



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H

CONNECTING ♦ GROWING ♦ CARING ♦ SHARING

MINISTRIES OVERVIEW

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GPC





Germantown Presbyterian Church was founded on March 24, 1838. In 1851, the first building, Evans Chapel, was established. This plain but beautiful, historic clapboard structure served as the congregation's only house of worship for 136 years, surviving the ravages of war and yellow fever as the oldest public building in Germantown.

As Germantown and other communities surrounding Memphis, Tennessee grew, so did Germantown Presbyterian Church. In 1951, the original building was moved a few yards and turned to face east. In 1987, a new sanctuary was constructed in a colonial design, and in 1996, the south building, housing the Germantown Presbyterian Preschool, an Activity Center, and classrooms was added.

But most importantly, it was the congregation that grew with new mission, ministry, and fellowship

programming. Though buildings and facilities are important, they are merely a backdrop for the activities within. Germantown Presbyterian is a vibrant congregation, passionate about growing its personal relationship with God and to serve the cause of Christ within the community and abroad.

Germantown Presbyterian Church worships through scripture, prayer, music, and fellowship. Faith Formation is vital to children, youth, adults, and special needs individuals of all ages. Church groups, small and large, build faith and relationships within the congregation. Through ministry outreach, God's work is done in Germantown, Memphis and around the world. Opportunities are provided to translate faith into action, from the governing Session and Diaconate to church committees and programs that offer volunteer and learning opportunities for every member of the congregation.

**Interested in Becoming a member? For more information, contact
Lea Buring at leaciabattini@gmail.com, 901-355-4940,
or Beth Willingham at bethwillingham@comcast.net, 901-494-8480.**



FAITH FORMATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



2022 Advent Dinner & Devotional gathering included all generations of church members.

This past summer, a new ministry team was formed by uniting our Special Needs, Kids, Youth, and Adult Ministries under the banner of 'Faith Formation' for one purpose – to better support each other in our ever-deepening devotion to Jesus Christ.

This newly formed group has been working diligently to align our schedules/goals/budgets, reach unmet demographics in our church, collaborate during big multi-generational events, and think creatively about strengthening our ministries.

For example, on Sunday afternoons while the children are participating in the Worship Works music and art program, the Adult Ministry Team created a new small group to support their parents. Similarly, on Wednesday evenings, Compass Ministry holds four-week meal and devotional series with special components for adults, kids and youth to enjoy.

We are very excited about events and programming that will bring multi-generational groups together, for our GPC family to grow in faith as one. Because that's the part of beauty of being at home here in this church. It's a special place where God meets us through the eyes of another.



Worship Works rehearsal & Mardi Gras celebration during afternoon Adult Sunday School Bible Studies.



GPC Student Ministry members take a break during the Special Needs Ministry Parking Lot fundraiser.



WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
9:40 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship, Sanctuary (live & online)
5:00 p.m.	Evening Worship, Evans Chapel

Music

The morning worship services have a more traditional feel and the evening service provides a more relaxed experience. The morning service music is made up of the Chancel Choir, soloists and organ led by veteran conductor, Dr. Jerold Teachey. The evening service is led by a Worship Team made up of local musicians, featuring strong vocals along with guitar, keyboard and accompaniments. It is led by Dr. John Johnson, a former professor at The Visible Music College.

Whatever style you prefer, we are excited for you to come and feel at home with God in this place.

Communion

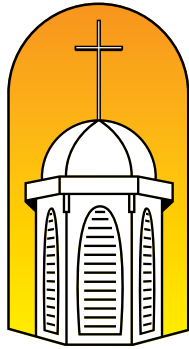
The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at the morning worship services, and each Sunday at the 5:00 p.m. worship service.

Childcare

Childcare is available for all of our services as follows:
(Ages: infants-Kindergarten ONLY)

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services (Nursery)
Sunday School 9:40-10:40 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service
(Chapel Community Room)



