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Going Out and Coming In

The month of May often feels like a month standing on tiptoe. The school year winds down, graduations approach, gardens wake up, and summer plans begin to take shape. Even in the church, we sense movement as we journey from Easter's joy toward Pentecost's sending. It is a season full of thresholds—moments when we step from what has been into what will be.

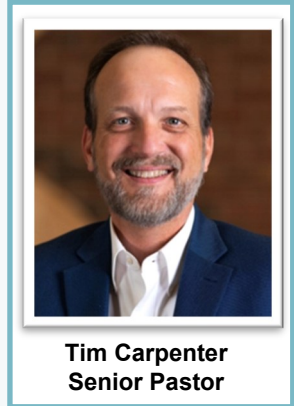
Psalm 121 is a psalm for such a season. Verse 1 begins:

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

These words were often sung by pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem. They were ordinary people walking real roads, carrying hopes and fears, trusting that God would meet them along the way. Their song wasn't naïve; it was rooted in the conviction that the God who shaped the mountains was also watching over their steps.

Today, Psalm 121 speaks to anyone standing at a crossroads:

- the graduate stepping into an unknown future
- the parent adjusting to a quieter home
- the person beginning a new job or ending a long chapter
- the one navigating illness or waiting for answers
- the caregiver walking faithfully beside a loved one
- the believer seeking God's direction in a season of discernment.



Tim Carpenter
Senior Pastor

The psalm does not promise that the road will be easy. It does not say, "The Lord will keep trouble far from you." Instead, it promises something deeper in its closing verse:

"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth forevermore."

God's keeping is not the absence of hardship; it is the assurance of steadfast presence. God watches over us in the heat of the day and the cold of the night, in the bright moments and the shadowed ones. God guards our steps not by removing every obstacle, but by walking with us through them. As a church, we are fellow travelers. We pray for one another, encourage one another, and remind one another that the God who "neither slumbers nor sleeps" watches over us all.

As we enter the month of May, hear this psalm as a blessing spoken over your life:

*"May the Lord steady you when the path feels uncertain.
May the Lord shade you when the heat of life grows intense.
May the Lord guard your heart in every transition.
May you know that your going out and your coming in are held in God's faithful care."*

Executive Minister

Rev. Dr. Scott Alford | salford@germantownumc.org



Rev. Dr. Scott Alford
Executive Minister

Staying Grounded in a Noisy World

These days, it's all too easy to find headlines causing conflict, uncertainty, and division, which also means it's easy to become unsettled and unsure. All of the noise often draws our focus in many competing directions. However, a little reminder we all can use, from time to time, is that a life grounded in God can bring a necessary element of peace to our weary souls. One of the most powerful ways to maintain that focus is to remain active and engaged in our church community.

Church is far more than a weekly gathering of people—it is a spiritual anchor for us. When we participate consistently through worship, service, study, and fellowship, we place

ourselves in an environment that continually redirects our attention to God's truth. This regular re-centering is essential. Without it, the distractions of the world can gradually shift our priorities, where we end up focusing more on problems than on the One who holds the solutions.



Church is far more than a weekly gathering of people—it is a spiritual anchor for us.

Remaining active in church also provides a correct perspective.

Every day we see things that highlight brokenness. The church, however, reminds us of what is eternal and unshakable. Through Scripture, prayer, and faith, we are reminded that God is still sovereign, still present, and still working, even when the circumstances around us suggest otherwise. This perspective doesn't erase challenges, but it reframes them, allowing us to face them with faith instead of fear.

Finding community is also important, because isolation can deepen anxiety and doubt. The connection we discover in our church promotes encouragement and resilience. We find people who will pray with us, walk beside us, and remind us of God's promises when we struggle to remember them ourselves. These relationships are not accidental but are woven into creation itself.

Active involvement also keeps our faith from becoming passive. It is one thing to believe; it is another to live out that belief every day. Serving others, participating in ministry, and engaging in meaningful conversations about faith all help transform belief into action. This active faith strengthens our relationship with God and keeps us aligned with his purpose, even when the world feels chaotic.

In times of division, the church can also be a powerful testimony of unity. While the world often draws lines that separate us, the body of believers is called to come together in love, humility, and grace. By staying involved, we contribute to that witness, demonstrating that faith in God surpasses differences and brings people together in meaningful and lasting ways...even if we don't always agree on everything.

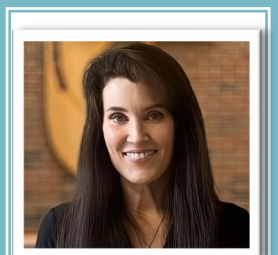
Ultimately, remaining active in church keeps our hearts pointed toward God, our minds grounded in truth, and our lives aligned with what truly matters. The church serves as a sacred space that calls us back to the center again and again. When fear rises, when uncertainty lingers, and when division seems overwhelming, staying connected to the church helps us remember who God is and who we are in him.

Prism

Rev. Mimi White | mwhite@germantownumc.org



Sundays | 10:30 am
Owings Life Enrichment Center



Rev. Mimi White

This month, at Prism, we are exploring a series called “The 5 Basic Beliefs of a Jesus Follower.” These core beliefs are printed on colorful cards and available on our free table for anyone to take home when they visit Prism. They are:

5 Basic Beliefs of a Jesus Follower

God planned for each one to be one in a zillion.

