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## Summer Light and Steady Faith

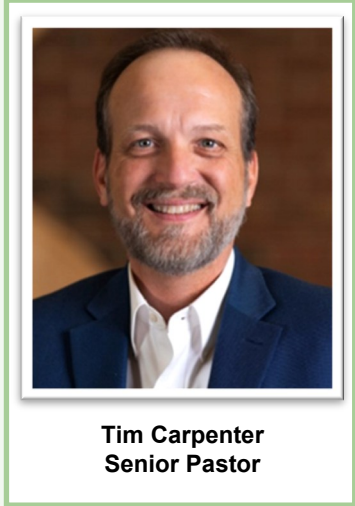
As the days lengthen, and the summer sun warms the earth, we enter the month of June. School years wind down, vacation plans take shape, and the pace of life often shifts. For many, this is a season of both celebration and transition—graduations, family gatherings, and the simple joy of longer evenings. During these changes, Scripture invites us to anchor in the unchanging light of God.

Jesus declared, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). In the longer sun of June, this promise feels especially vivid. Summer can be a gift—an opportunity to rest, reflect, and realign our hearts with the One who never grows weary; a chance to renew our walk in the light.

June also brings Father’s Day. For some, this is a day of gratitude and joyful memories. For others, it carries the ache of absence, disappointment, or loss. This will be my first Father’s Day after my own dad’s passing, but I carry appreciation for my dad’s faithfulness and godly example. The beauty of the gospel of Christ is that it meets us in every experience, whether joy or loss. Scripture declares that God is “a father to the fatherless” (Psalm 68:5), and we are invited to call him “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15). No matter what our earthly story holds, we are welcomed into the perfect, steadfast love of our heavenly Father.

If you are a father, I encourage you to guide gently and courageously. Your presence, prayers, and faithfulness matter more than you know. If fatherhood has been painful or complicated in your life, allow the Lord to heal and reframe those wounds through His Word and His people. Let that healing work through you to the next generation.

I invite you to walk intentionally in the light of Christ. Cherish your family. Rest in God’s care. Reach out to someone who may feel lonely in this season. And, remember, that the same God who orders the seasons is faithfully at work in your life and in our church.



# Executive Minister

Rev. Dr. Scott Alford | [salford@germantownumc.org](mailto:salford@germantownumc.org)



**Rev. Dr. Scott Alford**  
Executive Minister

## Nothing Is Ever Truly Lost

One of my favorite magic tricks is the cups and balls. In fact, search for a 2010 YouTube clip of Penn & Teller explaining the trick using clear plastic cups! It's a simple trick using a set of cups, a few small balls, and a magician's practiced hands making the balls appear, disappear, and reappear where we least expect them. Our eyes try to follow, but we're often surprised by what we cannot quite explain.

In many ways, life in the church can feel like that. We come together each week with our own expectations...our own sense of where things "should" be and what things "should" look like.

We look for God in the familiar places: in the hymns we know by heart, in the order we've experienced for years, in the sights of worship that ground us. Certainly, God is there. Yet, just as in the cups and balls, God is also at work in places we don't always notice, moving in ways we don't always anticipate.



We look for God in the familiar places: in the hymns we know by heart, in the order we've experienced for years, in the sights of worship that ground us. Certainly, God is there. Yet, just as in the cups and balls, God is also at work in places we don't always notice, moving in ways we don't always anticipate.

Sometimes we may feel that we've "lost" something in the life of the church. A beloved tradition changes. A longtime member moves away. A ministry that once flourished seems to fade. It can occasionally feel like the ball has vanished entirely. Yet, over time, we might discover that God has not removed the blessing but relocated it...bringing new life in a different form, in a different arrangement, or through different people.

The cups and balls remind us that our perspective is limited. We see only part of what is happening. As people of faith, we trust that God's hands are at work beyond what we can track or control. As John Wesley emphasized, grace is always preceding us, always at work before we are even aware of it. What looks like absence may, in fact, be preparation. What feels like loss may become an unexpected gift.



