



THE WINDOW

A Publication of Germantown Presbyterian Church

March 2022



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



*D*ear Church Family and Friends,

Is the Church a building....or a group of people? What matters more: property or souls? Questions like these circulate around most churches like ours that have significant physical plants, buildings, infrastructure, and property. They circulate also when we have damage to a building or some space inside it – like we have over the last two years. Just to recap, on Thursday evening, February 3, after a multi-hour power outage, our fire-suppression system received an alarm, and the dry system filled with water. The system did not activate and discharge water, but when the system drained there was an overflow of water that backed up the floor drains and entered the Children's Sunday School area.

I am so grateful for our Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Diaconate that sprang into action to mitigate the damage and immediately begin the clean-up process. We are grateful for Patti Bradford, Charles Fahrenkopf, Molly Miller, Dan Young, David Paris, and Greg Morgan. They have worked overtime the last few weeks (years!) to ensure that our facilities are safe, and to begin the process of rehabilitation for the damaged areas. We are working with a new sprinkler system company that we have good trust in, and we are undergoing a thorough analysis of the whole system, section by section, to make sure that it is structurally sound and efficiently modernized.

More than anything, I am disappointed for our Children's Ministry team that was just gaining some momentum after the pandemic-slowdown. Here is what I discovered, however, on Sunday February 6: our children and their teachers had an adventurous spirit and just as much joy as always in their classrooms. There is a palpable feeling of gladness and love among the kids, their parents, and their teachers. A hearty "thank you" goes out to them as well as they form bonds of love in Christ Sunday after Sunday.

Whenever we suffer some kind of damage, I am especially mindful of the inter-dependence of our people and facilities. Of course "the church" is all about people – always has been and always will be! People and their relationship with the eternal God are why we exist: to form and seal that relationship through baptism, worship, learning, and caring. Sometimes I am asked at minister strategy meetings or conferences what my personal mission statement is, and I say this: "For people to have a life-saving and life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ." It's always about people and God.



When it comes to physical buildings, however, I know they play an instrumental role. I think about my own relationship with God, and I remember several spaces that are entrenched in my memory as joyful or sacred. I can easily remember the classrooms and hallways of my childhood church. I remember an 8th grade visit to Coventry Cathedral in England learning about the hope it inspired during WWII. I remember the towering inspiration of Salisbury Cathedral from the same trip, as well as visits to other churches in my life where I experienced the presence of God mediated through the art and architecture.

There are places on our own church campus where I experience the presence of God regularly. Often it is in spaces we consider "sacred," like the Sanctuary, Evans Chapel, and the Memorial Garden. Just as often, though, God comes in ordinary spaces like a children's Sunday School room or in a Bible study in Warren Hall. I have had many soul-touching conversations with many of you in the hallways of the church while discussing a family problems, cancer treatments, and doubts about God.

The church's physical structures house the spiritual connections and conversations that are vital to our life together with God and each other. So, when the physical plant is damaged, we are hindered in our abilities to minister and worship, but we are not defeated. We creatively adapt and adjust, and we become more intentional about our purpose of ministering to people's spiritual lives within the physical structures of the church.

I am looking forward to the season of Lent as we focus on our need for God's grace and mercy. There will be many opportunities for us to join together in prayer and worship, and I look forward to seeing you at church – in sacred spaces and hallways, in classrooms and offices – as we grow in the body of Christ.

Grace, mercy, and peace,

Will

CONNECTING 2022

CONNECT THIS MONTH WITH GPC'S YOUTH! YOUTH AUCTION, SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN US!

Tickets are still available online at <https://germantownpres.org/youth-auction-2022/> and in the Narthex on Sunday March 6 between services.

\$20 per adult grades 6 and up
\$5 per child grades 5 to age 3
Tables of 8 are \$150

Cash or check for in person sales. Credit card for online purchase.

SCHEDULE

4:00-5:00pm - Grab and Go
Silent Bids on auction items accepted
Pick up your food
5:30pm - Doors open for the main event
6:00pm - Dinner begins followed by the LIVE Auction

THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOU

To each and every donor, Sunday School Class, Committee, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and everlasting support for the Youth Auction. Each of you have truly made a difference in the lives of our youth and shown them, by your giving spirit, the true meaning of being a member of our GPC church family.

We hope that you...

ENGAGED with GPC Youth

CoNnected – with each other at the Youth Auction

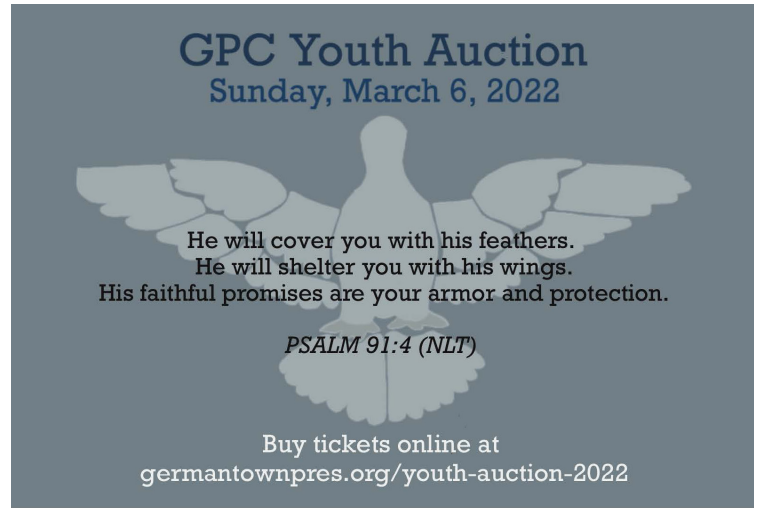
Grew – the faith of our youth for mission trips

CAred – about all of our church family

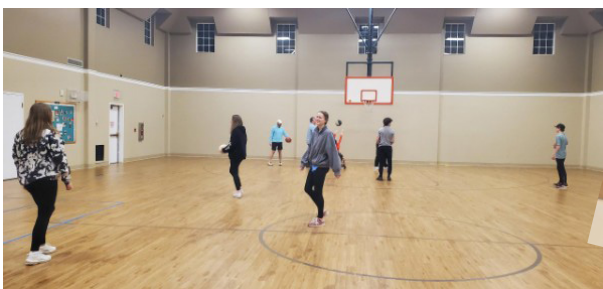
Thank you for...