Jesus meets us where we are and leads us to where we need to grow.

God is love and wants only love from us and for us.

Living what Jesus teaches makes life work.

I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me.

If you have ever wondered why it is such a big deal for us to always have the “5 Basic Beliefs of a Jesus Follower” printed out for people to take home, it’s because these are fundamental, necessary beliefs we need at the very core of our being.

As we learn to trust God with our entire lives—and to live free from addictions, idolatry, co-dependency, and the many traps we fall into when we don’t trust Him—these core beliefs must be firmly established in our hearts and minds, so that we are not shaken when the going gets tough. These are the basic beliefs of a strong, powerful faith that leads to the abundant life God has promised.

To get a full understanding of each of these beliefs and jumpstart your faith journey, invite your FRANS (*Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors, Strangers*) and join us to celebrate Jesus, with incredible praise music from Prism Riot, and participate in our series at 10:30 am on Sundays in the OLEC!



Generosity



"The real issue in life is not how many blessings we have, but what we do with our blessings. Some people have many blessings and hoard them. Some have few and give everything away." - Fred "Mister" Rogers

Ways to Give

- **Cash and Checks** - Given in the offering plates or mail
- **Electronic Giving** - See below
- **Venmo:** @GermantownUMC
- **Text:** "GIVE" to 901-910-1220
- **Automatic Bank Drafts** - Organized through your personal bank or the church office
- **Required Annual Distributions from IRAs/Stock Transfer** - Organized through your broker
- **Wills and Estate Planning** - Organized through your attorney to designate the church as one of the beneficiaries

Electronic Giving:

Go to our church website www.germantownumc.org and click on "Give".

If reading this digitally, click [here](#) to give

Scan to Give



2026 Estimate of Giving



For help with any of these options, contact Sharon Panis in the church office.

Finance

Myron Boswell, Finance Chair

GUMC BUDGETED FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of March 31, 2026	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/UNDER BUDGET	JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET	% ACTUAL YTD to ANNUAL BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	2,317,927.80	2,340,650.95	(22,723.15)	3,120,868.00	74.27%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,217,643.66	2,335,933.63	(118,289.97)	3,120,868.00	71.06%
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE	100,284.14	4,717.32	95,566.82		

Board of Trustees

Robbie Hall, Committee Chair | RrHall0515@gmail.com

The Trustees would like to highlight several current projects at GUMC:

McVay Gardens/Trinity Center

This project marked the completion of the amphitheater expansion, including companion seating designed and built by Charles Higgs. Enhancements also include new concrete sidewalks with accessible (ADA-compliant) access, updated landscaping, and improved site and parking lot lighting.



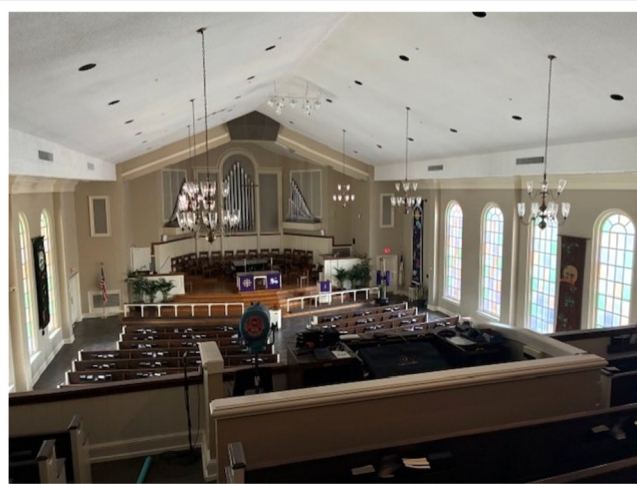
Additional upgrades feature freshly striped parking areas, the installation of brick pavers, and an enhanced irrigation system.



Sanctuary Lighting and Sound

We are excited to announce that contracts have been finalized with Fisher Lighting, for a fully upgraded lighting and electrical system, and with Memphis Audio, for the renovation of the sanctuary sound system. The lighting enhancements will feature all-new LED fixtures, programmable lighting keypads, and improved illumination in the chancel area. The images shown here are the before-and-after photos, highlighting the proposed changes to the sanctuary. As part of this project, the current speakers will be replaced with a state-of-the-art line array audio system, designed to provide clearer and more consistent sound throughout the space.

The proposed lighting and sound improvements are scheduled to begin at the end of June.



Care Ministries

Yolanda Toney | ytoney@germantownumc.org | 901-801-6368



"So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us."

~ 1 Thessalonians 2:8



CLM Yolanda V.C. Toney
Director Of Care Ministries

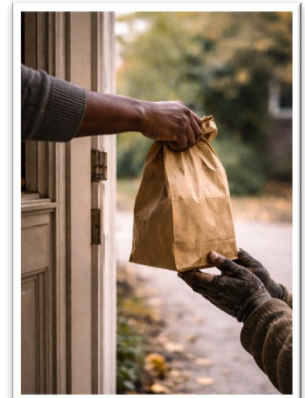
Loving Mothers

In honor of Mother's Day, I share the story below, by *Diana Allen of Castaic, California*, first published in Reader's Digest.