There's also an important communal dimension to this. In the trick, the magician often invites the audience to, "Watch carefully." In the church, we are invited to do the same, but to do so together in community. We help one another notice where God is moving. One person sees grace in a small act of kindness, another sees it in a moment of courage, and still another sees it in quiet persistence. Together, our shared witness gives us a more complete picture of God's presence.

The cups and balls also draw out a sense of wonder—not confusion necessarily, but a reminder that not everything can or should be fully explained. Our faith is not a puzzle to be solved, but a relationship to be lived. There is mystery at the heart of our faith, and that mystery draws us deeper into our trust in God.

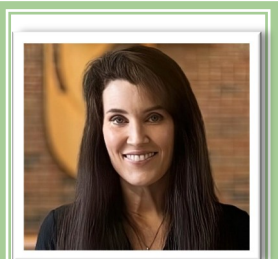
Perhaps, the next time we feel as if something in our life or in the church has disappeared, maybe we can see it as a time to look beyond, to look together, and to trust that God is still at work, still moving, still revealing grace in ways both seen and unseen. After all, in God's hands, nothing is ever truly lost. It may simply be waiting to reappear in a place we didn't expect.

# Prism

Rev. Mimi White | [mwhite@germantownumc.org](mailto:mwhite@germantownumc.org)



Sundays | 10:30 am  
Owings Life Enrichment Center



Rev. Mimi White



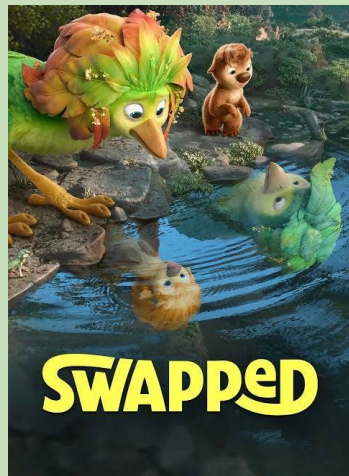
We will kick off summer at Prism with our favorite summer series: **The Animated Gospel**. Hopefully, many of you were able to attend the churchwide summer kickoff movie night in May, where we enjoyed one of the movies featured in our series, *Zootopia 2*.

The other movies we will feature this summer at Prism are *Toy Story 5*, *Elio*, *Swapped*, *David*, and *Animal Farm*.



Our series draws out the Gospel message hidden within each of these stories, making this a fun way to remember the teachings of Jesus for the entire family. We will reflect upon the themes of courage, unity, empathy, acceptance, corruption of power, perseverance, overcoming obstacles, teamwork, and love. Of course, there will also be incredible music from Prism Riot each week!

Invite all your F.R.A.N.S. (Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors, and Strangers) to come with you each week, get connected, celebrate the joys of summer and “Jesus following”, and find the place where they belong. Prism—A Place For All People meets at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings in the OLEC. Here’s to having the best summer ever!



# Generosity



Giving generously to support our church helps sustain its mission, outreach, and daily ministry work. Financial generosity is an expression of gratitude and trust, reflecting a willingness to invest in something greater than ourselves. When we give faithfully, we strengthen our community and enable the church to serve others more effectively.

## 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](http://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 April 30, 2026	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/UNDER BUDGET	JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET	% ACTUAL YTD to ANNUAL BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	2,576,136.69	2,600,723.30	(24,586.61)	3,120,868.00	82.55%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,458,617.01	2,589,088.93	(130,471.92)	3,120,868.00	78.78%
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE	117,519.68	11,634.37	105,885.31		

# Churchwide



## Summer Worship Series

STORIES You Know? PART 2

June 21 - August 2

Join us Sundays, at 10:30 am, in the sanctuary, for traditional worship. Starting June 21, we will explore key Old Testament stories—stories we all know, or do we?



Mark your Calendar!

**Bishop  
David Graves  
Preaching**

Sunday, August 9  
at Germantown UMC



## Emmaus Class BBQ Sale to Support Kenya Mission Trip

Pickup: Saturday, June 6 | 1-2 pm at the OLEC

The Emmaus Sunday school class will hold its world-famous BBQ sale on June 6. You can choose from a slab of ribs, pulled pork, or pork loin. Price is \$35 each. Proceeds will benefit the Kenya Mission Trip.

