

**GERMANTOWN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
YEARBOOK
CLASS OF 2025**

ANNUAL MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

YEARBOOK SIGNING

“Show me any great organization, and I’ll show you one that is cause and mission driven. And that my friend, is the definition of Germantown United Methodist Church.” - GUMC Attendee

WORDS OF PRAISE THIS YEAR FOR GERMANTOWN UMC

Prism service,
God speaks to me through you each
week through the message and
music!

Anytime you see a need, you see that it is taken care of.
We have a wonderful congregation of volunteers!

A young woman, who is not a member of our church, had a large donation of maternity and baby items. She brought it to us because she knew we would ensure they were given to local families in need. Hannah's Hope was contacted, and young mothers used those items that very day.

Pickleball at the
OLEC has increased
the awareness of our
church and offered
new friendships.

After being here for 48 years, I feel the church is the best it's ever been.
It's where I want to be!

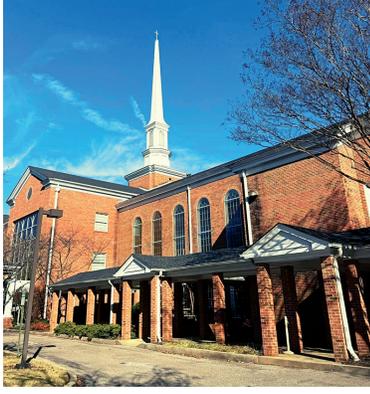
I see God every time I walk through this door of Germantown United Methodist. Prism makes me feel so surrounded, loved, and encouraged every week. Pastor Mimi's positivity and leadership are truly inspiring. It's the best way to start my week. We love our GUMC family!!!

God is at work through the incredible generosity of our members and others with their support of the 70 or so Alturas children and many women in the neighborhood. They see the hands of Jesus caring for them through our church.

I love our focus on missions and how we put an emphasis on this. It truly means a lot to me that we invest our time, money and resources to help those in need.

The people of this church welcome visitors, reach out to those who are ill with visits, meals, transportation, showing love and caring spirits in all of these actions.

At one point, 25 years ago, my wife and I left GUMC and went to another church. We missed it. We missed the people here. When we came back to GUMC, it was like we had never left. We came back because this always felt like home.



2025 ANNUAL MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

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LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

"We are a welcoming community of faith, committed to loving God and loving others, serving Christ and sharing him, transforming lives and making disciples." That mission statement continues to guide us and give us direction. Over the past year, as we have lived that mission, God has carried us through a season marked by new members, faithfulness, and resilience. We've stretched in ways we didn't expect; we've prayed through challenges we didn't foresee, and we've witnessed God's steady hand shaping us through it all. This has been a year of becoming — becoming more rooted, more aware, and more surrendered.

It is important for churches to celebrate what has been accomplished, while understanding the next year invites us into new challenges. And each year, we do not simply collect memories; we carry forward the lessons that formed us. We've learned to trust God in uncertainty. We know what it is to be for one another with compassion. We keep our eyes open for the quiet ways the Spirit moves among us. God has been preparing us, deepening our hunger for His presence, and calling us into a more intentional way of living out our faith.

As we look ahead, there are priorities that rise to the surface for our next chapter. First, a renewed commitment to discipleship — becoming people who do not simply believe in Jesus— but increasing the ways we follow Christ with our whole lives. Second, continuing a widening community impact — allowing God's love to overflow beyond our walls in tangible, transformative ways. And third, a culture of connection and spiritual maturity — building relationships that strengthen us and practices that unite us as a church.

God is inviting every one of us to take ownership of what comes next — to pray, to serve, to give, to dream, to step forward with courage.

So, we move into this new season with hope, trusting that the same God who has been faithful behind us will be faithful before us. Our next chapter is unfolding, and by God's grace, we will walk into it together.

Reverend Tim Carpenter

Tim Carpenter



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Rapper and actor, LL Cool J is quoted as saying, "Once you achieve one goal, you should be looking forward to trying to build onto the next thing and not just getting comfortable with what you're doing." From one record to the next and from one acting role to the next, LL Cool J, and many performers like him, built a very successful career.

