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Spinning Priorities

As a child, I remember watching Ed Sullivan. As a variety show, there would always be the latest singers, comedians, dancers, and ventriloquists. But, my favorite acts to watch were the plate spinners. They would begin spinning one thing, then two, then four, then spin plates on poles while doing some other task. It seemed like they could do a hundred things at once. But, one night, the person couldn't keep everything going, and it all came crashing down. And, sadly enough, in life when we try to do too many things, it can all come crashing down.



Tim Carpenter
Senior Pastor

Jesus said, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* – Matthew 6:33. Our busyness can give us stress, when Jesus intends for us to have peace abundantly. It's easy to try and do too much—family, work, activities, fundraisers, children's sports, school functions, church functions, car repairs, football games, overtime, weekend outings, childcare—and, after a while, we get tired. We have been taught that being successful means having it all. But it's a lie. You can't have it all. And, even if you did, as the old joke goes, where would you put it?



"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Period. Not work. Not success. Not money. Not notoriety. Not power. Not even family. All these things have their importance, but in placing God first, we find that we have an abundantly generous Father in heaven who will add them to us. Do not let things or activities of this world cause stress. Keeping too many plates spinning is risky, and, eventually, it can all come crashing down.



A Word of Thanks and Appreciation

It is with gratitude and sadness that we announce the departure of both members of our Elder Care staff at the end of August. While it is difficult to see them go, we are

deeply appreciative of their faithful service and wish them every success in their future endeavors. For the past year and a half, Rev. Linda Gabriel and Richard Mattox have worked together as an exceptional Elder Care team, bringing compassion, dedication, and comfort to those they served. Their commitment to supporting and caring for our elders has been a true blessing, and their impact will be felt for years to come. We deeply appreciate their many contributions and thank them wholeheartedly for their service. Please join us in expressing our appreciation and wishing them all the best in this next chapter of their lives.

Executive Minister

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



Rev. Dr. Scott Alford
Executive Minister

Giving Is What Grace Does

John Wesley's wise words in his sermon, "The Use of Money," to "earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can" are often quoted, and there is a richness to the truths behind his words. Wesley wasn't offering a formula for personal wealth. Instead, he was describing a way of life, ordered around love of neighbor. For Wesley, generosity wasn't a line item in the budget of a Christian life. It was evidence that grace had taken root.

**Earn.
Save.
Give.**

That's still true for us. Generosity is not a fundraising strategy; it's a spiritual practice in our discipleship. It shapes us even as it shapes the world around us. When we give of our money, our time, our skills, and our attention, we are practicing the truth that everything we have was first given to us.

GUMC has always been strongly focused on mission. Helping kids learn to read, providing shelter for homeless families, offering care to hurting people, feeding hungry children, and assisting low-income mothers are just a few ways we accept God's call to serve and turn our faith outward.

None of that mission happens without our generosity. Every dollar placed in the offering plate, given online, or shared through a required minimum distribution (RMD) is a small act of trust. It's trusting that God can take what we offer and multiply it into something we could not have built alone.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

We give, not to earn favor with God, but because we've already received more grace than we can hold onto by ourselves. Giving is simply what grace does when it keeps moving.

As we look toward all God has in store for our church, even those things not yet revealed, prayerfully consider where your own financial giving is currently. What missions have you been thinking of supporting with your volunteer hours? Who needs a phone call? Have you included GUMC in your estate planning?

In the words of John Wesley:

"But employ whatever God has entrusted you with, in doing good, all possible good, in every possible kind and degree to the household of faith, to all men! This is no small part of 'the wisdom of the just.' Give all ye have, as well as all ye are, a spiritual sacrifice to Him who withheld not from you his Son, his only Son: So 'laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that ye may attain eternal life!'"

Prism

Rev. Mimi White | mwhite@germantownumc.org



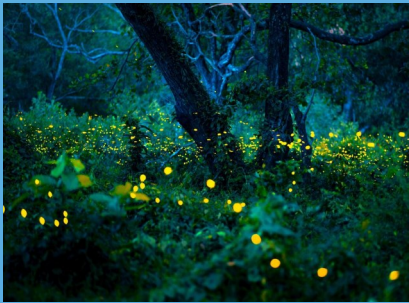
Sundays | 10:30 am
Owings Life Enrichment Center



Rev. Mimi White



The end of summer is here. I hope you had time to get away and rest. Even if it was just a day or two, I hope you found the opportunity to get outside, enjoy nature, and soak in the season. The kids are getting ready for school to start again, and all of us are preparing for the rhythm of fall—schedules to keep, places to be, and events to plan.



