



THE WINDOW

A Publication of Germantown Presbyterian Church

December 2021

Germantown Presbyterian Church * 2363 S Germantown Rd * Germantown TN 38138
www.GPCTN.org



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H

*D*ear Church Family and Friends,

The month of December ushers in one of the most meaningful times of the year for Christians: Advent and Christmas. Two of the most important elements of faith are on prominent display in all that we do: longing and fulfillment. We intentionally build into our worship services language, Scripture readings, music, and prayers that highlight both longing and fulfillment. These two themes are experienced all year long, but we highlight them in Advent to remember exactly who God is and how He answers the deepest desires of our hearts.

The season of Advent places us in a mood of expectant longing. To long for something or someone involves a mixture of hope and grief. There is grief over who or what is not present. There is a daily, tangible absence – whether of a person or a condition. When a loved one is away, even in our day of telephones and the internet, we miss that person and their physical presence. We long for their safety, and we wait eagerly for them to return. Do you remember what it was like before our modern communication technology? Letters could take days or weeks, but they were the primary way to learn of a loved-one's condition.

We also hunger for the right conditions to be present for a good life. When there is a drought, we long for rain. When there is injustice, we long for right to prevail over wrong. When we are in conflict, we long for peace and reconciliation. We long for food and sustenance in places of malnutrition and hunger. Our world is a place where there is much longing because the conditions for a good life are lacking.

During Advent, we tap into this emotion of desire and longing to remind ourselves how much God's people longed for a Messiah and Savior prior to Jesus. People placed their hope in God, and they waited and waited for many long years for God to answer their hope. They believed in God and trusted in God's promise to send a Savior. Today, we long for God to fulfill His promise to eradicate evil and injustice from all creation once and for all. God started the unravelling of sin through Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection, and we believe that God will usher in the Kingdom of Heaven. When this happens, in the words of Isaiah and Revelation: "God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." We long for the day when this promise will be fulfilled.

The main theme of Christmas is fulfillment. God has fulfilled and kept His promise to bless the world from the inside with a Messiah. We believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. God has answered the deepest need of humanity for salvation and redemption. The incarnated God has provided the means by which we can, once-and-for-all, be assured of



forgiveness. Through Christ, God saves us from ourselves and our own sin, and God is reconciled to us by Christ's life and actions, and especially His death and resurrection. At Christmas we celebrate the truth that God has fulfilled His promises, and our lives will never be the same thanks to God's goodness and grace.

At this time, in late 2021, what do you long for the most? Perhaps you miss a loved one dearly. You might long for forgiveness because you've made some grave mistakes. You hope for a fresh start, but you don't know how to get there. You hunger for a purpose and a calling in life.

Please know that God also longs to satisfy you and your restless heart this Christmas. The incarnated God, in Jesus Christ, is the fulfillment you crave. Our heart's longing, which can be exhausting, finds its rest in Christ. May God bless you, those you love, and our church family as we prepare to worship and fellowship during this season of intense longing and complete fulfillment.

Gratefully,

Will



ENGAGE 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

See below for the list of members' birthdays for the current and upcoming months. Be sure to wish your friends a happy birthday and if you know anyone who's been left out, let us know by emailing communications@germantownpres.org or calling the church office 901-754-5195 and asking for the communications department.

December

1 – Sarah Cannon
2 – Martha Day
2 – Susie Lyle
2 – Betsy Moseley
3 – Macie Houston
3 – Bud Hurley
4 – Susan Crain
6 – Anna Smith
7 – Patrick Rice
8 – Marjorie Reynolds
8 – Kim Ramos
9 – Honour Batey
9 – Jarmon Peregoy
10 – Dan Young
11 – Tommie Faye Coffman
11 – Susan Pasley
11 – Steve Morley
11 – Cindy Geyer
13 – Don Willingham
14 – Drew Arthur
14 – Lindsey Butler
14 – David Hopkins
14 – Lewis Perkins
14 – Joel Porter
15 – Lisa Cook
15 – Katie Eleazer
15 – Jackson Harding
15 – Cheryl Riedel
15 – Christy Smalley
15 – Alexander Walker
16 – Missy Gwin
17 – Barbara Greebon
19 – David Jeter
21 – Bonnie Algee
21 – Rush Smith
22 – Rod Olinger
24 – Steve Nabers
24 – Renn Eason
25 – William Wilson
27 – Vicki Arthur
27 – Lauren Beaupre
27 – Drew Russell
27 – Ramona Seabold

29 – Nick Brown
29 – Jane Kinney
29 – Helen Warren
30 – George Barnes
30 – Harriett Reed
31 – Bill Carmichael

January

1 – Bill Coley
1 – Pat Potter
2 – Ernie Goad
2 – Bill Ruleman
3 – Phil Mosley
4 – David Bradford
5 – Debbie Ragain
5 – Jim Robinson
5 – Wes Robinson
6 – Brock Bowden
6 – Davis Crocker
7 – Wes Burrow
7 – Martha Drexler
7 – Paula Hopkins
7 – Jay Ragain
7 – Billie Work
8 – Sondra Biggs
8 – Carolyn Porter
9 – Andrew Morse
10 – Chris Harding
10 – Katherine Harding
10 – Luke McClellan
11 – Bill Lawhorn
13 – Matt Graddy
14 – Judy Bilbrey
16 – Tim Barker
16 – Noell Moseley
16 – Mary Jane Thompson
17 – Christy Campbell
17 – Will Chandler
17 – Ginny Cifaldi
17 – Walter Hill
18 – Kathy Kalagias
18 – Libba Schatz
19 – Anthony Duke

20 – Sarah Teachey
21 – Billy Burnett
21 – Doug Geyer
22 – Jared Smith
22 – Jessie Wells
22 – Emmett Whitaker
24 – Lydia Waldrop
25 – Katherine Burnett
28 – Eddie Batey
28 – Susan Jones
28 – Mandie Shepherd
29 – Holly Hensarling
30 – Sally Fienup
30 – Randy Harris
30 – Andrew Miller
30 – Austin Simmons
31 – Ed Dellinger
31 – Mary Blanche Scott



ENGAGE 2021

ADVENT SCHEDULE



**Blue Christmas Worship Service – December 18 3:00pm,
Historic Evans Chapel**

The Advent/Christmas season is one of wonder. For so many it is a time of hopeful anticipation. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. The decorations are everywhere we turn. But for many of us, Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was. A Blue Christmas worship service provides the opportunity for us to gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to honor the emotions of the season that are less than joyful, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this season. We welcome you all to come and worship God with us in this special worship service, and if you know someone who might also benefit from the Blue Christmas worship service, please invite them to come with you. For more information, contact Pastor Susie Wiggins at 901/754-5195 or susiew@GPCTN.org.



