

2023 GPC ADVENT CALENDAR

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 MONDAY, JANUARY 1

SUN, DEC 3

Sounds of the Season 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Eaturing Soprano Kallen Esperian with pianist, Gary Beard, the GPC Chancel Choir and soloists along with a full chamber orchestra

Advent Procession

5:30 p.m.

Processing from St. George's to GPC to Germantown United Methodist

Students meet at GPC at GPC at 3:30 p.m. to set out luminaries.

MON & TUE, DEC 4-5

Preschool Christmas Program

9:30 -11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Each morning our preschool children will perform under the leadership of Karen Schowalter Cooper

WED, DEC 6

Advent Dinner & Devotional Series From Saint to Santa

5:30 - 7:00 p.m., AC Menu: Chicken & Dumplings

SUN, DEC 10

Christmas Organ Concert

2:30 p.m., Sanctuary GPC's own Dr. Alex Benford will play Christmas carols and hymns

WED, DEC 13

Advent Dinner & Devotional Series From Saint to Santa

5:30 - 7:00 p.m., AC Menu: Stuffed Pork Loin

FRI, DEC 15

Middle School Youth: The Tacky Christmas Party

Wear your favorite outlandish attire and come celebrate the holiday with your friends!

SAT, DEC 16

Blue Christmas Worship Service

3:00 p.m., Evans Chapel
This service provides the opportunity for us to gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to honor the emotions of the season that are less than joyful, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this season.

SUN, DEC 17

Celebration of Christmas

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Music during service will feature a Brass Quintet along with the GPC Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Congregation, all singing Christmas Carols and songs of the season.

Christmas Caroling

3:00 p.m. Gather in Welcome Center (west side of building) and depart to multiple locations

4:30 p.m. Arrive back at GPC for Hot Chocolate Bar & Christmastide refreshments in the Welcome Center

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship in Evans Chapel

Student Ministry: The Big Christmas Blowout

High Schoolers are invited to GPC for a night of yuletide joy! Wear a festive outfit and a gift for a gift exchange (less than \$10)

WED, DEC 20

Advent Dinner & Devotional Series From Saint to Santa

5:30 - 7:00 p.m., AC Menu: Spaghetti Pie

ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP

DEC 3, 10 & 17

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship, Evans Chapel

SUN, DEC 24 Christmas Eve Services

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service,

Sanctuary

(No 8:30 a.m. or Evening Worship Service)

3:30 p.m. Family Friendly Service, Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service with

Communion, Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Traditional Worship Service with Communion, Evans Chapel

SUN, DEC 31

New Years Eve

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service,

Sanctuary

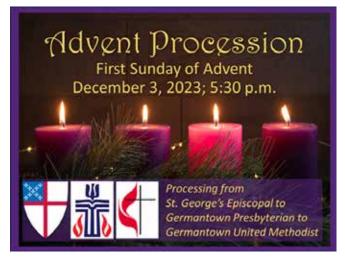
(No 8:30 a.m. or Evening Worship Service)

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Jerold Teachey was recognized for his 30 years of Music leadership at GPC on Sunday, November 19, at the end of the 11:00 a.m. morning worship. Rev. Will Jones, Phyl Simmons, and Chuck Utterback gave tribute. We cannot thank him enough for the many years he has led the music program and built caring relationships with the individuals and families in the church and community.







GPC Student Ministry will meet at the church at 3:45 p.m. to mark the procession path with luminaries.



GPC will host RITI guests, Thursday, Dec. 14 overnight at the church.







5:30-7:00 p.m., Activity Center

Dec 6: Chicken n' Dumplings Dec 13: Stuffed Pork Loin Dec 20: Spaghetti Pie

Kids: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

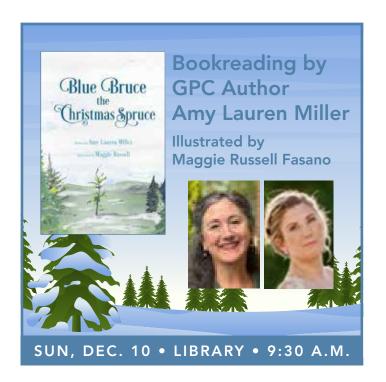
Infants-Pre-K: Childcare in Nursery Preschool-5th grade: Practice in Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve performance

Students (6th-12th grade)

Meet in the student wing from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for student oriented activities

Special Needs

Meet in Warren Hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for crafts and activities







December Practices: Wednesdays: 6th, 13th, 20th 6:00-7:00 p.m., GPC Sanctuary

Performance: Dec 24, 3:30 p.m.

