



## FALL SEMESTER GUIDE

AUGUST 11 - DECEMBER 31

Opportunities for Worship, Music, Formation,  
Outreach, Fellowship, and Recreation





## Worship

*We have two Sunday morning worship services. The 8:30 AM service in the chapel includes weekly communion. The 11 AM service is in the sanctuary and online at [youtube.com/@idlewild.church](https://youtube.com/@idlewild.church).*

**Behind the Bulletin Sermon Series:** September 8 - 29

Why do we worship as we do? If you are new to Idlewild or Presbyterianism, or if you have spent time in other worship traditions, you might have asked this question. The Presbyterian order of worship is meant to mirror the life of Christian faith, but seldom do we take time to examine the significance of the connection. The series will help us connect our order of worship with our daily practice of faith.

**Second Grade Bibles:** September 15 | 11 AM

**Generosity Sunday:** September 22 | 8:30 and 11 AM

**Blessing of the Pets:** September 29 | 5 PM

**Commitment Sunday:** October 27 | 8:30 and 11 AM

**All Saints Day:** November 3 | 8:30 and 11 AM

**Advent - Holiday Gatherings Sermon Series:** December 1 - 24

Holy things happen when we gather together. In Matthew 18, Jesus told his disciples "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." If we take the words of Jesus seriously then we must believe that every gathering is an opportunity to experience the presence of God. Our Advent series will help us explore how God shows up in scripture, and what stories of God's presence teach us about the significance of the incarnation.

**Service for Wholeness and Healing:** December 18, 7 PM

**Christmas Eve:** December 24 | 3 PM, 5:30 PM, 11 PM



## Church-Wide

**Woven Together Wednesdays:** September 11 - October 23

We will begin with dinner in Montgomery Hall at 5:30 PM followed by Adult formation programming and children's choir practice. Youth will enjoy a time of connection and fun, and the pottery studio will be open.

**Safety Lunch and Learns**

Lunch will be served in Montgomery Hall after 11 AM worship. Trainings start at 1 PM.

**Stop the Bleed:** September 8

The final installment of training from security professionals Incyte. Stuart Frisch will lead us in the curriculum directly from the American College of Surgeons.

**CPR/AED and Medical Assistance Training:** September 15

Learn CPR, where to find and how to use our defibrillators, and how to respond to a medical emergency.

**Church Holidays**

The church office will be closed the following days, with the exception of More Than a Meal.

Monday, September 2

Thursday and Friday, November 28 - 29

Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 - 26

Wednesday, January 1

## Music



*Grow in your faith by participating in a community creating sacred music.*

**Ensembles:** Whether you have a background in music-making or are new to the experience, all are welcome to participate in the music ministry at Idlewild.

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 PM | Choir Room

We offer the primary musical leadership of the 11 AM worship service. The music is varied and all ranges of vocal ability are welcome. Join us in making a joyful noise on Sundays and for many exciting programs throughout the year.

**Handbells:** Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:00 PM | Handbell Room in the Sanctuary

Handbells are a wonderful way to learn how to read music, and build community with others. Open to all ranges of musical ability.

**Children's Choir:** Wednesdays, 6 - 7 PM | September 11 - October 23 | Room 326



**Cherub Choir:** JK-1st Grade (must be 4 yrs old by September 1)

**Primary Choir:** 2nd-6th Grade (must be 7yrs old by September 1)

As part of Woven Wednesdays, this fall the children will be preparing a Christmas Musical to present during Advent. Additionally, the children will take part in leading worship on Children's Sunday on October 20th at 11 AM. Music is such a formative part of a child's faith journey, and we hope you will join us! Scan the QR code to [sign-up through Realm](#).

### Special Musical Events:

**Festival of Choirs Concert** | September 14 | 2 PM

This Concert will be the culmination of a two day choral festival led in partnership with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Idlewild Music Ministry. The Festival chorus will present stirring anthems of the faith. Make plans to join us!

**Organ Recital - Isabelle Demers** | November 10 | 5 PM

With playing described as having "bracing virtuosity" (Chicago Classical Review) and being "fearless and extraordinary" (Amarillo-Globe News), organist Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe for her entrancing performances. A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

**Children's Choir Musical** | December 8 | 9:30 AM | TK Young

The Music Ministry proudly presents "Room for Christmas", a Christmas musical led by our children's choirs. Join us on Waffle Sunday to celebrate the season with our young choristers!