In these last days of summer, take a few moments to sit outdoors in the early morning with the birds, before the humidity settles in, or at the end of the day, while watching the last of the fireflies, and ask yourself, **“Where have I seen God in my life this summer?”**

Maybe it was in the laughter of your children, in the rainbow after a thunder-shower, or during a visit with old friends. Taking time to reflect on the ways we’ve experienced God in our lives builds gratitude and faith. The end of summer is a wonderful time to sit in quiet reflection and thank Jesus for all we are being carried through.

At Prism, we are wrapping up our series, “The Bible and the Blues,” as we celebrate Jesus carrying us through a history of oppression, during which some of the world’s greatest music was inspired. Together, we reflect on the Bible, our own history, and the lyrics of the blues, connecting our past with our present and gaining strength and wisdom for the journey.

On August 23, we begin a new series, “Romans: The New Humanity,” that will carry us through September. Join us as we celebrate Jesus each Sunday at 10:30 am, in the OLEC, where Prism Riot brings inspiring music, featuring guest musicians from the Memphis music scene. Come as you are and invite all your FRANS (Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors and Strangers.) Stay cool everyone!



Generosity



Generosity Statement

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

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 June 30, 2026	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/UNDER BUDGET	JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET	% ACTUAL YTD JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	2,950,898.57	3,120,868.00	(169,969.43)	3,120,868.00	94.55%
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,011,502.86	3,120,868.00	(109,365.14)	3,120,868.00	96.50%
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE	(60,604.29)	0.00	(60,604.29)		

Churchwide

BISHOP DAVID GRAVES

— with us next Sunday! —



9:00 AM
Coffee & Conversation
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Spend time with Bishop Graves during the Sunday School hour for fellowship and conversation.



10:30 AM
Traditional
Worship

Bishop Graves will bring the morning message.



— All are welcome! —

GermanTown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



5:30-6:30pm in the OLEC Gym

Free of Charge.

Bring a friend and a side dish or dessert!

Let's kick off our activities for the Fall
with a family friendly cookout!

Wednesday, August 26 | 5:30-6:30

Hotdogs, hamburgers, and lemonade will be provided.
Bring a side or dessert to share.

Registration is required for all attendees.
Please register by noon on Monday, August 24.

Click [here](#) to register
for this free event
or scan the QR code.



Open to children, youth, and adults.
We'll have inflatables and games for the children.

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.

Wes Penn - Youth Volunteer

Wes Penn is a familiar face in GUMC's Youth Ministry, where he serves as a Sunday school teacher and, on Sunday nights, an Element volunteer, helping director, Chloe Granberry, whenever she needs an extra set of hands.



For Wes, the greatest joy of volunteering is watching young people grow in their knowledge of God and Jesus. He enjoys seeing faith through the eyes of the youth and says that walking alongside them has strengthened his own faith as well. Witnessing their spiritual growth is one of the most rewarding parts of serving.

In addition to Sunday school and Element, Wes has also coached youth basketball and soccer at GUMC. He loves helping out with the fun youth programs that our church offers.

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of students? Wes encourages anyone who feels called to serve to simply reach out to Chloe Granberry or any member of the youth ministry volunteer team to learn more.

Thank you, Wes, for sharing your time, faith, and encouragement with the youth of GUMC.



LET'S MAHJONG!

Every Thursday!

6:00 pm

Everyone is welcome!
No registration required.

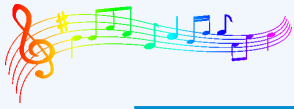
Questions? Contact Chesley Porteous 901-268-4884
chesleyporteous@gmail.com



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

Music Ministry

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



Music Ministry Kickoff Join Us This Fall!



"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

Fall is a wonderful time for new beginnings! Our children's music ministry program offers kids the opportunity to grow musically, build friendships, deepen their faith, and serve the church by actively participating in worship.

🎵 Children's Choirs

Begins: September 13
When: Sundays at 5:00 pm
Where: Children's education wing (2nd floor)

🔔 Wesley Ringers Hand Chimes

Begins: September 2
When: Wednesdays, 5:30 pm
Where: Handbell Studio
Who: 3rd Grade & Up



Why Music?

- 🎵 Learn about God through music
- 🤝 Build lasting friendships
- 🏛️ Lead in worship
- 🧠 Grow socially, emotionally, and creatively
- ✨ Develop musical gifts



We understand how fortunate we are to still offer children's music programming; not all churches do! Regular attendance helps children grow in both music and faith, but it's never too late to join. **Friends are always welcome!**

Questions?

