Germantown United Methodist Church

the Tidings

NOVEMBER 2026

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The Power of Thanksgiving



Tim Carpenter
Senior Pastor

Greg Anderson, in *Living Life on Purpose*, tells a story about a man whose wife had left him. He was in a restaurant and completely depressed. In one of the small booths along the window was a young mother with a little girl. They had just been served their food when the little girl broke the sad silence by almost shouting, "Momma, can't we say our prayers here? Aren't we supposed to say our prayers?" The waitress, who had just served their breakfast, turned around and said, "Sure, honey, we can pray here. Will you say the prayer for us?" The little girl turned and looked at the rest of the people in the restaurant and said, "Bow your heads." Surprisingly, one by one, the heads went down. The little girl prayed, "God is great, God is good, let us thank him for our food. Amen." That prayer changed the entire atmosphere. People began to talk with one another. The waitress commented, "We should do that every morning."

"All of a sudden," said the depressed man to the author, "my whole frame of mind started to improve. From that little girl's example, I started to thank God for all that I *did* have and stopped majoring in all that I didn't have. I started to be grateful."

It's the power of thanksgiving. Being thankful requires us to put aside our pride, to think of others, and to be reminded that God provides. Being thankful is an attitude that saves us. When we say thank you, to God or to someone else, we begin to fulfill the commands to love God and to love our neighbor.



"Ten Lepers" by James Christenson (1942-2017)

In Luke 17, Jesus is confronted by ten lepers who cry out, "Jesus have mercy on us!" Jesus' reply is interesting. He does not yell out, "I heal you!" Rather, he says, "Go show yourselves to the priests." This was required, in the law, of persons who had been healed of skin diseases. By Jesus telling them to go to the priests, they understood they were being healed.

Continued on following page...

Senior Pastor

Tim Carpenter | tcarpenter@germantownumc.org

...Continued from page 1

They went away, and, as they went, they were cleansed. They were cleansed as they obeyed. Yet, in the story, only one of them, a Samaritan, returned to say thank you. “Rise,” Jesus said, “your faith has made you well.” The Greek word translated “made you well” is *sozo*, which can also mean “saved.”

Going to show themselves to the priest brought physical healing, but the one person from Samaria who returned, in faith, to give thanks to Jesus found salvation. The priests would declare him cleansed of leprosy. But Jesus declared him to be saved. And, attitudes changed. The Samaritan saw that salvation was from the Jewish Messiah. And the Jewish disciples saw that God’s mercy was upon the Samaritan people, as well. It is the power of thanksgiving.



Many of the problems of the world could be repaired with people choosing to be more thankful. Thankfulness to others makes people realize that their lives matter to us. Thankfulness to God brings glory to the One who has made our lives matter to him. Perhaps, this Thanksgiving, we all could benefit from praying, “Jesus have mercy on us.” And, then remembering to say, “Thank you.”

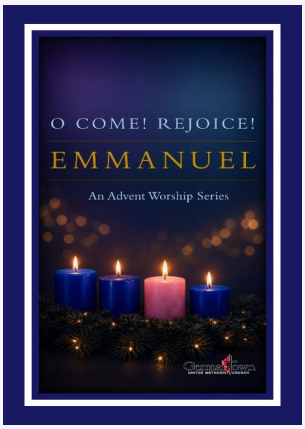


Charge Conference, November 15

We welcome our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jathaniel Cavitt, to our traditional worship service. Rev. Cavitt will deliver our message and then conduct our charge conference following the worship services. Rev. Cavitt began serving as our District Superintendent in July, with the creation of the Southwestern District.

New Advent Worship Series for Traditional Worship:
O Come! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Sundays in Advent | Beginning November 29 | 10:30 am



In the chaos, noise, and divisions of our modern world, it can often feel like we are living in a spiritual exile—longing for true peace, searching for wisdom, and waiting for hope. This Advent season, at Germantown United Methodist Church, we invite you to step into the story.

Our new four-part series, *O Come! Rejoice! Emmanuel*, journeys chronologically through the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel. Moving from the deep silence of Zechariah’s temple to the humble light of the Bethlehem manger, we will explore how our deepest human longings are perfectly met in Jesus Christ. Each week matches a classic stanza of the beloved hymn with the life-changing truth of the Gospel. Join us, at 10:30 am each Sunday, as we prepare our hearts to welcome the King and discover a reason to rejoice.

Prism

Rev. Mimi White | mwhite@germantownumc.org

Sundays | 10:30 am

Owings Life Enrichment Center



Rev. Mimi White

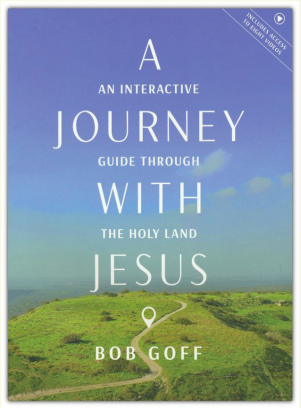


This fall, at Prism, we are doing a series called Journey with Jesus. We are taking a journey through the Holy Land with Jesus and Bob Goff to explore the things Jesus did and said in various places.