**Chili Cook-off/Dessert Bake-off
Sunday, December 19**

5:30pm come to the Activity Center
with your \$1 bills & vote on your favorite chili & dessert.

The proceeds this year go to
Binghampton Christian Academy.

Online & in-person registration opens November 21.

Sunday, December 5:

8:30/11:00am: Selections from Handel's *Messiah* - GPC Chancel Choir Ensemble/Soloists/Strings/Organ
2:30pm: *Sounds of the Season* Concert with Kallen Espirian/Gary Beard on Piano/GPC Chancel Choir Ensemble/Soloists/Strings/Trumpets/Organ

Sunday, December 12:

8:30/11:00am: Favorite Advent Christmas Music/Children Participate in Worship
2:30pm: AMPLify Winter Concert, a Christmas Offering from the GPC Special Needs Ministry



Saturday, December 18:

3:00pm: Blue Christmas Contemplative Meditation Service in Historic Evans Chapel

Sunday, December 19:

8:30/11:00am: Favorite Advent Christmas Carols/Chancel Choir Ensemble/Soloists/Brass Quintet

Friday, December 24:

3:30pm: Family-Friendly Worship–Led by GPC's Children
5:30pm: Traditional Worship–Features Carols, Readings, & Communion
11:00pm: Christmas in the Chapel–Contemplative Worship with Communion in Historic Evans Chapel

ENGAGE 2021

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES

A SEASON OF PREPARATION & CELEBRATION

Over the last 18 months, we have had so few opportunities to spend some good quality time together as a family of faith. And that's crucial for the deepening of our relationships with one another and with Jesus. But that all changes this Christmas!

This Advent, we are excited to invite you to experience four delicious and delightful evenings that will be meaningful for the whole family. Join us during the four Wednesdays of Advent - December 1, 8, 15 and 22 - for dinner and a wonderful new devotional series called *Come, Lord Jesus, Come..* Participants will be given three ways to enjoy this devotional together:

- Women's Group led by Candace Askew & Susan Shirley Hurt;
- Men's Group led by Jay Galyean & Garrett Guynes;
- Joint Group led by Pastor Mike Lyle.

So come join us this Advent season, as we celebrate the birth of the King of kings together!

2021 Wednesday Evening Advent Devotional Schedule:

Dinner: 5:30pm - 6:00pm in Warren Hall

Adult Advent Devotional: 6:00pm - 6:55pm

Children's Lessons & Carols: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

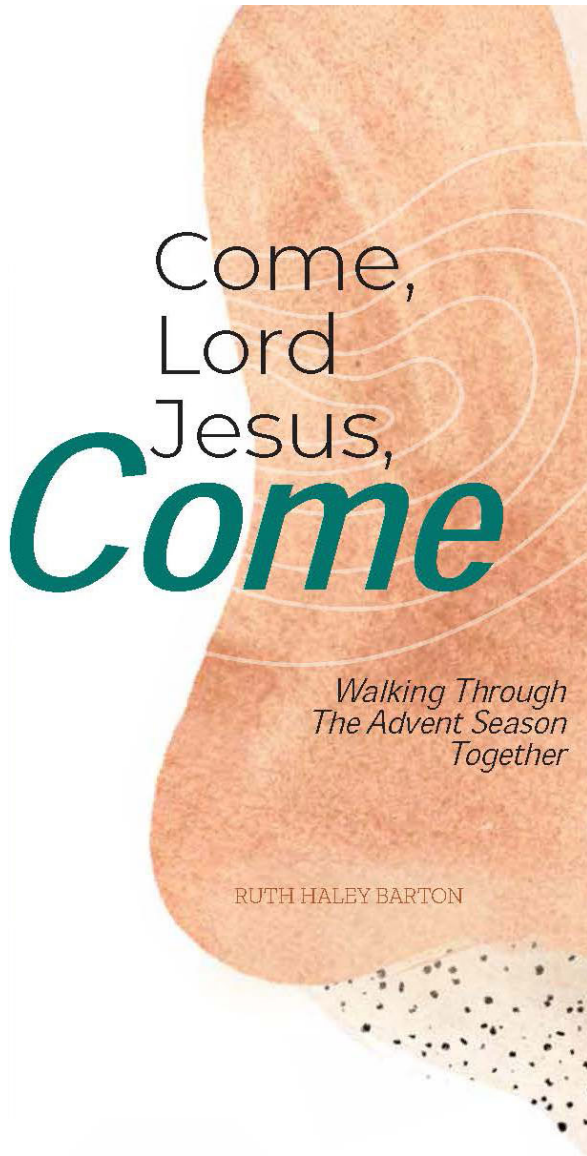
Closing Prayer: 7:00pm

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS!

We are so excited to welcome our children, ages 3 years old -5th grade, during the four Wednesdays evenings of Advent - December 1, 8, 15 and 22 - to learn and experience the true meaning of Christmas! Children will not only grow in their faith through stories, crafts, and well-loved carols, but will also have the exciting opportunity to share the carols they've learned as they help lead worship during GPC's 3:30pm Christmas Eve service. Full nursery care will be provided for all infants and toddlers. Registration is super helpful but not required (<https://germantownpres.org/christmas-for-gpckids-2021/>).

It's that time again! If you want to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, contact the church office - communications@GPCTN.org or 901-754-5195.

Deadline to order: Monday, December 20.