Todd (Minister of Music)
Andrè (Wesley Ringers)
Libby (Hosanna Choir: 3rd-5th grade)
Mary (Cherub Choir: age 3-pre K)
Peggy (Alleluia Choir: K-2nd grade)

twilson@germantownumc.org
aduvall@germantownumc.org
libby5959@att.net
mgroh@germantownumc.org
peggywarner51@gmail.com



August 19	Chancel Choir (adult) rehearsal - 6:30 pm
August 30	Matins Handbells (adult) - 5:00 pm
September 2	Wesley Chimes (3 rd grade and up) - 5:30 pm
September 13	Children's Choirs - 5 pm



If you have any questions about participating in these ensembles or how to support them financially, please reach out to Rev. Todd Wilson, twilson@germantownumc.org

Music Ministry

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



Renewed in Worship at Lake Junaluska

GUMC musicians made their way back to Lake Junaluska for Music and Worship Arts Week. The event is offered by the Fellowship of Worship Artists, an ecumenical organization committed to the art of creating transformative worship experiences. Church musicians—from Virginia to Puerto Rico to Nebraska and all points in between—gathered at Lake Junaluska for a wonderful week of fellowship, worship, study, and renewal.

I'm grateful for GUMC's support for this trip, through our Hymnathon fundraiser. My prayer is that we take an even bigger group next year, and I trust you will again make it so. Lighting a fire that illuminates a path for people of all ages to encounter and consider God is surely a good and worthwhile effort. Thanks, again, for making these encounters possible.



Membership



Sunday, August 23
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.

Membership

Toni and Scott Lewis and Family

Germantown UMC welcomed Scott, Toni, Claire, and Brock Lewis to our congregation on Sunday, July 12, at the traditional worship service. They joined by transferring their memberships from another denomination in the Memphis area. Their Welcome Friend is Betty Duke. Scott's mother is church member, Fran Lewis.

When asked what about GUMC made them want to become a part of our church community, Scott replied: "Germantown United Methodist offers a traditional service that reminds me of the United Methodist church where I grew up. We like the traditions of robes, hymnals, the organ, and choir. We have been attending for almost three years now, and all the church staff have made us welcomed, and we felt at home from the very onset of attending."



Adult Education

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

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!

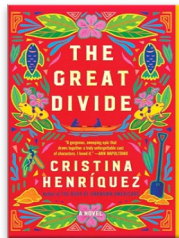
For questions, please contact Mary Groh.



August 24

Venetian Vespers

By John Banville



September 28

The Great Divide

By Christina Henríquez



October 26

The First Witch Of Boston

By Andrea Catalano



Men's Sunrise Bible Study

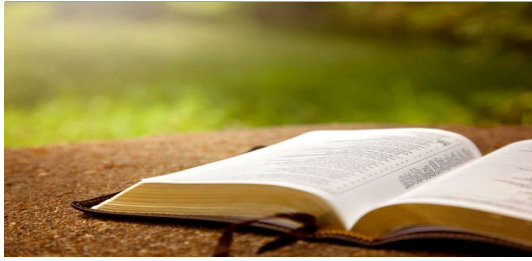
Tuesdays | 6:30 am

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

No registration required.

Adult Education

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



Adult Bible Studies Starting Soon!

GENESIS

A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning

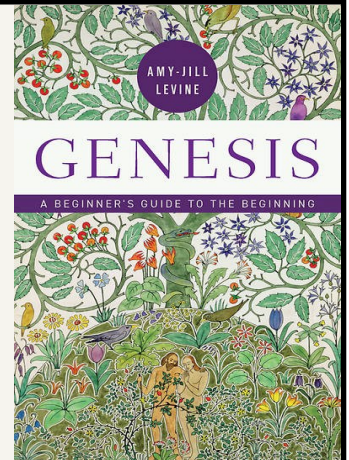
Tuesdays, Sept. 15 - Nov. 3

9:30-11 am

Facilitator: Mary Groh | Cost: \$26.00

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and the Torah, chronicling the origins of the world, humanity, and the nation of Israel. Author Amy-Jill Levine presents Genesis as a living text, one that continues to shape faith, identity, and our understanding of what it means to be human.

Whether you are encountering Genesis for the first time or returning with fresh questions, this study will offer a thoughtful journey as we explore the Bible's first stories of creation, conflict, judgment, and mercy. Join us as we explore the book of beginnings with wisdom and wonder. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above.



JOSHUA

Every Good Promise Fulfilled

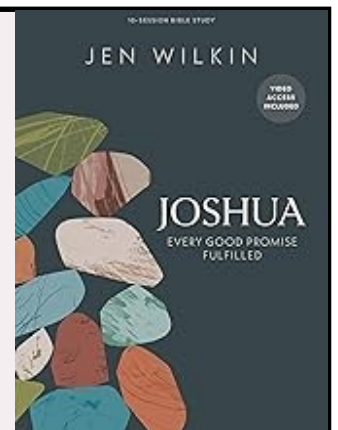
Wednesdays, Sept. 2 - Nov. 11

9:45-11:45 am, via Zoom

Facilitator: Chesley Porteous | Cost: \$27.00

The book of Joshua chronicles God's continuing faithfulness to fulfill God's covenant promises to Abraham. It is a book of transitions, in which Joshua rises to leadership, and the people of God step across the Jordan into the long-awaited land of promise. The task of possessing the land will test the limits of their strength and their courage, but God's covenant will not fail them.