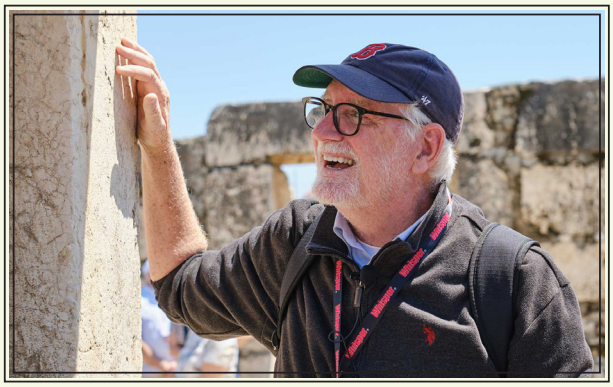
We began our journey by visiting Capernaum, where the first Jesus-following community was formed, and discussed the healing power of community. Next, we traveled to the "Valley of the Shadow of Death," where we discovered that, even there, God is with us, offering comfort and presence. Then, we journeyed to areas around the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus healed and fed many people, and explored how Jesus crosses every boundary to reach us if necessary.



We'll continue our journey through November, visiting the areas of Caesarea, the Mount of Beatitudes, and the Valley of Elah.



This series is based on Goff's latest book: *A Journey with Jesus: An Interactive Guide Through the Holy Land.* Through the book, the videos, and Bob Goff's unique style of encouraging us to love others more courageously, we are deepening our connection to God and one another.



Join us on this journey at Prism on Sundays at 10:30 am, in the OLEC, and don't forget to invite your F.R.A.N.S. (Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbors, and Strangers) to come, too! Prism Riot will provide outstanding praise music, and the snacks and coffee are always ready at 10 am, each Sunday, for anyone who wants to arrive early for fellowship. We can't wait to see you Sunday!

Executive Minister

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



Rev. Dr. Scott Alford
Executive Minister

WHEN YOU GIVE

Your generosity transforms lives at GUMC and beyond

At Germantown UMC, we call ourselves "sent" people, sent by Jesus to carry on his work of healing and restoring. It can be easy to think of our giving as simply paying the church's bills. Scripture, however, invites us to see it as worship, a grateful response to the God who has given us everything. Every gift, large or small, becomes the hands and feet of Christ through the ministries of this congregation. Consider what happens…

When you give, you join a story of generosity that began when God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.



When you give, babies are lovingly cared for in the Hamilton Nursery, and children in Stepping-Stones and Kids Quest learn to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind.

When you give, kids gather for WOW on Wednesday nights to share a meal, worship together, and discover that church is a place where they belong.

When you give, students in Element, Synergy, and Synago find a safe place to ask hard questions, build friendships, and grow as followers of Christ.

When you give, our traditional and Prism services fill Sunday mornings with music, Scripture, and prayer that lift our hearts toward God.

When you give, homebound members receive altar flowers, home Communion, phone calls, and cards reminding them that their church family has not forgotten them.



When you give, grieving families are surrounded with meals, prayer, and a year of faithful companionship through our Grief Ministry.

When you give, the McVay Counseling Center offers affordable, professional counseling, and a message of hope and healing to anyone in our community.

When you give, Special Spirits makes room for people of every ability, and their families, to belong, grow, and serve.



When you give, homeless neighbors find shelter through Room in the Inn and a warm welcome at Manna House.

When you give, hungry children are fed through the Mid-South Food Bank, and families in crisis find help through MIFA and the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers.

When you give, the Gospel reaches far beyond Germantown, through medical mission teams equipped by Crosslink and children in Costa Rica served by Alturas Ministries and our own missionary, Amy Speake.



When you give, first-time visitors find fresh cookies at their door on a Monday night and a warm welcome on Sunday morning.

When you give, you become part of something far bigger than yourself: loving God and loving others, serving Christ and sharing Him, transforming lives and making disciples.

Continued...