Open House

We lived in the Bronx, all seven of us kids and my single mom. It was mid-January, and a huge snowstorm hit. The snow was so thick, the highways came to a complete stop. We lived a half of a block from the highway. The darkness of night was approaching. There were several cars stuck with people and their families and/or pets inside.

Mom stood up and said to my brother, "I will open my house to the stranded people on the highway." She said, "Please go and invite them to our house." We had 13 families come. Our living room was covered in sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows. In the morning, we had three pots of coffee, one huge pot of hot chocolate, bacon, eggs, and warm French bread. Everyone showed such gratitude. Mom's act of kindness and humanity was so profound to me. She showed us all the selflessness of helping others.



I chose this story because it reminds me of my own mother and so many other mothers I have known. Mothers rarely confine their caring or their love.

When I was a child, I remember hearing faint knocks on our back door. My mother would answer, quietly get a brown grocery sack, go to our pantry, and fill it with canned goods and other dry goods. Then, she'd share whatever fruit or fresh vegetables we had. My brothers and I were confused. We were not wealthy, so why was she giving away our food? We had enough sense not to challenge her, though. Mom often said, "Everything belongs to God." We agreed about everything, except our Oreo cookies. We didn't think God had as much use for those as we did.

I didn't know the people who came to our door. My mom was discreet and afforded people their dignity. It wasn't important who they were. It was important to help.

Happy Mother's Day to all the selfless, loving, and generous mothers. We love you.

Care Ministries

Yolanda Toney | ytoney@germantownumc.org | 901-801-6368

Are you being called from the pews into the mission field?

Here are some ways you may answer that calling. Your options are not limited to this list. There are many ways to serve. Contact Yolanda Toney to discuss how you may serve.

To serve in the following ministries, contact Sue Myers, 901-756-7919 or joelmyers1@comcast.net

- **Prayer Ministry** - Join a team of volunteers, who arrive 30-45 minutes before worship, to pray throughout the church for all who enter the sanctuary before worship begins. The team also prays with the pastors. New members are welcome.
- **Monday Night Visits to First-Time Visitors** - Armed with fresh cookies, you will visit first-time visitors. You may bake cookies, go on visits, or both.

To serve in the following ministries, contact Yolanda Toney (see *contact information above.*)

- **Grief Ministry** - Commit to stay in touch with a person, who has suffered a close familial loss, for a year. Regularity of contact would be determined by the person affected by the loss and you. Contact might include calls, notes, or visits.
- **Note/Card Writing Ministry** - Once a month or less, you will write notes to assigned persons. Adults, youth, and children may contribute to this ministry.
- **Calling Ministry** - Monthly or bi-monthly (determined by you) you will call assigned persons to check in with them. These people may be ill, shut-ins, or may be absent from church for several Sundays.
- **Meal Ministry** - Occasionally, persons or families may appreciate a meal during a difficult time. You would make the meal or purchase a meal and deliver it.
- **Care for the Caregiver** - Give a caregiver at least an hour break. Sign up to be contacted if/when needed.



When: Third Sunday of each month—11:30 am
(after the traditional service)

Where: GUMC Room 339

“Good Grief” by Granger E. Westburg guides our discussion.

There is no fee, but please register by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

Questions? Contact Yolanda Toney
(ytoney@germantownumc.org)



Membership



Sunday, May 31

9:00-10:00 am

Are you thinking about joining GUMC but would like to know more about the church?

Join us during the Sunday school hour to meet our pastors and learn about the beliefs and traditions of the United Methodist Church and get to know GUMC a bit better. You will also get to connect with fellow GUMC worshippers and learn about opportunities to serve, connect, and grow! Please contact Mary Groh at mgroh@germantownumc.org if you are interested in attending.

Rev. Rick Pinkston

Germantown UMC welcomed Rev. Rick Pinkston on Sunday, April 19, at our traditional worship service. Rev. Pinkston was an associate minister at GUMC for three years in the mid-1990s. He is now retired and is placing his conference membership in relation with GUMC. Rick has joined the Asbury Sunday school class.



Churchwide



LET'S MAHJONG!

2nd Thursdays

6:00 pm

The Huddle (room 240)

Everyone is welcome!

No registration required.

Feel free to bring your mahjong set, if you have one!

Questions? Contact Chesley Porteous 901-268-4884
chesleyporteous@gmail.com



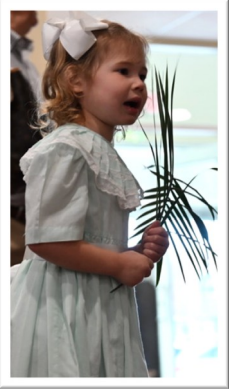
**New to mahjong?
We'll have someone
there to teach and help
you get started!**

Churchwide

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marked a beautiful beginning to Holy Week, as the children's choirs filled the sanctuary with joyful music at our traditional worship service. As we celebrated and reflected on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, their music reminded us of the excitement and hope that filled the streets that very first Palm Sunday.

