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Listening to the Right Voice

I heard a story about an elderly gentleman who had hearing problems for several years. He went to the doctor, who was able to fit him for a set of hearing aids, allowing him to regain his hearing.

A month later, the elderly gentleman returned for a check-up and the doctor said, "Now that your hearing is so good, your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations they have, while they think I can't hear. . . I've changed my will three times!"

I suppose we all can be guilty of selective hearing. Sometimes it is a way for us to tune out what we do not want to hear, or to avoid responsibility. Yet, at other times, it can be healthy and helpful, because not all voices are worth listening to. Society has many voices telling us to live for ourselves, to get all we can, and to be concerned with number one.

God's voice is also speaking to us in Scripture. We are reminded, in Scripture, that we are created to be giving and generous, understanding that we have a heavenly father who has unlimited resources.

St. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:15-17, "As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."

Proverbs reminds us, "Some give freely yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water." (Proverbs 11:24-25) And, Scripture also tells us, "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." (Proverbs 22:9)

Blessing comes not in obtaining, but in generous giving. We are not as rich as what we have, we are as rich as what we give.

Be mindful of the voices you heed. Pay attention to the voice of God that leads to true blessing.



Tim Carpenter
Senior Pastor

*We are not as
rich as what
we have, we
are as rich as
what we give.*



Executive Minister

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



Rev. Dr. Scott Alford
Executive Minister

Your IRA *Can Make a Difference*

A TAX-SMART WAY TO SUPPORT GUMC



I offer the following article, "Plan for IRA Gifts to Charity," published by the United Methodist Foundation for the Tennessee-Western KY Conference (July 31, 2026).

Owners of traditional IRAs who are over 70½ may be considering a charitable gift [to GUMC] before the end of this year. The IRS refers to an IRA charitable rollover gift as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). If you are age 73 or older, a QCD may fulfill part or all of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for this year.

It may take your IRA custodian some time to process a QCD, and it must be completed by December 31. During 2026, an IRA owner may give up to \$111,000 directly from the IRA custodian to a qualified nonprofit. Another QCD option is a one-time gift of up to \$55,000 for a charitable gift annuity (CGA), charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT) or charitable remainder annuity trust (CRAT).

1. Direct IRA Charitable Rollover to Charity —

A traditional IRA owner may contact his or her IRA trustee to start the process for a QCD. While your distributions from a traditional IRA are normally taxable, the QCD payouts will be tax-free as long as they are paid directly to a qualified nonprofit. The QCD is made through a check payable to the charity. The IRA owner must be age 70½ or over and the 2026 limit is \$111,000. If spouses are both over age 70½, then the \$111,000 per person limit may allow a couple to distribute up to \$222,000 this year to charity. Because the QCDs are not taxable, there is no charitable deduction.

2. IRA Rollover to Life Income Plan —

A traditional IRA owner may contact his or her IRA trustee to make a QCD up to \$55,000 for a CGA, standard CRUT or CRAT. The gift annuity or charitable trust must pay 5% or more to the IRA

owner, their spouse or both. While the \$55,000 payout for a gift annuity or charitable trust is not taxable, the annuity or trust payouts will be taxable income.

3. How to Report Your QCD —

Your QCD must be reported on your 2026 federal income tax return. You can expect to receive an IRS Form 1099-R from your IRA trustee. This will show the traditional IRA distribution in Box 1. You must report the IRA distribution on your IRS Form 1040 Line 4a (Gross distributions). Enter \$0 on Line 4b (Taxable amount) if the entire distribution was a QCD. If only part of it was a QCD, subtract the charitable amount and enter the remaining taxable balance. You must enter "QCD" on Form 1040.

4. How to Receive a QCD Acknowledgment —

Your QCD is not deductible as a charitable contribution. However, with a direct IRA charitable rollover you are required to obtain a written QCD acknowledgment from the nonprofit prior to filing your return. This acknowledgment should state the date and amount of the QCD and indicate that the donor has received "no goods or services in exchange for the gift." You should retain the acknowledgment with your other tax records.

Many individuals will fulfill part or all of their RMD this year through a gift to charity from a traditional IRA. If a donor has the right to make distributions from his or her traditional IRA through a checkbook, it will be important to send the check directly to the charity. Please allow sufficient time for the charity to deposit the check and for the financial institution to process the check. This process must be completed by December 31, 2026.