ENGAGE 2021

GPC's Women's Retreat Offered Great Fun & Fellowship

GPC's 4th annual Women's Retreat was a great success and a lot of fun, food, and fellowship. Held in person in Warren Hall this year, about 30 women gathered to be led in music by the incomparable Kim Sauer and led by Pastor Susie to learn: *Generation After Generation: Learning From, Becoming, and Handing Down Women's Wisdom*. They enjoyed cinnamon rolls from Pinecrest, a great lunch, and talked about women's roles in helping each other walk and grow in faith. Mark your planner now for next year - always the first weekend in November! Thanks Women's Retreat Planning Team (WRPT) for doing another great job.



2021 WRPT (pictured l to r): Ann Harbor, Pastor Susie Wiggins, Lacey Schepman, Elaine Cates, Sherrie Horner. Not pictured: Wnedy Holmes, Melinda Russell.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

FINDING YOUR PEOPLE IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Each of our 5 adult Sunday School classes are back in the building and meeting every week as they grow closer together in faith and friendship. God has blessed our church family with a passion for helping each other grow as disciples of Jesus. And as we fully emerge from COVID, we have the opportunity to write a new chapter in that great history.

Each of our Sunday School classes are vibrant, healthy, and a wonderful place to connect meaningfully with others. So if you're curious about what it would be like to feel a

deep sense of belonging and friendship, our groups are an easy and enjoyable way for you to experience that sense of home. There is nothing better than growing closer to Christ through authentic relationships. So come check out our Sunday School classes. We can't wait to welcome you on the journey of faith.

If you want to get involved in a Sunday morning group, email Pastor Mike at mikel@germantownpres.org.

| Name | Description | Location | Time | Point of Contact |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coffee & Conversations | Parents of young children, currently focusing on the Prodigal Son story | Second Floor Room UL-217 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Candace Askew: candace.phillips@fedex.com |
| Paula's Hearts & Hands | Women's knitting group, currently focusing on 1 Corinthians | Second Floor Room UL-214 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Susan Olinger: olinger.sh@gmail.com |
| Psalm 78 | Parents of school age children, currently focusing on stories behind hymns | Second Floor Room UL-215 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Rebecca Floyd: rebeccaflloyd1973@gmail.com |
| The Seekers | Adults of all ages, currently focusing on evangelism | Second Floor Room UL-216 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Randy Harris: randyfarris2@yahoo.com |
| Hits of the Ages | Adults of all ages, currently focusing on the 12 Disciples | Second Floor Room UL-218 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Alan Callicott: alan@callicottinsurance.com |

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Morning

8:30-9:30am – Early Morning Worship
9:30am – Children's Sunday School Dropoff
9:40-10:40am – Sunday School Hour
10:45am – Children's Sunday School Pickup
10:30-11:00am – Coffee & Donuts
11:00am-12:00pm – Late Morning Worship

Evening

5:00pm – Nursery Open
5:30-7:30pm – Youth Group
6:00-7:00pm – Evening Contemporary Worship

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

MEN AT GPC

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 6:30am in Warren Fellowship Hall (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Breakfast starts at 6:30am (bring \$3) and Bible study at 7:00. Different men lead each week's study using Scripture from the lectionary. Come one, come all! Currently the meetings take place in a hybrid format, so you can attend in person or via Zoom.



Men's Lunch Devotions

All men are invited to come as you can on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 12:00pm. The group is currently discussing readings from the book *Mornings with Bonhoeffer*. Currently this group is meeting in person in Warren Fellowship Hall. Keep watching the newsletter for updates. Part of GPC's Men's Ministry, the contact person for this bimonthly lunch study is Anthony Duke (Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com).

WOMEN AT GPC

Presbyterian Women in December

Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles meet the first Tuesday of each month - Day Circles meet at 10:00am, and the Night Circle meets at 6:45pm. Gatherings are every other month and will feature a guest speaker or service project. We are all strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

In December, Circles will meet Tuesday, December 7.

Circle #1 - UL215

Circle #2 - UL216

Circle #3 - UL217

Circle #4 (night circle) - parlor

Our December Gathering will be Tuesday, December 14 at 10:00am. Jerold Teachy and friends will present the Christmas program. There will be a luncheon following the program. RSVP to your circle leader.

Our study for 2021 - 2022 is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me - Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Books are \$10.

New members that are interested in joining or have questions, contact Bonnie Algee - bbalgee@bellsouth.net or Brenda Jeter - bjeter3044@gmail.com.

EAT, PRAY, READ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Come as you are for fellowship, prayer, and study

Eat, Pray, Read is a study group for those interested in expanding their faith and spiritual growth through Christian books and Bible study. This women's group meets on the second Monday of the month in the church parlor unless otherwise specified from 10:00am-11:30am.

Participants take turns leading the discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Each person is responsible for purchasing her own book and reading it before the day of discussion.

Everyone is invited! Come for one, come for some, come for all!

If interested, please contact Ann Harbor at annflukerharbor@aol.com or 901-258-5010.

The schedule for the rest of the year is:

December - *Gift From the Sea*, Anne Morrow Lindbergh

January - *The Second Mountain - The Quest for a Moral Life*, David Brooks

February - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Writings Selected with an Introduction by Robert Coles*, Robert Coles

March - *We Need to Hang Out - A Memoir of Making Friends*, Billy Baker

April/May - TBD

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

GET TO KNOW YOUR GPC FAMILY MEMBERS

By Morgan Paris

GPC is our church home. It is the place in which we are raising our children to know and love the Lord. As parents we made a commitment to the Lord when we baptized our children to raise them to lead a Christian life. We also made a commitment with our congregation, one that they made back with us – working together to raise up children within GPC. The congregation and staff at GPC is walking that commitment with us and long side our family. We enjoy worship each Sunday - taking part in the service, singing the hymns, listening to the beautiful music, praying, and celebrating the Lord. We are engaged in the children's and family ministries: children's Sunday School, choir, NaCoMe, Fall Festival, and other fun events, all of which we so enjoy. Our children love coming to church each week – they are excited and invigorated to be at GPC. Their Sunday School teachers are so sweet and good with the kids and have become such good friends to our family. We enjoy the music that GPC has to offer; singing God's praise and having our children engaged in leaning music is such a blessing. Sandy and Karen's spring musicals hold a special place in my heart. We love when Pastor Susie stops by our home to say hello or bring flowers and we love engaging with our brothers and sisters in Christ and being on this journey together. GPC is a part of our daily lives and within that community we strive to come closer God, to know Him, and to make Him known to others.