One of the most beloved moments of the service was the children's procession. As the opening hymn, "*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,*" began, the children of our church made their way through the sanctuary, joyfully waving palm fronds.



Churchwide

McVay Garden and Trinity Center Dedication

Sunday, May 3

11:45 am

Join us on May 3 for a dedication of the newly renovated McVay Garden and Trinity Center. Following worship, everyone from both services is invited to gather at the Trinity Center for a brief service of prayer and thanksgiving.



Older Adults

Luci Cromer, Chair | 901-755-0803 | luci2@comcast.net

Our Handy Helpers are waiting for your call...

The Handy Helpers Ministry Team, sponsored by the Older Adult Council, lends a “helping hand” to older adults in our church who need assistance with small repair and maintenance jobs around the house.

WHAT TYPE OF JOBS DO HANDY HELPERS DO?

- Light maintenance and repairs, including small carpentry jobs, such as malfunctioning doors, locks, or windows.
- Minor electrical work, such as replacing light switches and light bulbs.
- Replacing smoke alarm batteries.
- Minor plumbing work, such as working on “running” toilets or leaky faucets.
- Other miscellaneous jobs are considered on an individual basis.



If you are planning a larger job for your house (repainting, wood replacement, remodeling) and would like a second opinion of what really needs to be done, call Handy Helpers, and they will send someone out to take a look and talk to you about it.

Handy Helpers do not work on large or small appliances, roofs, home decorating, or on jobs requiring tall ladders.

WHAT DOES THIS SERVICE COST?

The Handy Helpers service charges only for parts and materials used in the repair. There is NO charge for labor.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE HANDY HELPERS SERVICE:

You must be a member of Germantown United Methodist Church, have homeowners liability insurance, and be over 60 years of age.

To request assistance, please contact Ron or Nina Gaddy, 901-754-1238

Older Adults

Luci Cromer, Chair | 901-755-0803 | luci2@comcast.net



Don't Forget the May Brown Bag Lunch Program!



The "GUMC Attic Treasures Roadshow" will be Friday, May 1, 2026, in the fellowship hall. Todd Stricklin, local interior designer and owner of TODD&CO Estate Sales, will be available to give you an estimated value of jewelry, china, art, books, fabric, silver, toys, games, dolls, and anything else you can carry in your hands. You may bring **only four items**—no pictures of items, vinyl records, coins, stamps, Orientalia, large pieces, or furniture, please. 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.****



XYZs See Sweeney Todd in June!

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is a Tony Award-winning musical, by Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics) and Hugh Wheeler (book), based on a Victorian penny dreadful. It tells the story of an unjustly exiled barber, who returns to 19th-century London seeking revenge, partnering with a pie-maker, Mrs. Lovett, to dispose of his victims in her pies, leading to a gruesome and darkly comedic tale of obsession, injustice, and retribution. Known for its sophisticated and shocking storyline with a complex and challenging score, *Sweeney Todd* is a major work in musical theatre. This show is co-produced with Opera Memphis. Make your reservation NOW and come with us to opening night! Swing your razor high, Sweeney!

WHERE: Playhouse on the Square

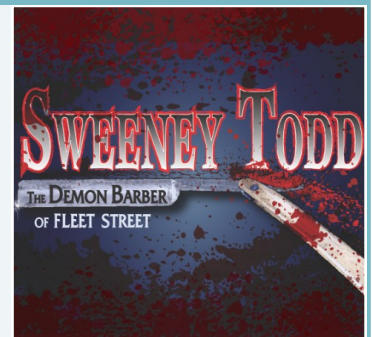
WHEN: Friday, June 12, 2026

COST: \$15 per person cost includes reserved seat and opening night reception

DEPARTURE: 5:45 pm from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 5:30 pm.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711. You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, May 12



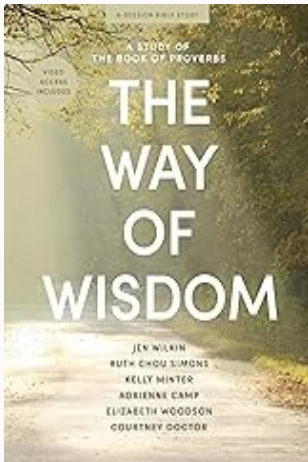
Adult Education

Mary Groh, Director | mgroh@germantownumc.org | 901-754-7216

The Way of Wisdom **A Study of the Book of Proverbs**

Wednesdays, June 17 – August 5 | 9:45-11:45 am via Zoom.

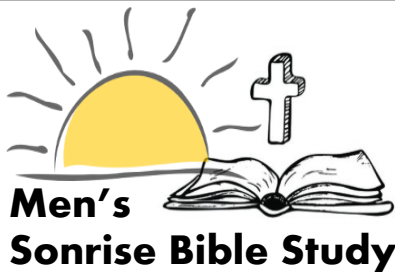
Facilitator: Chesley Porteous | cost: \$28.00



The book of Proverbs describes godly wisdom as a path that leads to life and flourishing. How often do we call to mind the wisdom found in the sayings of Proverbs to shed light on the path before us? How relevant do we even believe these ancient words are to our modern world?