Sharing**G** – your resources and connections for donations

ENGAGING with GPC

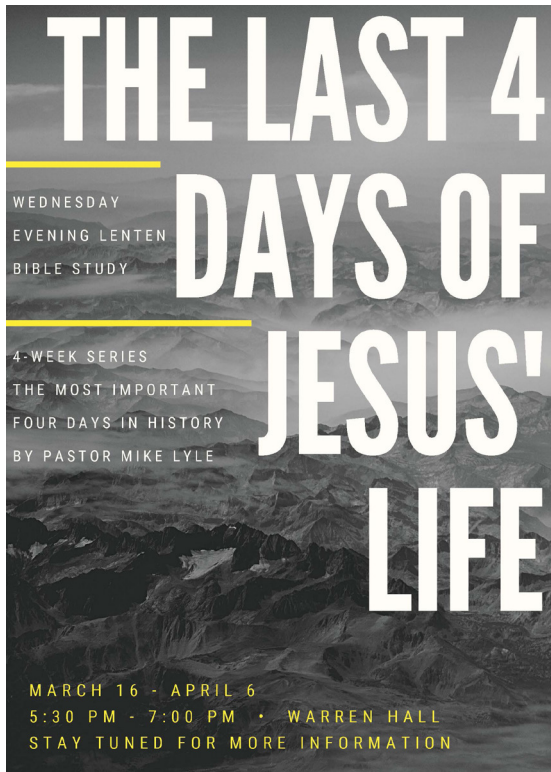


Original artwork by youth, Gracie Ray.



CONNECTING 2022

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERINGS

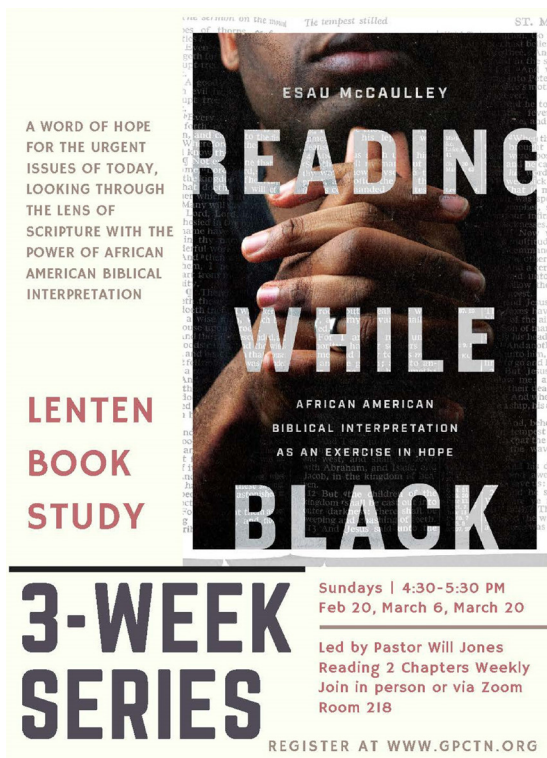


2022 GPC Lenten Offerings

- > a book study
 - *Reading While Black*
 - meets every 2 weeks on Sunday nights
 - led by Pastor Will
- > a 4-week Wednesday night Lent series
 - The Last 4 Days of Jesus' Life
 - meets Wednesday nights, March 16-April 6
 - based on scriptures in the book of Mark; bring your Bibles
 - led by Pastor Mike
- > a churchwide prayer opportunity throughout Lent
 - Praying on the 9s
 - new scripture prayer prompts every week based on the Lenten lectionary
 - pick up hard copies throughout the church or find it online
 - developed by Pastor Susie

Holy Week Devotion/Lunch Schedule:

GPC will once again be participating with our sister churches in the community at this meaningful time. Devotion will start at noon followed by a light lunch. More details regarding the schedule and participating churches to come.



SHARING 2022

WHAT GPC MEANS TO ME

Contributed by Beth Willingham



It is almost impossible to imagine the past twenty years of my family's life without Germantown Presbyterian Church. What a blessing it has been to be a part of this very special community! I initially wanted a place where Don and I could attend Sunday services and our children could attend Sunday School. While I sat back and only attended 11:00 worship at the beginning, I gradually began to say yes to activities that allowed me to really feel a part of the GPC family.

Parenting children from infancy through the high school years is a daunting challenge, and I will be forever grateful that Germantown Presbyterian has been alongside Don and me for the journey. How reassuring it has been to have so many people involved in the spiritual formation of our two daughters! From Sunday School teachers and youth leaders, to pastors and fellow parents, our children have been taught, supported, and loved by so many people in the church who took the time to get to know them, teach them, and pray for them.

Our dignified, reverent, structured worship services are meaningful to me and integral to my faith. However, some of my most treasured memories of GPC have been made outside the sanctuary while wearing decidedly "dressed down" attire. Wednesday night LOGOS and Compass meetings have allowed my family to form close relationships with other church members while sharing meals, recreation, and informal conversations. And while it took a few years for me to agree to go, weekends at NaCoMe family camp became a highlight of my family's spring every year for many years! Staying in cabins with other families, wading in the creek, and worshipping in the rustic

outdoor chapel gave us a unique sense of belonging to both our church family and the greater family of God.

Also outside the walls of our sanctuary, I have had the privilege of working with a team of GPC volunteers helping second grade students at a local school with their reading skills through Team Read. During the first part of the COVID pandemic, I was able to join members of our congregation as we distributed food to those who needed it through the Memphis Food Bank mobile food pantry. And speaking of the pandemic, even though GPC was forced to close its doors to onsite worship and activities for many months, it did not surprise me when our pastors and members worked quickly and expertly with technology to provide us with services and meetings that could be attended from our homes until we could safely meet again in person.

