



4th Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

Liturgical Color - Blue
Traditional Service - 10:30 am

The flowers gracing our altar are given to the glory of God, celebrating the life & memory of Michelle Browder Slatten on her 6th heavenly birthday, given by her parents, Carolyn & Mack Browder & her three children, Allie, KK & Michael & her brother, Brian & Caroline, +Abbie & Ashley. Michelle cherished her family... her Bible is worn... she knew our Lord Jesus well.

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

Still, Still, Still

arr. Bill Wolaver

Welcome and Announcements

***Greeting Our Neighbor**

***Call to Worship**

Praise be to God!
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
who has visited and redeemed the people.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

The Book of Worship 1965, ALT.

***Hymn of Praise UMH 234**

O Come All Ye Faithful

***Affirmation of Faith UMH 881**

Apostles' Creed

***Gloria in Excelsis Deo UMH 238 (refrain)**

Advent Wreath

Dorothy & Louis Rogers, Anne Tipton, Deaton & Mary Bright

Heavenly Father, your love is greater than we can imagine.
May our hearts be filled with the warmth of your love.
Teach us to love as You have loved us,
and in that love, receive Jesus with open hearts. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Daniel Gawthrop

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16

Offertory

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Richard Shephard

The holly and the ivy, now both are full well grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. Refrain: Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir. The Holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet savior. Refrain
The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. Refrain.

***Doxology**

See Insert, tune of O Come Emmanuel

***Hymn of Preparation UMH 238** *Angels We Have Heard on High*
(Children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

Time With The Children

***Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Guess Who's Coming?
4. "An Unheralded Savior"

***Hymn of Dedication UMH 229** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

***Mission Statement**

**"We are a welcoming community of faith, committed to loving God and loving others,
serving Christ and sharing Him, transforming lives and making disciples."**

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response UMH 671** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*
**Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

Postlude

Terpsichore Dance/Lift Up Your Heads! Michael Praetorius/Paul Fey
(Persons are invited to be seated for the postlude.)

L e a d i n g i n W o r s h i p T o d a y

Preaching: Rev. Tim Carpenter, Senior Pastor
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Scott Alford, Executive Minister
Time with the Children/Music Director: Rev. Dr. Todd Wilson, Minister of Music
Organist/Pianist: Dr. André Duvall, Associate Director of Music
Lay Reader: Call to Worship: Kallen Perkins | Scripture: Erica Perkins
Acolyte: Virginia Heard
Chancel Choir

Welcome to Germantown United Methodist Church!

If you are visiting us today, we hope you find a meaningful time of worship and a welcoming community of faith. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know more about membership, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, contact Mary Groh at 754-7216 or mgroh@germantownumc.org.

**Please fill out the registration of attendance found in the pew and
leave it attached to the pad or scan the QR code below.**



A n n o u n c e m e n t s

Church office will close at Noon, Wednesday, December 24, and will be closed all day Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, for the Christmas holidays.

Merry Missions Market continues online! If you missed the in-person market, you can still donate to the 15+ organizations supported by GUMC through www.germantownumc.org. You can learn what the organizations do and how your donation, of either money or time, can help. The organizations strive to meet a range of needs, ranging from food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty, both locally and globally.

2026 Sanctuary Flowers Requests: Don't forget to request your dates for Sunday sanctuary flowers for 2026. Following Sunday worship, flowers are rearranged into smaller florals and then delivered to our homebound members. Flowers for the sanctuary remain a treasured way to enhance worship, while honoring or remembering a loved one, celebrating a birthday or anniversary, or honoring a friend. For more information or to select a date, please visit our website www.germantownumc.org, click on the "Sign Up & Events" menu to the far right and choose "Communication Hub" in the drop-down list, scroll down to "Forms" near the bottom, then choose "Sanctuary Flowers Form" or call Lisa Bell at OLEC 753-3100.

M i n i s t r y , N e w s a n d E v e n t s

**For more information about events listed below, visit our website: germantownumc.org
Interested in an event that requires registration? Click "Sign Up & Events" at the top of the page.**

Older Adult Ministry

*Luci Cromer, 901-755-0803, luci2@comcast.net.
Our activities are open to all adults age 55 and older.
Full event descriptions may be found in *The Tidings*.*

January Brown Bag Lunch Series! Daniel Irwin, Director of Public Relations and Outreach for the Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South, will discuss "AI-related Scams and Local Deep Fakes." This presentation will be on **Friday, Jan. 9, 2026** in the Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE IN DATE.**

The program starts at 11 am, with lunch at noon. Bring your own sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed. **There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.**

XYZ's February Event! Join us for a unique experience when we take a class at the Memphis Zoo and eat lunch at Bosco's Squared on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026. We depart at 9 am from the OLEC parking lot, and the cost is \$10 per person **plus lunch on your own**. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brennehan, 754-3711, to make reservations and pay before Monday, Jan. 26.

Adult Education

*Mary Groh, Director of Adult Education,
mgroh@germantownumc.org*

The Gospel of Mark, The Jesus We're Aching For, starts Wed. Jan. 14, 9:45-11:45 am, via Zoom. In this 7-week study, we will follow Jesus through his days of early ministry to the cross and discover what it means to be the recipients of his overflowing compassion. Facilitator: Chesley Porteous. Cost: \$24.00.

Fourteen Adult Sunday School Classes meet from 9-10 on Sunday mornings. Please check out the list of classes, locations, teachers, and topics at the Welcome Center or online and join us. Visitors are always welcome!