Prism

Rev. Mimi White | mwhite@germantownumc.org



Sundays | 10:30 am
Owings Life Enrichment Center



Rev. Mimi White



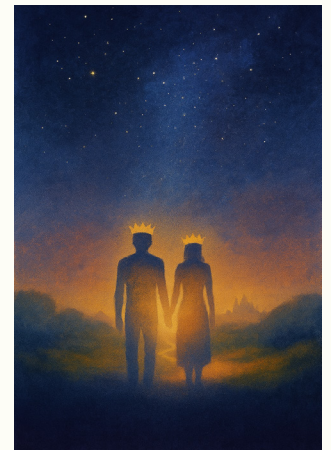
Have you ever struggled with trying to make yourself do the right thing? You know what you want to do, and you know it is the right thing to do, but you just can't make yourself actually do it? Well, so did the Apostle Paul. He writes about his own struggle, with words in which we can all identify, in his letter to the Romans. We all struggle from time to time between doing what we want to do and doing the right thing, taking action or not taking action. There seems to be an inner battle going on inside of us.



If you've ever read Romans, you may have wondered what Paul meant by saying "there is none righteous, no not one;" and "there is no difference between Jew and Gentile." You may have wondered whenever Paul spoke about "the renewal of all things", is that happening now or sometime in the future? What does he mean when he says, "We are more than conquerors?"

Paul is describing a "new humanity." He is encouraging everyone who hears his letter to put away the old ways and pick up the new. Have you ever wondered what it looks like to live a life led by the Spirit?

This month at Prism we are exploring a new series called "Romans: The New Humanity." Many scholars have said that Romans is the greatest letter Paul ever wrote. This is because it is filled with the basic tenets of the Christian faith and is filled with hope and good instructions. We'll cover every chapter in this 6-week series, looking at the historical context, what it meant to the first hearers, and what it means for our lives today. My prayer for us is that this series will strengthen our faith, inspire us to try new things, and give us the encouragement and hope we need to face anything with courage.



Join us Sunday mornings, at 10:30 am, in the OLEC, to celebrate Jesus with wonderful praise music from Prism Riot. 86% of unchurched people said they would certainly come to church if a friend invited them, so don't forget to invite all your F.R.A.N.S. (Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors, Strangers.)



Generosity



GUMC's Generosity Core Values

GRATITUDE & JOY

STEWARDSHIP

HEART & SOUL

IMPACT

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

2 Corinthians 9:7, 11

Ways to Give

- **Cash and Checks** - Given in the offering plates or mail
- **Electronic Giving** - See below
- **Venmo:** @GermantownUMC
- **Text:** "GIVE" to 9019101220
- **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 July 31, 2026	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/UNDER BUDGET	JULY 2025 to JUNE 2026 BUDGET	% ACTUAL YTD JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	255,646.98	222,532.73	33,114.25	3,058,420.00	8.36%
TOTAL EXPENSES	265,246.65	259,485.03	5,761.62	3,089,300.00	8.59%
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE	(9,599.67)	(36,952.30)	27,352.63	(30,880.00)	

Churchwide

All Creatures Great and Small

The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of all God's creatures. Celebrated near his feast day in early October, the event honors his teachings on kindness and respect for animals. People bring their pets to be blessed, acknowledging the bond between humans and animals, and recognizing them as gifts from God. This ceremony reflects St. Francis' belief in the harmony of all living beings and their connection to the divine.

Join us on Saturday, October 3, at 10 am, in the McVay Gardens for this ceremony. Please remember to only bring animals that are on a leash or in a crate.



LET'S MAHJONG!



Every Thursday
6:00 pm
The Huddle



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

Everyone is welcome!
No registration required.



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

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.

Janice Cate - Children's Ministry Volunteer

For Janice Cate, serving in Children's Ministry is about more than volunteering—it's about building relationships, sharing God's love, and watching children grow in faith.

Janice has served in a variety of Children's Ministry programs at GUMC, including Vacation Bible School, Children's Sunday school, Cherub Choir, WOW, and Third Grade Bible Study. Her love for working with children began in high school, and she has enjoyed leading children's activities at every church she has attended. "I feel that ministering to children is an important and foundational part of every church," she says. "When I was a child, I loved to go to church."

What Janice enjoys most is getting to know the children and watching them grow as Christians. She loves their curiosity and openness and

finds joy in helping them discover God's love through Bible stories and songs. Some of her favorite moments are the smiles, hugs, heartfelt prayers, and wonderfully uncensored comments that come from children as they learn and explore their faith. She loves hearing their lovely voices singing praise songs and fun songs and just enjoying the moments together. Janice has also served GUMC by teaching adult Sunday school, singing in the Christmas Carol Choir, tutoring with Team Read, and leading book talks with the book club.

Janice encourages anyone interested in Children's Ministry to talk with Becca, Hayley, or Janelle about ways to volunteer. Her advice? "Be ready to get in touch with your inner child!"



Thank you, Janice, for sharing your time, talents, and love with the children of GUMC and helping them grow in faith!