Throughout the pages of this report, we find many exciting accomplishments we achieved at GUMC. I'll allow the pictures and text in these pages to speak for themselves and illustrate the many ways we have been faithful to our mission of serving Christ. We can rightfully celebrate all God did through our church in 2025.

However, may we also remember that, just as every passing year in school builds on the next, just as we transition from childhood to our teenage years to adulthood, God expects us to continue forward in the ministry that lies ahead. I believe the more we do for the Kingdom prepares us for doing even more. What does that mean for GUMC moving forward? We can claim the truth that generosity, service, and engagement fuel our mission going forward.

Let's dive in and actively share and participate in what God is building through our church.

We can understand that even the practical details found in our ministry are vital to the impact we make. Maintaining our buildings and grounds makes the statement that we care for what God has entrusted to us.

We can intentionally focus some energy individually, through our small groups and in our committees, to discern new ways of spreading the gospel in our community.

Looking ahead into our future, may we recall how the Israelites, after the death of Moses, graduated from the wilderness into the promised land led by Joshua. In the new thing God was doing for them, God offered these words, "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). With that assurance, GUMC can look forward knowing God equips, aligns, and strengthens us to his purposes. I am thankful for all this church does in the name of Jesus. It's an honor to serve alongside you, and I can't wait to see what this year will bring in our ministry.

Reverend Dr. Scott Alford



LETTER FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Prism had an exciting 2025 with adventures out in the community going to Casey's Art Box to have a paint party to kick off our summer series, "The Animated Gospel," and then to the movies twice, inviting all our FRANS (Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors and Strangers) to join us. We went to the Germantown Festival handing out baby Jesus miniatures, pens, cups, and T-shirts, and inviting everyone we met to join us on Sunday mornings at Prism, and some of them did!

The Prism Riot was joined by special guest musicians throughout the year. Some of them were our very own talented youth and children!

We celebrated the birth of newborn babies, baptisms, and everyone's birthdays and anniversaries. We grieved the loss of loved ones and walked through some difficult times together. We prayed, sang, danced, and learned together. We enjoyed meeting many newcomers and welcomed some into partnership as they decided to stop just "dating the church" and made it official, partnering with Prism to help us be a place for all people and help each other follow Jesus as faithfully as we can!

We look forward to another year together of community engagement, celebration, great music from Prism Riot, and exciting message series that lift us up and help us grow!

None of this would be possible without the generosity of all those who give generously of their time, talents, energy, and financial resources to keep this place a reality - thank you so much!

Reverend Mimi White





ADULT EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



57+
Adult Sunday school teachers who teach throughout the year



257
Average Adult Sunday school attendance each week in
14
classes





Sunday School

"I've seen God through my Sunday school class growing. There are so many new faces, and I appreciate how current members of the class are so welcoming and loving with open arms to all."



Bible Studies

"Led by Mary Groh, The Heart of the Psalms: God's Word to the World Bible study, was a warm and welcoming space to explore six psalms selected by the author, James Howell. I appreciated not only the contextual insights we gained, but also the opportunity to hear my classmates' interpretations and how they applied the psalms to their own lives. Everyone was kind, open, and genuinely interested in one another's perspectives. It was a joy to participate in this study."
- Gina Bartz



CARE MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

1240 cards were written by our GUMC children, youth, and the Care Ministries team and were sent to members

Germantown United Methodist Church
Care Ministries and Eldercare Ministries present
HEALTHCARE LAW & ADVANCE CARE PLANNING SEMINAR

You're invited to hear some practical information about healthcare law and advance care planning. Whether you have made advance care plans or not, this seminar will be helpful, as the law changes and differs from state to state. No cost. Registration required.



Matthew A. Rhoads
Attorney
Estate Planning, Probate Admin. & Elder Care Law
Douglass & Runger, PLLC

November 3, 2025
10:30 am
Room 339



Scan QR code to register or register at

GUMC CARE MINISTRIES PRESENTS...

COPING WITH THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

Losing a loved one is inevitable, and we may go through a wide range of emotions. When you attend this seminar you will find that you are not alone, and there are ways to cope as well as support someone who is going through loss.

Monday, March 3, 2025
10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Hamilton Ed. Building
Rm. 338

GUMC CARE MINISTRIES PRESENTS...

