



German town  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1st Sunday After Christmas, December 28, 2025

Liturgical Color - White  
Traditional Service - 10:30 am

The flowers gracing our sanctuary this morning are placed in loving memory of our princess, Michelle Browder Slatten, by her parents, Carolyn & Mack Browder, her children, Allie, KK, Michael, + her brother Brian and family, Caroline, Abbie & Ashley.

We also celebrate the many donors that flooded our sanctuary with poinsettias this Advent and Christmas Season. Your generosity has warmed the hearts of many.

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Prelude**

*Cantilena on Mendelssohn*

James Biery

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Greeting Our Neighbor**

**Call to Worship**

The One for whom we have been waiting is born!  
**The True Light, which enlightens all people, has come into the world.**  
The Word of God became flesh and lives among us.  
**Come let us walk in the light of God!**

**\*Opening Hymn UMH 224**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

**\*Affirmation of Faith UMH 880**

*Nicene Creed*

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

**Scripture**

Isaiah 63: 7-9

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory**

*The Huron Carol*

arr. Catherine McMichael

**\*Doxology**

*See Insert, tune of O Come Emmanuel*

**\*Hymn of Preparation UMH 237**

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

(Children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

**Time With The Children**

**\*Scripture**

John 1:1-5

**Sermon**

Light and Life

**\*Hymn of Dedication UMH 246**

*Joy to the World*

**\*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**

*Trumpet Tune on Angels From the Realms of Glory*  
(Persons are invited to be seated for the postlude.)

arr. Janet Linker

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

Preaching/Music Director: Rev. Dr. Todd Wilson, Minister of Music  
Liturgist: Rev. Tim Carpenter, Senior Pastor  
Liturgist/Time With the Children: Rev. Dr. Scott Alford, Executive Minister  
Organist/Pianist: Dr. André Duvall, Associate Director of Music  
Lay Reader: Call to Worship: Addie Penn | Scripture: Susan Hillebert  
Trombone: Fletcher Wilson  
Acolyte: Kennedy Keel

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## **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](mailto: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 offices will close at Noon, Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed all day Thursday, January 1, and Friday, January 2, for the New Years Day holiday.

**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](http://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](http://germantownumc.org)  
Interested in an event that requires registration? Click "Sign Up & Events" at the top of the page.

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

*Gordon Kelly, Director of Health & Recreation,  
[gkelly@germantownumc.org](mailto:gkelly@germantownumc.org)*

*Kim Marsh, Assistant Director of Health & Recreation,  
[kmarsh@germantownumc.org](mailto:kmarsh@germantownumc.org)*

**The OLEC will be closing at Noon Wed, 12/31,  
closed all day Thurs.. Jan. 1, Fri. Jan. 2 for the  
New Years Day holiday.**

**Pickleball this week:**

Daytime: Mon. 12 pm-3 pm, Tues. 9am-12 pm.

No Pickleball Wed.

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.

**Senior Fitness Walk Fit:** Tues. cancelled

**Senior Fitness Chair Class:** Thurs. Closed.

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

**Stroller Barre:** Wed. Closed.

**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.

### **Older Adult Ministry**

*Luci Cromer, 901-755-0803, [luci2@comcast.net](mailto: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  
Brenneman, 754-3711, to make reservations and pay  
before Monday, Jan. 26.

### **Youth**

*Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries;  
[cgranberry@germantownumc.org](mailto: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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

### **Adult Education**

*Mary Groh, Director of Adult Education,  
[mgroh@germantownumc.org](mailto: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.

**The Heart of the Psalms - Understanding God's Word  
to the World** starts Tues. Jan. 20, 9:30-11 am. We will  
focus on six psalms and examine why these psalms  
connect so deeply with us, the church, and beyond. This  
study will help us understand how and why these psalms  
matter and how they can be transformative for us today.  
Facilitator: Mary Groh. Cost: \$19.

**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!

### **United Methodist Men**

**Men's Breakfast** Saturday, January 10, at 8 am, in the  
Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. The speaker for this month is  
Rev. Tina Morrison, Director of Hannah's Hope. Breakfast  
is \$7.50 per person. Reservations required. Reservations  
should be made before Wednesday, January 7, by calling  
the church at 901-754-7216, or stop by the Welcome  
Center. We will be receiving annual membership fees of  
\$100, due at the breakfast.

## Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President, [women@germantownumc.org](mailto: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 the Fellowship Hall, in front of kitchen through **January 31**. Contact Elaine Fetzer at [elaine.fetzer@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.fetzer@gmail.com) with questions.

## Care Ministries

Yolanda Toney, Director of Care Ministries, [ytoney@germantownumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ytoney@germantownumc.org).

## Children's Ministry

Becca Keel, Director: [bkeel@germantownumc.org](mailto:bkeel@germantownumc.org)

Janelle Crist, Assoc. Dir. Nursery: [jcrist@germantownumc.org](mailto:jcrist@germantownumc.org)

Hayley Heard, Assoc. Dir. Elem.: [hheard@germantownumc.org](mailto: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-5<sup>th</sup> 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).

### WOW (Worship on Wednesday): (Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade).

WOW will return on Jan. 14, so mark your calendars! Join us from 6-7:30 pm. Dinner is served at 6 pm, in the Fellowship hall, then kids will enjoy engaging activities and mission opportunities. Pick up for elementary children in the education wing at 7:30 pm. Preschoolers meet in the nursery for dinner, Bible stories, crafts, and fun. Nursery available for children under 2. Register online by each Tuesday at noon. (\$5/child).

**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.



**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. 28:

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

### Tuesday, Dec. 30:

6:30 am Men's Sunrise Bible Study

### Wednesday, Dec. 31:

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

### Thursday, Jan. 1:

Church Offices Closed All Day

### Friday, Jan. 2:

Church Offices Closed All Day

## Congregational Prayer List



## Digital Giving Options

### Online



### Venmo



@germantownUMC

# Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D<sup>7</sup> G D G C G

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

5 Am Bm<sup>7</sup> Em Am Em B<sup>7</sup> Em A<sup>7</sup> D Em

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

10 D Bm G C Am D<sup>7</sup> G D Em Bm G

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

15 C D<sup>7</sup> 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](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.