GUMC welcomes Kate McDonald, Director of Special Needs Ministry

GUMC is following the direction of the Holy Spirit in the creation of a new ministry area and has hired Kate McDonald as our Director of Special Needs Ministry. Kate brings a wealth of experience in this area, having served as a behavior specialist and principal at Madonna Learning Center. She has been an education advocate for Disability Rights Tennessee and founded the Autism Society of the Mid-South. Kate also holds an MS in Special Education and a BS in



Sociology. In her new role, she will lead GUMC in developing the church's ministry to individuals with special needs and their families, ensuring every person, regardless of ability, has a meaningful place to belong, grow in faith, and participate fully in the life of the church. Much more is to come, as we rejoice in this new opportunity to make disciples and create an even more welcoming church where people of all abilities can belong, grow, and serve.

Churchwide

Fall Family Fun Day

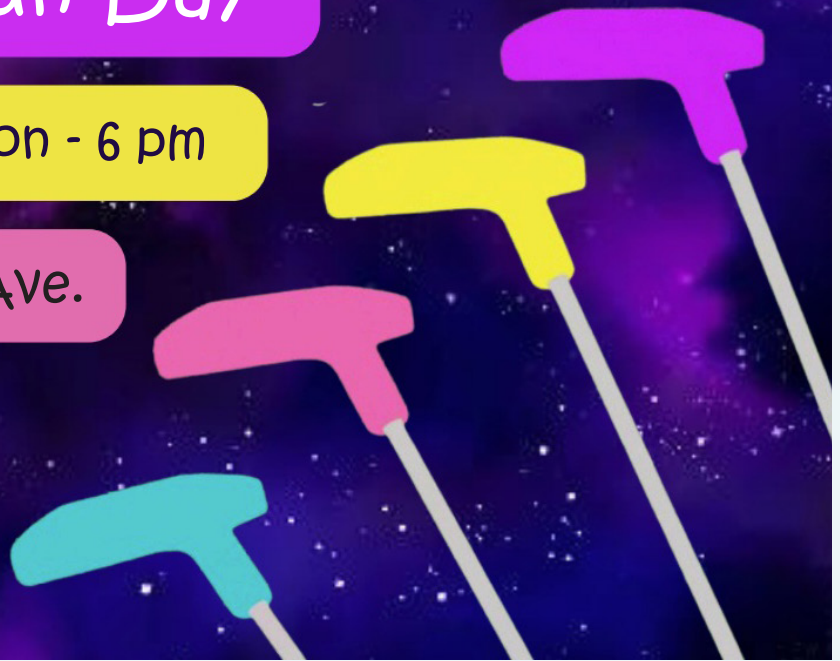
September 20 Noon - 6 pm

Germantown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



5484 Summer Ave.

Pick up wristbands at GUMC table on the front porch by the Putt-Putt Golf counter.



Welcome Melissa Smith to the GUMC Communications Team

We are excited to welcome Melissa Smith as our new Communications Assistant at Germantown United Methodist Church!

Melissa will work alongside our Director of Communications, Lawrence Monahan, to support GUMC's growing communications needs. In her new role, she will help with many of the behind-the-scenes pieces that keep our congregation informed and connected—from publications and digital communications to graphics, website content, media, and other communications



projects across the life of the church. Melissa has been a member of GUMC since 1988 and has actively served in a variety of ministries. She hopes to use her creative skills and experience to strengthen communication, support ministry leaders, and connect people more deeply to the life and mission of GUMC.

We are grateful to have Melissa joining our staff and look forward to the creativity, experience, and servant-hearted perspective she will bring to our Communications Ministry. Please join us in welcoming Melissa to the GUMC staff!

Membership

Hester Smith

Germantown UMC welcomed Hester Smith into membership on Sunday, August 2, at the traditional worship service. She joined as an Affiliate Member and will retain her church membership at Cumberland UMC, Florence, SC. Hester is the mother of Yolanda Toney and the grandmother and great grandmother of the Toney family. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her.



Emma Marsh

Germantown UMC welcomed Emma Marsh into membership on Sunday, August 9, at our Prism worship service. She joined by Restored by Affirmation of Faith. Emma is the wife of church member, Zach Marsh, and the daughter-in-law of Kim and Rob Marsh. In addition, their daughter was baptized at the worship service.



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



Adult Education

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
In-Service Training

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESIDENTS AND PROGRAM CHAIRS

-  **MONDAY, OCTOBER 6**
-  **6:30 pm**
-  **Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall**

The graphic also features a background image of a wooden desk with an open Bible, a notebook, a pen, a mug with a cross, and a stack of books titled FAITH, TEACH, DISCIPLE, and SERVE.