COPING WITH SEPARATION & DIVORCE

When a separation or a divorce occurs, even if it's not your own, you need coping skills. We will provide some tools. This seminar is free. You only need to register.

June 9, 2025
10:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.
GUMC Main Building




Care Ministries presents...

A Hospice, Palliative Care & The Law Seminar

August 25, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Room #339 - Main Building



Care MINISTRIES PRESENTS

What should I say? *How do I comfort?*

Coping With Life's Challenges

Thursday, November 14, 2024
10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
(You can register for either time slot.)
Room 342 Hamilton Ministry Center

Caregiver *Retired* *Widowed* *Separation*

Are you a caregiver? Have you been diagnosed with a chronic or critical illness? Have you recently retired? Separated? Divorced?
Have you experienced the death of your spouse? Parent? Friend? Child?
Do you want to support a family member or friend in the midst of one of these challenges? Are you unsure of what to say or do?
Join us for this gathering to share or listen while gaining valuable coping strategies.
Scan the QR Code. Register online at germantownumc.org or call the facilitator.
CLM Yolanda Tonaw Director of Care Ministries at

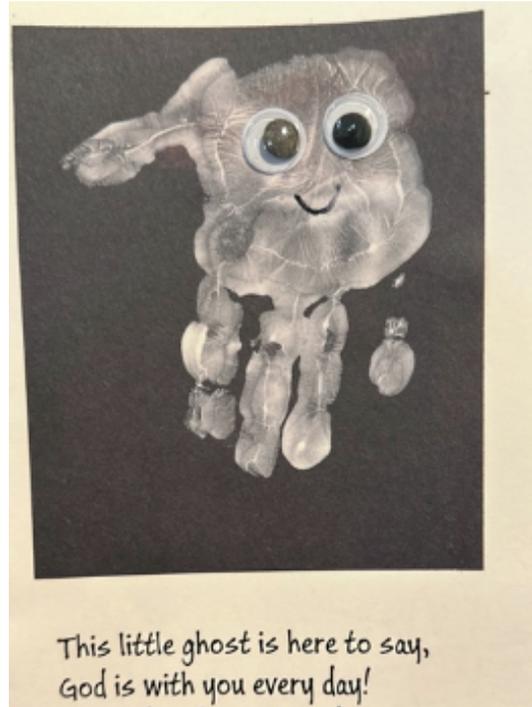
125 people were in attendance over the course of our 5 seminars that were held throughout the year





Card Ministry

"I show my children, who live out of town, my cards. I want them to know my church family cares about me."



The people of this church welcome visitors, reach out to those who are ill with visits, meals, transportation, and show love and caring spirits in all of these actions.



Care Ministries Seminars

"The seminars have been very helpful and educational. They encourage you to act on things about which you have been procrastinating."

Seminar presenters included Leigh Anne Pray, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Hospice Nurses and Administrators from Methodist Hospice, Attorney Matthew Rhoads, and Yolanda Toney, Director of Care Ministries.



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
2025

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

1200

people attended
The Easter egg hunt

565

kids in attendance

7000

eggs hidden



1000

dollars in cash was collected during VBS for Rice Bowls ministry, which the Children's Ministry matched 100%. The container holding the coins was so heavy, it couldn't be lifted!





Learning Prayer

"My 11-year-old daughter Lucy graced us with the Lord's Prayer, before dinner the other day, completely from memory. I've found, when we take the time to stop and add a prayer to a task, it is useful in keeping me in the moment and adds patience and gratitude to the room and the task at hand. Our favorite is the Lord's Prayer as fast as possible and in one breath." - Bobby Gallagher



Easter Egg Hunt

"The GUMC Egg Hunt is our favorite Easter event. It's well organized, welcoming, and in such a beautiful setting. We look forward to it every year!"
- Julianna Kirkland, Egg Hunt Attendee



ELDER CARE
MINISTRY
2025

ELDER CARE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

One of the happiest deliveries was celebrating the

100

year birthday of one of our members



Share a moment where you saw God at work through GUMC in 2025.

"Through a wonderful young man who delivers communion and goodness."