EVENING WORSHIP

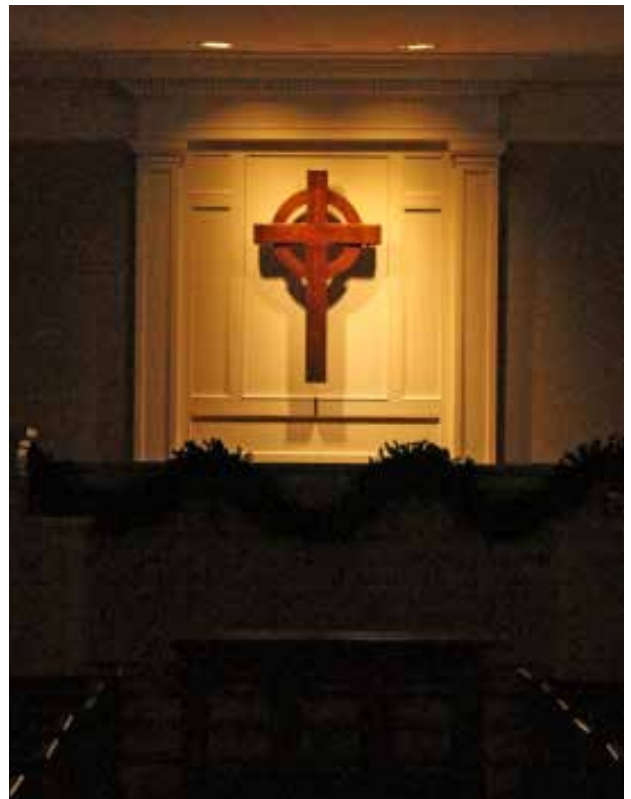
GPC-EVANS CHAPEL

SUNDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

WEEKLY COMMUNION

**CHILDCARE PROVIDED
(CHAPEL COMMUNITY ROOM)**

Evening Worship has returned weekly worship to the historic Evans Chapel. It was the main place of worship for GPC until 1986 when the new sanctuary was finished. While utilized by other groups and events, regular worship was not held by the GPC congregation since that time. Evening Worship offers an experience inspired by our historic faith, but with a message and feel that speaks to us today. It also offers an intimate setting for interacting with fellow congregants. Join us Sundays at 5:00 p.m. for this relaxed and meaningful worship experience.





WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY



The GPC Music Ministry offers a variety of opportunities for congregants and professionals alike. We welcome all who want to share their voice in the Sunday worship.

ADULTS

Chancel Choir

Our large adult choir enhances the traditional morning service with awe-inspiring choral music as well as an offering of special events throughout the year. The group is open to high school students and adults. **The chancel choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Handbells Choir

Join in as we make melody through coordinated chimes. The ability to read music is helpful, but no experience is required. The choir is open to high school students and adults. **The Handbells Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

CHILDREN



GPC Kids Music & Arts Program for kids ages 4-5th grade

Children's Choir

Divided in to two groups, ages 4-6 and grades 2nd-5th

Children's Handbell Choir

Open to children grades 2nd-5th. Children learn basic handbell techniques and sharpen their musical skills through a variety of activities and games.



MISSIONS MINISTRIES

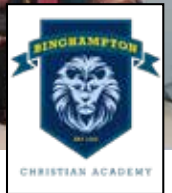
Germantown Presbyterian Church is involved in a number of local mission efforts in Memphis, Shelby County, and surrounding areas.

The Missions Leadership Team (MLT) is a committee of the Session open to all members of the congregation. The purpose of the MLT is to help GPC develop a clear, robust theological and scriptural understanding both of the need for mission and its implementation. The MLT has several important goals: to establish GPC as an action-oriented missional church; to provide long-term, relationship-based mission opportunities for the GPC congregation; to work with other committees and groups to provide proactive/hands-on involvement; and to provide clear global missions direction, seeking to establish longstanding international partnerships. We try to focus on "hand-up" efforts as opposed to "hand-out" efforts in order to break the cycles of dependence. We are always praying for God's guidance in new opportunities to go with our established efforts. In particular, given our church's passion for teaching and education, we are exploring what it would mean to focus on education-related missions and ministries as a church.

The MLT meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and you are always invited! For information, contact the church office at 901-754-5195.



Cooking
for Missions



Cooking
for Missions





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

As the body of Christ here at GPC, we are called into community for worship, study, and fellowship, and GPC's Congregational Life Committee works hard to create fun activities for all ages.

ANNUAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

Easter Egg Hunt **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**
Camp NaCoMe **Family Retreat**
Fall Fest **Christmas Caroling**
Chili Cook-off & Kid's Dessert Competition



To learn more about the various Congregational Life ministries, please contact Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Nurture, 901-754-5195 x122 or care@gpctn.org.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The deacons of the Congregational Care Committee, along with Pastor Susie Wiggins, are called to meet each person where they are and provide Christ's love, compassion, and hospitality to everyone. If you'd like to join with us in caring for God's people, just let Pastor Susie know at care@gpctn.org.



Congregational Care Programs include:

Flower Deliveries Porch Visits

A partnership with Petals and Prayers Flower Ministry the ministry continues to care for GPC parishioners through flowers and visits, with over 740 arrangements being delivered thus far.

Grief Support Group Ministry

provides a supportive group for all those who are experiencing loss. Certified Bereavement Counselor Stephanie Wall leads the group as they meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Friends in Christ

is our vibrant home-visitation ministry. Within this ministry, new Christian friendships are continually

being nurtured through monthly visits, telephone calls, emails, and personal notes.