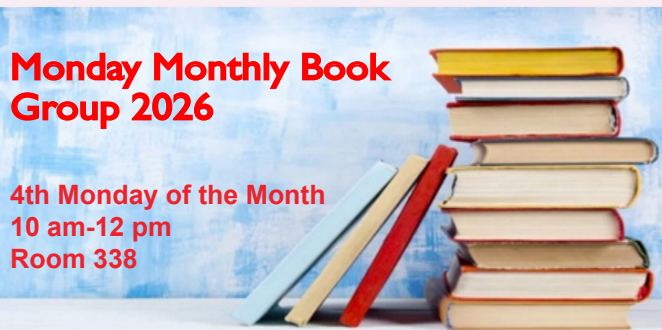
Mark your calendars for this Christian Education training session!

This training is for ALL Sunday school presidents (not just new presidents) and program chairs.

If you are unable to attend, please ask someone from your Sunday school class to represent you at the meeting.

We hope that each class will have two to three representatives.

If you need childcare, contact Mary Groh by October 1.



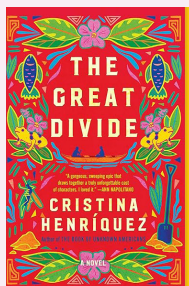
Monday Monthly Book Group 2026

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

The graphic includes a background image of a stack of books and a blue sky with clouds.

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

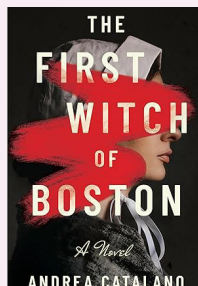
For questions, please contact Mary Groh.



September 28

The Great Divide

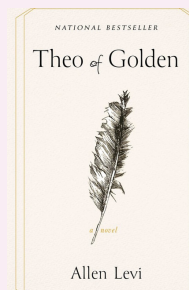
By Christina Henriquez



October 26

The First Witch of Boston

By Andrea Catalano



November 23

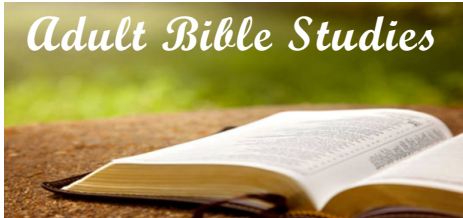
Theo of Golden

By Allen Levi

Adult Education

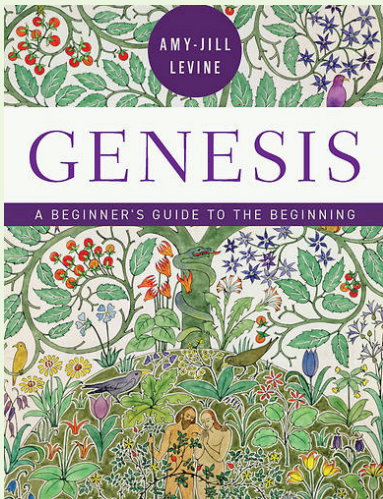
Mary Groh, Director | 901-754-7216 | mgroh@germantownumc.org

Adult Bible Studies



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE!

Adult Bible Studies Starting in September



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

GENESIS

A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning

Tuesdays, Sept. 15 - Nov. 3

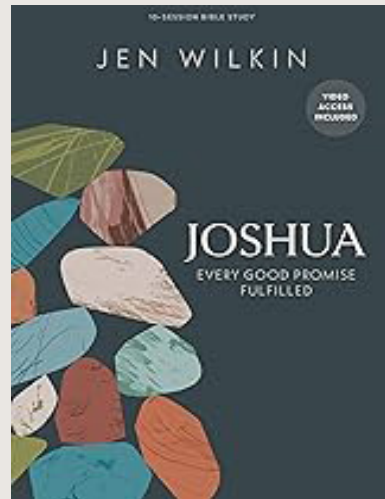
9:30-11 am

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.

Continued...

Adult Education

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

...Continued

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

INCLUDES *Our Social Creed*



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

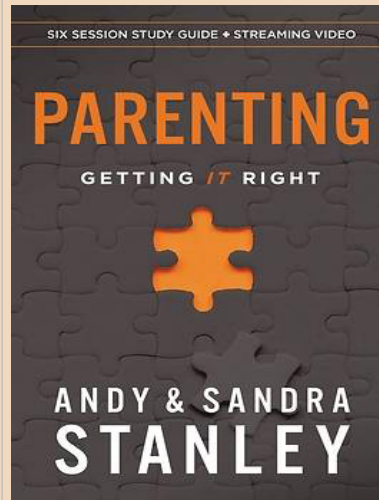
SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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.



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.