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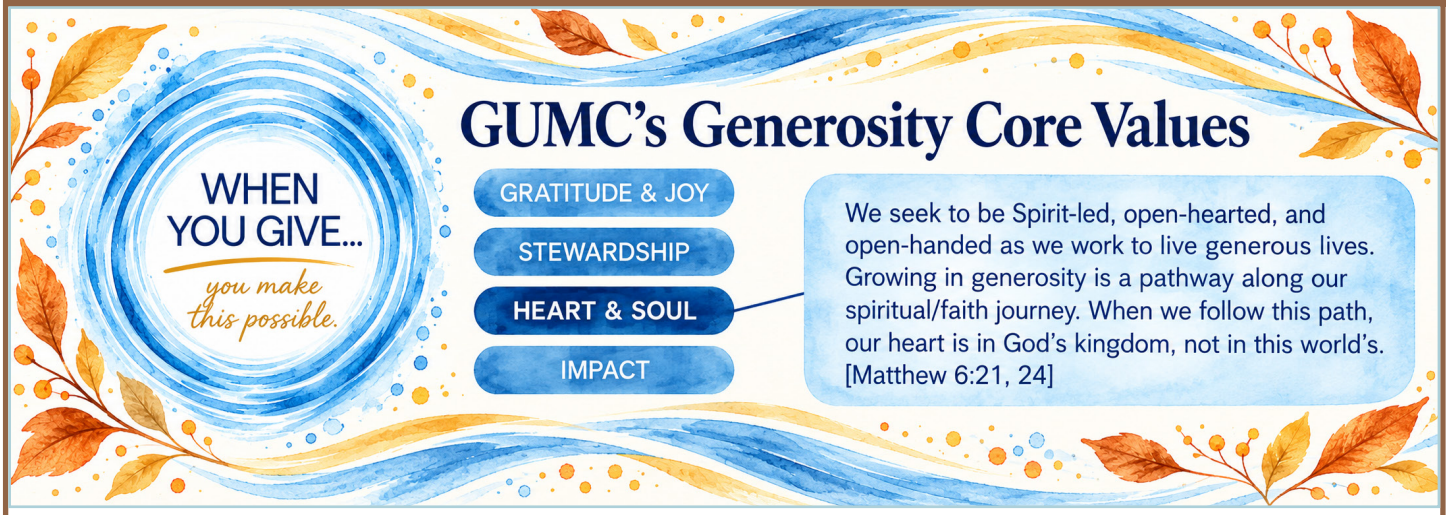
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Thank you for every gift you have shared, whether it was your money, your time, or your talents. None of this ministry happens without you. As you prayerfully consider your estimate of giving for 2027, remember Paul's encouragement to the Corinthians: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Our annual Commitment Sunday is November 22.

May our generosity reflect the generosity of the God we serve.

Generosity



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

2027 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 September 30, 2026	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/UNDER BUDGET	JULY 2026 to JUNE 2027 BUDGET	% ACTUAL YTD JULY 2026 TO JUNE 2027 BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	723,896.92	747,878.92	(23,982.00)	3,058,420.00	23.67%
TOTAL EXPENSES	785,617.38	754,401.12	31,216.26	3,089,300.00	25.43%
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE	(61,720.46)	(6,522.20)	(55,198.26)	(30,880.00)	

Churchwide

GUMC SAFETY TEAM

MEDICAL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Help our Safety Team prepare for emergency triage by donating surplus medical supplies or purchasing items to contribute.

Examples of needed supplies:

- Bandages
- Ace wraps
- Medical tape
- Gauze
- Wound-packing materials



Medical professionals: Have access to surplus supplies? Please consider sharing them.

Drop off donations at the Welcome Center.

Churchwide

Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 18 | 5:30-6:30 pm | OLEC

$18 per adult / $8 per child (4-11)

Free for children (3 and younger)

Join your church family for a feast of the season with turkey, gravy, dressing, and all the trimmings! Enjoy a fabulous meal with wonderful desserts while sitting at tables decorated by our very own United Women in Faith circles!

To Register:

- **Click here to register online, or scan QR code.**
- **Come by the Welcome Center during office hours.**
- **Tickets will be sold on November 15 before and after worship services (cash or check).**



Reservation with payment is due by noon on **Monday, November 16.**

A "not to be missed" evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Followed by

Family Advent Workshop

Wednesday, November 18
Fellowship Hall
6:30-7:45 pm

- Join us for crafts and refreshments
- Create your family's Advent wreath!



This is a FREE family event open to all ages.
No registration is required.

This cherished GUMC tradition is a wonderful way to prepare for the season.

Churchwide

Mahjong for Missions



Calling all mahjong lovers! Join us for an afternoon filled with clicking tiles, cheerful conversation, and relaxed social play. Gather your favorite playing partners or come solo, ready to make some new friends!

Mahjong for Missions will be held Sunday, November 15, from 2–5 pm in the Owings Life Enrichment Center (2323 West Street in Germantown.)

Purchase a table and invite three friends to play under your registration, or sign up on your own, and we'll help you find a table. The cost is $50 per person or $200 for a table of four.

Best of all, every bam, crack, dot, and dragon will help support the many missions of Germantown United Methodist Church. Don't play mahjong or can't join us that day? You can still help out by registering and selecting "Donate Only."

Register by Sunday, November 8, by clicking here or scanning the QR code and join us for an afternoon that's sure to be a win for GUMC's missions!

Don't forget to bring your 2026 National Mah Jongg League card.

GERMANTOWN UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



13th Annual GUWF

Christmas Cookie Shoppe

COOKIE-BAKING ELVES NEEDED!

If you have any questions, please contact
Barbara Schanson ~ barcons@comcast.net
Jan Corkern ~ jancorkern@yahoo.com

Click here or scan for more info and to sign up!

Churchwide


5th Annual
ADVENT
PROCESSION
Germantown, TN
November 29, 2026
5:30 pm
• Beginning at St. George's Episcopal
• Processing to Germantown Presbyterian and Germantown United Methodist


LET'S MAHJONG!
DOT CRACK BAM
MAHJ
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

Membership

Sandy Simpson



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Sandy Simpson into membership on Sunday, September 27, at the traditional worship service. She joined by transfer of her membership from another denomination in the Memphis area. Her Welcome Friends are Jane and Rick Kirchoff.