Fellowship Groups

are an integral part of the life of GPC in that, groups meet to break bread and fellowship with one another, usually on a monthly or quarterly basis, depending on the wishes of each group.

Prayer Ministry

provides prayer support for GPC members through various forms of prayer and prayer groups.

Medical Supply Closet

is available to everyone at GPC who might need to borrow some sort of

medical supply item. The closet is maintained by the Congregational Care Committee and items can be "checked out" through GPC's Secretary/Receptionist, Ann DeVere.

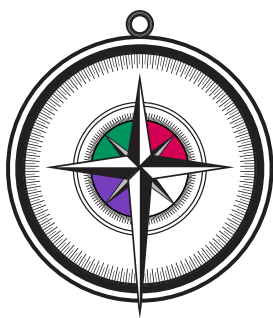
Women's Retreat

Pastor Susie works hand-in-hand with the planning team to annually create a one-day retreat opportunity of fellowship, learning, and mission, along with the all-important delicious lunch and snacks.

Notecard Ministry

This ministry sends notes and cards to our GPC members who might not be able to come to worship and fellowship activities any more.

To learn more about the various Congregational Care ministries or if you are in need of pastoral care yourself, please contact Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Nurture, 901-754-5195 x122 or care@gpctn.org.



*Read
& Pray*
BOOK CLUB

The purpose of the Adult Ministry Team at GPC is to guide our adults, at all levels of their Christian journeys, to know the Lord and to grow as His disciples.

GPC's Adult Ministry Leadership Team recognizes the importance of gathering together to study Scripture. It is our hope that all adults within our congregation will become dedicated to regular fellowship, study, and prayer in a group setting. To foster this hope, we offer Sunday morning classes, weekday small groups, and an occasional Wednesday night study series, such as the **Wednesday Evening Advent Devotional Series** held in December each year.

On Sunday mornings, most of the groups' meetings are ongoing, allowing for deeper relationships and fellowship of members to develop in the presence of Christ. The classes that have been meeting in the last year are **The Seekers, Hits of the Ages, Psalm 78, Coffee & Conversations, and Paula's Hearts & Hands.**

Throughout the week, there are other groups that meet regularly: some weekly, some biweekly and some monthly. Each group is dedicated to deepening fellowship and discipleship. Some of these groups include the **SONrise MENistry Men's Breakfast; Men's Lunch Devotional group; Read & Pray (Christian women's book club); Women's Thursday Bible Study; and Presbyterian Women.** Each class and small group chooses its own study topics with pastoral assistance when needed.

Wherever you are in your relationship with the Lord, our hope is that you will connect with a group to grow in your Christian journey of study, fellowship, and prayer.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Finding Your People in Your Faith Community

Each of our 5 adult Sunday School classes are enjoying meeting every week as they grow closer together in faith and friendship. God has blessed our church family with a passion for helping each other grow as disciples of Jesus.

Each of our Sunday School classes meet from 9:40 a.m. -10:40 a.m. and are vibrant, healthy, and offer a wonderful place to connect meaningfully with others. So if you're curious about what it would be like to feel a deep sense of belonging and friendship, our groups are an easy and enjoyable way for you to experience that sense of home. There is nothing better than growing closer to Christ through authentic relationships. So come check out our Sunday School classes. We can't wait to welcome you on your journey of faith.

If you want to get involved in a Sunday morning group, email Pastor Mike at mikel@gpctn.org.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

(for parents of young children)

Room: UL-217

Contact: Candace Askew
candace.phillips@fedex.com

PAULA'S HEARTS & HANDS

(women's knitting group)

Room: UL 214

Contact: Mary Rogers
mlrogers44@bellsouth.net

PSALM 78

(parents of school age children)

Room: UL-215

Contact: Rebecca Floyd
rebeccafloyd1973@gmail.com

THE SEEKERS

(adults of all ages)

Room: UL-216

Contact: Bonnie Algee
bbalgee@bellsouth.net

HITS OF THE AGES

(adults of all ages)

Room: UL-218

Contact: Alan Callicott
alan@callicottinsurance.com



Blair Hayes, Director of GPC Kid's

GPC Kids Sunday School

At the core of GPC's Kids is our Sunday School Ministry. GPC Kids meet for Sunday School from 9:40-10:40 a.m.. By the time our preschoolers ages 3 to 5 enter first grade, we want them to know, through our Bible-based curriculum, that "God made me; God loves me; and Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

Children in elementary school may attend a 1st and 2nd grade class, 3rd grade class or 4th and 5th grade class. When our elementary-school-aged children leave 5th grade, we want them to know, "I should treat others the way I want to be treated; I need to make the wise choice; and I can trust God no matter what." Each class is led by two volunteer teachers. This volunteer role is very important in the church. These teachers offer their time to care for our children and teach them about Jesus. We are so grateful for our amazing volunteer teachers!