Join us for this 10-session, verse-by-verse women's study, by author Jen Wilkin, as we see how God's commands, though sometimes difficult, are always rooted in God's steadfast love. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above.



Continued...

Adult Education

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

...Continued

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT Jesus' Great Instruction

Mondays, Aug. 10 - Sept. 14 (skipping Sept. 7)
10:00-11:30 am

Facilitator: Rev. Rick Pinkston | Cost: Free



Many of the best-known passages in all of scripture are part of The Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon is the lengthiest discourse of Jesus in all of the New Testament. In it we read the Beatitudes, the Salt & Light metaphors, the Lord's Prayer, the Wise and Foolish Builders and many other prominent passages. This study will examine both the devotional and instructional meanings of this great sermon. We hope you will join with other members of our church family in this in-depth examination of this great portion of scripture. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above.

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesdays, Sept. 1 - Oct. 6
6-7:30 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Todd Wilson | Cost: \$10.00



SOCIAL
PRINCIPLES
— of The —
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
2025-2028

INCLUDES Our Social Creed

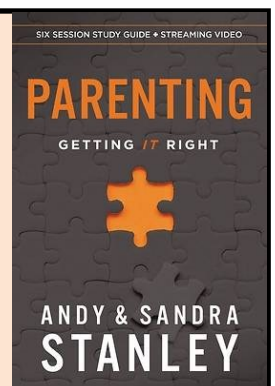
Join Rev. Todd Wilson for an introduction to the United Methodist Social Principles. By engaging in this study, you will reflect upon your own theology and ethics, allowing you to grow in discipleship and understanding of the United Methodist Church.

After the adoption of the revisions to the Social Principles during General Conference, The General Board of Church and Society collaborated closely with Cokesbury to publish a handbook. This theologically grounded resource will be our guide as we consider issues of the day through a Wesleyan ethical lens. Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity for personal and group growth. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above.

PARENTING Getting IT Right

Wednesdays, Sept. 2 - Oct. 7
6:15-7:15 pm

Facilitators: Courtney and Matt Lubozynski | Cost: \$20.00/family



For parents there exists a question that is always hovering in the background. *Are we doing it right?* In this 6-session video study, authors Andy and Sandra Stanley provide honest reflection on the challenges and stages of parenting in a timely guide for achieving personal parenting priorities and raising healthy, relationally connected children. Join our discussion and take home some practical advice to make the changes you want to make in your approach to parenting. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code above.

Missions

Anne Fritz, Chairperson | clarissafritz@att.net

Reelfoot Rural Ministries

Reelfoot Rural Ministries is a mission program of The United Methodist Church located in rural, Northwest Tennessee. The four-county service area includes Lake County, Obion County, and Dyer County of Tennessee, and Fulton County Kentucky. This rural area, surrounding Reelfoot Lake, is an area of extreme poverty. Recently, Lake County had the lowest “per capita” income of any county in Tennessee and was 32nd from the bottom of family income levels in our nation.



Primary Services offered by Reelfoot Rural Ministries:

Children's Services

The Christmas Store

provides three new toys to each child through a parent application process. GUMC will start collecting toys for Reelfoot in early November.

Back Pack Buddies Program

Reelfoot Rural Ministries partners with The Lake County School District to provide 75 students with meals, snacks, fruit, and drinks for each weekend while school is in session.

School Supplies

are given to an increasing number of children each year, especially at the beginning of the school year.



Volunteer Services

Dental and Vision Clinics provide low-cost care for persons without insurance, who could not otherwise afford care. Local dentists, optometrists, and assistants donate their services. **Additional dentists, licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee, are needed.**



Continued...

Missions

Anne Fritz, Chairperson

| clarissafritz@att.net

Volunteer Services, Continued...

Work Camps provide no-cost home repairs for the elderly and other area residents. Work camps are available, in the summer, for youth, and year-round, for adults. Sleeping quarters are provided as needed.

Emergency/Disaster Aid assistance is given to families for loss of home contents due to fire, tornado, flood, or emergency relocation, in the event of domestic abuse. Reelfoot maintains a new disaster warehouse containing food, clothes, cleaning supplies, and a portable shower for the victims of disasters.

Community Services

Food Distribution provides food boxes to eligible households. The food boxes contain enough food to feed a family for a week. Last year, over 3000 boxes were given,

Furniture and Household Items are provided free to families experiencing emergencies due to fires, abusive situations, or the loss of a job.

The Thrift Store makes used clothing available to families at affordable “dime-to-dollar” prices. Profits from the store’s operations go to support all of the ministries of Reelfoot. Donations to the Thrift Store are the primary way that GUMC contributes to Reelfoot ministries. **You can participate in this program by depositing clothing, toys, and household goods in the bins located in the back hallway of the fellowship hall.**

As you can see, the Reelfoot Rural Ministry’s Programs are positively impacting the people of Northwest Tennessee in many ways, both physically and socially.