My belief is that God continues to accomplish His purposes in the world through His people. What a gift it has been to be able to work, play, worship, and grow alongside the wonderful people of Germantown Presbyterian Church!



EASTER LILIES

At Eastertide, it is a tradition to decorate the church with Easter lilies given in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to take part in this tradition, please fill out the online form or an envelope located on tables in the AC lobby, the narthex, and the Welcome Center and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Monday, April 11, or call or email the church office (901-754-5195 or communications@gpctn.org). Donations in any amount are welcome. Please write Easter Flowers on the check memo line.

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.

CARING 2022

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.

March

2 - Jennifer Goodin
2 - Stephanie Wall
3 - Bill Armstrong
4 - Will Carlin
4 - Lance Warren
6 - Katie Burrow
6 - Judy Chandler
6 - Kevin Patterson
7 - Joe Graddy
8 - Ray Carroll
8 - Rebecca Floyd
8 - Allie Willingham
9 - Sarah Hardin
9 - Allie Hughes
10 - Carolyn Cates
10 - Tom Drannon
15 - Bryce Duke
15 - Lauren Hurley
16 - Teresa Hardin
16 - Jerry Wilhite
17 - Betsie Menendez
18 - Phil Russell
19 - Cole Gwin
19 - Wendy Holmes
19 - Sandy Jones
19 - Jenny Overbey
20 - Roscoe Phillips
21 - Susan Shirley Hurt
21 - Susan Robinson
22 - Jeff Harding
22 - Sherrie Horner
23 - Malcom Lipscomb
24 - Kevin Cullum
25 - Margaret Owens
26 - Kelly Hogan

26 - Ken Plunk
26 - Lauren Wade
27 - Claire Lino
27 - Mark Mestemacher
28 - Andrew Drannon
28 - Woodie Whited
29 - Bob Bobo
29 - Mark McClellan
30 - Molly Miller
31 - Ann Harbor
31 - Joyce Henry

April

1 - Fritz Crombie
1 - Beverly Froelich
2 - Marty Wheeler
3 - Maureen Wilson
4 - Tom Tweel
6 - David Aslin
6 - Jean Brooks
8 - Judy Jones
8 - JW McAllister
8 - April Rice
9 - Rachel Gwin
9 - Anne Tansil
10 - Steve Jackson
10 - Laura Patteson
11 - Mary Rogers
11 - Susan Threlkeld
12 - Tom Adams
12 - Brenda Bishop
12 - Jill Crocker
12 - Austin Hughes
12 - Jo Ann Owens
13 - Beth Schriener
15 - Warren East

15 - Mickie Nabers
16 - Aidan Cooper
16 - Brad Weiss
17 - Polly Cotten
17 - Bob Johnson
17 - Meredith Mattila
17 - Amy Thomas
18 - David Grantham
19 - Bill Burnett
19 - Terry Pickett
19 - Tracey Smith
20 - Mike Howle
20 - Kaylie Warren
21 - Alan Callicott
21 - Liz Callicott
21 - Laura Luckett
22 - Jill Cox
22 - Jim Tims
23 - Joe Robinson
24 - Dick Goughnour
24 - Archie Whitaker
24 - Johnathan Whited
24 - Maggie Wilson
25 - Patti Bradford
25 - Stewart Holmes
25 - Kristy Sneed
26 - Jeff Halter
27 - Elaine Cates
27 - Scott Drannon
28 - Brooke Duke
28 - Julie Lindow
28 - Trey Thomas
29 - Lanny Oakes
29 - Martha Shuler
30 - Tom Oldham
30 - Bill Shirley

DATES FOR YOUR 2022 PLANNER

NOTE: SOME CHANGES SINCE LAST MONTH

March

2 - Wednesday: Ash Wednesday
6 - Sunday: Children's Sunday; Youth Auction
11 - Friday: Room in the Inn - GPC hosts

April

10 - Sunday: Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt
11-15 - Monday-Friday: Lenten Lunches/Midday Worship
14 - Thursday: Maundy Thursday
15 - Friday: Good Friday
17 - Sunday: Easter
24 - Sunday: Confirmation Sunday/Youth Sunday/Senior Banquet
29 - Friday: Memphis Joy Prom
29-1 - Friday-Sunday: NaCoMe Chruchwide Retreat

CARING 2022

THANK YOU

FROM THE GPC FAMILY TO THE GPC FAMILY

To: Germantown Presbyterian Church family of friends

From: Carol Leppert & family

We thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during Bill's long journey. You made a difficult time better.

A special thanks to:

- Tom Sauer for his calls and visits and for his service at Bill's Celebration of Life;
- Alex Benford who provided the beautiful music;
- Sandy Jones for the beautiful floral arrangement - & the flower committee.

We were blessed to have all of you in our lives.

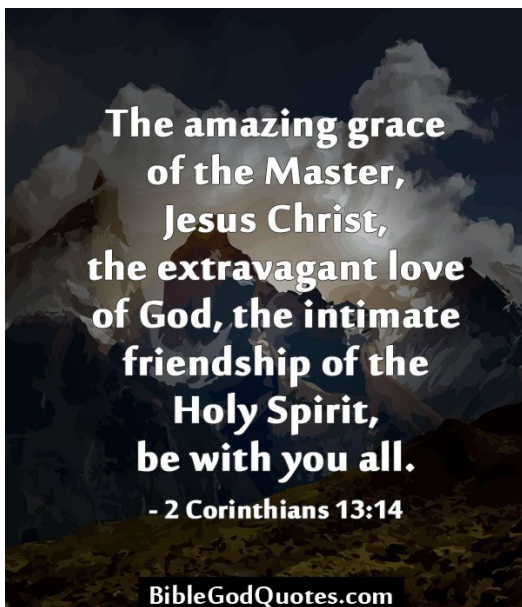
In Christ's Love,

Carol Leppert & family



Thank you so much for the kind words offered by so many members and for the gifts that I received from the congregation in connection with my recent retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your Business & Facilities Administrator and appreciate your endless support. Our accomplishments have been the result of partnerships and relationships between committed Christians, and I am grateful for the privilege of serving with you.

