am-10:45am)
- A/V help with services/events – various (see details below)
- Memphis Food Bank & MAM – various (see details below)

**GPC is searching for a new Director of Ministry to Children.** This is a full-time job, and a position description may be found on the church website. There are also copies available on tables outside the entrances to the sanctuary. For more information, please contact September Eason at [children@gpctn.org](mailto:children@gpctn.org).



**GPC's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat is Back!** This year the retreat will be a one-day event held at GPC on Saturday, November 6 from 9am – 4pm. Mouth-watering cinnamon rolls will be provided by Pinecrest, and lunch and snacks will be provided by the Women's Retreat Planning Team. This year's theme is: *Generation after Generation: Learning From, Becoming, and Handing Down Women's Wisdom*. And for those of you with kids, Pastor Will is working with the Retreat team to come up with a dad/kid event for that day. Women's retreat tee shirts are available for purchase as well. Registration is now open on the GPC website. For more information, contact Pastor Susie at [susiew@gpctn.org](mailto:susiew@gpctn.org).

**Family Event with Pastor Will During Women's Retreat.** Pastor Will has set up something for dads and kids to do while the women are attending the retreat. Saturday, November 6, plan to meet Pastor Will at the Memphis Zoo at 11:00am. Everyone will walk around and see the animals then eat lunch. Most special treat of all? Pastor Will will buy ice cream for every child present after lunch. Let us know if you're coming. Call or email the church office – 901/754-5195 or [office@gpctn.org](mailto:office@gpctn.org).

**Children's Music Wants You!** GPCKids is ramping up the music program, but there are some differences. Children from preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to stay after the 11:00am worship, enjoy a light snack lunch and learn music – vocal and instrumental. They will also play games and take part in fun activities. Pick-up time is 1:30pm. Please email Alex Benford if you have questions and/or would like to be involved: [alex@gpctn.org](mailto:alex@gpctn.org).

**Nursery Open Sunday Nights:** The nursery is now open Sunday evenings from 5:00pm – 7:30pm. If you haven't come on Sunday nights because you need childcare, now is your time! Come join us.

**Audio Visual Help Needed with Worship Services:** GPC is looking for volunteers who want to join an ongoing team that will form the core group who works with the audio-visual process of the livestream during Sunday morning and evening worship services. The people already participating will be happy to train you, and all you have to do is learn the user-friendly system. It's all very easy, and yet vitally important to our expanding Internet presence. Please consider volunteering, and if you are interested you can contact the church office at [communications@gpctn.org](mailto:communications@gpctn.org).

**Special Needs Program:** There are many volunteer opportunities each week in our special needs program, including our Wednesday lunch and Friendship Circle, our Thursday morning *Amplify* music program, and our Friday morning JoyLife901 Breakfast Club meetings. For more information about participation and/or volunteering, please contact Jackie Classen at [specialneeds@gpctn.org](mailto:specialneeds@gpctn.org).

**Memphis Food Bank Mobile Pantry** has set up a mobile food donation site at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, and more volunteers are needed to sign up and help Idlewild volunteers distribute food. The volunteers staff this site two (2) times a month on Wednesday mornings from

8:00am-10:30am; at least 25 volunteers are needed. Go to this website [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaaac22aafa7-idlewild) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaaac22aafa7-idlewild>) to sign up to help give out food to our hungry neighbors.

**Mentors for Memphis Athletic Ministries:** MAM is searching for men and women who will commit to mentor a high school student for this upcoming school year. Mentors will be matched with students accepted into our Mentoring Program. Students are hand selected and hired by MAM to work in our sites and gain college and career training. Mentors will help these students set goals and take the steps to reach those goals and prepare them for life after MAM. For more information or to sign up, go to: [www.mamsports.org/volunteer](http://www.mamsports.org/volunteer).

In October, please pray for these churches in the Presbytery:

First Presbyterian Church, Savannah, TN  
Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Selmer, TN  
First Presbyterian Church, Selmer, TN  
First Presbyterian Church, Somerville, TN  
Tiptonville Presbyterian Church, Tiptonville, TN



Bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ.

-Galatians 6:2

**The Grief Support Group has resumed meeting in person at 6pm  
in the Parlor on the second Thursday of each month.**

Grief Support is an outreach ministry to those who have lost a loved one through death. Grief Support is offered to members and visitors of Germantown Presbyterian Church as well as to nonmembers who live within Shelby County and North Mississippi. One-on-one sessions are also available for those for whom the group setting is not workable and are scheduled at a time and day that works for the individual.

Although this ministry is not professional counseling or therapy, it is an opportunity for those who are going through the grief and bereavement journey, to gain comfort, encouragement, and support. Grieving is the normal expression of sorrow associated with the loss of a loved one, and no one has to walk through this journey alone.

Grief Support seeks to move participants from isolation into participating more fully in life after a significant loss occurs. Types of loss vary, but those who are bereaved may have similar emotions and experiences which can be shared in a group setting led by a Certified Grief Recovery Specialist and others trained in grief support. The group meetings as well as one-on-one sessions provide support, care, and encouragement and can lead healing.