When asked what about GUMC made Sandy want to become a part of our church community, she replied: “I’m finding, as I get older, there is a comfort and experience of coming home in the United Methodist worship service. My husband, Jim, was a United Methodist minister, and we served in the Memphis Conference from the late ‘60s to late ‘80s. I loved those congregations and long to be a part of one again.”

Music Ministry

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

Matins Handbell Choir Concert | Sunday, November 15, 5 pm



The GUMC Matins Handbell Choir has been hard at work this fall preparing for a concert at historic Immanuel Episcopal Church in LaGrange, Tennessee. Eleven selections will be offered, most of which are hymn-based compositions. A few titles will represent the harvest season, and we’ll even have one arrangement that leads us to the manger and the birth of Christ. This will be the first public outing for our newly refurbished handbells. I look forward to a fine group of GUMC music supporters that will make their way to Immanuel for this event.

Music Ministry

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

Sunday, November 1, at 6:30 pm, we again offer a Choral Evensong Service. This night of sung hymns, Scripture, and prayer will draw to a close our All Saints Sunday. I share from an article I found at the Resource UMC web page:

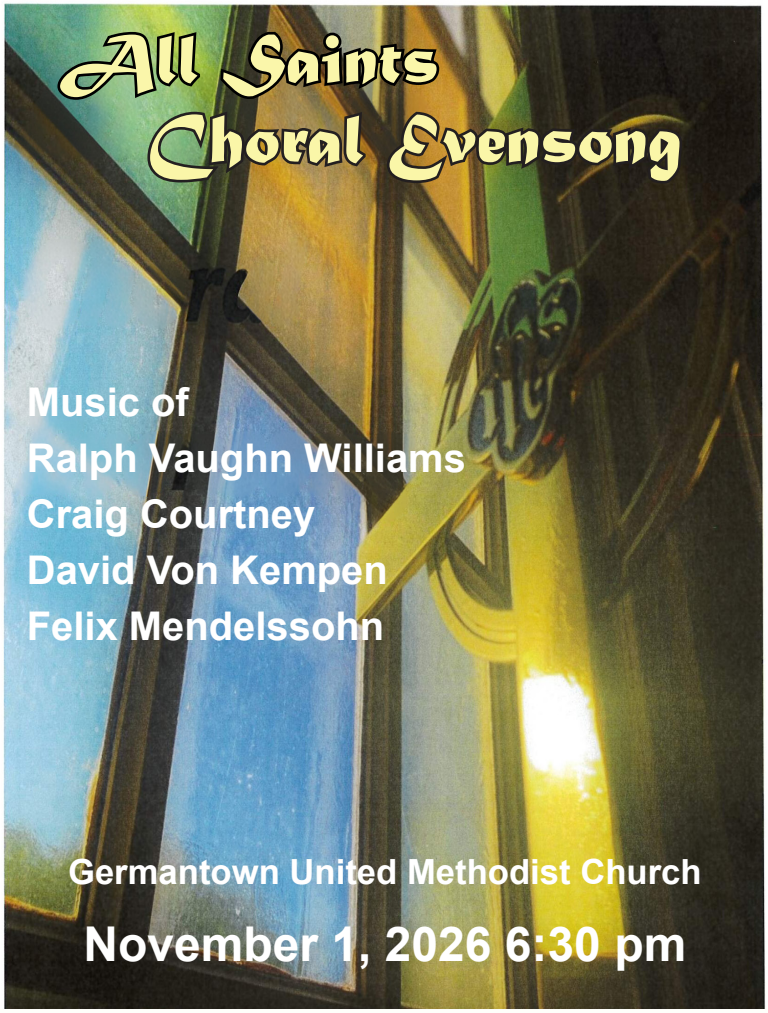
Paul begins his letter to the church at Ephesus by calling these early believers in Christ "saints." He writes, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

United Methodists recognize Matthew, Paul, Mark, John, Luke, and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

November 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love."

This may sound odd. United Methodists don't believe in saints, right? Well, yes... and no. Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. However, he also advised against disregarding the saints altogether.

United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplify the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be



considered a saint. We also recognize and celebrate All Saints Day and "all the saints, who from their labors rest." All Saints Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith.

We will not disregard the saints altogether. In fact, we'll celebrate the saints of GUMC that have gone on to glory in this past year, not only in morning worship, but with this night of prayer through song. I pray you'll come and offer your prayers, presence, and witness to the Saints above.

Music Ministry

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

Mark your calendars!

Join us in Celebrating the Sounds of the Season.

Musical events in December to stir your spirit and fill your heart with the joy of Christmas



December 6 at 5 pm | GUMC sanctuary
GUMC Children's Choirs Christmas Concert and Plum Pudding

A GUMC tradition! Children require really one thing from us—our love. That love can be manifested by your presence and support of their efforts. This event isn't just for mom, dad, and grandparents. Neighbors, teachers, aunts and uncles, too, may be invited!