Pictured l to r: David, Roy, Darcy, Jean, Morgan, Rebecca.

HOW CAN YOU MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GPC FAMILY?



Back by popular demand:

Save the date for an in-person fellowship on Saturday, February 5 for *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*

This annual event has become a GPC favorite. Last year this event was held entirely on Zoom, but, circumstances permitting, the plan is to meet once again in person. GPC members sign up to be a host or a guest and then spend the evening over a delicious meal getting to know new people or renewing relationships with those they already know. Childcare will be available at the church.

Watch the January newsletter for more details and for the sign-ups.

Do you want to share what GPC means to you? We want to hear about it! Contact Pastor Will at 901-754-5195 or willj@GPCTN.org.

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

PINECREST DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Contributed by Lucy Cummings



Madison Wilson speaking about her love of Pinecrest at the *Campfires & Cocktails* fundraiser for Pinecrest 10/23/21.



Maybe you've heard of eco-tourism, but have you heard of astro-tourism?

Pinecrest is working to become an International Dark Sky Park which translates to tourism. We're installing Dark Sky certified lighting, too. You can join our project with a light of your own.

<http://camppinecrest.org/dark-sky-preservation/>



DECEMBER 19-20 (2PM - 5PM - 27 HRS OF FUN!)
For 3rd - 8th graders

\$125/camper includes meals, lodging, our great staff, and LOTS of Christmas Cheer!

<https://pinecrest.campbrainregistration.com/>

GREAT CINNAMON ROLLOUT

Last year we made about 3,400 rolls!

\$15/pan 1-9 pans or \$13/pan 10+ pans
frozen and ready for gifting

ORDER BY DECEMBER 3

East Memphis: Pick up December 11

Pinecrest: Pick up December 13-17

Order yours TODAY!

Email: amanda@camppinecrest.org or call 901/878-1247.



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

DECEMBER 3 IS A SPECIAL DAY

By Jackie (Classen) Williams

December 3rd is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a United-Nations-sanctioned day, to celebrate improvements in the civil rights of persons living with disabilities. Check out the website for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. (<https://idpwd.org/>)

In 2021, "... the International Day of People with Disabilities should be used to recognize that people who live with disabilities are among the most affected populations amid the COVID pandemic."

Many people with disabilities are unfortunately well-acquainted with being vulnerable or pushed aside, overlooked, or undervalued, if not worse – exploited and purposefully mistreated. Combine this regrettable typicality with decreased access to healthcare, poorly communicated public health messaging, inadequate resources for necessary rehabilitation services rendered by the COVID pandemic. Toss the extremely rapid increase of social isolation into the mix, and it's easy to see the contrasting blessing of GPC's PEACE program – a shining beacon of welcoming and engaging light in the darkness of this past 18 months.

In November 2021, all GPC congregants and staff were blessed by families of PEACE ministry participants who shared their gratitude for our various programs. They shared their appreciation for our mission to the special needs community.

In December 2021, and all through the coming year, we, the people of GPC, have the opportunity to share our gratitude, by learning more about disabilities and their challenging effects and, hopefully, by helping in any way we can – to be the hands and feet of God, ready to serve one of the sweetest and most honorable groups of people you will know.

In November 2021, all GPC congregants and staff were blessed by families of PEACE ministry participants who shared their gratitude for our various programs.

• Thank you to Ms. Crystal and Ms. Sarah Bollinger for visiting our congregation to share your joy in joining AMPLify after participating in Friendship Circle! We are more than pleased to offer young Sarah the opportunity to explore her musical talents! It's beautiful music to our ears!

• Thank you to Ms. Baretta Stewart-McKinney for sharing the joy of her daughter, Ms. Shelby Stewart, in her weekly

participation preparation schedule. Both Ms. Baretta and Ms. Shelby again expressed gratitude to our Wacky Wednesday Fishing Rodeo volunteer crew! They both caught their first fish this past May! What a joy for us all to experience your joy!!!

• Thank you to Ms. Beth and Mr. Joe McCleary, for being constant advocates for GPC's programs! Their daughter, Ms. Murphy McCleary, has recruited many new friends to our groups through her participation in many other social functions. Murphy participates primarily by Zooming across the internet but is able to engage well with these online activities! We feel blessed to spend time with such a sweet, loving young lady!

• Thank you to Ms. Clarise Lewis and her niece, Christina Raines, for the kind message you sent. Ms. Lewis shared that "Zoom has made this past year of COVID bearable and unforgettable" and commends how well the Friendship Circle members are able to engage and draw emotionally near to one another while staying safely physically distanced. Thank you for your appreciation, and we do love you and Christina dearly!

• Thank you to the Beech family, whose son Chase also Zooms into our Friendship Circle each week. It warms our hearts to know how much our special friends value their Bible study lessons! Chase enjoys them so much he's recruited his at-home nurse to listen with him. Chase's family shared that Zoom gives "Chase a way to feel he is still engaged with his friends, and to continue to grow in his knowledge of God's Word."



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



12/2 Class /Rehearsal
 12/9 Dress Rehearsal @ 9:15am
 12/12 Special Winter Performance @ 2:30pm, Activity Center

AMPLify will resume on Thursday, January 6, 2022. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to all! January is a great time to start coming (or coming back).

Save the Date!! Sunday, December 12, 2:30pm, Activity Center - AMPLify invites everyone to the 2021 Special Winter Program.

Wednesdays
 online & onsite
 12:30pm
FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE

a part of GPC's
 PEACE Special Needs Ministry

December Schedule

12/1 Luncheon
 12/8 Luncheon
 12/15 Fall Finale Feast

Friendship Circle will resume on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to all! January is a great time to start coming (or coming back).