Join us for this 8-week study as we consider wisdom principles on everyday topics like your words, work, friendships, marriages, parenting, money management, neighborliness, leadership influence, and more. Together we'll discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world.

To register, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Tuesdays | 6:30 am

All men are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings, at 6:30 am, in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

No registration required.

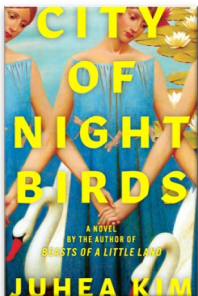
Monday Monthly Book Group 2026

4th Monday of the Month
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Room 338



There is no need to register. Just purchase the book (or check out from the library) and join us for a spirited discussion!

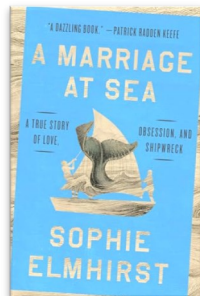
For questions, please contact Mary Groh.



May 18

City of Night Birds

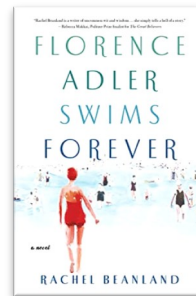
By Juhea Kim



June 22

A Marriage At Sea

By Sophie Elmhirst



July 27

Florence Adler Swims Forever

By Rachel Beanland

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org

June Collection for Methodist Healthcare Auxiliary

Methodist Healthcare Auxiliary (MHA) needs gently used small household items and women's accessories to be sold in MHA's gift shop in Methodist University Hospital. Ideas for items to donate: jewelry, gently used purses and scarves, figurines and vases, platters, trays, dishes, glassware, mugs, hand towels, table runners, napkins, picture frames, and books. No clothing.

Collection bins will be set up in the hallway behind the fellowship hall, next to the kitchen, through June 30.

Volunteers also welcome! Please consider joining the volunteers from Germantown UMC serving at Methodist University Hospital in midtown Memphis. Many of the volunteers work in teams of two and

carpool together, serving one day a month, joyfully helping customers in the

Methodist Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar. The Bazaar is where items, donated from churches all over the area, are sold. Money raised from the Bazaar is donated to the hospital for support of ongoing missions like their clothes closet, food pharmacy (food pantry), Dispensary of Hope (free medication), and once a year "wish list" grants across the Methodist Healthcare system.

Contact Elaine Fetzer at elaine.fetzer@gmail.com with questions regarding donations or how to become a volunteer. Both are wonderful ways we can demonstrate how to have a "Servant's Heart."



GUWF member Elaine Fetzer,
MHA Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteers from GUMC:

Lauren Boswell,
Jennifer Predmore,
Sally Hensley,
Karen Ferrell (MHA treasurer),
Linda Wiggins,
Debbie Wentworth,
and Terry Aust.

Elder Care Ministry

Rev. Linda Gabriel, Elder Care Minister | lgabriel@germantownumc.org | 901-758-6508
Richard Mattox, Elder Care Coordinator | rmattox@germantownumc.org | 901-758-6508



Richard Mattox
Elder Care Coordinator

When Does Someone Need Memory Care?

It can be difficult to determine when memory care is appropriate, as situations vary from person to person. Below are some signs that it may be time for memory care:

Difficulty performing ADLs

Dementia leads to a progressive decline in abilities, so your loved one may have increased challenges with their independence and activities of daily living (ADLs.)

Changes in behavior

As the disease progresses, it's common for those with dementia to experience irritability, agitation, aggression, and sundowning (when symptoms worsen later in the day.) Memory care staff are trained in person-centered cognitive techniques to skillfully redirect behavior.

Delusions and hallucinations

Your loved one may begin to experience delusions and hallucinations with the progression of their dementia. If you're trying to determine when memory care is needed, this is a clear sign.

Wandering and falls

If your loved one wanders, it can be hard to keep them in a secure environment at home. Unsupervised wandering may result in dangerous falls, injuries, and becoming lost. Modern memory care communities have built-in safety features to help keep your loved one from getting lost, like continuous loop walkways and locked exits.

Refusal of care

One of the heartbreaking parts of dementia is that your loved one may begin to forget you, as their condition progresses. They may even show signs of paranoia that prevent your care activities. It can become increasingly challenging if your loved one no longer accepts your help.



Continued...

Elder Care Ministry

Rev. Linda Gabriel, Elder Care Minister | lgabriel@germantownumc.org | 901-758-6508
Richard Mattox, Elder Care Coordinator | rmattox@germantownumc.org | 901-758-6508

....Continued

Increasing physical decline and health issues

It may be time for memory care when you notice a significant decline in your loved one's physical health. As dementia progresses into the later stages of the disease, it is common to see a dramatic loss of mobility and worsening of physical health.



Depression and Isolation

If you are caring for a family member at home, it may be difficult to create opportunities for recreation and social connections as their health declines. Memory care communities typically have on-site activity directors, who tailor social events for the different needs of people with dementia.



As you explore dementia care options, you may find that a memory care community offers the environment and specialized staff that better meet your loved one's unique needs.