Pickup will be in the OLEC parking lot from 1-2 pm on Saturday, June 6. Drive up to the tables in front of the OLEC to pick up your order. Click [here](#) to order your meat and pre-pay by credit card on the church website or scan the QR code below. You also have the option to order now and pay later by cash or check at pickup on June 6. (Make checks payable to Emmaus Sunday school.)

**Deadline for ordering is Thursday, June 4, at 5 pm.**

Don't miss this opportunity to stock up your freezer and support our Kenya Mission Trip.



# Churchwide



Each month we recognize a volunteer or volunteers who **make an impact** by selflessly sharing their time and talents for the betterment of our church and community.

## Rob Jolly— Adult Sunday School Teacher and More

This month, we spotlight a volunteer whose heart for service and passion for teaching have blessed countless people both within and beyond our church walls.

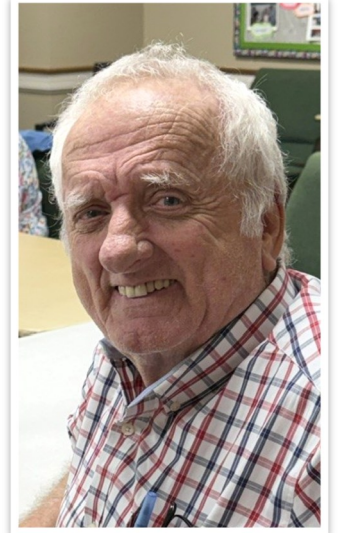
For the past two years at GUMC, Rob has faithfully taught adult Sunday school classes, leading 51 lessons so far. His love for sharing God's Word stretches back even further— 53 years of teaching people of every age. In addition to Sunday school, he also participates in both the SonRise men's class and the Rutherford Men's Bible class as a member and occasional teacher.

Rob's servant heart reaches far beyond the classroom. He spent two years delivering food donated by Trader Joe's to recovering addicts at the Salvation Army, helped pack 2,000 food bags for Rise Against Hunger, and prepared meals at the Church Health Center. He has also volunteered at every GUMC children's consignment sale since joining the church and recently secured fourteen auction items for the 2026 GUMC missions auction.

This past Spring, Rob co-directed and wrote the dialogue portion of the Maundy Thursday performance, featuring GUMC youth participants, helping bring the story of Holy Week to life in a meaningful way.

When asked what he loves most about serving at GUMC, his answer reflects the spirit of our church family: "I simply cannot wait to get to church whenever I can. Interacting and hugging my fellow Christian friends, staff, and even new visitors always keeps a smile on my face. We are a welcoming, warm and fuzzy, happening place!"

Thank you, Rob, for your joyful spirit and faithful service!



## LET'S MAHJONG!

2nd & 4th Thursdays

6:00 pm

The Huddle (room 240)

Everyone is welcome!

No registration required.

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

## GUMC Welcomes Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director

Join us in welcoming Courtney Brookshire to the GUMC staff as Associate Youth Director. Courtney brings many years of experience working with youth, both as a church youth director and high school language arts teacher. She, along with her husband, Derek, and son, Wyatt, joined GUMC this past December.



# Adult Education

Mary Groh, Director | [mgroh@germantownumc.org](mailto:mgroh@germantownumc.org) | 901-754-7216



THE  
CANDLER  
FOUNDRY

## Sabbath: A Seven Week Study

Course by Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio,  
Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Candler School of  
Theology

In this course, we will explore the biblical concept of Sabbath and what it means to embrace God's rest in the midst of our busy lives and restless world.

Facilitated by: Chloe Granberry

Monday nights, June 1st-July 13th  
7pm-8pm, Room 339

Register now, cost is FREE!



This summer, Chloe Granberry will facilitate a Monday evening study on Sabbath, by Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Candler School of Theology. While in seminary, Chloe served as Dr. Bonfiglio's teaching assistant and is excited to share this course, now being offered as an asynchronous study to churches through the Candler Foundry.

Below is a description of the course:

"In this course, we will explore the biblical concept of Sabbath and what it means to embrace God's rest in the midst of our busy lives and restless world. In doing so, we will come to understand the ancient idea of Sabbath as more than just downtime on the weekend. Rather, we will discover Sabbath as a disruptive and life-giving invitation to think differently about our priorities, the pace of our lives, and what it means to be created in the image of a God who rests."