**Festival of Christmas Concert** | December 13 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Join us for the second annual Festival of Christmas Concert at Idlewild! This concert will feature the Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble, and guest orchestra as we celebrate the season through music. Make plans to bring friends and family, and come early!

**Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols** | December 24 | 5:30 PM

You are invited to experience the beauty of music and scripture in this candlelight Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols led by our Chancel Choir and Handbells.



## Adult Formation

*Our goal is to form mature disciples of Jesus Christ in word and in deed.*

**Sunday School:** 9:40 AM

### Adult Forum Special Presentations

**A Brief History of Race and Idlewild:** August 18

**A Faithful Practice - Annual Giving:** September 22

**A Faithful Practice - Legacy Giving:** September 29

### Christian Parenting: Room 304

Parents of littles and school-aged children come together to explore tenets of our faith and how to encourage faith formation in the home. Join us for discussion, deepening friendships, and prayer.

### Faith & Function: Room 303

We welcome local scholars to teach the Bible in its contexts: the stories, the writers, and as Christians today. We also study history and current event topics that are closely related to these Biblical lessons.

**Aug. 25:** Matt Matthews

**Sep. 1:** No Class - Holiday

**Sep. 8:** Dr. Janel Bakker

**Sep. 15:** Rev. Amy Howe

**Sep. 22:** Rev. Amy Howe

**Sept. 29:** No Class - Adult Forum

**Oct. 6:** Dr. Patrick Gray

**Oct. 13:** Dr. Jim McClanahan

**Oct. 20:** Dr. Jim McClanahan

**Oct. 27:** Dr. Jim McClanahan

**Nov. 3:** Rev. Tom Momberg

**Nov. 10:** Rev. Mary Newberg Gale

**Nov. 17:** Dr. Peter Gathje

**Nov. 24:** Rev. Butler Vin Cole

**Dec. 1:** TBD

**Dec. 8:** Dr. John Kaltner

### Stephen Class: Room 301 - Starts September 8

The Stephen Class will continue to study short stories in the Fall-Winter Term. We will finish reading modern short stories from the collection, *The Best Short Stories of 2022: The O. Henry Prize Winners*, Valeria Luiselli, editor. We will add to our reading the collection, *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain*, in which four Russians give a master class on writing, reading, and life, George Saunders, editor. Class members facilitate discussion of the short stories; this is not a daunting task—class members always have some reaction to a short story that opens it up for class consideration. There are no prerequisites except for a love of reading and a willingness to discover with others how a short story read in common and discussed in a class can lead us to consider “the big questions.”

### Tapestry: Harlan Room

Explore a tapestry of contemplative practices that require focus and attention while our minds are busy analyzing, asking questions, pondering, or listening. We weave *lectio, visio, musica*, and walking divina prayer practices through ancient and contemporary texts. If you're unfamiliar with one or more of these, come and learn something new! Class begins promptly at 9:40 and drop-in visitors are welcome!

### 20/20: Room 305

Through leader-facilitated discussions each week, we consider what it means to be a Christian in our often challenging, contemporary world. We will take turns leading the discussion. Open to all, drop-ins welcome!

# Adult Formation Continued

## Weekday Offerings

**Presbyterian Women:** This group is for all ages and for those who identify as women. Circles are at the core of our group and are a time for fellowship and Bible study. Small Group meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, starting in October. Contact a member to join a circle and stop by an event:

**Abigail** meets at noon for lunch, led by Kathy James

**Lydia Ruth** meets at 10:30 am, led by Blanche Deaderick

**Mary Magdalene** meets at noon in the Parlor, led by Joellyn Sullivan

**Rebekah** meets at 10:00, led by Mary Lou McCaa & Patricia Suttle

**Hope Pop Up Circle** meets every Tuesday in Oct and Feb in the Parlor at 4:30,  
led by Katie Cole & Ginny Moore.

**IdleWILD Women** is a multi-generational group that meets at 7 pm at Judy Johnson's home,  
led by Alicia Powers.

**Book Club:** Fourth Thursdays of the month | 2 – 3 PM | Room 305

Each month we choose the book for the next month. We are always looking for new faces and hearing new views!