Germantown United Methodist Pre-School (GUMP)

Sarah Sutton, Director, ssutton@germantownumc.org
GUMP is officially on holiday break, and we couldn't be more excited! We're sending warm wishes your way for a **Merry Christmas** filled with joy and laughter — and a **Happy New Year!** See you in January, ready for more fun and learning!

Youth

*Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries;
cgranberry@germantownumc.org*

Sunday Morning Trek: Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us in the Oasis at the OLEC at 9 am for snacks, games, and discussion!

Element: Element is over for the semester!

High School Prayer Breakfast: Prayer breakfast is over for the semester! Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Synergy and Synago: Synergy/Synago is over for the semester!

Stay Informed: Check us out on Instagram (@gumcyouthmin) or like us on Facebook (GUMC Youth Ministry) to keep up with our activities and announcements. Please visit our GUMC webpage and sign up for youth emails for more details.

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC), 901-753-3100

*Gordon Kelly, Director of Health & Recreation,
gkelly@germantownumc.org
Kim Marsh, Assistant Director of Health & Recreation,
kmars@germantownumc.org*

OLEC will be closed at Noon, Wed. 12/24/25, and remain closed Thurs. 12/25/25, Fri. 12/26/27 for the Christmas holiday. We will be open on Sat., Dec. 27. Pickleball this week:

Daytime: Mon. 12 pm-3 pm, Tues. 9 am-12 pm. Wed. No pickleball, Thurs., Fri., Closed.

Nighttime: No nighttime pickleball until after the first of the year due to basketball practices.

Try one of our group exercise classes:

Gentle Yoga: Mon., 3:30-4:30 pm

Vinyasa Yoga: Wed. Closed, no class.

Senior Fitness Walk Fit: Tues. 10-11 am.

Senior Fitness Chair Class: Thurs. Closed, no class.

Fit 4 Mom Stroller Strides: Mon. 9:30-10:45 am.

Stroller Barre: Wed. 9:30-10:45 am.

Body Boost: Mon. night, 6:15-7:15 pm.

Body Ignite: Wed. night, Closed

Hatha Yoga: Mon. 6:30 -7:30 pm.

Open Gym times: Please call the OLEC office to check for available times. *Open Gym times are for church members only.* Guests must purchase a \$10.00 pass.

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President, women@germantownumc.org

Christmas Items Needed: Methodist Healthcare Auxiliary is in need of gently used Christmas items to be sold at MHA's annual sale next November. These items may be Christmas linens, figurines, serving pieces, ornaments, gift bags, tins, and craft items. Collection bins will be set up in the hallway behind Fellowship hall next to the kitchen through **January 31**. Contact Elaine Fetzer at elaine.fetzer@gmail.com with questions.

Care Ministries

Yolanda Toney, Director of Care Ministries, ytoney@germantownumc.org

Alzheimer's Seminar: Over 7 million loved ones are living with Alzheimer's. Join us as we hear about Alzheimer's warning signs, navigating the diagnosis, understanding the stages, how to help caregivers, and more. **Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, 10:30 am, Room 339.** The Alzheimer's Association, Tennessee Chapter, will facilitate this seminar. There is no cost; just register online. Questions, contact Yolanda Toney, ytoney@germantownumc.org.

Children's Ministry

Becca Keel, Director: bkeel@germantownumc.org

Janelle Crist, Assoc. Dir. Nursery: jcrist@germantownumc.org

Hayley Heard, Assoc. Dir. Elem.: hheard@germantownumc.org

Preschool Stepping Stones (Newborn-Prekindergarten):

The Hamilton Nursery is open from 8:45-11:30 am on Sundays. Preschool Sunday school meets from 9-10 am.

Elementary Sunday School (Kindergarten-5th grade):

We meet from 9-10 am, each week. Child drop off is in individual classrooms, in the children's education wing. Please pick up your child at 10 am, in the Huddle (room 240).

Acolytes Needed: Scan QR code to sign up to acolyte! Must be in the second grade or older. There is no age limit! If your child is interested in acolyting and has not been trained, contact Becca Keel to schedule a training session.



Christmas Eve Children & Family Service: Dec. 24, 3 pm.

This service is ideal for families with young children! We will serve Communion, sing traditional Christmas carols, and allow children to participate in the retelling of the nativity story. Perfect for all ages!

Ignite Retreat: Jan. 24-25, at St. Columba Retreat Center. This overnight retreat is for students in grades 4-5 and is a wonderful opportunity for team building and diving into God's word together. Registration is required.

Recurring Weekly at GUMC

Sunday, Dec. 21:

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 23:

6:30 am Men's Sunrise Bible Study

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

6:30 am Rutherford Prayer Group
Church Offices Closing at Noon

Thursday, Dec. 25:

Church Offices Closed All Day

Friday, Dec. 26:

Church Offices Closed All Day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Services

Family Service with Communion | 3:00 pm
Sanctuary

Participatory retelling of the Christmas story, with Christmas hymns, a short children's message, and Communion.

Prism with Communion and Candles | 5:00 pm
Owings Life Enrichment Center

Music provided by the Prism Riot Band.

Lessons and Carols with Communion and Candles | 8:00 pm
Sanctuary

Music provided by the Chancel Choir



Congregational Prayer List



Digital Giving Options

Online



Venmo



@germantownUMC

Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D⁷ G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm⁷ Em Am Em B⁷ Em A⁷ D Em

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D⁷ G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D⁷ Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL

LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.