The Germantown United Methodist Church Elder Care Staff is available to answer any questions you may have and help guide you in your search for the memory care communities in our area. Feel free to contact Richard Mattox, Eldercare Coordinator, at rmattox@germantownumc.org or 901-758-6508.

Music Ministry

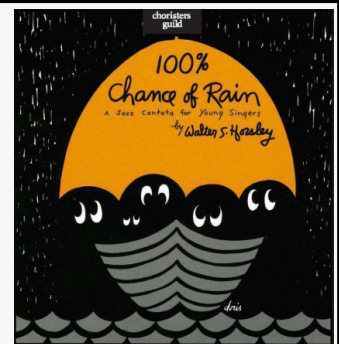
Rev. Todd Wilson, Minister of Music | twilson@germantownumc.org | 901-754-7216

Children's Choirs Concert and 5th Grade Choir Recognition Sunday, May 3 | 5 pm | Sanctuary

May 3, 2026 promises to be a wonderful day at GUMC! The Cherub, Alleluia, and Hosanna choirs offer their year-end children's choirs concert. The Alleluia and Hosanna choirs (kindergarten-5th grade) will present a musical, "100% Chance of Rain," by Walter Horsley, which highlights the story of Noah and the Ark. It incorporates great melodies, humor, and sound biblical teaching. The show ends with 100% chance of LOVE! The children have been working on this since December and would love to have a large and loving audience!

Another feature of this program is the presentation of personalized hymnals to our fifth grader choristers, who will be in the Testimony youth choir next year. This recognition also serves as an encouragement from the congregation that these youngsters continue to sing and offer their gift of song to the Lord.

The children's choirs concert takes place in the GUMC sanctuary, Sunday, May 3, at 5 pm, followed by a festive reception in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Please come and offer your gifts of presence and love to these young choristers!



Hospitality

Donna Haley, Hospitality Chair (Traditional) | dmhaley_99@yahoo.com | 901-487-8205

Jennifer Predmore, Hospitality Chair (Prism) | jenn_38138@yahoo.com | 901-230-1116



Missions

Anne Fritz, Chairperson | clarissafritz@att.net

Gently Used Men's/Women's Clothing

Time to clean your closet and support those in need by donating things you don't wear anymore.

Clothing collection on May 27 at the Summer Kick-off at McVay Gardens (see info below.) You may also bring your clothing to the drop-off point outside the fellowship hall anytime before May 27.

Donated clothing will go to multiple missions supported by GUMC, including Room in the Inn, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, and others.



Children's Ministry

Becca Keel, Director of Children's Ministries | bkeel@germantownumc.org
Janelle Crist, Associate Director - Nursery | jcrist@germantownumc.org
Hayley Heard, Associate Director - Elementary | hheard@germantownumc.org



KICK OFF THE SUMMER WITH THIS FUN, FAMILY EVENT!

Join us for popsicles and a movie at the newly renovated McVay Gardens!

Bring a picnic basket and chairs! Food trucks will also be on site (food available for purchase.)

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Egg Hunt Excitement—Rain and All!

The GUMC Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, proved to be wetter than we had hoped—but that didn't stop the fun and festivities! With over 735 children registered and 9,000 eggs scattered across the newly renovated McVay Gardens, the morning was filled with laughter, connection, countless photo-worthy moments...and lots of umbrellas!

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our adult and youth volunteers who braved the downpours to make this event possible. We couldn't have done it without you!



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GUMC's
VBS 2026

June 8-12
9 am-12 pm



For Ages 4 (by August 15, 2026)
through rising 6th grade

Rainforest Falls VBS

June 8-12 | 9 am-noon

For children age 4 (by 8/15/26)
through rising 6th graders

An adventure you'll fall for!

Make a splash at Rainforest Falls VBS as we explore the Nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves us!

To register, click [here](#) or scan QR code.

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
May 25!



Hope to
spot you
there!



Adult and Youth VBS Volunteers Needed

June 2-6 | 9 am-12 pm

Crew leaders and station leaders needed.
Be part of the fun!

Can't help VBS week? That's OK. We have lots of ways for volunteers to help ahead of time with craft prep or decorations. Contact Becca Keel with any questions about volunteering.

To register as a volunteer, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Is your child too young for VBS, but you don't want them to miss out on the fun?

We offer a special VBS program (free of charge) for the young children of **volunteers**, featuring age-appropriate games, songs, lessons, and crafts. Your child will have a blast, while you help make VBS an unforgettable experience for everyone!



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Is your child a budding actor/actress? Does he/she love performing in front of others?
Mark your calendar for Music & Arts Camp!



Music & Arts Camp

"A Not So Terrible Parable"

July 27-31 | 9 am-3 pm

For kids entering
2nd - 6th grades in
Fall 2026



Children will meet each day to prepare for a performance for friends and family at the end of the week. They will perform "A Not So Terrible Parable," a musical in which Jesus' well-known parable comes to life as a fun, over-the-top whodunit. Ms. Cheryl McClurg is back, again, as director for this camp.

Children will be provided with scripts, props, and costumes. They will bring their own lunch each day.

To register, click [here](#) or scan the QR code above.