Fred Turverey



I sincerely want to thank everyone who prayed for me while I was in the hospital. Your kind words, thoughts, and prayers helped me through the healing process. I'm doing so much better now, and am finally fully recovered from my surgery! I appreciate everything you all, and the whole church, has done for me. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Brianna Reilly

CONNECTING 2022

FINDING YOUR PEOPLE IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Each of our 5 adult Sunday School classes are enjoying 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.

Each of our Sunday School classes meet from 9:40am-10:40am and are vibrant, healthy, and offer 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 your journey of faith.

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

CLASS NAME	DESCRIPTION	STUDYING	LOCATION: 2ND FLOOR	POINT OF CONTACT
Coffee & Conversations	Parents of young children	<i>The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle</i>	Room UL-217	Candace Askew: candace.phillips@fedex.com
Paula's Hearts & Hands	Women's knitting group	<i>Prodigal God</i> by Tim Keller	Session Room	Mary Rogers mlrogers44@bell-south.net
Psalm 78	Parents of school age children	<i>The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle</i>	Room UL-215	Rebecca Floyd: rebeccafloyd1973@gmail.com
The Seekers	Adults of all ages	<i>New Testament Characters</i> by Carolyn Nystrom	Room UL-216	Randy Harris: randyfarris2@yahoo.com
Hits of the Ages	Adults of all ages	<i>Matthew for Everyone</i> by Tom Wright	Room UL-218	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

CONNECTING 2022

MEN AT GPC

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 6:30am in Warren Fellowship Hall and on Zoom (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

The next Presbyterian Women (PW) meeting will be Tuesday March 1 at 10:00 am and 6:45pm night circle. Our study will be Lesson 7 - Mary. Our study book this year is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me - Learning from the Women in Matthew*.

Circle 1 - Room UL215

Circle 2 - Room UL216

Circle 3 - Room UL217

Circle 4 (night circle) - The Parlor

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study Invites You to Join!

This group meets at 10:00am in room UL- 216 on the second and fourth Thursdays. Starting February 24, the group will begin a new study on the book of Philippians. This study consists of 8 lessons, which will take the group through May. February is a great time to get started with this fantastic group! After the Bible study, for those that are interested, they become a prayer group using the prayer sheet in *The Window* newsletter. They also share and pray for one another. Everyone is invited, and the group is always excited to welcome new members. If interested, please contact Jean Carroll at jeancarroll1@comcast.net or (h) 901-755-6950 or (c) 901-674-6950.

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 annfluckerharbor@aol.com.

The schedule for the rest of the year is:

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

April/May - TBD

CONNECTING 2022



Remaining Spring 2022 GPCConnect Dates

- March 27 – Sunday Morning Brunch
- April 29 – NaCoMe Church Retreat Weekend
- May 20 – Friday Evening

We are so excited to share that GPC has launched a newly revamped experience that is fun and relaxing for the whole family - GPCConnect. This program has evolved over the years as Parents' Night Out, and most recently as Breathe. But we have recast this experience to better support the unique demands of young families today. One evening a month, from 6pm-9pm at the church (and the occasional Sunday brunch), GPCConnect is a time for children and students up to the age of 12 to enjoy a fantastic evening that includes dinner, themed crafts and activities, Bible-based story time/lessons, and a movie. Pickup and drop-off will take place at the preschool entrance under the overhang. And that's only half of the experience.

For parents, this is an opportunity to connect intentionally with one another in deep and meaningful relationships. With all the demands on parents today, it can be hard to find the time and energy to build lasting friendships. So we offer these evenings as an opportunity for parents to connect and enjoy a great faith-filled night out together, with the comfort and confidence of knowing your child is well cared for.

So mark your calendars and watch for registration information on the church website and the GPCKids weekly e-blast. Sign up to receive the GPCKids weekly e-blast by sending your email to family@gpctn.org.

The 2022 theme comes from Psalm 150:

Alleluia!
We praise you, Holy God, in your sanctuary; we
praise you in your mighty skies!
We praise you for your powerful deeds; we praise
you for your overwhelming glory!
We praise you with the blast of the trumpet; we
praise you with lyre and harp!
We praise you with timbrel and dance; we praise
you with strings and flute!
We praise you with clashing cymbals; we praise
you with resounding cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise Almighty
God!
Alleluia!



Nestled in a valley of Pleasantville, TN, NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center is a Christian ministry of both the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and the Presbytery of the Mid-South.

All programs are centered around the mission of building community, connecting people with God, and renewing spirits.

Every year the GPC church family heads east to spend a weekend together nurturing community by growing fellowship with God and each other. This year the dates for the retreat weekend are April 29 - May 1. Registration online and in person will open on March 1.

CONNECTING 2022

STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Annually Presbyterian Women prepare a luncheon for our staff to show our appreciation for all they do for our church family. This year's luncheon was under the leadership of Missy Gwin. Patty Jackson picked up the food from Amerigos. Barb Poier and Sandy Jones created the floral arrangements for each table. Glass dinner plates were provided by Kathleen Boyd. Take-home treats were created by Ellie Goughnour. Ann Harbor presided over the trivia entertainment. Many delicious desserts were provided by our Presbyterian Women Diane Callahan Edens, Sharon Goldsworthy, Nancy Halter, Kim Sauer and Linda Shirley. Set up and clean up were covered by Bonnie Algee, Beth Carter and Susie Lyle. We look forward each year to honoring our hard working GPC staff.

Blessings, Bonnie Algee, PW Moderator



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Reports from Conveners

Five of our nine Fellowship Groups shared news of activities:

The Cornerstones are planning a gathering on April 30 at the home of Donna and Jerry Wilhite. They are hoping for good weather so that they can be outside as well.

The Greatest Hits of the 50s and 60s are planning a get-together at the Slotts' house on April 8 and at the Olingers' house sometime in May.

The Coffee and Conversations group will have a brunch on March 27 from 9:30am to 12pm in conjunction with GPCConnect, location TBD.