The class will meet Monday nights, June 1– July 13, from 7-8 pm, in Room 339. This class is offered for FREE!

Click [here](#) to register online or scan the QR code above.

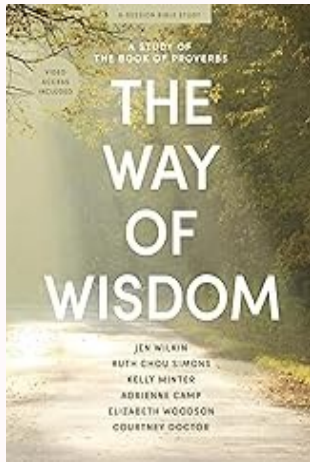
# Adult Education

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.

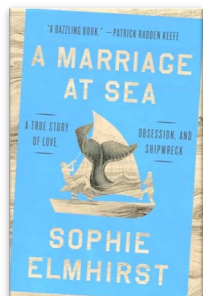
## **Monday Monthly Book Group 2026**

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!

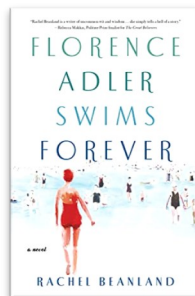
For questions, please contact Mary Groh.



June 22

**A Marriage At Sea**

By Sophie Elmhirst



July 27

**Florence Adler Swims Forever**

By Rachel Beanland



August 24

**Venetian Vespers**

By John Banville

# College Ministry

## Lauren Wright Hobbs Nursing Scholarship – 2026

A scholarship has been established, through Germantown United Methodist Church, to benefit a student from our church who is pursuing a degree in nursing. This scholarship is named for Lauren Wright Hobbs, who loved serving others in the nursing profession. Lauren was a long-time member of our church, who lost her battle with cervical cancer at the age of 29 in October of 2013.

Recipients should be members of GUMC and attending nursing school now or in the coming fall semester. The \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded to the student who best fits the model that Lauren exemplified in her love of nursing. Applications may be obtained by contacting Karen Oppenheim at [karen.oppenheim@gmail.com](mailto:karen.oppenheim@gmail.com). All completed applications with accompanying paperwork must be received by Tuesday, June 30. The scholarship committee will review and select the recipient prior to July 6, 2026. The scholarship will be awarded for the 2026-2027 school year.

You can make donations to this scholarship fund by writing your check to GUMC, with Lauren Wright Hobbs Scholarship noted in the memo line. 2026 is the thirteenth year for this scholarship, and the Emmaus Sunday school class is honored to offer this scholarship in her name.



# Membership

## Andrew Lyons

Germantown UMC welcomed Andrew Lyons into membership on Sunday, May 10, at our Prism worship service. He joined by transfer of his membership from Perdido Bay UMC, Perdido, Florida. Andrew's Welcome Friend is his wife, Anna Cates. They are members of the Wesley 2.0 Sunday school class.



# Care Ministries

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

## Obedience Does Not Require Understanding

The first Father's Day observance took place in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, following the worst mining disaster in U.S. history. Mrs. Grace Golden Clayton wanted to honor the many fathers who died in the tragedy—more than 360 men. Mrs. Clayton's own father had died in 1869, so she understood the pain of losing a father. Although this was the first known service honoring fathers, it did not become an annual event. Sonora Smart Dodd is credited with helping establish Father's Day as a national holiday. Her father, William Smart, raised six children alone in Washington, after her mother died in childbirth.



CLM Yolanda V.C. Toney  
Director Of Care Ministries



Mrs. Dodd proposed to the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA that a "Father's Day" be celebrated. She suggested June 5 because it was her father's birthday, but organizers chose the third Sunday in June to allow more time to prepare sermons following Mother's Day observances. The first Father's Day in Spokane, Washington was observed June 19, 1910. It became an annual event there.

It was not until 1972 that Father's Day was officially signed into law as a national holiday, to be celebrated on the third Sunday in June. In observance of Father's Day, I'm sharing below one of my most memorable experiences with my father.