Music Ministry

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

Music Opportunities for Children

Children's choirs begin Sunday, September 13, at 5 pm, in the children's education wing. Wesley Hand Chimes begins September 2, at 5:30 pm in the handbell studio (near the Welcome Center entrance.)

We extend our desire to continue the habit of regular attendance. This helps us maintain fundamental musical and spiritual development of our GUMC children. Bringing friends is encouraged. We understand how fortunate we are to still offer children's music programming; not all churches do!



Make a joyful noise!
Psalm 100

Children's Choirs start back September 13

Cherub Choir for Ages 3-PreK
Alleluia Choir for K-2nd grade
Hosanna Choir for 3rd-5th grade

Wesley Chimes for 3rd grade and beyond
will begin on September 2

Questions? Contact Rev. Todd Wilson
twilson@germatwonumc.org

We're looking forward to an exciting year with the wonderful young musicians at GUMC! If you have any questions, please contact any one of us.

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

Testimony Youth Choir Information

GUMC was fortunate to have Tim Wise leading the Testimony Youth Choir these last few years. At the writing of this announcement, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is discussing new leadership options for this ensemble. As soon as decisions are made about the next Testimony leader, we will immediately share the news with youth singers and families.

Music Ministry

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

Dell Harriman Music Ministry Endowment Fund

Established by Dr. Mark and Patty Harriman, the Dell Harriman Music Ministry Endowment Fund provides funding for music programs of Germantown United Methodist Church.

Dell's great loves at Germantown United Methodist Church were the Gilbert Sunday school class and the music ministry, especially the choir. She knew many hymns by heart, and she used to joke that the choir sounded wonderful on any given Sunday, but that she only heard one voice, her son's!

Because of her great humility, Dell would be both humbled and thrilled to have anything named after her. The Dell Harriman Music Ministry Endowment will honor Dell's tremendous faith and support GUMC's wonderful music program in perpetuity.

All contributions to the fund will remain as principal, with only the interest from contributions being utilized. You may participate in developing the fund online by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code. Select the Dell Harriman Music Endowment Fund in the drop-down menu. You may direct cash, checks, and estate-planning gifts to the church office.

Questions? Contact the GUMC Executive Minister.



Care Ministries

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

ANNUAL FALL PRAYER VIGIL

Germantown United Methodist

JOIN THE CARE MINISTRIES TEAM

Thursday, October 22, 2026
8 am - 4 pm
in the Chapel

2331 S. Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN 38138



Click [here](#) or scan QR code to sign up for a time slot

Care Ministries

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



CLM Yolanda V.C. Toney
Director Of Care Ministries

Let's Be a Praying Church!

On Thursday, October 22, from 8 am-4 pm, the Care Ministries Team will host the Annual Fall Prayer Vigil in the chapel. This is a church-wide event, and we look forward to your participation. Ideally, having the entire congregation pray in the chapel would be meaningful, but God hears our prayers at home, on vacation, at work, wherever we may be. You may sign up to commit to pray in your Sunday school class or online. See the chart below with time periods and options.



Why sign up? Signing up lets us know we have people committed, and it reminds you of that commitment. It would be a blessing to see **at least 100** of us commit to pray in the chapel, at home, or wherever we may be. It is powerful to look at the time and know others are adding their voices with yours in prayer.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code.
Or, you may sign up in Sunday school.



"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:19-20

"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

PRAYER VIGIL FOCUS AREAS

8 am	Sick, shut-ins, bereaved, those who have suffered loss (divorce, career...)
9 am	Congregation, friends, relatives, neighbors
10 am	Missions, Nonprofits, Church Health Center, MIFA, Mid South Food Bank
11 am	Sunday school classes, Bible studies
12 pm	Children & Youth Ministries, GUMP, schools, teachers, coaches, leaders, volunteers
1 pm	Pastors, church staff, Southwestern District, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, The United Methodist Church, all churches
2 pm	Music Ministry, ushers, Worship Committee, Flower Ministry
3 pm	The campus and facilities, our city, state, country, and world

Care Ministries

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

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
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.

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.



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



Thank you for your support!

Germantown United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who supported the Fall/Winter Children's Consignment Sale. It was a tremendous success, and we couldn't have done it without all of our wonderful volunteers, consignors, shoppers, and GUMC staff support. All proceeds from this event will benefit the many missions of GUWF.



Save the Date! We'll see you for our next sale **March 5-6, 2027.**



Register by September 3!



Dr. Janis Allen Knox
Community Educator
Alzheimer's Association



September Luncheon

Tuesday | September 8 | 11:30 am

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

All Women are Invited!

Register with credit card online

under "Sign Up & Events"

at germantownumc.org

Cost is only \$15

Deadline is NOON Thursday, September 3

Questions?