Praises to the Men's Breakfast Club volunteers: John Colmer, Greg Morgan, Bo Hormberg, Clyde Blount, Larry Hak, and Pastors Tom Sauer and Will Jones.

These generous men prepared hot and DELICIOUS, homemade breakfast casseroles TWICE – October 29 and November 12 - and co-hosted, with the Special Needs Ministry of GPC and Christ Church Memphis, all after their own early-morning breakfast meeting! Their hearts for serving much more than a room full of bellies – the JOY of the activity – is evident throughout the environment throughout the day! Check out these happy participants' faces!!!



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

CONTINUATION OF LAST MONTH'S SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

By Jackie (Classen) Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Williams would like to share a few of their wedding memories and thank all the persons of GPC who helped to make October 9 the most amazing day of their lives!



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

GOOD MORNING, WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Ever wonder who those friendly folks are that welcome you to the morning worship services? They smile, open the door or hand you a bulletin. Well, they are Greeters, and you can be one, too! It's one of easiest jobs out there - no experience necessary - and a great way to interact with new and long-time church members and visitors. To apply just email Missy Gwin at thegreetergetter@gmail.com, and she will add you to her Sign-Up Genius account which goes out once a month for the following month. On the flip side, if you are already receiving these emails and unable to serve in this way - just let her know. Thank you for your service to our church.



Do you recognize that person you always see on Sunday morning sitting in the third pew up from you? Remember their name?

You know what you need? Nametags!

Simply contact the GPC office at 901-754-5195 or office@GPCTN.org and request your nametag. If you can't remember what you did with one you had a long time ago, contact the GPC office and ask for a replacement.

Engage with each other by wearing your nametags to worship and greeting each other by name!

GPC's GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

Grief Support Group Meets Every Month

The Grief Support Group has resumed its in-person meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the church parlor from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. All are invited to attend.

The group meetings are free and open to GPC members, visitors, and those from the greater community area. If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the Grief Support Ministry Team listed below.

The Grief Support Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall - The Grief Support Ministry leader, GPC member and former GPC staff member, Elder, Deacon, Certified Grief Support Specialist and Certified Grief Counselor through the American Academy of Grief Counseling, The American Institute of Health Care Providers, and The Grief Recovery Institute

Beth Brock - GPC member, Elder, Deacon, Former Board Member of Memphis Crisis Center

Linda Oakes - GPC member, Deacon, Retired Nurse St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hospice Volunteer

Contact information for this Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall-901-494-7786 or stephaniewall@hotmail.com

Beth Brock-901-355-0262 or beth.coleman.brock@gmail.com

Linda Oakes-901-237-6566 or linoakes@bellsouth.net



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The GPC Prayer Ministry

*Contributed by The
Congregational Care Prayer Team*



These times are filled with anxiety and unrest. We, as a church, want to pray for all our members. There are several ways to request and/or otherwise participate in prayer.

1. The website has a prayer request link on the home page with a praying hands graphic or you can email prayers@germantownpres.org.
2. Prayer cards are in the pew racks and can also be found in the AC lobby, the Welcome Center, the GPC office and elsewhere around the church. Just fill them out and put them in the offering plate. You can specify that your request be prayed over by pastors only, by a small prayer group, or shared with the churchwide prayer list published in the monthly newsletter.
3. Another way to request prayer is through the email list that church member Margaret Owens oversees. She sends requests to a larger prayer list within the GPC family. If you'd also like to be included on this list to receive prayer requests or if you have a prayer request that you want to share, you may email her at margaretowens1@aol.com.
4. The pastors also pray over all confidential prayer requests. Or you can also send a prayer request directly to the pastors at prayers@germantownpres.org.

This is a great way for us to get renewal and strength.

Updates from Fellowship Group Conveners

Susan Jones reported that the PNO NO MO group is going to have a get-together in December. Plans are not finalized, but they are hoping to gather on the first Saturday in December.

The Greatest Hits of the 50s and 60s are planning a party for December 10 at the Morgans' house. Details are being worked out.

The Cornerstones are still planning on meeting in Warren Hall for their Christmas celebration on December 10.

News group update:

We are excited to share that a new Fellowship Group has formed out of the *Coffee & Conversations* Sunday School Class, called the *Coffee & Conversations Fellowship Group*. This group is primarily comprised of young married adults with young children. Their first meeting is a family gathering being held on Sunday, December 21, at 1pm under the Cameron Brown Pavilion at Cameron Brown Park in Germantown. So far 22 adults have registered for this event, with more on the way. This group is still in the early stages of development but is looking forward to this new opportunity to deepen their friendships, support of one another, and grow their faith in Christ.

Interested in joining a fellowship group? Contact Pastor Susie at susiew@germantownpres.org.

Martha Drannon

Hear Ye – Hear Ye ... all Fellowship Group Conveners

Mark your planners - Monday, January 24 - 6:30pm

Come and join in a FG Conveners' meeting when we will share with each other how Fellowship Groups have gathered (or not been able to) during this now-almost-two-year global pandemic. We will meet in Room 218 AND via Zoom ... your choice! The Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting.

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

MUSIC NOTES

We are entering the most magical month for church music - the month of December. Are you ready? We continue to battle COVID, but we hope to create December magic each Sunday in the month of December as we prepare for the Christmas Eve and our celebration of the birthday of a King! Clear your schedule / make notes on your calendar. Plan to invite guests to join you for music in worship this Advent and Christmas Season.

Sunday, December 5 > We kick off the month with a very special day of music at GPC.

* 8:30 & 11:00am worship will feature selections from Handel's *Messiah* with Chancel Choir Ensemble/GPC soloists/string quartet/trumpets/flute/organ.

* 2:30pm > Invite guests to join you for our annual concert of *Sounds of the Season* with Kallen Esperian, soprano, Gary Beard, pianist, GPC soloists and Choir Ensemble accompanied by string quartet/trumpets/flute/organ. Help us get the word out! Arrive early; we normally have a full sanctuary!! A special THANK YOU to our sponsors for this concert!