Contact Alex Benford, alexb@gpctn.org for more info.



Please join us for a festive afternoon of caroling.

We will gather in the GPC Welcome Center and depart together at 3:00pm.

We will carol at multiple locations then reconvene at 4:30pm for a hot chocolate bar in the Welcome Center.

All ages and voices are welcome!

DECEMBER 17, 2023





BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

SAT, DEC 16, 3:00 P.M., EVANS CHAPEL

This service provides the opportunity for us to gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to honor the emotions of the season that are less than joyful, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this season.



Many thanks to Billie Work & Patty Jackson for arranging the beautiful Thanksgiving table in the sanctuary on November 26.





Rev. Will Jones brought the lesson to life for the GPC Kids Large Sunday School Class on November 5.

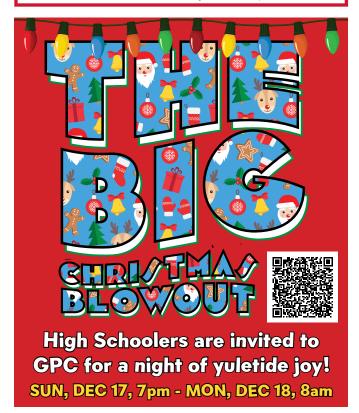


AN ADVENT STUDY CHRISTMAS IN THE FOUR GOSPEL HOMES

SUNDAY EVENING 4:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY

DEC. 3rd thru 17th 2nd floor, Chapel classroom

Beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns re-imagine each of the four Gospels as a house, which the church visits at Christmas. Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Make sure to say hello to GPC's newest members, who joined Sunday, November 12. We're excited to have you as part of our community!



Kathy Bacherig



Mary Cape



Kristin & Curt Crocker



Ken Goree



Marla and Bill Janna



Rose Suenram



Colleen Touchstone



Jessie & Chris Wiley









































Thank you to all our Fall Ball volunteers! Your presence was a gift and is greatly

Also a thank you to all the volunteers who helped with all facets of the Fall Ball event – planning, so shout out to the Special Needs Ministry Team (SNMT) for all your support: Mary K Grantham,







Thank you and EXCELLENT JOB, Kaitlyn Stephens – aka The Karaoke Queen, and now the DJ Queen of FUN! Thanks for dancing with our guests, for a wide variety of excellent music, including guest requests! We look forward to many other events with you! Also a thank you to teen volunteer, Sarah Tayahi, for assisting Kaitlyn throughout the event! You were an inspiration to so many with your sweet presence and participation!"

Thank you, Brandy Sargent (middle booth the FABULOUS photo booth, allowing o many fun moments they can hold onto encapsulating these wonderful memorifor bringing your son, Ernest, to our eve to seeing you again very s









appreciated! Thank you for creating a joyous occasion for our special friends!

etting up, decorating, organizing, being there, and breaking it all down to put away; with a special Helen Warren, Tricia Harris, Susan Miller, Crystal Bollinger, Ginger Walton, and Jeralyn Miller.



n pic), for conducting ur friends to capture forever! Thanks for es! Thank you, also, nt! We look forward oon!"



Thank you, Jeff Day, for an amazing, outstanding magic show – that was just SO MUCH MORE!!! Thank you for your involvement of the audience and teens, and thank you for wearing multiple hats as entertainer and as photographer! We appreciate your generosity and support!!!



Thank you to the Youth of GPC for their hearts to serve and encourage our special guests of Fall Ball!





Finale for the semester will be Thursday, December 15, 11:00 a.m.



Youth Auction! Sunday, February 4, 6:00 p.m.