Contact Yolanda Toney at yvctoney@gmail.com



"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." | John 3:18 NRSV

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org

Annual CINNAMON ROLL BAKE for Missions

Featuring Wilma Ridner's Cinnamon Roll Recipe

**Pre-order: Sunday, September 27 in the
Welcome Center and OLEC**



On **Sunday, September 27**, we will be on hand to take your cinnamon roll pre-orders in the Welcome Center and Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)! We bake a limited number of rolls from scratch, so it is very important that you pre-order. The cost is only \$12 per dozen and payable by cash, check, or credit card (including a small handling fee). Pick-up will be in the OLEC gym on **October 6, 7, and 8**. You will choose your specific pickup date/time when pre-ordering, and a reminder will be given to you.

We welcome baking helpers! Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and lots of laughter with women of the church on our baking days, **October 6-8**, at the OLEC. Each

baking day morning, we make the dough from scratch and set it aside to rise. The dough is weighed, separated, dipped in warm butter, and dredged in cinnamon. It is then knotted, proofed, and baked. What a wonderful scent of cinnamon rolls wafts through the air! These rolls may be frozen and reheated, instructions included with each dozen. Be the first to smell these warm, sweet, delectable rolls come out of the oven!

Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code to sign up to help on baking days. Or, contact Stephanie Adams at (901) 488-4748 or monacodog@aol.com. No experience is required, and we have great teachers!

The proceeds from your purchases help the many missions of Germantown United Women in Faith. Thank you for your support!



Older Adults

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

Don't Forget the September Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Daniel Irwin, Director of Public Relations, Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South, will discuss "Senior Scams: How AI Enhances Them." This presentation will be on Friday, September 4, 2026, in the fellowship hall. The program starts at 11 am, with lunch at noon. Bring your own sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages.

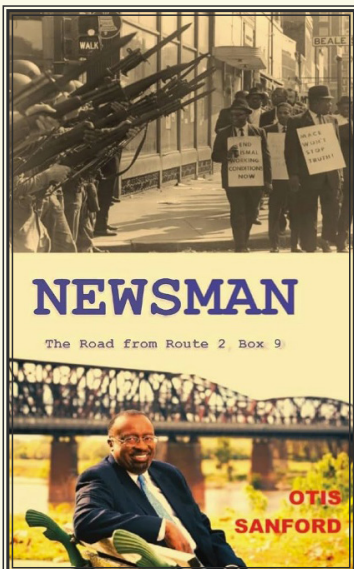


Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed.

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

Otis Sanford Will Talk about His Life at the October Brown Bag Lunch!

"Newsman" is an autobiography of Otis Sanford's experiences growing up in a large African American family in Mississippi during the turbulent civil rights era and the factors that influenced a 50-year career in journalism. It describes the historic and often heartbreaking events during the Civil Rights Movement that greatly impacted his family, and it captures the disappointments he overcame as he chased his dreams. It details his improbable rise from a Mississippi farm boy to national prominence as an award-winning writer, respected newsroom leader, journalism educator, political analyst, and commentator. He has covered everything from the death of Elvis and Tonya Harding's attack on Nancy Kerrigan to the inauguration of Barack Obama. He is going to talk about his amazing life and where journalism has taken him at the October Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.



TOPIC: "Newsman: The Road from Route 2 Box 9"

SPEAKER: Otis Sanford, Professor Emeritus, The University of Memphis

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall, Germantown United Methodist Church, 2331 South Germantown Road. Enter the main entrance under canopy of the West Street side of the building. Fellowship Hall is behind the Welcome Center.

WHEN: October 2, 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.****

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



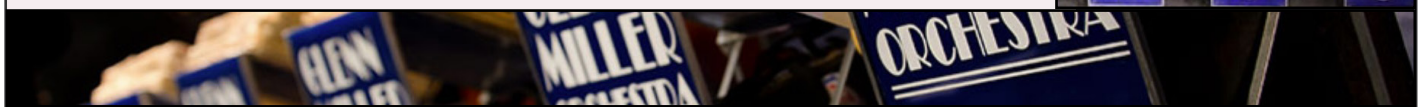
For safety reasons, participants must be physically able to walk independently and get on and off our vehicles.

XYZs Hear Glenn Miller Orchestra in November!

Undisputedly one of the most popular ensembles in the world, Glenn Miller Orchestra's unique jazz sound and arrangements make it an in-demand fan favorite, showcasing the iconic Big Band Era. It has been consistently touring since forming in 1956, uniting generations of music lovers. Audiences relive the iconic sounds of the 1940s, from "Chattanooga Choo Choo" to "Moonlight Serenade" and "In the Mood." Glenn Miller had 72 top 10 hits in five years! The American songbook springs to life for an unforgettable evening of entertainment and swing. Make your reservation NOW and be prepared to leave the music hall humming some of your favorite songs.