*One Saturday morning, my dad took me to Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), while he ran errands and visited with friends. After MYF ended, he wasn't there to get me. Our youth director, Mrs. Pearl McNair, stayed with us as the other parents picked up their children. After quite a while, her youngest son, Eric, offered to drive me home, since we all lived nearby. I thought, "No big deal."*

*When I walked into the house, my mother looked puzzled and asked, "Where's your dad?" Just then, my father came flying into the yard on two wheels and burst through the door, shouting in his deep bass voice, "Is Yolanda here?" When he saw me, relief quickly turned to anger. Pointing his finger in my face, he said, "I don't care if Jesus comes—you tell Him I have to wait for my daddy!"*

*I was terrified at the time, but it became one of the funniest stories shared and is still shared in our family. Everyone knew my father had simply panicked after arriving at an empty church parking lot and not knowing what had happened to me. After usurping Jesus, he was never late again and often handed pickup duty over to my mother.*

*That day, we both learned something. I learned to obey my father whether I understood or not, and he learned never to take fatherhood for granted.*

For many, this day is joyful. For others, it may carry grief, absence, or complicated memories. Yet, we give thanks for the men who have loved, protected, taught, and encouraged us along the way.

*\*(Mrs. Pearl McNair is the mother of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, one of the Challenger astronauts. We were family friends and members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Lake City, South Carolina.)*

# 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](mailto: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.

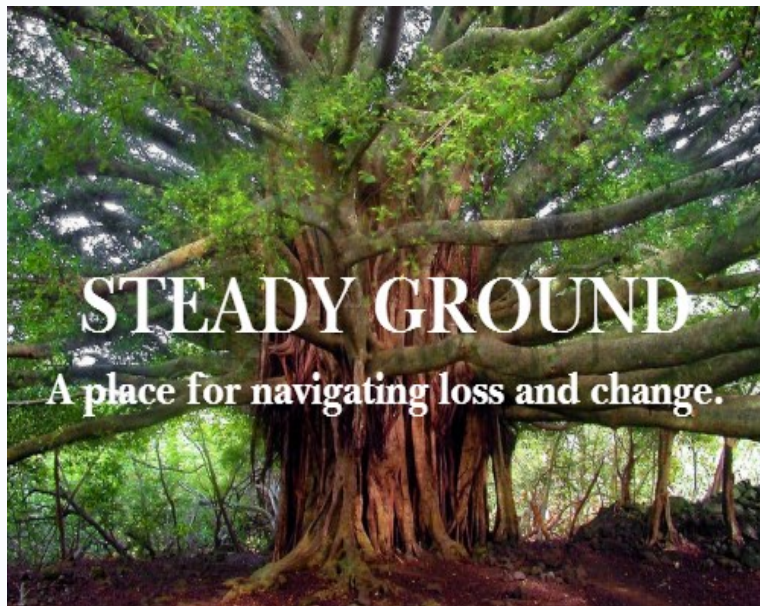


*"So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us."*

*~ 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

# Care Ministries

Yolanda Toney | [ytoney@germantownumc.org](mailto:ytoney@germantownumc.org) | 901-801-6368



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

**PLEASE NOTE: NO STEADY GROUND IN JUNE**

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](mailto:ytoney@germantownumc.org))



## A Caregiver's Recipe - "Stirring you up on the inside"



One (1) can of Smiles  
Two (2) sticks of Encouragement  
Two(2) pinches of Emotion  
Two(2) cups of Trust  
Three (3) cups of Respect  
Two (2) cups of Security  
A taste of Comfort Seasoning  
A dash of Cooperation  
Love Sprinkles

Mix all ingredients into a good day's work.  
Separate their respect for the opinions/privacy,  
Blend together trust and security,  
Add encouragement/motivations,  
Season to taste with comfort and humor,  
Whip in cooperation on high speed,  
Bake at 100% with attention,  
Sprinkle with Love 24/7.



2004 Chartrese Smith

# 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

Every person you see this week—in the narthex getting cookies and coffee, in the sanctuary, at PRISM, in the parking lot, or in the gym—is fighting battles you know nothing about. No one wears a sign saying, “I’m struggling.”