Support our Student Ministry program through the donation of a new or gently used item or a baked good! We value your support to make this fundraiser possible.

Register your donations at the links below or visit gpctn.org.



GENERAL ITEMS



BAKED GOODS

Event tickets will go on sale on January 1.





Angie and Alex showing off their similar taste in Fall Fashion Flannels on Sunday, November 19.

GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN



2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY

Ages: 9 months-5 years
School hours are 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Email Jennifer Gentry at preschool@gpptn.org
for more information or to schedule a tour.



The GPP 2 year olds showed off their outfits during the Halloween party on October 31



As GPC approaches the one-year anniversary of having Pickleball listed as a frequent addition to our church calendar, the GPC Pickleball Committee wants you to know more about this popular way to have fun and get some exercise with other members of your church family. Pickleball is a sport that is something of a mix between tennis, badminton and ping pong. All that is needed which GPC will supply for you is a net to divide the playing surface into two courts, a hollow perforated plastic ball, a solid paddle (larger than one for ping pong), your tennis shoes, and a good sense of humor and sportsmanship.

There are several versions on how this sport came into being but one thing is in common: in the 1960's some very inventive people in Washington State were concerned their children were bored and inactive and came up with a new game that families of all ages could play together with very little investment in equipment. Some think the family dog named

Pickles led to the catchy name for this sport but officially the game was so-named due to one of the inventors playing off the word "pickle boat" which is the term for a boat made up from scraps of various other boats... similar to Pickleball which was born from the elements (scraps) of tennis, badminton, and ping pong.

grow, and spread from the Pacific Northwest into other parts of the USA over the last few years due to the fact that people of all levels of athleticism can take up this sport. It is especially popular with older players as it offers cardiovascular exercise with little risk of injury. The pickleball court is smaller than a tennis court, which means that players don't have as wide an area to cover. The ball is also a lot lighter than a tennis ball and is served underhand, making it easier for people at all fitness levels to play. Added to this, the duration of an average game is 12 minutes, making it possible for players

to take frequent breaks. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the sport was named the fastest-growing sport in the United States by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, and by 2023 it was estimated to have over 4.8 million players.

What do you need to get started?

Please check with the GPC website and search under "News and Resources" to find the Pickleball Tab for gym hours available for times to play. Also we recommend that you contact one of the GPC Pickleball Committee members (Mike Lyle, Paula Hopkins, Lori Harding, Wendy Holmes, Elizabeth Powell, Jill Crocker, Cathy Borden, and Linda Oakes) to become a member of a simple app (Group Me) to learn about upcoming lessons and communications from your GPC family to find out when others are meeting to play.



WISHING A BIG GPC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS BORN IN

DECEMBER

2	Martha Day			
	Susie Lyle			
	Betsy Moseley			
3	Macie Houston			
	Bud Hurley			
4	Susan Crain			
6	Anna Smith			
7	Ruth Newberry			
	Patrick Rice			
8	Scott Newberry			
	Kim Ramos			
	Marjorie Reynolds			
9	Honour Batey			
	John Hurt			
10	Dan Young			
11	Cindy Geyer			
	Steve Morley			
	Susan Pasley			
	Richard Yeager			

13	George White					
13	Don Willingham					
	Drew Arthur					
	Lindsey Butler					
14	David Hopkins					
	Lewis Perkins					
	Joel Porter					
	Lisa Cook					
	Katie Eleazer					
	Jackson Harding					
15	Brooke Myers					
	Cheryl Riedel					
	Christy Smalley					
	Missy Gwin					
16	Jay Page					
17	Jason Lindow					
19	David Jeter					
	Bonnie Algee					
21	John Decell					
	Rush Smith					

22	George Lumm						
	Rod Olinger						
24	Renn Eason						
	Steve Nabers						
25	William Wilson						
26	Miller Utterback						
27	Vickie Arthur						
	Ramona Seabold						
28	Ross Gulla						
	Lara White						
29	Nick Brown						
	Jane Kinney						
	Sarah Page						
	Helen Warren						
30	George Barnes						
31	Bill Carmichael						
	Brannan Galyean						