December 13 at 6:30 pm | GUMC sanctuary
Community Carol Festival

Another GUMC seasonal tradition, this event features our Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Matins Handbells, and our congregation, as we share in numerous carol settings throughout the evening.



December 14 at 7 pm | GUMC sanctuary
Houston High School Choirs Holiday Concert

Prepare to be entertained by the talented voices of the Houston High Choir.





December 22 at 7:30 pm | GUMC sanctuary
Memphis Symphony Orchestra performance of Handel's Messiah

This concert offers amazing music and the opportunity to extend welcome to hundreds of people in our community.

Go to https://memphissymphony.org/calendar to purchase tickets. Use promo code, GUMC.

Adult Education

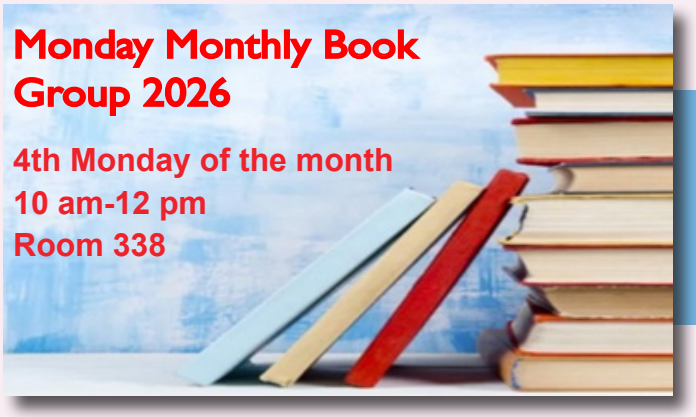
Mary Groh, Director | 901-754-7216 | mgroh@germantownumc.org



Men's Sonrise Bible Study
Tuesdays | 6:30 am

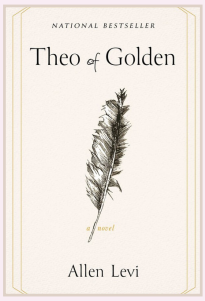
All men are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings, at 6:30 am, in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

No registration required.



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

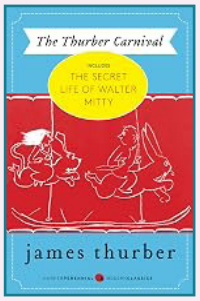
For questions, please contact Mary Groh.



November 23

Theo of Golden

By Allen Levi



January 25, 2027

The Thurber Carnival

By James Thurber

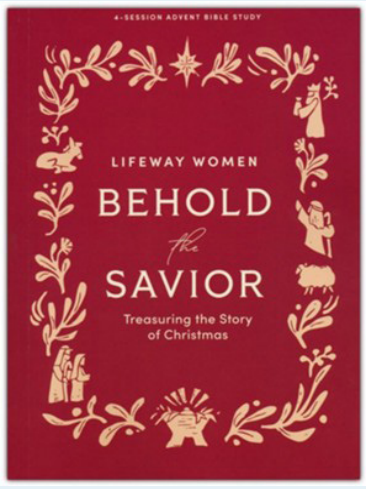
Adult Education

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



Advent Bible Studies





Behold the Savior

Treasuring the Story of Christmas

Wednesdays, November 18 – December 16
(skipping November 25)
9:45 – 11:45 am via Zoom
Facilitator: Chesley Porteous | Cost: $19.00

Through this 4-session women's Bible study, we'll take a slow walk through the first two chapters of Luke, verse-by-verse. We'll reflect on the significant people and events found in these chapters, celebrating the first Advent and looking forward to Jesus' return. *Behold the Savior* is an invitation to slow down and refocus our hearts on Jesus this Advent season. Click here to register or scan the QR code above.

"I Hear the Christmas Angels"



Mondays, Nov. 23 – Dec. 14
10 – 11:30 am
Facilitator: Rev. Rick Pinkston | Cost: Free

When we read the scripture texts surrounding the Annunciation, the Nativity, the visitation of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, and the Holy Family's return to Israel, we meet a variety of characters. However, there is one constant woven throughout the narratives that both Matthew and Luke record—that is the presence of angels, the emissaries of God. The aim of this study is to help bring these tales alive, as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. We invite everyone to be a part of this exploration. There is no cost for being a part of this study. Click here to register or scan the QR code.

Care Ministries

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



CLM Yolanda V.C. Toney
Director Of Care Ministries



Steady Ground meets the third Sunday of each month in room 339, after morning worship. November 15 and December 20 are the final meetings in 2026. More info on the following page.

Why Steady Ground?

"I'm doing okay."

"I don't think I need a grief group."

"Talking about grief will just bring me down."

When we hear the words grief ministry, we may picture a room filled with sadness. We may think it is only for someone who has recently experienced a death or someone who is struggling to get through the day.

But that is not what Steady Ground is.

Steady Ground is <u>not</u> about staying in your grief. It is about finding your footing as you move through it.