PNO NO MO tried again to have their walking bridge adventure, but it was prevented when the ice storm came and the high was 33 degrees, so they will try again soon.

The Saturday Evening Fellowship Group #4 had a fellowship dinner on January 15 at the home of Melissa and Alex Ivy. They are planning another dinner on February 12 at the home of Missy and Paul Gwin.

All Fellowship Groups were contacted by Susan Jones about donating baskets for the Youth Auction.

At this time, the conveners' meeting has not been rescheduled.

Martha Drannon, Alice Kiser

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



Spring 2022 Schedules for AMPLify & Friendship Circle

March:

3, 10, *, 24, 31

*No meeting on March 17 for
Spring Break.

March:

2, 9, *, 23, 30

*No meeting on March 16 for
Spring Break.

April:

7, 14, 21, 28

April:

6, 13, 20, 27

May:

5, 12, 19

May 19 will be our final
rehearsal.

May:

4, 11, 18

May 18 will be the final
meeting for Spring 2022.

Spring Performance Date
and Time TBD.

Coming in April - Memphis Joy Prom

GPC is known to be a generous supporter of the annual Memphis Joy Prom. This year's prom will be held Friday, April 29. Donations are needed and greatly appreciated! Would you be able to supply any of the following items or volunteer at the event?

- Snacks & bottled water for volunteers setting up for the event.
- Various individually wrapped candies for goodie bags.
- Monetarily for the overall expenses associated with this event.



If you would like to volunteer at the event, Volunteer Registration will begin March 1. Please email Jackie Williams at special-needs@gpctn.org if you plan to volunteer at the event. Thank you for your continued support of this very special event!

March 2022: Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

Multiple Sclerosis (referred to as MS) is a non-contagious neurological disorder. It is unpredictable, and researchers are continuing to learn about this disorder. Typically, MS is diagnosed in young adulthood; however, MS can occur at any age. Symptoms, and the severity of those symptoms, vary greatly with MS and may affect a person physically, emotionally, mentally, psychologically, or in unseen ways. With improvements in treatment and wellness strategies, most people diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis live full, productive lives.

For more information or to get involved in helping persons diagnosed with MS, please scan the QR code and visit the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America website.



Birthday Shout-Outs: March 2022

21st: Sarah Bollinger

Sarah participates with an exquisite online presence in Friendship Circle (via Zoom) on Wednesday afternoons and blesses us by sharing her musical talents in AMPLify on Thursday mornings. Sarah starred in our December 2021 AMPLify Concert, which can be viewed on our Facebook page. She is quite an exceptionally talented performer! Sarah was featured in the April 2021 edition of *The Window*.

22nd: Jeff Harding

Jeff is well known to GPC members and is a frequent attendee of various special events throughout the year. He participates in our PEACE Adult Sunday School class, and he blesses us with his smiling presence in our Warren Hall Friendship Circle gathering on Wednesdays as well as our Thursday morning AMPLify sessions. He also starred in our December 2021 AMPLify Concert, playing the crucial role of bass xylophone! Jeff was featured in the September 2020 edition of *The Window*.

22nd: Sherrie Horner

Sherrie is one of our dedicated volunteers, attending the weekly Friendship Circle and assisting participants as needs arise. We really appreciate all that Sherrie does for our circle of friends! THANK YOU!!!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Contributed by Pastor Susie Wiggins

Y'all ... we are tired – mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We are singles; we are couples; we are children; we are teenagers; we are families – we are all tired of this pandemic – and we are all in this together.

What are we to do?

1. Let's begin and end each day by paying close attention to our own sense of well-being. Let's ask ourselves, "How do I feel right now?" Checking on our ourselves first and foremost is like checking to see if our heart is beating. What is the pulse of your soul? Think of it like a metronome - is its rhythm too fast? Or, barely moving at all?

2. Create some strategies to deal with the pulse of your soul no matter where you find yourself on the continuum between barely beating at all and beating way too fast. We want our mental, emotional, and spiritual selves to be in the middle – really well-balanced, and while this can be a challenge on the best of days, it is especially difficult in the midst of this on-going, never-seeming-to-end, global pandemic.

So, how do we begin to find our equilibrium again? If you recognize that you are on either end of the continuum and need to find a better balance, here are some strategies for you to consider implementing into your life:

1. Check in with yourself each morning and each night asking "How do I feel - spiritually? Emotionally? Physically?"

2. Try to begin your day with an attitude of positivity and possibility. If you are feeling low, turn to scripture first thing – like with your morning coffee or tea.

The Apostle Paul writes: *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* (Philippians 4:8)

And the passage that immediately precedes Philippians 4:8 (you most likely know this one by heart): *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* (Philippians 4:6)

As Paul continues his writing to the church at Philippi, he writes: *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:13) It is good to be reminded that with God anything is possible – including our sense of well-being.

3. Then, either create – or be reminded of what comes next in your day. That is, have a set rhythm to your day.

a. Wake up with the sun, make your bed, get dressed;
b. Include a morning devotion with you morning coffee or tea and breakfast. If you don't already have one, try d365.org, for example.

4. Consider your nutrient daily intake and make changes as you need to. That is, make your meals count towards your nutritional needs by only eating nutrient-rich vegetables, grains, dairy, legumes, nuts, seeds, fruits. If need be, consult with a nutritionist to get on the right path in this New Year.

5. Explore new activities or return to old ones that you used to enjoy when you had the time.

a. Enjoy nature! Walk or hike. One area that is so beautiful here is Shelby Farms.