Elementary Mission Camp

July 13-17 | 9:30 am-3 pm

For kids entering 5th and 6th grade



In this hands-on camp, we will explore three specific types of mission: inner-church mission, urban mission, and rural mission. Each child will have a chance to experience different types of work, hopefully creating an appetite for missional work. Some days, we will make our lunches here at church, and, other days, we will explore some Memphis eateries. We will finish each day with some seriously fun games and fellowship.

To register, click [here](#) or scan the QR code above.



Lakeshore Summer Camp

June 15-20 Elementary #1

July 19-25 Elementary #3

A crew from GUMC is heading to Lakeshore for fun and fellowship. The dates above are for students, ages 8-12. GUMC members, Dorothy Rogers (Elem. #1) and Kristen Stonebrook (Elem. #3), will be the deans of camp these dates! In addition, many of our youth will be serving as camp counselors. Lakeshore has an abundance of opportunities for all campers, and there are a variety of camps offered all summer long! For more information, and to register for summer camp, please visit the Lakeshore website. (<https://lakeshorecamp.org/>).



Acolytes Needed for Traditional Worship Service

Every Sunday, we need two acolytes for traditional worship service. What a great way to begin serving the church at an early age!

Children must be in second grade or older to participate. There is no age limit! Click [here](#) to sign up, or scan the QR code. If your child is interested in acolyting and hasn't been trained, reach out to [Becca Keel](#) to schedule a mutually convenient training session.



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THANK YOU to our elementary Sunday school teachers who have served throughout this school year: **Erin Dempsey, Jennifer Penn, Janice Cate, Leigh Adams, and Bethany Gallagher.** Week after week, these volunteers have brought our Bible lessons to life and poured their hearts into helping our children know Jesus! Their last day of teaching for the year will be May 17. Be sure to thank them the next time you see them!

Summer Sunday school volunteers needed!

Starting May 24, all elementary students will meet together in the Huddle (room 240) on Sundays, from 9-10 am, for summer Sunday school. Volunteers are still needed throughout the summer. If you feel called to serve in this way, please reach out to Becca Keel (bkeel@germantownumc.org). We would love to have you!

Youth

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



14 students were confirmed on Sunday, April 19, at McVay Gardens. Congratulations confirmands!

Youth

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

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	4 Fun Day!	5
7 Sunday School & Church	-----Vacation Bible School!!!-----					
	8	9 Youth Hangout 12-2pm	10	11 Youth Hangout 12-2pm	12	13
14 Sunday School & Church	-----901 Mission Camp!!!-----					
	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday School & Church			23 Summer Synago! 3pm-6pm	24 Fun Day!	25	26
28 Sunday School & Church	29	30				

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	2 Mission Day!	3	4
5 Sunday School & Church	6	7	8 Summer Synago! 3pm-6pm	9 Fun Day!	10	11
12 Sunday School & Church	13	14	15 Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	16 Mission Day!	17	18
19 Sunday School & Church	-----Lakeshore Week!!!-----					
	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School & Church	27	28	29 Final Summer Hangout!	30	31	

Youth

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

A Meaningful Holy Week Led by GUMC Youth

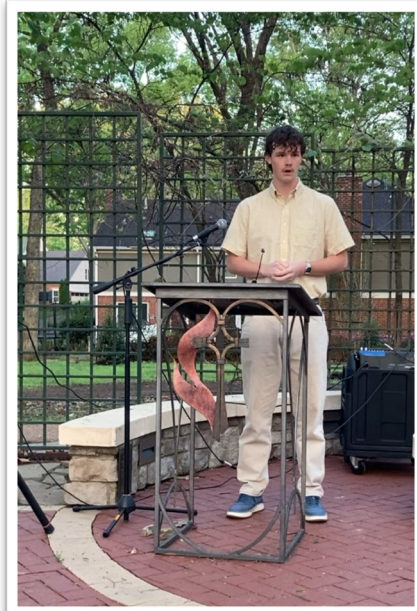
Our Youth played a meaningful role in our Holy Week celebrations here at GUMC! On Thursday evening, Tim Wise led the Testimony Youth Choir, along with other youth participants, in a beautiful and reflective Holy Thursday service. These individuals prepared for weeks, and all of them did a great job!



On Easter Morning, we gathered at 6:30 am for a joyful youth-led Easter Sunrise service. Eleventh grader George Underwood delivered the sermon, while fellow youth led the liturgy and prayers. We were also blessed by a special musical offering from GUMC youth alumnus, Landon Pate.



It was a beautiful morning—even if it was a little bit chilly!



Germantown United Methodist Preschool



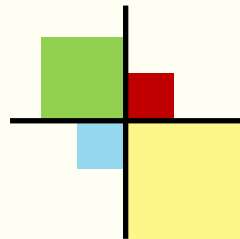
Germantown United Methodist Preschool will soon wrap up another joyful and successful school year. During our final month, GUMP friends are learning about animals in our backyard and community. A special visit from Kids Kountry Petting Farm allowed children to see goats, chickens, bunnies, donkeys, and turtles up close, and everyone enjoyed a fun train ride.