Nursery/Childcare

Each Sunday morning and evening childcare exists for babies and Kindergarten age kids. The baby and toddler rooms are in the preschool hallway. The nursery opens at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings for parents who would like to attend 8:30 a.m. service, 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. worship service. And 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel Community Room for the Evening Service.. This is lead our wonderful Nursery Staff who always ensure our children's safety through love and compassion for each child in their care.

Special Events

Special events occur throughout the year too! Children are active in leading worship on Children's Sunday. Vacation Bible School is an annual event the first week of June. And the 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve family worship service is led by GPC Kids!





STUDENT MINISTRY

Christopher Greco, Director of Student Ministry

GPC Student Ministry is built upon relationships. When students attend Student Ministry events, they're intentionally paired with peers and adults to build lasting connections. We believe in discipleship that starts when they first walk through our door and lasts beyond graduation. We use inspiring recreational environments, strategic relationships in small groups, and transformational retreat opportunities to prioritize growth together.

Sunday School

GPC Student Ministry focuses on planning to deliver messages to students that are what we think they need to hear most. Starting in the sixth grade and continuing through graduation, a student will never hear a repeated message as they are all laid out ahead of time. Whether that is tackling the importance of discipleship or our personal image of ourselves, students will hear and discuss a topic relevant to a teen developing in their faith.

Youth Group

Youth Group is our main platform for student ministry; it all occurs on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Middle School and High School rooms. Pickup is from 7:45 to 8:00 p.m.. Upon arrival, students can eat dinner, socialize with others, and play unstructured games. The program consists of engaging games to loosen up the crowd, a biblically based, fun, age-appropriate talk, and period of discussion with their peers. We strive to keep Jesus the center of every discussion and aim to be a safe place where any student is welcome regardless of what chapter of life, they're in. Youth Group creates a safe space for students to work out their faith in community with one another and adults who equip them.

For both Sunday School and Youth Group, we divide students into appropriate age groups. Middle Schoolers are led in topics and discussions unique to their season of life while High Schoolers are led in a message aged to their experience.





SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



When: Wednesdays

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: GPC Activity Center

GPC's Friendship Circle exists to serve participants of the special needs community, to facilitate building God-like character through Bible study and creative outlets, and to help members develop sincere and lasting friendships.

Participants may be:

Any individual with exceptional needs and their caregiver(s)

What we do:

Enjoy lunchtime fellowship within a circle of friends.
Study character-building curriculum and
Engage in various creative activities.

AMPLify

When: Thursdays (2 rehearsals)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: GPC Activity Center

AMPLify provides quality musical programming for the purpose of amplifying the voices, the hearts, and the witness of all for the glory of God. Content will include music literacy skills such as recognizing and playing eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes with their corresponding rests and musicianship involving responding as a member of an ensemble through singing, diction, and presentation. The group performs a concert in the Fall and Spring.



PRESCHOOL

Jennifer Gentry, GPP Director

A new year has begun and life at Germantown Presbyterian Preschool continues to flourish! After the past two very unusual school years, we have thoroughly enjoyed having a much more carefree, normal school year. We are thankful! Our 17 staff members are dedicated to caring and nurturing each of our 102 students each day!

We have several exciting activities throughout a typical Preschool week. In addition to spending time engaged in purposeful free play, we have "circle time" where concepts are reinforced and new concepts are introduced. Each class has snack, lunch, playground time, and naptime for our younger students. We have a Kindermusic class on Mondays and Tuesdays with Karen Schowalter Cooper. All children enrolled, from Infants to Pre-K, enjoy playing instruments and singing all while practicing rhythm and many other skills. Our Three Year Olds and Pre-K also have Spanish lessons with Spanish teacher and GPP mom, Kate Leach. They love it, and it is fun to hear them saying Spanish words back and forth to one another!

Three Year Olds and Pre-K students also attend Chapel once a month with one of the GPC pastors. In addition to these activities, we have three optional enrichment classes for Threes and Pre-K classes. We offer soccer with Happy Feet Soccer, and dance with Janice McAfee and gymnastics with Up Off Gymnastics. During the month of June, a summer program is planned.

Germantown Presbyterian Church can be proud of the services the Preschool provides for children in the community. I consider it a privilege to work with such kind, loving and dedicated people from both the school and the church, right in the midst of my own community! One of our favorite sayings is "GPP is the place to be!" – it truly is!





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