Sunday, December 12 > Advent and Christmas music with soloists/choir ensemble and organ at 8:30 & 11:00am worship. Children will be featured in the 11:00am service.

* 2:30 PM Amplify / Special Needs Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19 > Christmas Carols/brass quintet/Marcus King, soloist/Chancel Choir Ensemble at both 8:30 & 11:00am worship.

*This is an exciting Sunday at GPC / You don't want to miss. You will definitely be in the Christmas Spirit when u leave worship.

* 3:30pm gather in the Activity Center for our annual Christmas caroling event. (Buses provided.)

* 5:30pm chili dinner in AC after the caroling. You do not have to go caroling to come to the chili dinner.

Friday, December 24 > Christmas Eve worship at GPC. Choose the service that is right for you and your family.

* 3:30pm > Family-oriented worship/features our children leading worship (trumpets/organ/carols)

* 5:30pm > Traditional worship/carols/soloists/Choir Ensemble/trumpets/organ. This service is a GPC favorite!

* 11:00pm > Christmas in the Chapel in historic Evans Chapel/carols/soloists/organ - a quiet contemplative worship experience.

Sunday, December 26 > We will have only one worship service this Sunday at 11:00am.

As I always do let me thank all of you for your support of music at GPC through our annual budget process and especially those of you who choose to make special contributions to the Music Fund and the Teachey Scholarship Fund. These special funds allow me to enhance music at GPC by using talented students from the area universities, guest artists who are in town with Opera Memphis, and the very best instrumentalists in the Mid-South. This, combined with our talented church members who are the core of our music program, allow us to have quality music in worship year-round. Thank YOU, the congregation, for your support of music at GPC!!

Music at GPC is special year-round. People of ALL ages love Christmas music, so plan to attend worship, bring visitors, enjoy the season and quality music in worship this December!!

I look forward to seeing YOU in worship >>> Jerold



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

EVERY YEAR GPC CHALLENGES OUR CONGREGATION TO MATCH WHAT WE SPEND ON GIFTS FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH A SPECIAL DONATION ON CHRISTMAS EVE FOR 2 OF OUR LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS.

THIS YEAR, OUR CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING WILL GO TO BINGHAMPTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY & RISING TOGETHER FOUNDATION.



Home is where the ★ is.

2022 GPC Hosting Dates
Saturday, December 11
Saturday, January 6
Saturday, February 12
Saturday, March 12

GPC is excited to announce that we will be hosting RITI guests once per month (overnight on Saturday nights) for five months; we started in November.

After several years as the head coordinator for RITI at GPC, Susan Shirley Hurt has passed on the baton to me for this season! She will still be around, helping, and my resource!

Will you sign up for a shift to volunteer? Look for Sign-up Genius links in your emails from GPC.

Just as before, there are shifts for every personality type! Will you please make a commitment to participate in service this year?

If you have any questions about different volunteer shifts or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sally Fienup
 Cell - call or text me! 901-860-5086
SFienup@HobsonRealtors.com

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

A PENNY FOR THEIR THOUGHTS

Contributed by Helen Norman

A big surprise was in store for the 8th graders at Binghampton Christian Academy on their first field trip since the pandemic began. The team of Prayer Partners from Germantown Presbyterian planned and hosted a trip for the students to the University of Memphis' Laurie-Walton Basketball Center, a \$21.5 million facility that opened in 2017.



Midway through their private tour of the state-of-the-art facilities, the students turned to see University of Memphis men's head basketball coach Penny Hardaway striding their way. He greeted the students warmly, shook every student's and every volunteer's hand, and posed for photos. And when he learned that the students were from Binghampton, he shared the fact that he too had grown up in the Binghampton neighborhood. He spoke to the students about the importance of accountability and responsibility and the necessity of studying hard.

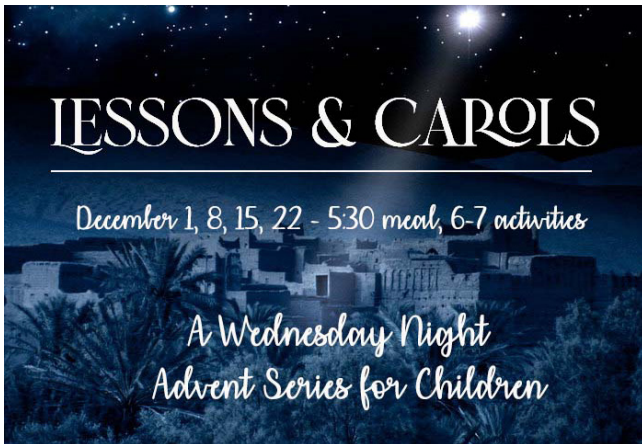
For eight years GPC has been planning class events for this group of students. And while there have been some fun and fascinating field trips over the years, none before has delivered the thrills that a brush with Penny Hardaway can provide. After the tour, the Prayer Partners hosted the students to lunch at Corky's. Attending from Germantown Presbyterian were: Alinda Fahrenkopf, Paula Hopkins, Helen Norman, and JoEllyn Slott.



UNTO US A SON IS BORN
JESUS CHRIST
 SAVIOR *Messiah*
LAMB OF GOD
 Good Shepherd
 Light of the World
The Rock
 PRINCE OF PEACE
King of Glory
Master **TEACHER**
 Wonderful Counselor

FAMILY MINISTRY

FAMILIES & CHILDREN



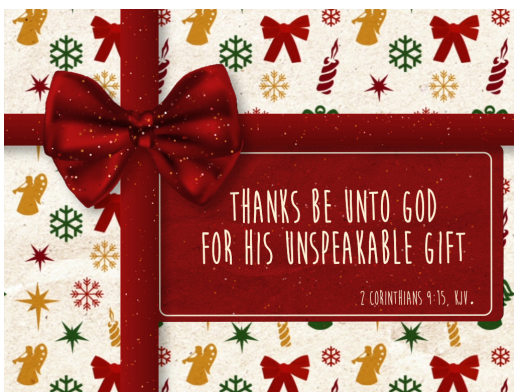
CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING

Wednesday evenings December 1, 8, 15, 22,
6:00 - 7:00pm

You may choose to eat dinner with your children at
5:30pm in Warren Hall.