**The Art of Reading:** Tuesdays 2 – 3:30 PM | Room 303

The class members choose books to discuss, alternating between fiction and non-fiction. We will spend about four weeks on each book, allowing time to add context and appreciate good writing. Join us!

**Disciples Bible Study *Fast Track*:** Dates TBD

Disciples Bible Study is a comprehensive, participatory study of the Bible in a small group setting. Please contact David Zanca for more information (voice or text 901-484-5920).

**Tuesday Morning Men's Group:** 9 – 10 AM | Montgomery Hall or Zoom

In-person friends can enjoy breakfast while discussing the Gospel of John in a small group discussion. The group is small enough to allow for significant dialogue among participants but also large enough to allow for only contemplative participation. Please contact Charles Key for more information (voice or text at 901-481-3321 or email).

**Woven Wednesdays:** September 11 – October 23 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM

This Fall on Wednesday nights Pastor Mary will guide us in discussion on hope, resilience, and how to live as Christians in Anxious Times. We'll have table discussion and reflection, as well as large group conversation. We'd love to see you there!

**Parents' Prayer, Bible Study, and Fellowship:** Fridays, 8:30-9:30 AM @ the CAFE House

Beginning September 6, join Jeanene or Pastor Mary for a time of group study of the week's Narrative Lectionary passage. We'll also spend some time sharing and praying together.



Subscribe to the  
[Adult/Young Adult](#)  
[Newsletter](#)



## Young Adult Formation

*Your twenties and thirties are formational, scary, fun, and full of surprises. The Young Adult Ministry is here to walk with you and be a flexible space for support and encouragement.*



Join the  
[Young Adult](#)  
[GroupMe](#)

**Young Adult Dinners:** Second Thursdays of the month | 7 PM  
Join us for laid-back connection and fellowship, and bring a friend!

**September 12:** Tacos Nganas (Central Ave)

**October 10:** Ecco on Overton Park

**November 14:** Hopdoddy

**December 12:** Christmas Dinner at CAFE House

### Service and Fellowship Opportunities

**August 27:** Trivia at Rotolos - East Memphis

**September 21:** Volunteer at McMerton Gardens

**October 24:** Stained Glass Class at Five in One Social Club

**November:** Grizzlies Game (Date TBD)

**December 22:** Volunteer to deliver poinsettias



### **20 Somethings Fellowship**

If you're interested in joining some fellowship opportunities specifically for Young Adults in their 20's, scan the QR code!



## Fellowship and Recreation

*As we renew our bodies and spirits through play, Sabbath, creativity, and community, we joyfully discover Christ knitting us together and building us up in love.*

**1750 Arts at the Dixon:** Saturday, August 17 | 5 - 8 PM

Idlewild's 1750 Arts Ministry provides opportunities grounded in our Divine Creator which stir imagination, provoke wonder, form faith, and invite transformation. Stir your imagination with us at Dixon Gallery & Gardens. Admission is free.

**Community & Connection @ 901 Soccer:** Saturday, September 14 | 7 PM | 200 Union Ave



Come to AutoZone Park for a Memphis 901 FC soccer game and dinner! Price per person is \$15 (includes both admission and dinner). Some of our youth soccer players will be on the as ball kids for the game! If you have questions, contact Jacob at [jpierce@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:jpierce@idlewildchurch.org). Register in Realm by Thursday, September 5.

**Basketball Registration:** Monday, September 16 - Friday, October 18

Registration fees include uniforms. Scholarships available upon request.

**Ages 6 - 12:** Registration is \$90. Practices start the week of November 11. Games begin December 7.

**Ages 4 - 5:** Registration is \$60. The first session is Saturday, January 4 at 9 AM.

**Presbyterians and 1750 Arts at the Overton Park Shell:** Sunday, September 29 | 1928 Poplar Ave

Meet us at the Overton Park Shell for Opera Goes to Broadway by Opera Memphis! The concert is free and begins at 7 PM, but you can join us as early as 6:30 PM. Pack a picnic basket with food and beverages or purchase food and drinks at the Shell. Please bring your own blankets and lawn chairs.