Thank you to the people of GUMC who have supported this ministry with your prayers, gifts, and service. If you have not been involved, we welcome you!



Missions

Anne Fritz, Chairperson | clarissafritz@att.net

Join us for



What? Community of faith meal-packing event

When? Labor Day, September 7 | 9-11 am

Where? New Bethel Baptist Church (7786 Poplar Pike)

Who? Germantown United Methodist, Germantown Presbyterian, St. George's Episcopal, and New Bethel Baptist Church



Have you ever asked, "What can I do to help?" We have an answer for you!

Monday, September 7, 2026, GUMC will join our friends from New Bethel Baptist Church, Germantown Presbyterian, and St. George's Episcopal for Labor of Love, a community of faith meal-packing event benefiting Rise Against Hunger. We will meet at New Bethel Baptist Church to assemble meals for distribution around the world. Join us for just a few hours on Monday morning and help make a profound global impact.



Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. The organization provides volunteer-packaged meals and other assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education, and health for children facing hunger right now. Rise Against Hunger also partners with local leaders to implement sustainable agriculture and income-generating projects that support long-term solutions to food insecurity and empower communities to become self-reliant and thrive. In 2025, Rise Against Hunger served people in 41 countries (including the U.S.), impacting the lives of 7,389,552. It all starts with a meal, and it leads to resilience, self-sufficiency, education, empowerment, and bright futures in communities worldwide. There are many stories regarding the impact made by Rise Against Hunger. Check out its website. (<https://riseagainsthunger.org>)

Labor of Love is an opportunity to bring our community of faith together for a meaningful, hands-on service project that transcends borders and reminds us of our shared mission to uplift and support one another. Meal-packaging events are more than just volunteer opportunities—they are moments of connection and growth to inspire all generations to carry forward a mission of hope and service.

So, plan now to join us as an individual, as a family, or even as a Sunday school class service project on September 7, at 9 am. More details to follow.

For questions, please contact John Kitson (Kitson@comcast.net) or Bryan Barger (bwbarger55@yahoo.com.)

Hospitality

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

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

*Stephen Grellet (1773-1855)
French-born U.S. missionary*

These words, by Stephen Grellet, personify the spirit of hospitality. Let's **all** strive to make a difference in the lives of others with our kind words...our smiles...and our actions!



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

GermanTown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

At the end of days, God promises a newer, brighter beginning. He offers a chance to start fresh with mercy and forgiveness. As summer ends, most of us are thinking about a new school year, even if we are no longer in school. The new school year usually comes with fresh promise for students, teachers, parents...everyone wants to believe they can begin anew.



So, I challenge us all to begin again as we greet the fall season. It can be a time of mercy and forgiveness. Suppose we just decided to forgive the unforgivable and to give mercy? Suppose we gave mercy to the undeserving? Too difficult? I think not. I once heard, "A made-up mind is a dangerous thing."

Your prayers are always needed and appreciated for our congregation. Please put the **Annual Fall Prayer Vigil** on your calendars, **Thursday, October 15, from 8 am-4 pm.**



CARE
MINISTRIES

COPING WITH LIFE'S CHALLENGES SEMINAR



Let's face challenges together.

In this Seminar we will address:

- The many faces of grief
- Secondary grief
- Ambiguous losses
- Is there ever closure
- Our faith

There is no fee. Use the QR code to register.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

11:00 AM

GUMC MAIN BUILDING Room 339



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.



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



Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org



Fall/Winter GUWF Children's Consignment Sale

Shop Friday and Saturday, August 21-22

It's that time of year! Clean out the closet, rummage through the attic, and sort through the garage for children's clothing, furniture, toys, baby equipment, and more. GUWF Children's Consignment Sale registration is now open! Visit ConsignGermantown.com, click [here](#), or scan the QR code below, to review guidelines and details. All proceeds from this sale benefit GUWF missions. It's a 37-year tradition of community outreach!

Can't consign? We love donations! Coordinate with us in advance of the sale to donate your gently used items up to two weeks before the sale. We will price and tag each item, with 100% of the sale price going to GUWF missions! You will receive an early consignor shopping pass in return, along with a thank you letter as your receipt for tax purposes. Please be sure your donated items have an approximate value of more than \$40.

Email info@ConsignGermantown.com for more information.

We also need volunteer help and have many shifts available! Volunteers who work at least four hours get to shop early at the Thursday pre-sale event. We'll have an especially big need for volunteers on Saturday afternoon. Since Prism worship uses the OLEC on Sundays, we will need lots of hands to help us sort through unsold merchandise and get the gym back in order. This GUMC Day of Service opportunity will have two three-hour shifts, **12:30-3:30 pm, and 3:30-6:30 pm**. Those who work both will be eligible for the earliest pre-sale shopping time. Sign up online [here](#) or scan the QR code to help.