6. And, **CONNECT** –

a. with God:

i. Pray upon waking – giving thanks to God for awakening you into this new day so that you may serve the Lord our God;

ii. Pray before you leave your house – pray at your door – giving thanks to God for your home and your family, and asking for God's shield of protection over all that you pray for;

iii. Pray before beginning your work day – asking God to lead and guide you throughout the day with God's wisdom;

iv. Pray before each meal – giving thanks to God for all those who've prepared your meal from farm to table. Ask that their lives be blessed by God.

v. Pray before going to sleep – offering to God intercessory prayers for your family, neighbors, community, state, nation, and the whole wide world.

b. Watch GPC's Daily Devotions on our Facebook page. These post around 10am, Monday-Thursday.

c. And, of course, read your Bible. God's Word will bring you comfort throughout your day. If you'd like a daily reading plan go to the Daily Lectionary posted on the Presbyterian Mission Agency's website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>.

d. with your GPC family of faith:

i. Come to worship weekly – 8:30am, 11am, and 6pm.
1. OR, find our 11am worship services on our Facebook page and/or our 6pm worship service on Facebook page (only).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- ii. Come to Sunday school to learn more about how to grow your faith and to study God's Word with fellow faith journeyers.
- iii. Attend GPC events and activities.

e. Connect with Family and Friends:

- i. Learn to video-chat, Zoom, or Facetime ... or simply call each other,

f. Connect with Nature:

- i. Go outside and get some fresh air – it is so good for what ails us!

7. Unplug – set a time of day when you will unplug from your devices.

8. Stay up-to-date on the pandemic facts – don't allow your social media or television watching include any false reporting.

- a. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- b. World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- c. Shelby County: <https://www.shelbycountyttn.gov/3643/COVID-19>

9. Reach out whenever you find yourself in need of help with coping:

a. Counseling: Seek therapeutic counseling with a licensed professional counselor (LPC), licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), or licensed social worker (LCSW).

i. Consider Samaritan Counseling – offering counseling at their offices in the Memphis area, including an office at GPC. GPC supports the mission and ministry of Samaritan Counseling. Their seven professional counselors provide help to individuals, couples, and families experiencing:

1. Depression and anxiety
2. Relationship stress / family struggles
3. Grief and loss
4. And more.

Samaritan Counseling believes that financial limitations should not preclude any person from receiving needed care so fees for their services are based on circumstances of the individual, income and family size. Samaritan Counseling's ability to provide these services are made possible thanks to the contributions from community partners, generous individual donors, and active community fundraising activities throughout the year.

To learn more, seek a counseling session, and/or contribute to their mission to provide therapeutic counseling for all in need, visit their website www.samaritanmidsouth.org or call 901-729-3900.

b. Additional Mental Health resources:

- i. Presbyterian Church (USA) COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>
- ii. Mental Health Ministry – COVID-19 Mental Health Resources: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/mental-health-ministry/covid-19-mental-health-resources/>
- iii. Mental Health Well-Being During a Pandemic: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/mental-health-well-being-during-a-pandemic/>
- iv. American Psychological Association: <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/pandemics>

10. For Grief Support:

GPC part-time staff member Stephanie Wall, Certified Grief Counselor, leads the Grief Support groups, along with GPC members Beth Brock and Linda Oakes. This group helps those experiencing personal loss to realize that they aren't alone and to begin to move through their grief.

a. The Grief Support Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6pm in the Parlor.

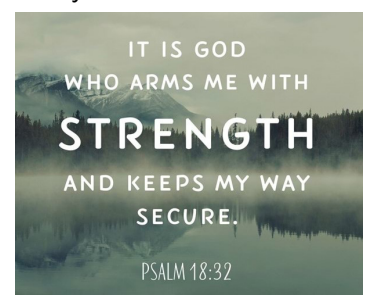
b. To know more and/or seek one-on-one grief counseling with Stephanie, please contact the church office.

Family of God - feel free to share these resources with your family and friends as it is important for us to work together to maintain our mental health for the facing of these days, and personal contact is the best way for us to help each other.

And, remember, we are all in the same boat ... and most importantly, Jesus is in the boat with us, calming the winds and the waters, so that we are able to navigate this storm, side-by-side, and together. Always know that your pastors are here to be beside you in your life and faith journeys – today, tomorrow, and always.

May God's love, Christ's peace, and the Holy Spirit's strong comfort and fellowship abide with you now and forevermore.

Pastor Susie Wiggins



MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

MUSIC NOTES

As of Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday), we enter the season of Lent. We will have our normal Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm March 2 in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir Ensemble will sing along with soloist Jeff Day. Our anthem will be *Search Me O, God* by composer K. Lee Scott. Make plans to attend.

The first Sunday in Lent this year, March 6, will also be Children's Sunday. Our children will take an active part in the service through reading scripture, offering prayers, and presenting music for worship. The children will join the Chancel Choir Ensemble in a beautiful arrangement of *Jesus Loves Me*. Clara Norrell, soprano, will present our offertory at the 8:30am service. Karen Schowalter Cooper, Children's Music Specialist, and Alex Benford will lead our children's music endeavors in the service. Brianna Reilly and Corinne Mestemacher assist Karen and Alex with our Children's Worship Works Program each Sunday afternoon at 4:30pm. Karen also provides music support for our Sunday School Program. A big THANK YOU to all of those who work with our GPC children.

On Sunday, March 13, Karen Schowalter Cooper will be soloist; the anthem will be *Hear Me, Redeemer*, featuring Marcus King as soloist (this piece is a favorite of our congregation). Sunday, March 20 we will have Michelle Vigneau, oboe professor from UM, who will accompany our anthem, *When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son*; she will also accompany our soloist Brianna Reilly, mezzo soprano. The oboe adds so much to our worship experience. On Sunday, March 27 our soloist is tenor T. J. Turner, a doctoral student at UM; the anthem will be an arrangement of the always worshipful, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.

Sunday, April 3 will be a special *Messiah* Sunday (Easter portion) at both our 8:30am and 11:00am worship services. Palm Sunday is April 10; our very special Maundy Thursday service with music and the spoken word is April 17 in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. A Good Friday service will be in historic Evans Chapel and, of course, our Easter celebration with choir, brass quintet, and congregation lifting the roof on *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* on Sunday, April 17.

THANK You to ALL who make special contributions above and beyond your budget obligations to the Music Fund and the Teachey Scholarship Fund. I look forward to seeing YOU in WORSHIP.