Grief is a natural response to loss, and loss comes in many forms. We grieve the death of people we love, but we may also grieve changes in our health, relationships, families, careers, independence, dreams, and expectations. Sometimes we do not even recognize what we are experiencing as grief.

And, sometimes, we really are "doing okay." But doing okay does not mean there is nothing more to understand, nothing more to share, or no one else who might benefit from our presence. Scripture tells us, **"Encourage one another and build up each other."** (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Someone may need to hear how you made it through the first holiday, the first anniversary, or simply a particularly difficult season.

"Won't talking about grief make me feel worse?"

It is understandable to wonder whether talking about loss will stir up feelings we would rather leave alone. But grief does not disappear simply because we do not talk about it.



Maybe you are functioning well. Maybe you have found your rhythm again. Maybe the loss that once consumed your thoughts no longer does. **Come anyway.** Come, because healing and understanding continue long after the most difficult days have passed. There is something powerful about sitting with people who do not require an explanation for what you are feeling.

So, why Steady Ground?

Because life sometimes shifts beneath our feet. Because loss changes us. Because someone else may say the very words we have been unable to find. Because our experience may encourage someone who is a few steps behind us. And because God often ministers to us through one another.

Steady Ground is a place where we remind one another that even when life shifts beneath us, there is still steady ground on which to stand.

Care Ministries

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

Don't forget to register for:

Navigating Medicare
Monday, November 9, 2026
11 am | room 339

Ms. Janet Smith will be with us to talk about navigating Medicare. Janet Smith is a health and life insurance agent who specializes in helping people with their retirement needs. She helps people understand how to choose the right Medicare plan for their needs, how Medicare works with Social Security, and long-term care strategies. The seminar is free, but please sign up online so we can make the best provisions.





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)

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.

Care MINISTRIES

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 Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org



Guest Speaker

Joshua Conley
Executive Director
Foster Village Memphis

November Luncheon

Tuesday | November 10 | 11:30 am
Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

All women are invited!

Register with credit card online at germantownumc.org, "Sign Up & Events," click here, or scan the QR code.

Cost is only $15

Deadline in NOON Thursday, November 5

Questions? Contact Chesley Porteous at chesleyporteous@gmail.com

A Servant's Heart

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:18 NRSV

Give Thanks

$25 Kroger and Walmart Gift Cards for UMNC

The United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis continue to address food insecurity in our community. To help those in need, we are collecting $25 Kroger and Walmart gift cards. The cards will be distributed through UMNC-supported food pantries across Memphis.

Please place gift cards in a sealed envelope marked **"Attention: Stephanie Adams"** and leave it in the United Women in Faith mail slot, at the Information Center, just outside Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

The deadline for donations is Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org



Christmas Brunch

Tuesday | December 1 | 10:30 am

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

All women are invited!

Register with credit card online at germantownumc.org, "Sign Up & Events," click here, or scan the QR code.

Cost is only $15

Deadline in NOON Wednesday, November 25

Questions? Contact Chesley Porteous at chesleyporteous@gmail.com

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:18 NRSV



Christmas Cookie Shoppe



Saturday, December 12 | 9 am-noon

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendar! The UWF Christmas Cookie Shoppe at Germantown United Methodist Church is an opportunity for church members and friends to purchase festive and beautiful homemade cookies and candies to enjoy or give as gifts during the Christmas holidays.

The funds raised will be given to the missions supported by the Germantown United Women in Faith.

All who attend will receive a bakery box and gloves before walking through the fellowship hall to select from over one hundred different cookies and candies, all labeled and displayed beautifully.

After choices are made, the boxes will be weighed and sold for only $10.00 per pound. Cash, check, and credit cards will be accepted. A decorative ribbon can be added to your box to make it a gift for no extra charge. Kick off the holidays with a visit to the UWF Christmas Cookie Shoppe!

Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF)

Stephanie Adams, President | women@germantownumc.org

Germantown United Women in Faith

Tips for the Holidays



Did you know? Germantown United Women in Faith (GUWF) encourages women to read a diverse range of books for learning and pleasure. We offer books and resources in the GUWF Library, which are available for self-checkout. The library is located in Room 231 in the chapel wing of the church. Books can be found on a wide variety of topics, including biographies, current events, devotionals, home and family, missions, the modern-day church, societal issues, and children's titles. All women of GUMC are encouraged to come explore and learn.

With this in mind….

Looking for a gift for that special someone who's hard to buy for?

Have a friend or family member who loves and appreciates the value of reading?

Instead of buying a gift, would you prefer to honor someone in a meaningful way that blesses others?

GUWF has the answer for you! Why not make a donation to purchase a book for our library? The process is easy, and books purchased will have a name plate added to the inside cover, and an acknowledgement card with name of donor and book purchased is mailed to the honoree. Upon request, we are happy to provide the acknowledgment card directly to the donor for "a special delivery" (think Christmas stocking!)

For donation form, click here or scan QR code.

Education can transform women. Educated women can transform the world.