We are proud of our little friends and the growth they experienced this year. End-of-year class parties and programs will provide a joyful celebration to mark the end of the school year. Thank you to our families, teachers, and church families for your continued love and support.



This summer, GUMP will host four one-week summer camps for our current families. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about GUMP and our ministry, please contact us at 901-753-3109.



Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownumc.org
 Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | kmarsh@germantownumc.org

If you've never visited the OLEC, now is the perfect time! The OLEC is a **full-service exercise facility**. We have a newly-updated **weight room, cardio room, walking track, and open gym time**. All of this is **FREE** to church members! Contact any of our staff if you have questions.



Pickleball

at the OLEC



Daytime Hours

Mondays 12-3 pm
 Tuesdays 9 am-noon
 Wednesdays 9 am-noon
 Thursdays 9 am-noon
 Fridays 9 am-noon

Church Members

\$3
 \$2
 \$3
 \$2
 \$3

Guests

\$5
 \$2
 \$5
 \$2
 \$5



Evening Pickleball!

Wednesdays
 5-7:30 pm

\$2 all players

Please note: Available pickleball times are subject to change due to groups renting the gym or lessons. Please check the website each week under "Gym" or call the OLEC (901-753-3100) for updates on available pickleball times.

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownmc.org
Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | kmarsh@germantownmc.org

Workouts for New Moms

Exercise with your child!



(Women without babies are **always** welcomed to any of our class offerings!)

Monday 9:30-10:45 am

(alternates between Stroller Barre and Strides 360)

Stroller Barre®

Stroller Barre® is a 60-minute stroller workout that improves your posture, stability, and mobility while strengthening your body from the inside out! Reconnect with your body, increase flexibility, and find the inner strength you need for motherhood.

Strides 360®

Increase your endurance and speed to sprint through mom life with Strides 360®! Come play with your mom friends, with or without the stroller, during this 60-minute, heart-pumping workout that will energize you for the rest of your day!

Wednesday 9:30-10:45 am

Friday 9:30-10:45 am

Stroller Strides®

Stroller Strides® is a 60-minute total-body workout with strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging with the little ones in a stroller! You'll leave class feeling strong, empowered, connected, and energized—no matter your stage of motherhood.

Monday 6:15-7:15 pm

Body Boost®

Body Boost® is a 60-minute mom-only workout that is challenging, empowering, and energizing. By combining cardio, strength, core training, and meditation, you will leave this workout refreshed and recharged for all that comes with motherhood.

Wednesday 6:15-7:15 pm

Body Ignite®

Body Ignite is a mom-only strength workout that targets every muscle in your body. This easy-to-follow program will increase your metabolism, athleticism, and ability to lift, lunge, and push everything mom-life throws your way!

Discount for church members. Email memphis@fit4mom.com for more info!

Check out these other classes we offer



Gentle Yoga

Mon & Wed 3:30-4:30 pm

Senior fitness

Tues & Thurs 10-11 am

Vinyasa Yoga

Wed 2-3 pm

HATHA YOGA CLASS



Mondays

6:30 - 7:30 pm



\$10 for trial class
\$16 for single class
\$75 for five classes

- Led by Grace Stephenson
- 800 hour certified teacher
- Trained at the "The Indian Way" Yoga school in Germany

Specializing in:

- Traditional postures
- Breathwork
- Meditation

All are welcome!
No experience required

Call or text Grace to sign up: 901-701-0940

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownmc.org
 Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | kmarsh@germantownmc.org

Exercise Class Schedule May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10-11 am Walk Fit (DR) Judy Pearson	9:30-10:45 am Stroller Strides (DR)	10-11 am Chair Class (DR) Judy Pearson	9:30-10:45 am Stroller Strides (DR)	
9:30-10:45 am Stroller Barre (DR)		2-3 pm Vinyasa Yoga (DR)-Al Walton			
3:30-4:30 pm Gentle Yoga (DR)- Al Walton		3:30-4:30 pm Gentle Yoga (DR)- Al Walton			
6:15-7:15 pm Body Boost (DR)				Class Locations: Weight Room—WR Dance Room—DR Upstairs Room—UP	
6:30-7:30 pm Hatha Yoga (DR)		6:15-7:15 pm Body Ignite (DR)			

Open Play Gym Time

Mon: 3:30-5:30 pm
 Tues/Wed/Thurs 1-5 pm

**Please call the OLEC office
 to confirm Open Gym times.*

Free play time is for church members only. All guests can purchase a \$10.00 day pass.

Owings Life Enrichment Center
 2323 West St.
 Germantown, TN 38138
 (901)753-3100



Follow our Instagram page, @olecgermantown, to keep up with all the latest happenings at the OLEC.

Group Exercise Classes and Personal Training are available at the OLEC. Contact Gordon Kelly or Kim Marsh for more information.



Germantown United Methodist Church

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Germantown, TN 38138
901-754-7216
www.germantownumc.org

Editor's Note: *The deadline for submitting articles for Tidings is the 10th of the prior month. Submissions received after this deadline are not guaranteed to run.*

Our Mission

We are a welcoming community of faith,
committed to:

Loving God and loving others

Serving Christ and sharing Him

Transforming lives and making disciples