Jerold C. Teachey, D.M. / Director of Music



Concert Celebrating the Life of Dr. Sandra Franks

On Friday, March 25 at 7:30pm GPC will host a gala concert in the sanctuary honoring the life of GPC's beloved Sandy Franks.

The National Association of Teachers of Singing's Mid-South Region is sponsoring this concert; at the time of her death last April, Sandy was serving as the Memphis Chapter President. No admission will be charged, but donations will be requested to establish the Sandra Franks Award for an Outstanding High School Singer, which will be given annually at the Mid-South Region Audition finals. You can also donate here by clicking on this link in the electronic version of this newsletter: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E347461&id=36>.

This concert will be in conjunction with a three-day annual NATS event at UM and Rhodes and will feature the talents of singers, voice teachers, former colleagues, and students from several states.

You can follow this link (https://www.nats.org/cgi/page.cgi/_article.html/What_s_New/Concert_will_establish_the_Sandra_Franks_Award_for_the_Mid-South_Region) and/or go to the www.nats.org website to read the full article and to make a contribution to this award through their webpage.

Make plans to attend this special concert. Sandy sang in our choir and worked with children and adult music here at GPC for over 20 years. She is deeply missed.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

BCA & GPC

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

On February 11, Barb Poier and Sandy Jones went to Binghampton Christian Academy (BCA) and celebrated a Valentine's party with our 8th grade prayer partners. Sandy Jones, head of GPC's flower committee, brought her gifts and talents and got the students excited about the activity of personally painting large coffee mugs, one as a gift for a loved one and one as a keepsake for themselves. The mugs for a gift were filled with candies and wrapped and labeled. The personal ones were also filled with candy for them to take home for themselves. A good time was had by all!



MEXICO MISSION TRIP 2022

Dates: June 14-21

For over twenty years, people from the Mid-South have been travelling to the Southern Yucatan peninsula in Mexico to build 6000-gallon water cisterns. Our purpose is to share God's love in fellowship and work with Christians from Castilla Brito, Mexico. We will build clean water cisterns side by side with our partners from *La Iglesia del Buen Pastor* (the Church of the Good Shepherd in Castilla Brito).

This project was started by Maria and Todd Luke, our local contacts and mission partners. We will stay in guest rooms next to Todd's house, and his family will provide all of our meals. In addition to the work, we will also visit nearby Mayan ruins, some of the best and tallest in all of Mexico.

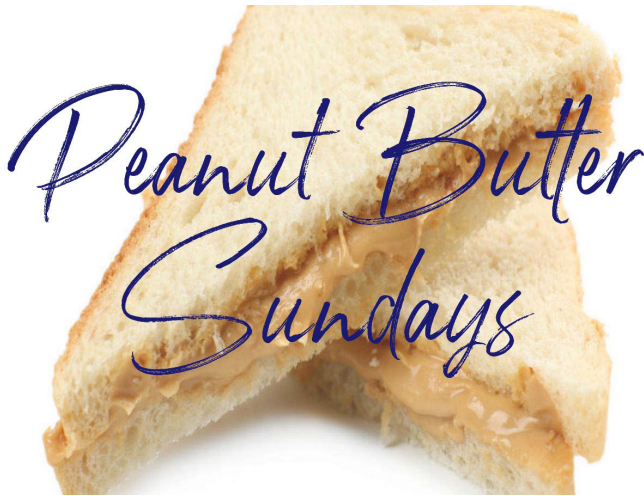
The total cost to participants for everything (airfare, lodging, meals, snacks, and all supplies) is **\$1100** payable to Germantown Presbyterian Church. The actual cost is \$1800, but the remaining cost is subsidized by GPC Mission Team funds. Non-GPC members going with our group pay the full amount and are invited to find funding sources to support them. A \$225 deposit is due upon one's commitment to the trip.

There is a website that helps explain much of the work we will do: <http://www.yucatanmission.com/>. Please contact Will Jones with any questions.

FAMILY MINISTRY

GPC CHILDREN & YOUTH

Contributed by Tamah Halfacre



Remaining Sunday - March 27

The GPC Confirmation Class is hosting a Peanut Butter Drive to benefit Binghampton Christian Academy, and one Sunday in March remains for those of you who want to participate.

The Confirmation class at GPC consists of 8th graders who are eager to learn more about their Christian faith while making lifelong decisions about their personal salvation and role in God's world. A necessary component to the value of the confirmation year is the ability to find one's place in experiencing love, fellowship, and care, just as Jesus demonstrably responded to those in need during His years on earth.

GPC has partnered with Binghampton Christian Academy for many years, and the direct implementation of our church's participation is with the current 8th grade class at BCA, having followed this group of children since they were in the 1st grade.

We, the teachers of the Confirmation class, would like to develop a relationship between each group of 8th graders, GPC and BCA, as a goodwill effort of service and discipleship. This can easily be achieved by collecting peanut butter to be stored at the BCA pantry for the dorm facility. Bring your favorite! Creamy or crunchy or both!

Hunger is a reality for some students, and peanut butter can also serve as a take-home meal for students who might need additional food on a weekend or other time while living at the BCA dorm.

Extra peanut butter will be shared with Project Outreach and/or MIFA take-home food kits at Caldwell Elementary.

Peanut Butter Sundays (PBS) will serve as an initiative for the whole GPC congregation to purchase and bring their peanut butter to church on the remaining Sunday in March. By encouraging engagement between the church and the school, we expand our collective awareness of one another and acknowledge the needs and humanity of all people.

Giving or receiving peanut butter is simple, but we believe this collaboration will have the power to build a healthier and more connected community for all involved.

There are bins in the Welcome Center, AC Lobby, by The Well in the children's area, and by the Confirmation classroom door (Rm UL-212 - upper level).

THANKS for your participation!



Children's Sunday is March 6 at the 11:00 service in which the children participate during the service by singing, playing an instrument, having a reading role, helping pass out bulletins, or taking up the offering.