Save the Date

Upcoming GUWF Events

- Christmas Brunch — Tuesday, December 1
- Christmas Cookie Shoppe fundraiser — Saturday, December 12
- February Speaker Luncheon — Tuesday, February 2
- Lent by Candlelight — Tuesday, February 9

Older Adults

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

Don't Forget the November Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Friday, November 6, 2026 | 11 am | Fellowship Hall

Trey Crump, Executive Director of Memphis Heritage, will tell us about "Preserving Memphis: Our History, Our Stories, Our Future." 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 wil be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.

Learn the True Stories of Some Christmas Songs at the December Brown Bag Lunch!



Have you ever wondered what inspired some of your favorite Christmas songs and carols? Rev. Todd Wilson will explore Christmas songs of all kinds and give us a fun look at the stories, circumstances, and surprising inspirations behind the music we enjoy each Christmas season. You may be surprised to learn how some beloved songs came to be. Discover the fascinating stories behind the songs that have become part of our Christmas traditions at the December Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council. You may never hear familiar Christmas carols quite the same way, again!

TOPIC: "Behind the Scenes of Your Favorite Christmas Carols"
SPEAKER: Rev. Todd Wilson, Minister of Music, Germantown United Methodist Church
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: December 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.****



Older Adults

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

XYZ's Get in the Spirit of Christmas at the Peabody in December!



Come with us for a Memphis tradition—Christmas at the Peabody, the grande dame of Southern hotels. We will see this opulent hotel, one of USA Today's Best Historic Hotels for 2026, decorated for Christmas. We'll listen to a presentation by the Duck Master and watch the ducks march. We will hear some Christmas music, and you may listen to that, visit the history room on the second floor, or do a little Christmas shopping in the shops at the hotel—don't forget to stop at Lansky's! We then will enjoy lunch at the Capriccio Grill Restaurant before we head home, in a holiday mood and ready for Christmas.



WHERE: Peabody Hotel and Capriccio Grill Restaurant
WHEN: Monday, December 7, 2026
COST: $40 per person includes lunch. This trip is being subsidized by a generous donation to the XYZ's.
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, November 6

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

XYZ's Experience Bonsai in February!







We are going to travel to Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, the largest importer and grower of quality bonsai in America, a destination for Asian culture enthusiasts and those interested in growing a piece of history for more than 50 years. Bonsai is the Japanese art form, dating back over 1000 years, of using trees grown in containers. A popular hobby with both men and women, bonsai is rewarding for both the viewer and the growers. Brussel is going to teach us about the art of bonsai, demonstrate the techniques used in growing a plant, and give us a tour of this state-of-the-art facility. Prepare to be amazed! After our demonstration and tour, we are going to eat lunch at South of Beale in Collierville.

WHERE: Olive Branch, Mississippi and Collierville, Tennessee
WHEN: Tuesday, February 23, 2027
COST: $5 per person plus lunch on your own.
DEPARTURE: 9:15 am from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9 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, January 22

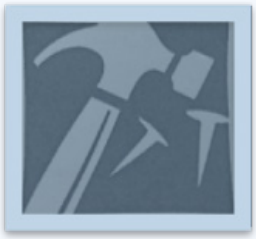
For safety reasons, participants must be physically able to walk independently and get on and off our vehicles.

Older Adults

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

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

Contacting the church



- When you have a pastoral prayer need, Let Us Know.
- If you have a health emergency or concern, Let Us Know.
- If there is a need for which you'd like support, Let Us Know.

Let Us Know — so we can be attentive to your spiritual and practical needs.

How to contact the church

- Call the church main number at 901-754-7216.
- Email Brenda West (Senior Pastor Assistant) at bwest@germantownumc.org.
- Email Yolanda Toney (Care Ministries Director) at ytoney@germantownumc.org.
- Email Rev. Deborah Thompson (Elder Care Minister) at dthompson@germantownumc.org.
- Call your Sunday school or small group leader.

Special Needs Ministry

Kate McDonald, Director | 901-758-6508 | kmcdonald@germantownumc.org



Kate McDonald

People with disabilities have always been part of our society, and there are millions of them in our country today. Time and time again, in the Bible, Jesus welcomed them all to Him, even when those closest to Him wanted to turn them away and isolate them. Having a disability, or having a family member with a disability, can be an isolating experience, but the last place a person should feel isolated is at their church! That is why we created Special Spirits—the new ministry at GUMC for families with loved ones who have a disability. We want everyone to feel welcome here!

The first goal of the ministry is to connect with existing members who have "Special Spirits" in their families and see how we can help their loved ones become more involved and feel more included in our church community. That might look different for every family. For the Athow family, their Special Spirit, Hannah, completed acolyte training on October 4 and is excited to serve at her first worship service in November.



Our first event, open to Special Spirits throughout our church and the greater community, will take place on December 19, and it will be "Snow Much Fun!"

If you know of a family who would benefit from connecting with Special Spirits, please have them contact me at the email address above. I am also happy to speak to your church group or Sunday School class about this ministry and its upcoming events.

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God,

I don't ever feel alone since I found out about you.