Grief support group sessions are conducted by facilitators to discuss aspects of the grief journey, to gain new insights into grieving and to become equipped with skills for navigating this journey. Whether in the group or one-on-one setting, participants can expect complete confidentiality through the course of their participation.

Grief is the price we pay for love and the only way to get through grief is to grieve. Doing so alongside others on this journey (or individually) with trained leadership gives participants strength and hope that light will eventually shine through their darkness. Walking through grief is not easy, but facing our grief and working through it helps us define our "new normal," who we are now and who we can become. We will never forget our loved ones, but we can learn to walk in this world without them by our side and we can eventually move from surviving to thriving.

**TO PARTICIPATE OR LEARN MORE:**

Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry which seeks to help when you have lost a loved one.

Contacts: [Stephanie Wall](#), Certified Grief Counselor, American Academy of Grief Counseling and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, Grief Recovery Institute, [Beth Brock](#) or [Linda Oakes](#)

# Women's Retreat 2021: EAT, PRAY, PLAY

GPC'S 2021 4th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT IS HAPPENING! Eat, Pray, Play...it again, GPC Women! We're not skipping a beat!

While we all might think that the COVID global pandemic would prevent us from having a women's retreat this year ... we only need to recall what we did in 2020 in order to keep on keeping on (Enneagram Women's Retreat on Zoom!) So, what are we doing in 2021? We're so glad you've asked! Well .. it will be something in-between an overnight at Pinecrest and a Zoom in your living room.

Drum roll ... the 2021 4th Annual GPC Women's Retreat will be a one-day event held at GPC. Date: November 6, 2021 Time: 9am-4pm (ish) Location: GPC – stay tuned for the exact room Lunch: Provided by your WRPT (Women's Retreat Planning Team)!

Coffee/Tea/Snacks: Same! Cinnamon Rolls: Provided by PINECREST! 2021 Women's Retreat theme: Generation After Generation: Learning From, Becoming, and Handing Down Women's Wisdom. Remember the meaning of R-E-T-R-E-A-T:

R: Relaxing Respite For this one day - no errands, laundry, meals to prepare, or football games to watch!

E: Exceptional Eating Pinecrest's delicious cinnamon rolls ... plus, snacks and lunch!

T: Terrific Teaching Pastor Susie will lead our study of the Women of Wisdom - what have/can we learn from our foremothers in the faith - AND - how can we share our faith with our children and grandchildren – handing it down generation after generation?

R: Renew, Rejuvenate, Restore Just being with WOMEN for even just one full day renews, rejuvenates, and restores our souls.

E: Enjoy Each Other. We'll have Soul Sisters (Prayer Partners) again. Each year this has been such a wonderful (and favorite) aspect of our retreats so, of course, we'll have it again. Always, we experience God's hand in whomever our Soul Sister is randomly chosen to be. It's a wonderful experience to make a new friend or strengthen existing bonds as we fellowship and pray together.

A: Assorted Activities We'll also have some music, singing, and gentle stretching so we'll all stay energized and engaged.

T: Tremendous Together Where 2 or 3 are gathered God is present and amazing things happen! EAT, PRAY, PLAY 2021 is a gathering you won't want to miss.

And, for those of you with kids – what will they do that Saturday if you're away retreating? Well, we're also working with Pastor Will on a Dad/Kid event for that Saturday!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

# Germantown Presbyterian Church

## Nomination for Officers

Please prayerfully consider nominations for the next class of church officers. These are very important roles of service and responsibility. You can submit your nomination form directly to the church office, in the offering plate, to a Nominating Committee member or via email to [nominations@germantownpres.org](mailto:nominations@germantownpres.org). The Nomination Forms will be available through the month of October.

**Consider the following qualifications before completing the back of this form:**

### **Church Involvement**

- regular attendance at Sunday worship and participation in church activities
- areas of service in church ministries
- demonstration of commitment to the church and its mission

### **Christian Living**

- love of Jesus Christ and dedication to Christ as Lord and Savior
- strong faith
- demonstration of grace and compassion in common life (family, work, community)
- spiritual maturity
- acceptance of the Bible as the unique and authoritative witness to God's work in the world and guide for Christian living

### **Personal Characteristics and Skills**

- cooperativeness: willingness to learn and listen
- ability to follow through on assignments
- openness to new ideas

### **Particular Qualifications for Offices**

#### **Deacon**

- gifts of sympathy, compassion, and sound judgment in ministry to others

#### **Elder**

- gifts of good judgment, fair-mindedness
- spiritual leader with a vision to provide oversight and direction for the congregation
- willingness to teach and preach

#### **Nominating Committee Member**

- gifts of spiritual discernment and wide knowledge of the members of the congregation to seek God's will for the leadership of the congregation

# Officer Nomination Form

I suggest \_\_\_\_\_ for

nomination to the office of:

\_\_\_\_ Elder

\_\_\_\_ Youth Elder (*current high school 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> gr*)

\_\_\_\_ Deacon

\_\_\_\_ Youth Deacon (*current high school 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> gr*)

\_\_\_\_ Nominating Committee

\_\_\_\_ Nominating Committee, Youth Member (*current high school 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> gr*)

What spiritual gifts does this person possess?

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What church activities/programs does this person participate in?

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Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print your name here.)