Consign | Donate | Volunteer | Shop



Our consignment sale serves as a wonderful outreach to the community, drawing people into our church from all over the Mid-South as consignors, shoppers, and volunteers.

Join us and help make a difference.
Thank you for your support!

Check out the following page for important dates!

Continued...

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President

| women@germantownumc.org

...Continued

Fall/Winter GUWF Children's Consignment Sale Important Dates

Consignor Registration Deadline/Inventory Entry

Tuesday, August 18 at 11:59 pm

Refer to the website for complete information about accepted merchandise and consignor instructions.

Consignor Drop Off

Wednesday, August 19, 1-8 pm and Thursday, August 20, 8 am-1 pm

Private Pre-Sale

Thursday, August 20, 5:30-8 pm

Volunteers who work eight or more hours, **or** both Day of Service shifts on Saturday (only 6 hours), may shop at 5:30 pm. Those who volunteer four or more hours may shop at 6 pm. Consignors may shop at 6:30 pm.

Public Sale

Friday, August 21, 8 am-3 pm

Public Half-price Sale

Friday, August 21, 5-8 pm and Saturday, August 22, 8 am-12 pm

Consignor Pick-up

Saturday, August 22, 6:30-8:30 pm



Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President

| women@germantownumc.org

September Speaker Luncheon

September 8, 2026 | 11:30 am

Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join us for a catered meal, warm fellowship, and an inspirational message from **Dr. Janis Allen Knox** at our GUWF September Luncheon on September 8, 2026, 11:30 am, in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Janis Allen Knox is a retired community-based behavioral health care coordinator and has worked in the healthcare industry for over fifteen years. She has a doctorate degree in Social Work from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.



Dr. Janis Allen Knox
Community Educator with
the Alzheimer's Association

Dr. J's personal journey with Alzheimer's, from caring for her mother to helping a childhood friend, has fueled her dedication to the cause. Her involvement in the support system is not just rewarding, but, also, inspiring.

In her spare time, Dr. Knox dedicates herself to a cause close to her heart. As a Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association, she plays a crucial role in raising awareness and providing education about Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's Association Community Educators (AACEs) are volunteer public speakers who help raise awareness, provide education, and expand the reach of the Alzheimer's Association programs in the community.

Please register with your payment of **\$15** by **noon** on **September 3, 2026**.

Two methods to register:

- Credit cards online at germantownumc.org, "Sign Up & Events" or scan the QR code
- Checks payable to GUWF, memo "September Luncheon," deposited in the GUWF drop box outside the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.



Questions? Contact Yolanda Toney at yvctoney@gmail.com

***"Let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action."***

1 John 3:18 NRSV



Elder Care Ministry

Richard Mattox, Elder Care Coordinator | rmattox@germantownumc.org | 901-758-6508



Richard Mattox
Elder Care Coordinator

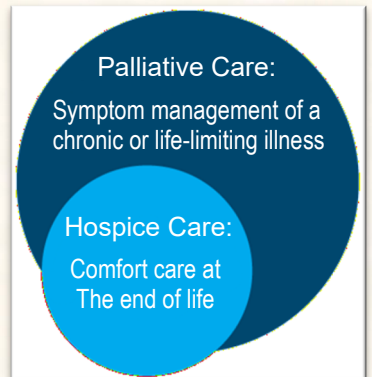
Understanding Palliative Care: How It Differs From Hospice And When It Helps Most

When it comes to navigating serious illness, the terms "palliative care" and "hospice care" are often used interchangeably, but they refer to distinct services with different goals and timelines. Palliative care is designed to enhance the quality of life for patients facing a serious illness, while hospice care is specifically focused on end-of-life care. Understanding the unique role of palliative care can help families make more informed decisions about their loved one's care, ensuring both comfort and dignity in challenging times.

WHAT IS PALLIATIVE CARE?

Palliative care focuses on providing relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness. It is a holistic approach aimed at improving the quality of life for both the patient and his/her family. Unlike hospice, palliative care is not limited to end-of-life care; it can be provided alongside curative treatments and is available to patients of any age, at any stage of a serious illness, whether or not they are expected to recover.

The key goal of palliative care is to offer comfort and maintain dignity, regardless of the prognosis. This type of care is personalized and can address a variety of needs, including physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological support. It's also important to note that palliative care teams include a range of healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses, social workers, and chaplains, working together to create a tailored plan for the patient's specific needs.



WHEN SHOULD FAMILIES CONSIDER PALLIATIVE CARE?



Families may consider palliative care at any stage of a serious illness when managing symptoms such as pain, fatigue, nausea, or anxiety. It is particularly helpful when the treatment process becomes overwhelming or when a patient has multiple chronic conditions that need coordination. Families should also seek palliative care if they are struggling with decision-making or need emotional and spiritual support.