WHERE: Buckman Performing & Fine Arts Center
WHEN: Sunday, November 8, 2026
COST: \$30 per person includes reserved seat and transportation
DEPARTURE: 6 p.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 5:45 p.m.)
RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803 or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711. You must make your reservation before paying.
DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Thursday, October 8

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



Older Adults

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

AARP Smart Driver™ Course October 15 & 16 | 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 October 15 and 16, 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 of GUMC. (This is the main church building. Enter at Welcome Center entrance on West Street side of building.)

WHEN: Thursday and Friday, October 15 & 16, 2025, 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 or 813-245-0302

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.

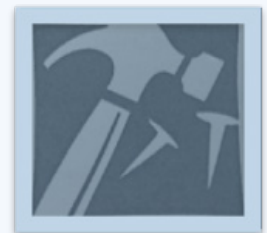
Check your calendars and register now. Your check is your ticket to this class.

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 Handy Helper Coordinators, Ron or Nina Gaddy, 754-1238

Elder Care Ministry

Richard Mattox, Former Elder Care Coordinator



Richard Mattox
Elder Care Coordinator

Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage Plans

How Do I Decide?

When it comes time for you to choose Medicare or Medicare Advantage plan, there are some important things to consider. The best part of Medicare is it is accepted by all hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. On the other hand, not all hospitals and rehabilitation facilities accept every plan. Medicare Advantage plans are run by private insurance companies, rather than the government. They are not always accepted everywhere, because insurers build restricted provider networks, set strict prior authorization rules, frequently dispute payment, or deny expensive post acute care.

- **Private Networks and Contracts** Unlike original Medicare--which is accepted by most doctors and hospitals nationwide--Medicare Advantage plans use localized networks. They have contracts that must be signed with the hospitals. Therefore, a growing number of major health systems are cutting ties with many of the Medicare Advantage plans.
- **Providers cite high denial rates.** Private insurers often require prior authorization before approving a transfer to an inpatient rehabilitation facility or long-term care hospital.
- **Administrative friction** Because rehab facilities face frequent claim rejections, some providers choose not to accept certain Medicare Advantage plans to avoid treating patients without guaranteed payment. There are also problems with some plans being slow to pay.



Bottom Line: It's best to research both Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans before reaching your decision.

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

Hospitality

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

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



Ever heard of the book
"IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE?"

Now what about Baking or Buying Cookies to show some Hospitality?

Whether you're baking or buying cookies or donut holes, your contribution adds to the welcoming atmosphere in the narthex before the service...and makes fellowship even more fun!

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 Sunday school class.

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



WOW!

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

For infants - 5th grade

Wednesdays, 6 pm-7:30 pm

Join us for our exciting mid-week program that provides a variety of opportunities for children to experience

Christian fellowship.



**DINNER
BEGINS
AT 6 PM**

in the fellowship hall.



**KINDERGARTEN-
5TH GRADERS**

then proceed upstairs to the elementary education wing for fun games, engaging activities, and mission opportunities.



**PRESCHOOLERS
MEET IN THE
HAMILTON NURSERY.**

Parents of preschoolers can prepare a plate of food from the Fellowship Hall and bring it up to the nursery for their child to enjoy.



Preschoolers will have playtime, a Bible lesson, and a craft.



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY NOON EACH TUESDAY, so we can plan for food.

Click here
TO REGISTER

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



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.

A colorful calendar graphic for Children's Ministry. At the top left is a circular logo for 'GERMANTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY'. To the right, the text 'Mark Your CALENDAR!' is written in a large, bold, black font with a white outline, and 'Children's Ministry' is written below it in a smaller, blue font. The calendar itself is a vertical list of events, each with a colored icon and a date. The events are: 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), and November 18 (Advent Workshop). At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a church building and a sun, with the text 'Growing in faith. Together in Christ.' and a heart symbol.

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so
much if they had their
own rooms. It works
with my brother.
Larry

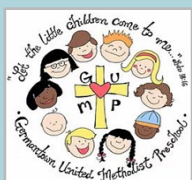
God,
We read Thomas Edison made
light. But in Sun. School they
said you did it. So I bet he
stole your idea.

Sincerely,
Donna

Compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, © 1991

Germantown United Methodist Preschool (GUMP)

Sarah Sutton, Director | ssutton@germantownumc.org



GUMP is ready for another exciting year of learning, friendship, and fun! While our friends were at

camp, on vacation, or home for the summer, the preschool staff was busy preparing for the upcoming school year. This included deep cleaning



and organizing classrooms, ordering supplies, planning in-service training, and making enhancements to our building. This summer, GUMP had the opportunity to add fresh paint to our upstairs classrooms and hallway. We are grateful to Charles Higgs and his team for putting up bulletin boards, shelving units, and cork strips, and for working so hard to clean our playground awning and playground equipment. Our preschool looks amazing!