300

visits were made to our homebound members by Linda Gabriel and Richard Mattox in 2025





Blessed with Compassion

"I think one of the important aspects of this ministry is that of connection. Just as we're connected with God, we're also connected with each other through the Holy Spirit. That connection blesses us with compassion, friendship, love, prayer, laughter, tears, and sharing our stories and life experiences with another believer. It's important to know that we're not alone. Just as we see Jesus in Scripture...he was present with the miracles and joys of life, and he was present when the storms of life came."



Invisible Hugs

"To all servants of Christ in the Flower Ministry - Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers brought to me by smiling Carole today. It is the invisible hug they bring that reminds me of the wonder and blessing of "community" that we share here at GUMC. For every hand and heart that served in preparation and delivery of this lovely gift, I am forever grateful."



GUMP
PRESCHOOL
2025

GUMP PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-year-old transition class is geared toward children who need an extra year of development, confidence, and play before beginning kindergarten. GUMP's transition class is carefully planned to engage our friends throughout their day and increase their independence.



200
people were in
attendance for
GUMP's
50th
birthday party





Shared Commitment

"Our preschool is rooted in intentional care, strong relationships, and a shared commitment to serving children and families with excellence. We serve not only our little friends, but also their families and one another, allowing Christ's love to be reflected in both our daily work and the lives we touch. It is a joy to see children flourish academically, socially, and spiritually as a direct result of the dedication and genuine heart behind this ministry." GUMP Admin



50th Birthday Party

"GUMP began on December 10, 1974, as a Mothers Day Out program at GUMC, to provide mothers of young children with a five-hour break in a Christian environment. The program quickly grew in popularity and impact. In 1985, it transitioned from a Mothers Day Out program to a full preschool aligned with NAEYC standards. This shift emphasized strong teacher quality, appropriate child-teacher ratios, ongoing professional development through annual conferences, and a commitment to excellence — a standard the program continues to uphold today." - Joy Sisson



GERMANTOWN UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosts 4 major fundraisers each year for missions
- Hosts 5 guest speaker events each year
- Hosts the annual women's Lent by Candlelight evening
- 9 Circles (small groups)
- Raised over \$55,000 for missions in 2025



"I'm a new member of GUMC and really wanted to find a women's small group. GUWF has been wonderful! I've met so many different women, and they've all been so welcoming. They have many opportunities to volunteer, and I love that all their fundraising helps women and children."





Christmas Cookie Shoppe

The Christmas Cookie Shoppe is a great opportunity for church members and friends to buy festive and beautiful homemade cookies and candies to enjoy or give as gifts during the Christmas holidays.

Since this fundraiser began in 2013, the Christmas Cookie Shoppe has sold thousands of cookies to benefit missions!



Children's Consignment Sale

"Serving others along side my daughter is such a joyful experience. Passing the love of service to the next generation is a blessing." - Layne Popernik



MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS



GUMC was awarded
the Germantown
Beautification Award
for April of 2025



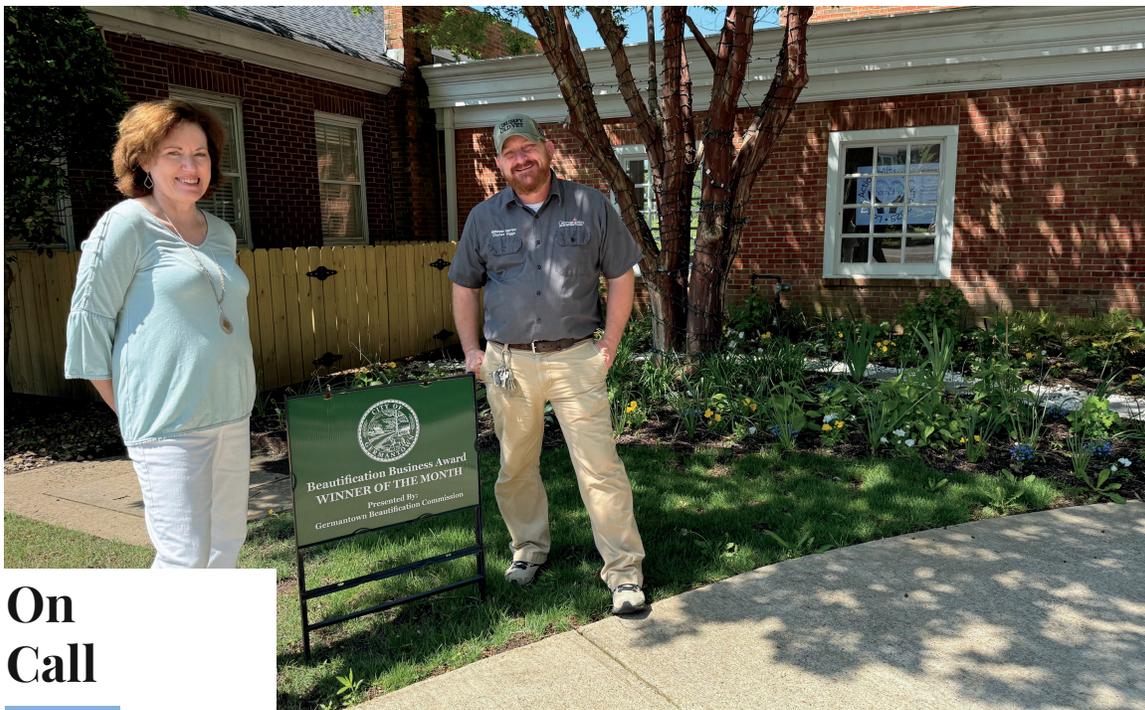
696
tasks were completed
by the maintenance
staff in 2025