**All-Church Camp @ NaCoMe:** Friday, October 11 - Sunday, October 13

Enjoy intentional retreat and Sabbath at our annual all-church camp at NaCoMe - a refuge and home away from home in Pleasantville, TN. Come for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation while spending time with the body of Christ that we call Idlewild.



Registration closes Sunday, September 29. Cost is \$250 per private room or \$65 per gender-specific shared room (max of 4 people per shared room). Additionally, there is a \$60 per adult meal package and \$40 per child meal package (ages 3 - 12). Scholarships are available. Please contact Shari Gross at [sgross@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:sgross@idlewildchurch.org) for more information.

**Halloween Carnival/Pumpkin Party:** Sunday, October 20 | 3 - 5 PM

Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, invites us to party as we anticipate All Saints' Day - a day in the Church's calendar in which we celebrate all who have faithfully served God. We'll decorate pumpkins and party and play with the spooky at our annual Halloween Carnival and Pumpkin Party - a fun-filled afternoon of games, trick or treats, cake walks, and more!

**All Saints' Potluck & Pottery Sale:** Sunday, November 3 | Following 11 AM Worship

Feast with us at our All Saints' Potluck as we honor our connection with the one continuing, living communion of saints and give glory to God for our ordinary, holy lives. Also, take time to remember God's shaping of our lives by enjoying the annual pottery sale. Bring a side dish/salad/dessert that reminds you of a loved one while we provide our famous fried chicken for the main course.

**Advent Gathering:** Sunday, December 1 | 12:30 - 2 PM

Join us for a meal and fellowship as we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming Advent season.

**Waffle Sunday:** Sunday, December 8



## Children Formation

*We want our children to know they are loved by God, practice how to share God's love with others, and to grow in their faith.*

**Sunday School:** 9:40 – 10:40 AM

**Large Group** (9:40 – 10 AM): 3-year-olds – 5th grade, check in together for energizers, memory verses, songs, skits, bible stories, and games.

**Small Group** (10 – 10:40 AM): Teachers lead students into age-based small groups where we are immersed in God's story. This space is for developmentally-appropriate activities and play.

**Worship & Wonder:** Following Time with the Younger Church, children ages 3 – Kindergarten are invited to leave big church and continue their worship in a service of their own.

**Parents' Prayer, Bible Study, and Fellowship:** Fridays, 8:30–9:30 AM @ the CAFE House  
Beginning September 6, join Jeanene or Pastor Mary for a time of group study of the week's Narrative Lectionary passage. We'll also spend some time sharing and praying together.

**Children's Choir:** Learn more in the Music section.

### Events:

**Second Grade Bibles:** September 15

Our emerging readers will receive a keepsake Bible during 11 AM worship. After, we will eat lunch and learn how to read scripture on our own.

**Intergenerational Sunday School:** September 29

**Children's Sunday:** October 20

**Pumpkin Party and Carnival:** October 20

**Parents' Night Out:** November 8 | 5:45 – 8 PM

Drop your kids off at the church and enjoy some kid-free fellowship offsite. Volunteers will have activities prepared for the big kids while the nursery will be open for 0 – 3s. Check back in for location details!

**Intergenerational Sunday School:** November 10

**Child Led Christmas Eve Service:** December 24 | 3 PM

Young Idlewilders lead worship as they share the story of Jesus' birth through songs, readings, and acting out the Nativity story.

**VBS Save the Date:** June 2–5



Stay up to date by subscribing to the [Children's Newsletter](#) that comes out on Friday afternoons!





## Youth Formation

*Our Youth Ministry is for 6th graders through high school. We hope to be a space to gather as a faith-based community of friends.*

**Sunday Youth Group:** Sundays | 6 – 7:30 PM | Youth CAFE House

Dinner starts at 6. After, middle and high schoolers break into groups to play games, check-in, and join in on faith-based conversation. Check to see if we are off campus through social media and the newsletter.

**Sunday School:** Sundays 9:40 – 10:40 AM

6th-8th graders will meet together in Room 306 to play games, work on service projects, and examine a scripture of the week. 9th-12th graders can join the Middle School class in room 306, volunteer with Children's Sunday School, or head to Room 321 for a coffee and hang out with Jeanene.