Nora

Dear God,

Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy

Joyce

Compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall , © 1991

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







Over 60 children participated in our

Pumpkin Prayer Candy Walk

on Sunday morning, October 25! The children visited 10 adult Sunday school classes, sharing the five steps of The Pumpkin Prayer and the meaningful lessons each step teaches us about God's love, forgiveness, joy, and light. The adult classes were a rapt audience, listening as our kiddos shared their message, and then sent them on their way with plenty of sweet treats! It was a fun morning of fellowship, faith, and a little Halloween candy, too! Thank you to everyone who participated!







Children's Ministry

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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. Parents of preschoolers can drop their kids off in the nursery, prepare a plate of food from the fellowship hall, and bring it up to the nursery for their child to enjoy.

November 11 is the last day of WOW for the semester!

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

Click here TO REGISTER



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.

Worship Reminder

We hope that you will bring your elementary students (and younger children, too, if you wish) to worship with you each week. Remember that children are always welcome at our services!

For our traditional service, we have children's bulletins and worship bags in the cabinet on the east side of the narthex.

For Prism, we have worship bags on the back table in the OLEC gym. Please return your worship bag to the bin after the service.

The Hamilton Nursery is open from 8:45–11:30 am for children who have not yet entered kindergarten.

Children's Ministry

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Janelle Crist, Associate Director - Nursery | jcrist@germantownumc.org
Hayley Heard, Associate Director - Elementary | hheard@germantownumc.org



Journey to Bethlehem

December 12, 2026
9:30–11 am • Hamilton Nursery

Families with young children (and older people who are children at heart) are invited to attend this special GUMC tradition. Children will walk the path of Jesus' birth. They will begin with the angels, move to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth, visit the shepherds, and finish with the wise men. After learning the reason we share gifts at Christmas, children will have a chance to share their wish list with the Jolly Ol' Guy himself.

Register for this free event by clicking here or scanning the QR code.



Children's Christmas Market

Saturday, December 12 | 9-11:30 am
Sunday, December 13 | 8:45-11 am
in the Huddle (room 240)

Let our elves help your child select gifts for family and friends!

Preschool and elementary-age children will have an opportunity to shop for gifts to give to loved ones. Each gift is exactly $5, of beautiful quality, wrapped, and tagged. Children will also learn about free-trade, mission-oriented gifts, and being a purposeful giver.

On Sunday, December 13, elementary children will have an opportunity to shop during Sunday school hour. Bring $5 for each gift you intend to purchase. No registration necessary.

Germantown United Methodist Preschool (GUMP)

Sarah Sutton, Director | ssutton@germantownumc.org



We're delighted to share that GUMP received a 99 out of 100 on our QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) report card from the State of Tennessee! It measures health/safety and teacher-child interactions. We're proud of our dedicated staff and the loving care they provide for our little friends each day.



This past month, we enjoyed a wonderful visit from Germantown Fire and Ambulance—and an unexpected reunion! As many of you know, Ms. Joy has been part of GUMP for nearly 50 years. During today's visit, she recognized one of the paramedics and said, "Hey, I remember you from when you came to preschool here, and I changed your diaper!" You can imagine our surprise! Phil confirmed that it was true and laughed, "I can't wait to call my mom!" What a wonderful reminder of the lifelong connections that begin at GUMP. From our youngest preschoolers to dedicated community helpers, the bonds formed within our GUMP family continue to grow and strengthen our community.



What a memorable night at GUMP's first GUMPKINS & GIGGLES Halloween celebration! Families came together for an evening filled with laughter, fun, and festive activities. Children enjoyed hayrides, face painting, bubbles, balloons, Garibaldi's pizza, Ben and Jerry's, and trick-or-treating throughout the classrooms. It was a wonderful opportunity for our GUMP community to celebrate the season, create special memories, and enjoy time together. Fun was truly had by all!









Youth

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



On Sunday, November 8, we'll hold our annual Element Turkey Bowl! In this GUMC youth tradition, youth form dodgeball teams and compete for the Turkey Bowl trophy, and bragging rights for the next year. Registration is $10 per player. Hope to see you there!



2025 Turkey Bowl Champs



On November 22, Element will celebrate "Friendsgiving" with a potluck style dinner! Chloe will provide the main dish (ham), and we ask each student to bring a side dish or dessert. In the past, we've enjoyed delicious dishes such as homemade mashed potatoes, Taco Bell tacos, famly mac and cheese recipes, and delicious cookies! We'll share good food, enjoy fellowship, and have a relaxing night of fun. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Our annual Crave retreat is coming up soon! Don't forget to register online! We can't wait to show all of the fun that we had in next month's Tidings!

[gumc youth]



Playing Pac-Man at Element



Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast

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.

Daytime Hours	Church Members	Guests
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

If you've never visited the OLEC, now is the perfect time! The OLEC is a full-service exercise facility. We have an 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.



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

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

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

Exercise Class Schedule October 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) July 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			
6:15-7:15 pm Body Boost (DR)		6:15-7:15 pm Body Ignite (DR)			
6:30-7:30 pm Hatha Yoga (DR)					

Class Locations:

Weight Room - WR
Dance Room - DR
Upstairs Room - UP

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

Instagram

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.***