Maintenance Rescue Team

"I wanted to say a big thank you to the men running the maintenance team at GUMC. During our stroller strides workout this morning, one of the moms had a flat tire, and three lovely guys came to her rescue and reassurance. Just made me proud to be a member of this church and community." - Kate Josey



On Call

"The maintenance crew has accomplished a lot in the last year, but none of it would have been possible without the help and support of all the staff and all the people who go to this church. Everywhere we turn, when we need something, someone is always there to help us." - Charles Higgs, Maintenance Supervisor



MEN'S
MINISTRY
2025

MEN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

8

Men's Breakfasts are held throughout the year, and a chosen speaker tells about a particular mission that is supported by the church



The Rutherford Prayer Group surpassed **\$100K** in giving to Amy Speake's ministry





Alturas Ministry

"Alturas ministry is extremely grateful for the generous giving of all of GUMC, especially, [the Men's group](#). Without the GUMC men's generosity, we could not have seen 1) kids who had no hope be able to go to school, pass, graduate and get a job, and 2) women without hope be able to become entrepreneurs."



A Servant Heart

Our church has fed many hungry and needy through the boxing of food through Rise, delivering Trader Joe's excess food to the Salvation Army's residents, getting people off the streets by opening Room at the Inn, sending missionaries to other countries to help our Global brothers and sisters, feeding others in Memphis by supporting and volunteering at the Memphis Food Bank, and supporting numerous charities that allow our membership to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ!



MISSIONS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



2347

The amount of families with children that are assisted through the Weekend Food Program



2000

stockings were put together by members and other volunteers for Golden Cross





Seeing God at work

"We see God at work everyday in this church! The amount of caring love for the members of our church, as well as those folks outside its walls, is heartwarming! It is truly amazing when you realize the amount of mission work that is accomplished every week-every month through the generosity and hands-on work and sacrifice given freely. We do live up to our mission statement!!!"



Transforming Lives

"Because of the support of GUMC, we were able to help kids with their literacy skills, social and emotional learning, and spiritual development. Kids learned about fire safety and had a great time on the fire trucks spraying the hose. Getting exposure to positive things in Memphis helps our young people have pride in their city and learn about other communities."

- Project Transformation Representative



MUSIC
MINISTRY
2025

MUSIC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

4
hours and
7
minutes was the amount
of time sung by our
Chancel choir for our
First Annual Hymnathon



52
Sundays a year music is
researched, sought,
bought, cataloged,
distributed, learned,
rehearsed, and then
shared in worship. This
process takes place
each and every week of
the year.





Children's Choir

"I've seen God at work in the children's choirs. Children with full schedules somehow make it to choir, learn their music and spoken lines, and share their gifts with the greater church. It's an inspiring thing to see children lifting their voices in song. Then, I see it translate on Sunday morning, when Rev. Todd calls out requests for hymn selections, and all of our children's choir members raise their hands every single week to request timely hymns."