**Prayer Breakfasts:** First and Third Thursdays | 6:30 – 7:30 AM | Panera on Poplar

Meet up for a time of connection, prayer, and breakfast!

### Events:

**Lock In:** August 24 – 25

**Haunted Corn Maze:** October 27

**Youth Retreat:** November 1 – 3

**Confirmation Sign-ups Open:** September 8

**Christmas Party:** December 8

**Youth-Led Christmas Eve:** December 24, 11 pm

### Save the Date for Summer 2025 Trips!

**Partnership Trip to Nicaragua:** June 9-15

**Middle School Conference:** June 22-27

**Montreat High School Conference:** July 13-19



Stay up to date by subscribing to the [Youth Newsletter](#) and following us on Instagram @[IdlewildYouth](#)

## Outreach



*Freed by God's grace, called to be the body of Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit, Idlewild extends its hands to all in need and helps build a more just, inclusive, and welcoming community in Memphis and beyond.*

**Adopt-A-School:** January – May 2024 | Fridays, 8:45 – 9:45 AM | 1950 Linden Ave

Those involved in this ministry serve as readers in kindergarten classes at Idlewild Elementary School. In addition to readers on Friday mornings, tutors are also needed to work with students for one hour each week at various times. Please contact Dana Brandon at [danabrandon99@gmail.com](mailto:danabrandon99@gmail.com) for more information.

**Friends of the Mental Health Court:** Thursdays | 12:15 PM | Calvary Church

In partnership with Calvary Church, we offer caring support to Mental Health Court participants. Volunteers meet at Calvary and walk to 201 Poplar where we visit with clients before court and listen as their cases are heard in court.

**Ghana:** October 24 – November 3

A group of Idlewilders will travel to Ghana this fall to install a water purification system and to train people in Ghana to sustain this system and to install more – empowering them to provide clean water access to other communities. This work is done in partnership with Living Waters for the World. Please hold this group in prayer as they prepare for their upcoming trip. For more information, contact Steve Valentine at [swvalent@gmail.com](mailto:swvalent@gmail.com).

**McMerton Gardens:** Saturdays | 10 AM – 12 PM\*

\*Times may vary. Please e-mail Susan Kizzee at [susankizzee@gmail.com](mailto:susankizzee@gmail.com) for more information.

Volunteer gardeners from Idlewild – alongside Binghampton's residents, neighbors, and friends – plant, tend, and harvest the gardens' produce.

**Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAH):** Meetings on the 3rd Tuesdays | 5 – 6 PM

As a founding member of MICAH, Idlewild participates in the life of the organization through membership on the board and participation in task forces. E-mail [micah.idlewild@gmail.com](mailto:micah.idlewild@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Midtown Legal Clinic:** Date TBD

In partnership with Memphis Area Legal Services, Idlewild organizes, promotes, and hosts two free legal clinics each year – in the fall and in the spring. These clinics offer assistance to anyone who seeks it.

**More than a Meal:** Thursdays | 4 – 5:30 PM

Every Thursday evening, Idlewild provides an evening prayer service and a hot meal to all those in need. Volunteers worship and connect with our guests, serve them meals, play music, pray, and clean up after the dinner is finished.

**No Longer Strangers** shows love and support for immigrant neighbors locally, nationally, and abroad by welcoming new families to Memphis, advocating for immigrants to federal legislators, creating relationships with partners across borders, and partnering with Cafe Justo, a fair trade coffee company. We sell Cafe Justo on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. For more information, please e-mail [NoLongerStrangers@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:NoLongerStrangers@idlewildchurch.org).

**Room in the Inn:** Thursdays 4 PM – Fridays 7 AM | Aug. 22, 29, Sep. 5, 12, 26, and Nov. – Mar.

On Thursday evenings, we host women needing shelter by providing dinner, a warm and safe place to shower and sleep, and breakfast. Various opportunities for people of all ages are available. We are in particular need of volunteers who can spend the night with our guests! Contact Amanda Ray at [amandasmithray@gmail.com](mailto:amandasmithray@gmail.com) for more information.



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to stream worship live and see past sermons.



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