So, wear your name tag, share a smile, and take a moment to speak to someone you don't know. Your kindness, your energy, your encouragement, even the way you hold open the door, can make more of a difference than you realize.

**Choose to lift others**

*and you will find yourself lifted as well.*

**IF YOU GIVE A GUEST A COOKIE ...  
You make fellowship even more fun!**

Help provide cookies in the narthex!

Whether you're baking or buying cookies or donut holes, your contribution adds to the welcoming atmosphere in the narthex before the worship service.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to sign up for a Sunday of your choice! Be a solo baker or team up with a friend or your Sunday school class.



# Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | [women@germantownumc.org](mailto: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 the MUH Clothes Closet, Mid-South 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](mailto: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."

## Blessing of the Babies

Proud mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers were on hand at the GUWF speaker luncheon on May 5, as they took part in the annual "Blessing of the Babies."

All in attendance enjoyed a delightful video presentation with photos of all babies to be blessed. In addition to a special blessing, a donation to United Women in Faith missions is given in honor of each baby, and special blessing certificates are presented. Just in time for Mother's Day!



# Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | [women@germantownumc.org](mailto:women@germantownumc.org)

## GUWF Elects New Officers for 2026-2027

In addition to wonderful speakers sharing inspirational topics at Germantown United Women in Faith luncheons, these gatherings also serve as unit meetings. This portion of the program is used to communicate important information to all in attendance, such as upcoming events, results of fundraising efforts, blessing of babies, leadership elections, and installation of those newly elected.

During the May luncheon, a recommended slate of officers to serve on the 2026-2027 GUWF Executive Committee was presented by chair of nominations, Lauren Boswell. These were:

**Stephanie Adams** – President  
**Chesley Porteous** – Vice President  
**Linda Cunningham** – Secretary  
**Brenda Dew** – Treasurer  
**Lauren Boswell** – Communications

In addition, two new members to serve on the Nominations Committee, **Mary Groh** and **Jennifer Predmore**, were also recommended. After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, these women were all unanimously approved. They will begin their new leadership roles in September, and will be installed during the September luncheon.

Members of the Executive Committee are women who volunteer their time in service to Germantown United Women in Faith and seek to support and expand its programming in support of our mission. This leadership team is made up of elected officers, appointed coordinators, fundraising chairs, and mission liaisons, as well as all circle chairs (sub-group leaders).

If you are interested in becoming more involved with United Women in Faith, please reach out to either President Stephanie Adams at [women@germantownumc.org](mailto:women@germantownumc.org) or Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Chesley Porteous. All women are welcome to join us as we seek to have “A Servant’s Heart.”



**Back Row:** Brenda Dew, Linda Cunningham, and Lauren Boswell; **Front Row:** Stephanie Adams, Chesley Porteous



Mary Groh



Jennifer Predmore

# Older Adults

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

## ***Older Adult Programming to Resume in September...***

Don't forget—both the Brown Bag Lunch and XYZ programs will start up again in September.

Your August Tidings will have information about these kick-off events. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer break!



## ***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

## AARP Smart Driver™ Course

July 9 & 10 | 9 am-1 pm

Germantown United Methodist Church and AARP will present the “AARP Smart Driver™ Course,” the nation’s largest driving refresher course. This 8-hour course is scheduled for July 9 and 10, from 9 am-1 pm. Successful completion entitles participants to a discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. There is no driving test or written exam. Register early because the class will be closed at 28 participants. The results of taking these classes have been proven—class participants have fewer accidents and tickets.

**WHERE:** Room 339 in the Ministry Center.

**WHEN:** Thursday and Friday, July 9 & 10, 2026, 9 am-1 pm.

**COST:** \$20 fee for AARP members (\$25 for non-members) payable to AARP

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Ray Smith at 901-410-0184

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:** Reservations will be taken until class is full.

*The objectives of the course are to help you:*

- Be independent, safe, and confident while on the road.
- Keep up with changes so you don’t put yourself and others at risk.
- Learn state-specific information throughout the course.
- Focus on areas such as roundabouts, pavement markings, stop-sign compliance, red-light running, and safety issues such as speeding and seatbelt and turn-signal use.