First Annual Hymnathon

"The chancel choir singing "To God Be the Glory" absolutely wrecked me. Growing up, I'd hear my mom singing it in the kitchen, and, today, her voice echoed so vividly as the hymn was sung. Since today is her birthday, it made me especially thankful for the time I still get to share with her. It deeply moved me and reminded me of her joyful spirit. What sweet access to the Holy Spirit."

- Lawrence Monahan



OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTS



92

individuals attended the first Brown Bag Lunch program of 2025, about decluttering, kicking off a strong year



23

Years of XYZ Programming

20

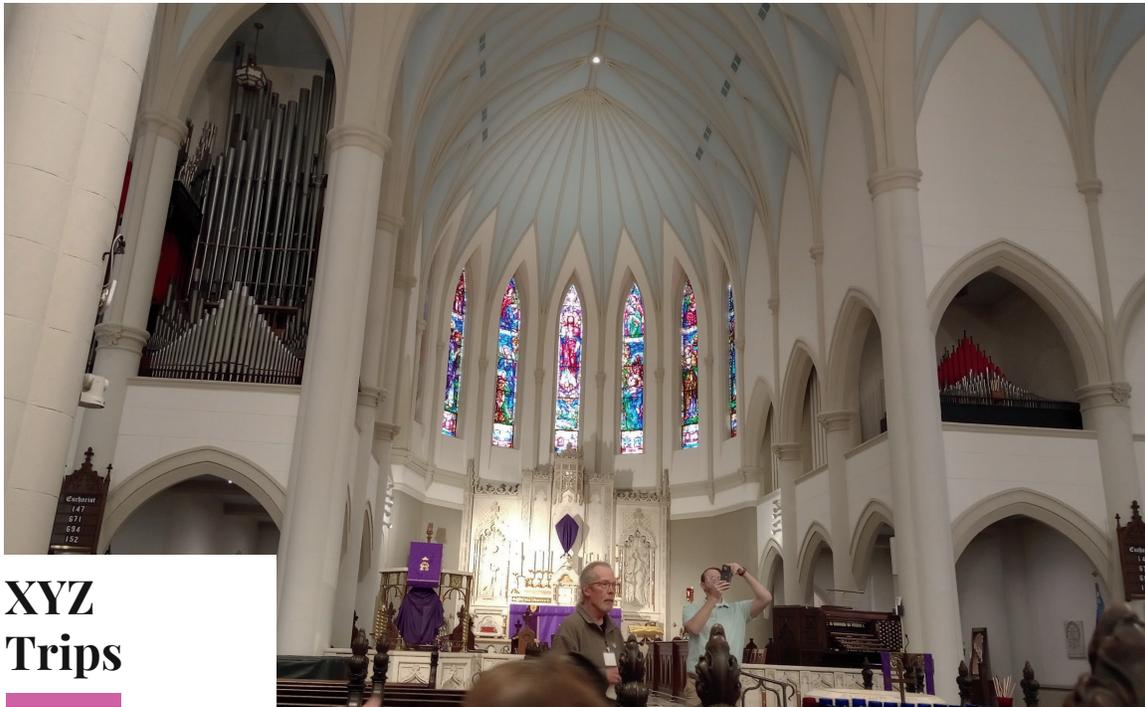
Years of Brown Bag Lunch Programs





Topics of Interest

"Luci Cromer is an excellent organizer and planner, and its success goes totally to her. The events are at a good time and short (1 hour) at the church location. Topics are also interesting. Day trips are educational, as well, and streamlined as to the time it takes from your day. I have never been to an event to which I regretted going." - Margie Burton



XYZ Trips

"The Lenten service was inspiring, and Calvary Church was beautiful, especially the stained glass windows! Everyone was so welcoming! We have driven past St. Mary's Episcopal Church many times and never thought of going in. Our eyes were opened to what we have right here where we live—Joe said that he had no idea that there were churches like that in Memphis! Thank you for organizing this event, and for all the you do in our church." - Joe and Sandy Beaver



OWINGS LIFE
ENRICHMENT
CENTER
2025

OWINGS LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



UPGRADES TO THE OLEC:

- New driveway entrance and exit
- New striping of parking lots
- New landscaping
- 4 new classes
- 2 new pieces of cardio equipment
- Updated weight room with new attachments



We are in our **12th** year of senior fitness classes at the OLEC





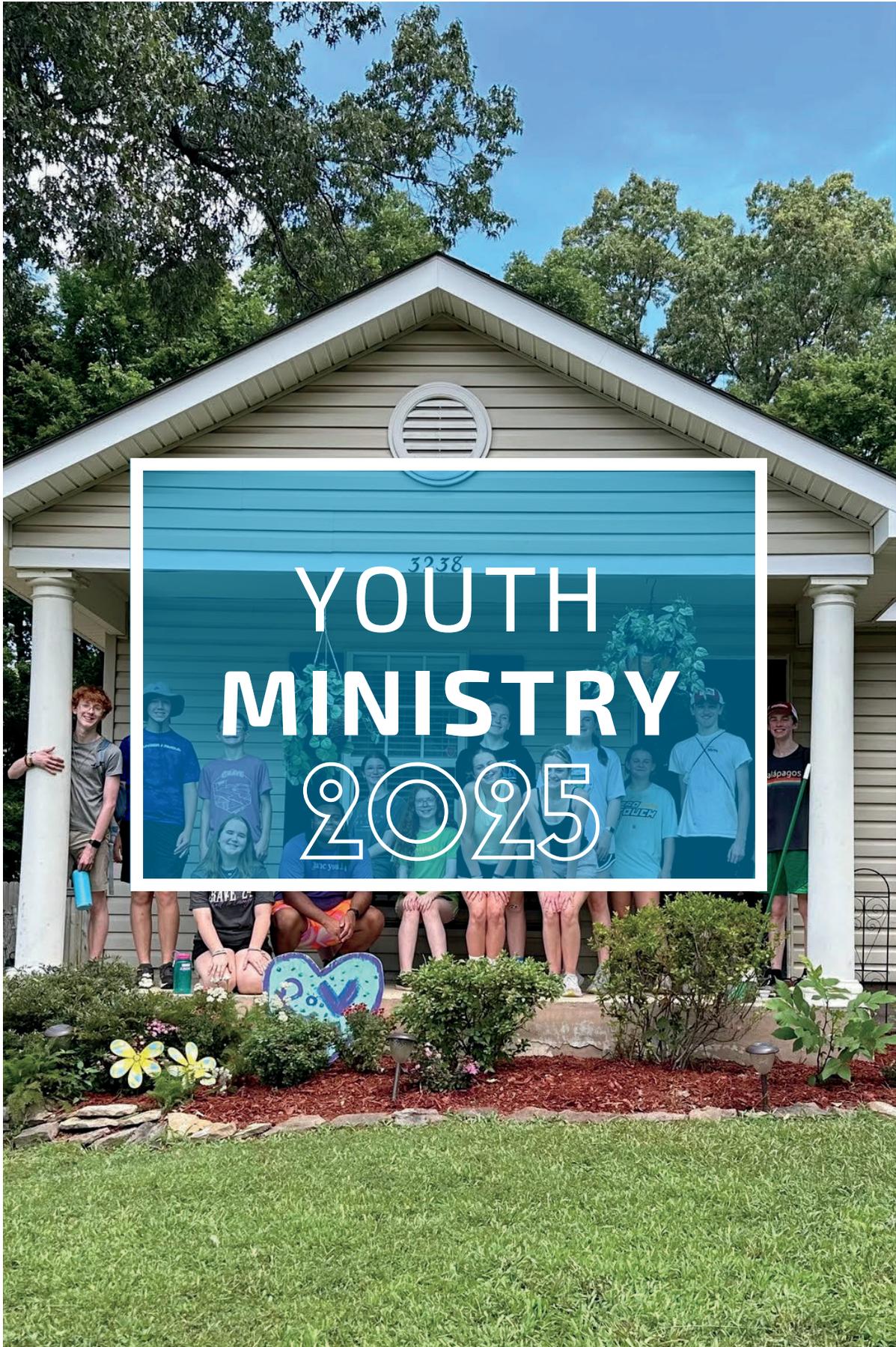
Pure Devotion

"The words 'dedicated' and 'persistent' come to mind with Debby training at the OLEC. She is devoted to and loves this church with all her heart. For over a year, I have seen Debby always able to fit in her workout around her busy schedule of volunteering for the church and taking care of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and her sister-in-law. She makes everyone feel at home at the OLEC with her outgoing and friendly personality. Debby has become a close friend and is a true disciple of the church." - Gordon Kelly, OLEC Director