This summer, GUMP offered four one-week camps for our current students, ages two to six. These camps were full of fun activities planned around each week's theme. Teachers and students alike had a great time! We loved seeing our friends over the summer. We also continued to offer meet and greets for families, giving them a chance to learn about all the wonderful aspects of our play-based preschool.

Before school began, our teachers and staff came together for in-service training. This year's training included presentations by wonderful professionals, who helped us grow in our ability to serve and prepare our students. We completed CPR training, which teachers renew

every two years, and participated in "Learning Through Play: Thinking Outside the Blocks", with Devin Guy. It was a fun and interactive training experience.

Recently, we welcomed our GUMP families to Meet the Teacher, a wonderful way to kick off what's sure to be another successful year! We still have a few spots available in our preschool program. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us at (901) 753-3109. We would love to share more about the wonderful things happening at Germantown United Methodist Preschool.



Youth

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



We had a fantastic time at our Element kickoff last month! Our theme, Water Day, was a whole lot of fun! We had a great turnout, with 61 middle and high schoolers, and a bunch of wonderful youth volunteers. The night started out with delicious BBQ for dinner, before breaking into three teams and transitioning into our events portion of the night. This consisted of a giant waterslide, water games, and water balloons! What a wonderful (and wet) start to a semester!



Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

Tuesdays at 6:30 am

at the Pavilion behind
Houston High School

For ALL high school students!

SYNERGY / SYNAGO

Wednesdays 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

Element

Sundays from 6-8 pm
In the OLEC

Join us on Sunday nights for
dinner, fellowship,
and games!

For Middle and High Schoolers

If you would like more information about our Fall semester, check out our [webpage](http://www.germantownumc.org) or contact Chloe (cgranberry@germantownumc.org)

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownumc.org

Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Director | kmarsh@germantownumc.org

Pickleball at the OLEC



Evening Pickleball!
Wednesdays 5-7:30 pm

\$2 all players

Available pickleball times are subject to change. Please check the website or call the OLEC (901-753-3100) for updates on available pickleball times.

<u>Daytime Hours</u>	<u>Church Members</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Mondays 12-3 pm	\$3	\$5
Tuesdays 9 am-noon	\$2	\$2
Wednesdays 9 am-noon	\$3	\$5
Thursdays 9 am-noon	\$2	\$2
Fridays 9 am-noon	\$3	\$5

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 Indian Way" yoga school in Germany.

All are welcome!

No experience required.

Specializing in:

- Traditional postures
- Breathwork
- Meditation

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

GermanTown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SWISH

IT'S BASKETBALL TIME AT GUMC

Registration is now Open! Deadline is October 23rd

Register at germantownumc.org

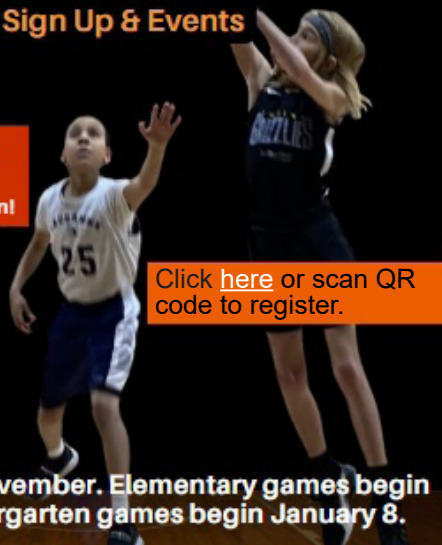
under Sign Up & Events

**OPEN TO ALL
AGES, 4 AND UP**

Official Memphis Grizzlies
Jersey and basketball
included in each registration!



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



Practice begins in November. Elementary games begin
December 5. Kindergarten games begin January 8.

For more information, contact Kim Marsh at
kmarsh@germantownumc.org

Owings Life Enrichment Center - 2331 West St.

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

Gordon Kelly, Director | gkelly@germantownumc.org

Kimberly Marsh, Assistant Director | kmarsh@germantownumc.org

Exercise Class Schedule September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30-10:45 am Stroller Barre (DR)	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)	
		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		Class Locations: Weight Room - WR Dance Room - DR Upstairs Room - UP	
6:15-7:15 pm Body Boost (DR)		6:15-7:15 pm Body Ignite (DR)			
6:30-7:30 pm Hatha Yoga (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.***