Mark it on your calendar. This is always a time of tremendous blessing.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation

>Shirley Billups	>Kay Donaho	>Dot Ledlow	>Diane Short	>Woodie/Johnathan Whited
>Sherril/Jim Blair	>Judy Frick	>Carol/Bill Leppert	>Mary Strop	
>Huddy/Bayard Boyle	>Jean Hicks	>Matthew Lindow	>Anne/Wayne Tansil	
>Bill Coley	>Judy Hobbs	>Aggie/Jack Losa	**Sharon Turner	
>Kay/David Collins	>Jerry Huff	>Jackie/Bill Ruleman	>Amanda Walters	

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to:
Jean Hicks and family in the death of her husband, Bob.

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

Coronavirus Prayers

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

GPC Friends & Family Prayer Ministry

>Shannon Allen - friend of Macie Houston	of Susan Olinger	>Lisa Lowrey - daughter-in-law of Jean Brooks	>family of Bill Sims - family of Missy Gwin
>Martha Carr, husband, Glen, Ben Carr, Glen's dad - sister & family of Catherine Johnson	**Oakley Harris & family - friends of Phyl Simmons	>Kristi M. - friend of Karen Fesmire	>Kris & Felix Soler & family - friends/neighbors of Lindow family
>Betty Casey - sister of Jean Carroll	>Susan Hawkins - daughter of Ann Phillips	>Libby & parents Janna & Justin - granddaughter, daughter, son-in-law of Linda & Lanny Oakes	>Jerry Tanksley & daughters Michaela & Casey - friends of Sherrie & Neal Horner
>Barbara & Doug Cowan - friends of Phyl Simmons	>Judy Hobbs' granddaughter & great-granddaughter (COVID)	>Mary Ann Odom & family - mother of Tracey Smith	>Davis Taylor & family - great-nephew of Judy Hobbs
>Bill Doole - neighbor of Margaret Owens	>Christy & Barry Huff, baby Lincoln - family of Austin Simmons	**parents of Keriann Otano	>Rev. Deb Trevino - friend of Pastor Susie
>Virginia Goss - daughter of Gloria/Tim Goss	>Gerry Kanode - brother-in-law of Barb Poier	>Dr. Carlos Reyes-Sacin (1st responder) - son-in-law of Susan Olinger	**Tonya Wikoff - friend of Graddy family
>Allerie Hanlon (1st responder) - daughter-in-law	>Betsy/Mike Lambert, Hayley, Thomas; Susan Trammell - friends of Stephanie Wall	**Robby & Grace - nephew & wife of Pastor Will	

****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.

March 2022 GPC Family Prayer Ministry

Mar 6

Mary Barth
Alma Crone
Michael/Mallory Trenor
Kenney, Mason, Noah
Catherine King
Janet/Don McCrory
Mickie/Steve Nabers
Renee/Carlin Stuart, Ginger
Ginger/Billy Wise

Mar 13

Jill Cox
Missy/Paul Gwin, Cole
Sue Kelley
Melissa/Alex Ivy
Diane/Edward Newton
Ashley/David Robinson,
Anne-Louise, Charlotte,
Tyler
Jan Thomson
Merrill/Reut Wise

Mar 20

Carol/George Barnes
Michelle/Reed Brasfield,
Lily
Polly/Rob Cotten, Bo &
McKenzie
Dianne/Thomas King
Cheryl/Gary Riedel
Mary Lee Toler
Elizabeth/Jerry Wilson,
Madison

Mar 27

Lauren/Myles Beaupre,
Emmy, Ruby
Jay Chandler, Anna, Will
Kay/David Collins
Lori/Chris Harding,
Jackson, Katherine
Jeffrey Harding
Tracey/Rush Smith, Grey &
Susie

SHARING IN 2022

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

Memorial Fund

In memory of Bill Leppert
 Connie & Tom Scott
 Jeannine & Ronald Williams

In memory of Patsy Anne Hylander
 The Akins, The Barnes, The Nagels, & Kristi

In memory of Betty Green
 Jennifer & Michael Goodin

In memory of Bill Leppert
 Becky & David Stanley

In memory of Lalla Mellor
 Jennifer & Michael Goodin

Music Fund

In memory of Tom Cates
 Jennifer & Michael Goodin

In memory of Sandy Franks
 Becky & David Stanley

SESSION CORNER - FEBRUARY

Your Session met February 17.

- Will Jones discussed the recent flood. Our insurance company is working hard to resume normalcy.
- Lea Buring and Drayton Mayers will be Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting 2/26.

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

- > A new member joining ceremony will be Sunday, February 27.
- > Traditional communion will resume Sunday, March 6.
- > Our PEACE Special Needs Ministry continues to grow and thrive.

> Volunteers are needed for ushers, VBS, Team Read, Binghampton, and Sunday School Ambassadors. Contact Laurie at 754-5195 for more info.

Respectfully submitted,
 Diane Callahan Edens
 Clerk of the Session

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-4:30PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY



April Window Deadline: The Ides of March



ALEX BENFORD, ORGANIST/MUSIC
ASSOCIATE

AMBER MILLER, ACCOUNTING
SECRETARY

ANGIE RICHARDSON, CURRICULUM
COORDINATOR TO CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

ANN DeVere, CHURCH SECRETARY/
RECEPTIONIST

BLAIR HAYES, DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CARL WOODS, MAINTENANCE
ASSISTANT

CHRISTOPHER GRECO, DIRECTOR OF
YOUTH MINISTRY

JACKIE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JENNIFER GENTRY, DIRECTOR OF
PRESCHOOL

JEROLD TEACHEY, DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC MINISTRY

JOHN JOHNSON, WORSHIP LEADER,
MUSICIAN

KAREN SCHOWALTER COOPER,
COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S
CHOIRS

LAURIE HENDERSON, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

MIKE LYLE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

RANDY SMITH, MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIAN

STEPHANIE WALL, BEREAVEMENT
SPECIALIST

SUSAN CARTER WIGGINS,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
CONGREGATIONAL CARE &
NURTURE

TARA MARBURY, NURSERY
SUPERVISOR

TOM SAUER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
FOR SENIOR ADULTS

WILL JONES, PASTOR



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