Check your calendars and register now. Your check is your ticket to this class.



## MOVING? CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES?



Congratulations on your move! Please send us your updated contact information (locally or out-of-town) so we can stay connected with you!

Call 901-754-7216 or email Brenda West  
[bwest@germantownumc.org](mailto:bwest@germantownumc.org) to update:

- Mailing address with room/apartment number
- Phone number
- Email address
- Emergency contact name

# Elder Care Ministry

Rev. Linda Gabriel, Elder Care Minister | [lgabriel@germantownumc.org](mailto:lgabriel@germantownumc.org) | 901-758-6508  
Richard Mattox, Elder Care Coordinator | [rmattox@germantownumc.org](mailto:rmattox@germantownumc.org) | 901-758-6508



Richard Mattox  
Elder Care Coordinator

## MY LOVED ONE ISN'T SAFE LIVING ALONE ANYMORE—NOW WHAT?

Many people are dealing with a parent or parents who want badly to remain independent, but won't accept the necessary help that will allow them to do just that. Our civil rights protections are (fortunately) very strong in the United States. This means that, unless an individual is proven incompetent—a difficult process, especially at the beginning stages of dementia—they cannot be forced to accept help against their will.

The best way to increase the odds of a parent accepting help later in life is by starting conversations about long-term care early—before health and cognitive function start to decline. When a person's wishes have been discussed openly for years, and properly documented with living wills, trusts, and powers of attorney, the transition is far less traumatic when those plans need to be put into action.

The problem is that many people hesitate to bring up such a sensitive subject, or, when they do, the conversation is met with anger or denial. Either way, nothing gets clarified or resolved. The longer “the talk” is delayed, the harder it becomes.

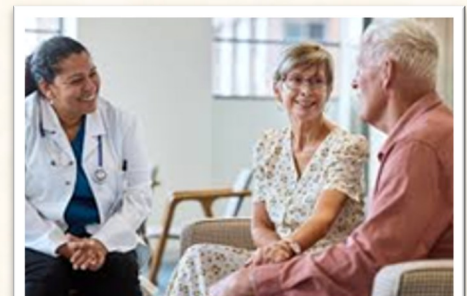
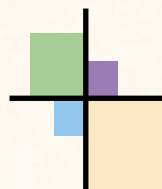


## HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE TOP PRIORITIES

When you know in your heart that your parent or parents can no longer remain safely in their home, don't let their demands, protests, and pleas cloud your better judgement. You know what they need. Don't wait for a middle-of-the-night phone call about a broken hip or a medicine overdose. These things happen all too often.

## BRING IN BACK-UP

If you find that you're not getting very far on your own, it's helpful to invite others—relatives, friends, clergy, and healthcare professionals—to be part of the conversation. When trusted voices are included, your loved one may be more open to decisions that need to be made.



# Music Ministry

Rev. Todd Wilson, Minister of Music | [twilson@germantownumc.org](mailto:twilson@germantownumc.org) | 901-754-7216



On Sunday, May 3, we were fortunate to have a big storm in our sanctuary! The children's choirs presented their year-end concert that featured the musical "100% Chance of Rain." The story of Noah and the Ark came to life and will surely not be forgotten by these young singers. I'm grateful that the children's choir leaders poured so much of themselves into the children, and that we were able to receive such a wonderful blessing from their efforts.

Thanks to the children, Mary Groh, Peggy Warner, Libby Schielke, Melissa Hayes, Kim Marsh, Carla McCrary, Janice Cate, and Crystel Hardin for committing to this most worthy cause.



# Children's Ministry

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

## 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.

**SORRY, THIS CAMP IS NOW FULL! But please join us on Friday, July 31, to watch the children perform this fun musical production.**

## 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  
camp and retreat center

## 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/>).

# Children's Ministry

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



## Elementary Summer Sunday School 9 - 10 am

During the summer (May 24-August 9) all elementary age kids will meet in the Huddle (room 240) during the Sunday school hour. Pickup and drop off will be in the Huddle instead of the classrooms.

Preschool Sunday school will meet as usual in the Hamilton Nursery from 9-10 am.