Classes with you in Mind

"We are in our 12th year of Senior Fitness at the OLEC. We proudly minister to four decades of adults who know that the quality of their life is dependent upon movement and flexibility. One woman, in her late 90's, who has been with us since the beginning, chooses using the stairway each day, instead of parking at our ground level entrance." - Judy Pearson



YOUTH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



55
kids attended
Discovery Weekend
15
volunteers



10
students were
confirmed
3
students were
baptized





Discovery Weekend

"I wanted to send a quick note of praise for the amazing worship offered by the youth ministry team in Prism yesterday. The spirit was moving in that room in those youth, and much of it is thanks to the amazing work Caasi and Chloe do with these young people, and the volunteers that give of their time, energy, and resources."

- Tim Wise



My Favorite Thing

As someone who is pretty introverted, I have always appreciated how welcoming and kind everyone is. I've never been much of a talker, but this youth group has been so inviting and fun, it made it easy for me to open up and make friends. My favorite thing about GUMC Youth has to be the people/community that pull me back in." - 11th Grade Student

GENEROSITY HIGHLIGHTS

Rejoicing, celebrating, thanksgiving...all words that come to mind as we look at the many pictures and statistics found in these pages. The words from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 do speak true: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."

All God accomplished through GUMC over the past year was made in partnership with us through countless hours of service and generous giving. May we continue our rejoicing, our prayers, and thanksgiving while we also continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us forward, giving us the grace to faithfully respond with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

GENEROSITY STATEMENT

We are called to joyfully and gratefully share our blessings to transform lives for God's glory. We believe that the discipline of generosity helps us to live out our calling to invest in our church's ministry, to love others, and impact the world. God calls us to be faithful stewards and share the many blessings He has provided for us.

OUR CORE VALUES

Gratitude & Joy

We are thankful for the many blessings God has given to us, and it is with great joy that we share these blessings. We seek to not only experience God's blessings but to participate in growing His kingdom. [2 Corinthians 9:7, 11]

Stewardship

We know that the source of everything we have is God, and we are meant to be faithful stewards of the abundance we have been given. Our goal is to live a life that reflects His gifts with our financial resources as well as our time, talents, prayers, and witness. [1 Chronicles 29:12]

Heart & Soul

We seek to be Spirit-led, open-hearted, and open-handed as we work to live generous lives. Growing in generosity is a pathway along our spiritual/faith journey. When we follow this path, our heart is in God's kingdom, not in this world's. [Matthew 6:21, 24]

Impact

We know that God can perform miracles and, just like the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, our generosity can multiply to impact those here at home and throughout the world. By using our resources to touch lives outside our church, we make a difference in the way others see and feel the impact of His love firsthand. [Acts 4:34-35]

WAYS TO GIVE



- Cash or check given in the offering plate or by mail



- Venmo: @GermantownUMC



- Electronic Giving
Website: shelbygiving.com/app/giving/germantownumc



- Text: "GIVE" to 901-910-1220

ONLINE GIVING PAGE



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A PLANNED GIFT TO GUMC?

A planned gift is any charitable gift made during life or at death that is part of your overall estate plan. Planned gifts can include a percentage or a specific cash amount of your will, trust, life insurance, or retirement account. Planned gifts can also include appreciated assets, like stock or real estate, as well as income-generating current gifts, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts. Offering a planned gift will sustain the mission and ministries of GUMC for future generations. If you would like more information, contact Scott Alford, our Executive Minister, or Sharon Panis, our Financial Manager.



63

Number of
small groups

11

Baptisms

17

Professions of faith

561,733

Total amount given
to Missions

167

Number of
participants and
leaders for children

181

Number of
participants and
leaders for youth



57

Total new members

250

VBS participants

550

Average weekly
attendance

355

Average weekly
attendance
in Sunday school

Germantown United Methodist Church
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