This program is for ages 3 years old - 5th grade. The
nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

We are excited to welcome our children on Wednesday
nights for lessons on the true meaning of Christmas - the
birth of Jesus Christ. Children will learn through stories,
crafts, and well-loved Christmas carols all children should
know! We hope that all children who participate will plan
to also participate in leading GPC's 3:30 family Christ-
mas Eve worship service. Drop your children off in their
designated classroom, and for the next hour, your child
will cycle through lessons, songs and stories. Register
your child here (<https://germantownpres.org/christmas-for-gpckids-2021/>).



GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL Hosts A PAJAMA DRIVE

Contributed by Jennifer Gentry



GPP will be participating in Scholastic Book Club's 13th
Annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive!

For every pair of pajamas donated, Scholastic Book Clubs
will donate a brand new BOOK to Pajama Program to give
to kids who are affected by adversity and instability. What
a great way to give during this holiday season!

What to Donate:

-Brand-new pajamas in all sizes, from newborn to adult
(older child/teen/adult sizes are greatly needed)

-Pajamas must be a complete set – either a top/bottom
set or a onesie

-Pajamas for all seasons!

Where:

-There will be a donation box outside the GPP main door
or they may be dropped off at the GPC office.

Deadline:

-Thursday, December 2

FAMILY MINISTRY

GPC YOUTH UPDATE

By Christopher Greco



THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

On November 21, GPC Middle and High Schoolers united to celebrate Thanksgiving before breaking for a week. Students joined to eat breakfast foods (because they were having Turkey and Dressing on that following Thursday). It was a pleasure to invite leaders and express our gratitude to them for giving their talents. A special thanks to April Rice for organizing the event for everyone!

After such a joyous meeting, students can look forward to the Christmas Parties on December 12 before we break for the remainder of the holiday season.



THANK YOUS!



In conjunction with celebrating Thanksgiving, the students of Germantown Pres Youth want to thank some various people for their contributions to the program.

Firstly, Eddie Batey, Liz Callicott, Doug Geyer, Bud Hurley, Susan Jones, Judd Peters, Nicole Peters, and William Warren deserve deep recognition for their contributions to Breakfast Club (during Sunday School).

Gratitude is also in order to Rachel Bouldin, Bill Burnett, Garrett Guynes, Susan Shirley Hurt, and Holt Trenor for their participation in Youth Group each Sunday.

Confirmation couldn't happen without Taylor Cates, Anthony Duke, and Tamah Halfacre.

We wouldn't have been able to attend Montreat this summer without Forrest Owens and Elizabeth Wilson's attendance.

Finally, we would be remiss without recognizing Cindy Cleveland, Brooke Duke, Karen Fesmire, Chancellor Reynolds, Marjorie Reynolds, April Rice, and Elizabeth Wilson, also known as the Youth Ministry Support Team.

The people listed have given of their time and talent to pour into the next generation of believers. GPC and our students wouldn't be the same without each of you!

IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| >Barbara Armstrong | **Bill Coley | >Jean/Bob Hicks | >Susan Robinson | >Jan Thomson |
| >Shirley Billups | >Kay/David Collins | >Judy Hobbs | >Jackie/Bill Ruleman | >Amanda Walters |
| >Sherril/Jim Blair | >Mark Cooper | >Jerry Huff | >Mary Blanche Scott | >Woodie/Johnathan Whited |
| >Huddy/Bayard Boyle | >Kay Donaho | >Dot Ledlow | >Diane Short | |
| >Tommie Faye Coffman | >Judy/Fred Frick | >Carol/Bill Leppert | >Mary Strop | |
| | >Dot/Lamar Hartzog | >Aggie/Jack Losa | >Anne/Wayne Tansil | |

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to:
Tracey Smith & family in the death of her father.

In Service in the Military

Sidney Baker - niece of Kay Donaho
Kyle Bishop - grandson of Brenda Bishop
Trip Hiller - grandson of Anne & Wayne Tansil
Johnny Nowell - son of Jo & Adm. John Nowell
Patrick Peak - son of Eleanor Denton
Jason Ragain - son of Debbie Ragain
Jared Smith - GPC church member

Coronavirus Prayers

Doctors, nurses, emergency workers dealing with COVID-19
Patients with COVID-19

GPC Friends & Family Prayer Ministry

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Bonnie Blair - friend of Bonnie Algee | granddaughter of friend of Roscoe Phillips | >Mary Ann Odom & family - mother of Tracey Smith | >Davis Taylor - great-nephew of Judy Hobbs |
| >Glen, Martha, extended Carr family - family of Catherine Johnson | >Allerie Hanlon (1st responder) - daughter-in-law of Susan Ollinger | **Scott Owens - nephew of Margaret Owens | >Bud Waldren - cousin of Linda Sue & Bob Bobo |
| >Cynthia Chitwood (& husband Clark) - former member & friend of Billie Work | >Susan Hawkins - daughter of Ann Phillips | **Charles Powell - father of Laura Farmer | >Donna Weaver - niece of Kristy Sneed |
| >Mary Ellen Crouse - mother of Russell Crouse | >Michael Kempson - son-in-law of Norma Miles | >Family of Drew Ranier (Andy, Keith, etc) - friends of September Eason | >Fran Wilson (Denise, Jerry, Sr. & Jerry) - husband & family of Elizabeth Wilson |
| >Virginia Goss - daughter of Gloria/Tim Goss | >Lois Lockhart & family - friends of Will Jones | >Dr. Carlos Reyes-Sacin (1st responder) - son-in-law of Susan Ollinger | >Yetman family - extended family of Neal Horner |
| **Tiffany Hall - | >McKenna & Paige - great-granddaughter & granddaughter of Barb Poier | **family of Bill Sims - family of Missy Gwin | |

****Indicates new request added since last month.**

Friends and family requests submitted to the office for prayer will remain for 30 days before being removed. If you notice someone you requested prayer for is no longer on the list, simply notify the office, and they will be placed back on the list.