## Worship Reminder



We hope that you will bring your elementary students (and younger children, too, if you wish) to worship with you each week. Remember that children are **always welcome** at our services! For our traditional service, we have children's bulletins and worship bags in the cabinet on the east side of the narthex. Please return your worship bag to the bin after the service.

The Hamilton Nursery is open during all worship services for children who have not yet entered kindergarten. There is also a nursing mother/quiet room available in the nursery.

## Acolytes Needed For Traditional Worship Service



Every Sunday, we need two acolytes for the 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.



# Youth

Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries | [cgranberry@germantownumc.org](mailto:cgranberry@germantownumc.org)  
Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director | [cbrookshire@germantownumc.org](mailto:cbrookshire@germantownumc.org)



We have had a marvelous time at the close of our 2025-2026 GUMC Youth year! On April 19, we had a beautiful Confirmation service in McVay Gardens. We are so proud of our 2026 Confirmation class! We've had such a great time in Element, Synergy/Synago, and Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast this year! Make sure you give our summer calendar a look so you know what's going on!

Also, coming up, we will have 901 Mission Camp, June 17-19, and the night of June 18 will be overnight at the church! Mission Camp is open to rising 7th grade through graduated seniors. See details on the following page.

Please contact Chloe with any questions!



[gumc youth]



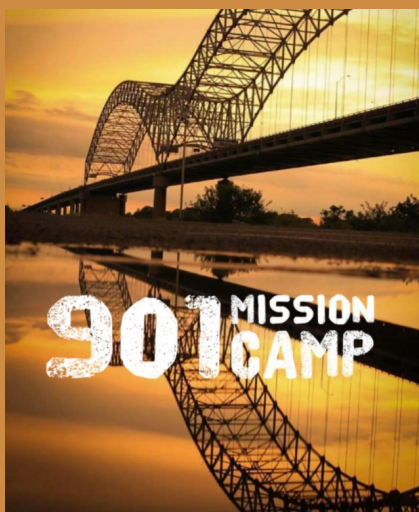
# Youth

Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries | [cgranberry@germantownumc.org](mailto:cgranberry@germantownumc.org)  
Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director | [cbrookshire@germantownumc.org](mailto:cbrookshire@germantownumc.org)



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS!**

Check out our summer  
calendar on the  
following page!



**WHO:** Rising 7th grade through graduated seniors  
**WHAT:** This is a camp that offers an opportunity for our youth to serve the people in our community.  
**WHEN:** June 17-19 (more details online)  
**WHERE:** Owings Life Enrichment Center  
**COST:** \$85 per student (Early Bird price \$75)

For more information or to register, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



# Youth

Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries | [cgranberry@germantownumc.org](mailto:cgranberry@germantownumc.org)  
 Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director | [cbrookshire@germantownumc.org](mailto:cbrookshire@germantownumc.org)

**JUNE 2026**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	Fun Day!	5	6
Sunday School & Church 7	-----Vacation Bible School!!!-----					
	8	Youth Hangout 12-2pm	9	Youth Hangout 12-2pm	11	12
Sunday School & Church 14	15	16	-----901 Mission Camp!!!-----			20
Sunday School & Church 21	22	23	Summer Synago! 3pm-6pm	Fun Day!	26	27
Sunday School & Church 28	29	30				

**JULY 2026**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	Mission Day!	3	4
Sunday School & Church 5	6	7	Summer Synago! 3pm-6pm	Fun Day!	9	10
Sunday School & Church 12	13	14	Summer Synergy! 3pm-6pm	Mission Day!	16	17
Sunday School & Church 19	-----Lakeshore Week!!!-----					25
Sunday School & Church 26	27	28	Final Summer Hangout!	30	31	

# Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownmc.org  
 Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | kmarsh@germantownmc.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](mailto:gkelly@germantownmc.org)  
Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | [kmarsh@germantownmc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gkelly@germantownmc.org)  
 Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | [kmarsh@germantownmc.org](mailto:kmarsh@germantownmc.org)

## Exercise Class Schedule June 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)				<b>Class Locations:</b> 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**

2331 S. Germantown Rd  
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.*

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**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*