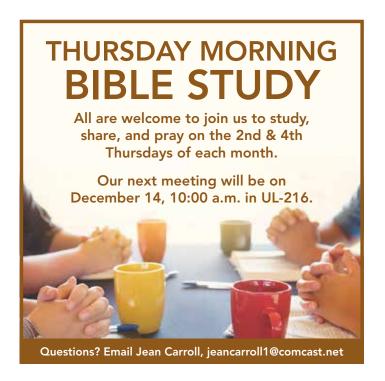
Did we miss someone? Call or email and let us know • 901-754-5195 • comm@gpctn.org

Read & Pray BOOK CLUB

Monday, Dec 11 GPC Parlor 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Our book this month is Angels, by Billy Graham

Graham provides assurance that we are assisted and defended by a powerful army, set for our protection and defense.





ADULT MINISTRY GROUPS

For a complete list of adult ministry groups, large and small, please visit:

germantownpres.org/ministries/adult-groups or scan the QR code for descriptions of each.





Craig Patterson, Director of Communications, and Ann DeVere, Church Receptionist/Secretary, spoke at the last PW Gathering on November 21. They are part of a series of staff members speaking to the group each month.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES MEETING

Tuesday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.





Our book is Horizons Bible Study

Sacred Encounters
The Power and Presence
of Jesus Christ in Luke
(Books are \$10.00)
We will discuss Lesson 4,

Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

PW GATHERING

Tuesday, December 12 10:00 a.m., Warren Hall

Lunch will follow

We will have Christmas music and program presented by Jerold Teachey and Friends.

Questions?

Ellie Goughnour, elliegoughnour@att.net **Ann Harbor,** annflukerharbor@aol.com



THANK YOU!

Thank you to each and every one who has supported and frequented our library. It has been a joy for those of us on the Library Committee to enhance this special resource for our church.

ADVENT READING

During Advent, take a look at the library displays for recommendations for pleasure, study or devotion.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

If you or your Sunday School class need any additional or supporting resources for your current or future study, please contact Karen Fesmire at vuktf@aol.com. We are working with the Spiritual Formation Committee to better support our Christian education curriculum.

HELP DECORATE THE LIBRARY CHRISTMAS TREE

The library tree is up! We have some basic decorations but would love you, the GPC family, to join us to help make the tree representative of our congregation. Ornaments can be store bought or homemade. We would like to keep whatever you hang on the tree for future Christmases. All are welcome – adult, children and groups. Come help start this tradition. Check out our holiday books while you are there!

BOOKS UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas is a special time for reading a book with a child. We want to encourage this Christian nurturing time in your family with children or grandchildren. Take a peek under the Christmas tree and check out a children's book. The children should come to the library and look for a book under the Christmas tree to check out. Take a picture of your child with the book or you reading to them.



LIBRARY DONATIONS

Christmas and Thanksgiving are great times to honor someone with a donation to the library – Sunday School Teacher, Mentor, Staff Member, brothers and sisters in Christ. You may donate online at **gpctn.org/giving**. Select the Library and note your honoree.

SEARCH OUR ARCHIVES

A wealth of knowledge is at your fingertips. Scan here to search our archives to find books on Christianity for all ages.



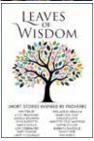


Author Lauren Utterback tells the story of Bruce the Blue Spruce who finds himself learning life lessons in the forest. GPC author Lauren Utterback with Maggie Russell Fasano, daughter of members Melinda and Phil Russell, illustrate this book for children of all ages. Books will be available for purchase during the event and at the Memphis bookstore Novel, Barnes and Nobel, and Amazon. It's also in the Mellor Library for check out!



GPC AUTHOR BARBARA RAGSDALE

She has contributed to Guidepost, Chicken Soup, GPC Newsletter and has been a newsletter editor. She loves writing short stories. Her most current work can be found in Leaves of Wisdom which is a compilation of Short Stories Inspired by Proverbs by the Collierville Christian Writers Group. It can be found in our church library.