December 2021 GPC Family Prayer Ministry

Dec 5

Beth & Gray Carter
Ann DeVere
Kelly & Jay Galyean, James & Katie
Joyce Henry
Sydney & Bob McLean
Becky Stanley
Carl Woods

Dec 12

Carolyn & Taylor Cates,
Amelia, Campbell, Thomas
Debbie & Noel Florendo
Sherrie & Neal Horner
Marjorie Reynolds, Chancellor,
Kate, Rees
Erwin Westmoreland

Dec 19

Patti & David Bradford
Elaine Cates
Cindy & Doug Geyer, Meredith
Jennifer & Michael Goodin,
Evelyn, Grey, Lila Marie,
Rosalie
Macie Houston
Beth & Don Willingham,
Allie, Katherine

Dec 26

Allegra Brown
Lindsey & Joseph Butler,
Adelaide, Chandler
Christopher Greco
Francesca & Mike Lyle
Bayne & Jackie Classen
Williams
Peggy Whitaker

ENGAGE IN 2021

SESSION CORNER - NOVEMBER

Your Session met November 18th and voted to modify the Covid policy. When inside church buildings, we recommend but not require masks. However, adults shall wear masks when working with children age 11 and under.

Baptisms were approved for Cayle Griffin 11/21 and for Cate Coursey 11/28 .

Each committee gave summaries of their Strategic Vision Goals: Connecting, Caring, Sharing and Growing.

Some highlights:

A new member joining ceremony will be December 12.

We encourage all members to wear nametags when coming to church.

Worship Committee felt we should continue current communion elements until year end, then reevaluate.

They requested Elders to worship at the evening service at least once/month.

We will have a Christmas Eve offering earmarked for Rising Together Foundation and Binghamton Christian Academy.

Our PEACE ministry continues to grow and thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Callahan Edens, Clerk of the Session

During the month of October GPC received the following honorarium and memorial gifts.

Memorial Fund

In memory of Barbara Arthur
Anne Emery
Cathering King

In memory of Jim Kinney
Alice & Jimmy Kiser

In memory of Betty McCallen
Linda & Donnie Harris

In memory of Margaret Williams
Bettye Weathersby

Music Fund

In memory of Jim Kinney
Linda & Donnie Harris

In memory of Betty McCallen
Linda & Donnie Harris

In memory of Lalla Mellor
Shenandoah Abdol
Bonnie Algee

Barbara & Bill Armstrong
Wanda & John Barzizza
Vicki & Stephen Bates
Carol Bishop

Jennifer & Robert Bostick
Paul Boyle

Katie Burrow
CFI Clergywomen Cohort
Jane & William Douglas
Katie & Ed Eleazer
Beverly Froelich
Jennie Fulmer

Mary Louise Gillespie
Patty & Mark Grannis
Linda & Donnie Harris
Jeannie Harrison

Margie Hornor
Judy & Jay Jenkins
Catherine King

Dianne & Thomas King
Alice & Jimmy Kiser
LEO Events, LLC

Carol & Bill Leppert
John Marcom
Sammy Marshall
Susan & Greg Morgan
Melia Murphy

Nashoba Plantation Home-
owners Association
W.L. Nichol

Helen & Fred Norman
Connie & Bert Robinson
Linda & Bill Shirley
Alta & Jim Simpson
JoEllyn & Dave Slott
Becky & David Stanley
Cynthia & Jack Stevens
Nancy Webb
Peggy Whitaker

In memory of Douglas Petri
J. W. McAllister

In memory of Flora Brice Warren
Rebecca & Michael Cain

Building Fund

In memory of Lalla Mellor
Randy & Diane Callahan Edens
Mickie & Steve Nabers

GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2363 S GERMANTOWN RD
GERMANTOWN TN 38138

PH: 901/754-5195
FX: 901/754-6961

WWW.GPCTN.ORG

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

8:30AM WORSHIP

11:00AM WORSHIP

(ONSITE & ONLINE)

9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

6:00PM WORSHIP

(ONSITE & ONLINE)

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30AM-4:00PM

MONDAY-FRIDAY

January Window Deadline: December 10

GPC Financial Summary, October 2021

| | Oct 2021 | 2021 YTD | | Oct 2020 | 2020 YTD |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | \$127,505 | \$1,516,867 | | \$95,428 | \$1,397,234 |
| Expenses | \$157,420 | \$1,528,392 | | \$128,821 | \$1,333,261 |
| Net | (\$29,915) | (\$11,525) | | (\$33,393) | \$63,973 |

**Before debt service and benefit of prior years' surpluses.*

Before debt service, we had an October deficit of \$29,915, and a year-to-date deficit of \$11,525. Both are superior to budgeted expectations, primarily due to reduction of church activity and corresponding expenses. We faithfully maintained our offerings during the past ten months through October. In the final two months of each year, we often contribute a surplus to overcome an interim deficit. In addition to these normal operating results, debt service has consumed approximately \$88,000 (\$9,800 per month) since monthly payments began in February 2021. Our debt service has been absorbed by retained surpluses from prior years.

WILLIAM G. JONES
PASTOR

TOM SAUER
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO
SENIOR ADULTS

JACKIE CLASSEN WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS
MINISTRY, ASST. TO DIRECTOR
OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JOHN JOHNSON
WORSHIP LEADER/MUSICIAN

AMBER MILLER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

RANDY SMITH
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

SUSAN CARTER WIGGINS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
CONGREGATIONAL CARE
& NURTURE

ANNA WHITE
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

JEROLD TEACHEY
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

JENNIFER GENTRY
DIRECTOR, GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

ANN DeVERE
CHURCH SECRETARY/
RECEPTIONIST

LAURIE HENDERSON
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

MICHAEL LYLE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

CHRISTOPHER GRECO
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

ALEX BENFORD
ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSOCIATE

FRED TURVEREY
BUSINESS & FACILITIES
ADMINISTRATOR

CARL WOODS
MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT



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