In addition to supporting the patient, palliative care can also benefit caregivers. Providing emotional and practical support to caregivers is crucial as they navigate their loved one's illness. Palliative care teams are available to assist caregivers with respite care and guidance, which can reduce the stress and burnout that often accompany caregiving.

PALLIATIVE CARE VS HOSPICE

While both palliative and hospice care focus on comfort, there are significant differences between the two. Palliative care can be initiated at any stage of a serious illness, and patients may continue to receive curative treatments alongside it. In contrast, hospice care is reserved for those who are nearing the end of life, typically when curative treatments are no longer effective, and the patient has a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Another critical distinction is that palliative care is ongoing, and patients can receive this support for as long as they need it. Hospice care, on the other hand, is focused solely on providing comfort during the final stages of life.



Older Adults

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

Learn About Sophisticated AI-related Scams at the September Brown Bag Lunch!

What or whom can you trust on the Internet or your telephone? We have heard about phishing, fake websites, and impersonation scams for many years. Scammers are increasingly targeting older adults, and artificial intelligence is making impersonating people, automating attacks, or creating fake websites and profiles more realistic and harder to detect. The result is individuals are sharing more personal information or sending money. This presentation will cover today's most common scams targeting seniors, how AI is being used to enhance their credibility, and the practical steps everyone can take to recognize red flags at the September Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.



TOPIC: "Senior Scams: How AI Enhances Them"

SPEAKER: Daniel Irwin, Director of Public Relations, Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: September 4, 2026. Program starts at 11 am; lunch is at noon.

COST: FREE—the church will supply beverages.

RESERVATIONS: No reservations are needed. Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.

QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 901-755.0803



****There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.****

XYZs Tour the Newly Opened Metal Museum in September!

Join us as we kick off our 2026-2027 season with a fascinating experience. We are going to be the first group to tour the Metal Museum, formerly called the National Ornamental Metal Museum, at its new location in Overton Park. The Metal Museum in Memphis is the only institution in North America devoted exclusively to the art and craft of fine metalwork and is dedicated to preserving and advancing the broad practice of metalsmithing and metal arts. We are going to take a guided tour of the galleries and the sculpture garden and see a metals studio demonstration of casting, a process in which molten liquid metal is poured into a hollow mold cavity. Before we go to the Metal Museum, we will have lunch at Bosco's Squared in Overton Square—a favorite of ours for years. Come prepared to be amazed and maybe do a little Christmas shopping, too!

WHERE: The Metal Museum and Bosco's Squared

WHEN: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

COST: \$20 per person plus lunch on your own.

DEPARTURE: 10:30 am from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 10:15 am.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711.

You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, August 24



Older Adults

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

XYZs Celebrate 50 Years of the Dixon in October!

In January 1976, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens opened to the public with a small but very choice collection of nineteenth and early twentieth-century European and American paintings and sculpture, a generous bequest from Margaret and Hugo Dixon. Immediately, leaders of the museum set out to build upon that foundation by carefully adding important works and landmark acquisitions that led to the current collection that now numbers about 2,000 objects. A guided tour of *An Investment in Pleasure: Fifty Years of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens Collection* is going to take us on that journey as we see significant pieces that were added along the way. After the tour, we will eat lunch at BABALU—East Memphis. Join us as we surround ourselves with the beauty that is the Dixon Gallery and Gardens



WHERE: Dixon Gallery and Gardens and BABALU—East Memphis

WHEN: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

COST: \$5 per person plus lunch on your own.

DEPARTURE: 9:30 am from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:15 am.)

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

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Friday, September 18



For safety reasons, participants must be physically able to walk independently and get on and off our vehicles.



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 to update:

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

Germantown United Methodist Preschool (GUMP)

Sarah Sutton, Director | ssutton@germantownumc.org



GUMP is Excited for the 2026/2027 School Year!



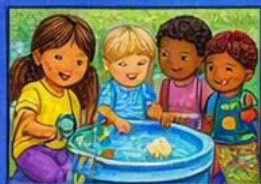
Fun at Summer Camps!



Arts & Crafts



Outdoor Adventures



Water Play



Science & Nature



SAVE THE DATES!

August 10

Meet the
Teacher!

August 11

First Day
of School!



After an Amazing 4 Weeks of Summer Camps!

Come explore the classrooms and see how we create a joyful environment for every child to thrive! Set up a tour today! Limited spots available! Call 901-753-3109

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

Mission Camp 2026: Love in Action

From July 13-17, thirteen rising 5th and 6th graders from GUMC spent the week serving our community and discovering the many ways people are making a difference right here in the Memphis area. Mission Camp gave our students the chance to step outside their comfort zones, learn about local ministries, and lend a helping hand, wherever it was needed.