GPC AUTHOR BETH CARTER

Beth Krewson Carter is a graduate of Meredith College. Upon graduation, she worked for Procter and Gamble. While raising her children, she taught school for several years. She studied creative writing with Laura Grabowski-Cotton.



The Nest Keeper was her first novel, followed by Poison Root in 2021.



Please don't forget to turn in your commitment card for 2024.

Commitment cards are available in the Narthex, AC & Welcome Center. You can also give online at **gpctn.org/giving**. Cards can be returned to the office, by mail or placed in the offering plate.

As of November 1, 2023, we have transferred our stockbroker from Edward Jones to Morgan Stanley. For stock gifts, please contact Amber Miller at 901-754-5195 or amberm@gpctn.org for account information.



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SAT, DEC 16, 3:00 P.M., EVANS CHAPEL

The Advent/Christmas season is one of wonder. For so many it is a time of hopeful anticipation. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. The decorations are everywhere we turn. But for many of us, Christmas can be a harsh reminder of life that once was. A Blue Christmas worship service provides the opportunity for us to gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to honor the emotions of the season that are less than joyful, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this season.

We welcome you all to come and worship God with us in this special worship service, and if you know someone who might also benefit from the Blue Christmas worship service, please invite them to attend.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER PROGRAM

Members of the congregation are randomly selected each week to be lifted up.

DECEMBER 3

Beth & Gray Carter
Kelly & Jay Galyean (James, Katie)
Joyce Henry
Sydney & Bob McLean
Susan Morgan
Becky Stanley
Peggy Whitaker

DECEMBER 10

Carolyn & Taylor Cates (Amelia, Campbell, Thomas) Debbie & Noel Florendo Erwin Westmoreland

DECEMBER 17

Cat Carlin
Patti & David Bradford
Jennifer & Michael Goodin
(Evelyn, Grey)
Macie Houston
Beth & Don Willingham (Katherine)
Allie Willingham
Erik Nelson

DECEMBER 24

Judy & Bill Carmichael
Wendy & Stewart Holmes
(Anderson, Audrey)
Jessie & Bret Wells (Brett & Abby)

DECEMBER 31

Elaine Cates
Cindy & Doug Geyer
Meredith Geyer
Kim & Lewis Perkins (Josh, Sara)
Phyl & Austin Simmons

OCTOBER HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS



HONORARIUMS

In honor of Jane Cullins Sanderson John & Laura Healy

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Greg MorganTara Bryant
Anonymous Donor

In memory of Jackie Ruleman *Jackie Burrow*

In memory of Mary Strop
Tom & Kim Sauer

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Gordon Rogers *Mary Rogers*

In memory of Jackie Ruleman

Geneva Adams
Norma Miles
Fred & Helen Norman
Violet Olsen
Jay & Debbie Ragain
Austin & Phyl Simmons
James and Alta Simpson
Becky & David Stanley
Thomas & Judith Wilson
Cyndi Workman

OCTOBER FINANCIALS

GPC's General Fund

Debt Balance - Poplar Pike

		October 2023, month		October 2023, year-to-date			
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>	
Receipts							
Offerings Received	\$	135,344	\$ 191,250	\$ 1,845,918	\$	1,761,684	
Other Receipts		9,591	4,370	 116,265		42,227	
Total Receipts		144,935	195,620	1,962,183		1,803,911	
Expenses		(154,594)	(161,902)	(1,885,899)		(1,909,628)	
Net	\$	(9,659)	\$ 33,718	\$ 76,284	\$	(105,717)	
Debt Balance - Education Bldg.	\$	250,932					

1,149,770

October expenses exceeded revenue by \$9,659, but our year-to-date results remain positive. We are on track to meet our annual budget, but 2023 pledges must be paid before year-end.

Your generosity allows GPC to provide programs and activities while supporting our church's mission giving. Every pledge is vital to our planning

process. If you haven't had an opportunity to make your 2024 financial commitment, please turn your pledge card in as soon as possible.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to maintain their stewardship commitment throughout the year. Please continue to pray for the financial health of our church.

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2363 S Germantown Rd **Germantown TN 38138**

(901) 754-5195 • GPCTN.org

Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.