During the week, we unpackaged canned food at Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, learned about the ministry of S.O.S.—while trying our hand at hammering roofing nails—and sorted an incredible 928 pounds of food at the Mid-South Food Bank. We also helped prepare the Cottage for a new season of guests at Room in the Inn and assembled care packages for Golden Cross.

While serving was the focus of the week, there was plenty of time to build friendships and make memories. Campers enjoyed spirited games of Gaga Ball, an afternoon at Amuse Adventure Museum, swimming, and lunches out together. By the end of the week, our students had not only learned more about the needs in our community, but had also experienced the joy that comes from serving others alongside friends. We are incredibly proud of this group and the enthusiasm, kindness, and teamwork it showed throughout the week.



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

Movin' On
UP
Promotion Sunday



Promotion Sunday | Sunday, August 16

All children and youth will be promoted to the next grade on Sunday, August 16. This is a week later than usual, due to the visit from Bishop David Graves on August 9.

On Promotion Sunday, students will move to the next grade level for Sunday school. Those children entering kindergarten will begin meeting in the children's education wing. Dismissal will be from the Huddle. The rising sixth graders will move to Confirmation class at the OLEC. Reach out to Janelle Crist (nursery) or Becca Keel (elementary) if you have questions.

GUMC KIDS



Third Grade Bibles will be Presented September 20, 2026



Email Hayley Heard at hheard@germantownumc.org with your child's information by Wednesday, August 26.

Third Grade Bible Presentation:

Third graders will be presented with Bibles during the worship service on **Sunday, September 20**. Please reach out to Hayley Heard if you did not receive an email. **The deadline to turn in your child's information is Wednesday, August 26.**

Mark your calendars! We will also have our Third Grade Bible Retreat on **Friday, September 18**. Registered children will gather on our main campus from 6-9 pm for food, fun, worship, and practice for Sunday morning's Bible presentation.

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!

If your child is interested in acolyting and hasn't been trained, reach out to Becca Keel to schedule a mutually convenient training session.

Click [here](#) to sign up, or scan the QR code.



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



August 16	Promotion Sunday
August 26	Fall Kickoff Cookout
September 2	Worship on Wednesday resumes!
September 13	Children's Choirs resume
September 18	3rd grade Bible Retreat
September 20	3rd grade Bible Presentation
September 20	Family Fun Day at Putt Putt Golf 'n Games
October 14	Fall Break - No Worship on Wednesday
October 25	Sunday School Candy Walk
October 28	Fall Fest
November 18	Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner
November 18	Advent Workshop

Youth

Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries | cgranberry@germantownumc.org
 Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director | cbrookshire@germantownumc.org

08 AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Confirmation Parent Meeting 11:45am-12:30pm	10	11	12 Synergy 6-7:15 Synago 7:15-8:30	13	14	15
16 Element Kickoff! 6pm-8pm	17	18	19 Synergy 6-7:15 Synago 7:15-8:30	20	21	22
23 Element 6pm-8pm Youth Parent Meeting 7:15pm-8pm	24	25	26 Fall Cookout 5:30-7 Synago 7:15-8:30	27	28	29

Youth

Chloe Granberry, Director of Youth Ministries | cgranberry@germantownumc.org
Courtney Brookshire, Associate Youth Director | cbrookshire@germantownumc.org



The Youth Ministry's summer programming just finished, and we had so much fun serving and building community through various exciting activities! We wrapped up the summer with our final Mission Day, working at Colonial Park UMC for its mobile food drive. We also enjoyed multiple Synergy and Synago gatherings over the summer, worshipping and participating in fun activities of the youths' choosing. Finally, we closed out the summer programming with a hangout event for the middle and high schoolers. We enjoyed great food and then had a great time together in the gym!

While we've had a blast this summer, we are very excited for our upcoming fall programming!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

TUESDAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Starts Tues, August 11
6:30 am

at the Pavilion behind
Houston High School

For ALL high school students!

SYNERGY / SYNAGO KICKOFF

Wednesday, August 12
In the Oasis (at the OLEC)

Join our Wednesday night small groups
for snacks and Bible study!

Synergy (middle school) 6-7:15 pm

Synago (high school) 7:15-8:30 pm

[gumc youth]

FALL ELEMENT KICKOFF

Sunday, August 16
In the OLEC

Join us for dinner, fellowship,
and games at Sunday night
Element from 6-8 pm

If you would like more information about our Fall Semester, check out our [webpage](#) or contact Chloe (cgranberry@germantownumc.org.)

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



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.

Evening Pickleball!

Wednesdays
5-7:30 pm

\$2 all players

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownumc.org
Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Dir. | kmarsh@germantownumc.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 strength workout for moms 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

All are welcome!
No experience required

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

Specializing in:

- Traditional postures
- Breathwork
- Meditation

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 August 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

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.***
