



## SPRING 2025 SEMESTER GUIDE

JANUARY 5 - MAY 25, 2025

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



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## 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://www.youtube.com/@idlewild.church).

**Visiting Preacher, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo:** February 2

**Jesus Heals - Sermon Series:** February

Throughout February, the Narrative Lectionary will focus our study on the Gospel of Luke. In the assigned passages, Jesus heals three different people and raises a young man from the dead. Our series will invite us to grapple with the healing power of Jesus in scripture and to imagine how that healing power is still at work in our lives and the world.

**Ash Wednesday:** March 5

**The Seven Last Words of Jesus - Lent Sermon Series:** March 9 - April 13

In many Christian traditions, the seven last words (or sayings) of Jesus are read during worship on Good Friday. By broadening the tradition to a Lenten sermon series, we will allow more space to examine each saying and appreciate the depth of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Jesus' words spoken through the pain and anguish of the crucifixion will shape our journey to the cross and our experience of the resurrection miracle.

**Palm Sunday:** April 13

**Maundy Thursday:** April 17

**Good Friday:** April 18

**Easter:** April 20

**Confirmation Sunday and Youth Sunday:** April 27

**Music Ministry Sunday:** May 11



## Church-Wide

**Woven Together Wednesdays:** January 22 - February 26

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

### Church Holidays

The church office will be closed the following days:

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 20

**Presidents' Day:** February 17

**Day After Easter:** April 21

**Labor Day:** May 26



## Music

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

**Ensembles:** Whether you're an experienced musician or new to the world of music, there's a place for you in Idlewild's vibrant music ministry! Join us to share your gifts, learn new skills, and connect with others in meaningful ways.

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays | 7:30 - 9 pm | Choir Room

The Chancel Choir provides the primary musical leadership for the 11 am worship service. We sing a wide variety of music and welcome vocalists of all abilities. From inspiring Sunday worship to exciting programs throughout the year, join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord!

**Handbells:** Thursdays | 5:45 - 7 pm | Handbell Room, Sanctuary

Explore the art of handbell ringing! This ensemble is open to everyone, whether you're learning to read music for the first time or are already a seasoned musician. Handbells are a fantastic way to make music, build skills, and grow in community with others.

**Children's Choir:** Wednesdays | 6 - 7 pm | January 22 - February 26 | Room 326

**Cherub Choir:** SK-1st Grade

**Primary Choir:** 2nd-6th Grade

Our children's choirs provide a joyful and engaging environment for kids to explore music, learn new songs, and deepen their faith. Throughout the year, children will sing in worship and participate in special musical programs. Music is a formative and fun part of a child's faith journey—come and sing with us!

### Special Musical Events:

**University of Memphis University Singers in Concert:** March 25 | 7 pm

Idlewild is proud to welcome the University Singers from the University of Memphis, directed by Dr. Francis Cathlina. This dynamic ensemble will present an inspiring program of varied music, with a special collaboration featuring the Idlewild Chancel Choir. Join us for an evening of exceptional choral artistry.

**Good Friday Worship: *The Seven Last Words of Christ*:** April 18 | 7 pm

This Good Friday, experience the profound beauty of Theodore Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* performed by the Idlewild Chancel Choir. This moving choral work will guide us in solemn reflection as we observe this sacred day.

**Music Ministry Sunday:** May 11 | 11 am

Celebrate the gift of music with all of Idlewild's ensembles! This joyous service will feature the Chancel Choir, Idlewild Ringers, Cherub and Primary Choirs, and the Memphis Brass Quintet. We'll honor our children's choir participants and lift our voices in gratitude for the role of music in worship and community.



## Adult Formation

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

**Sunday School:** Sundays | 9:40 – 10:40 am

**Stephen Class:** Room 301

This Winter-Spring term we will continue our study of short stories. We will finish reading stories in 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. We will begin to read stories from the collection, *God Stories*, edited by C. Michael Curtis, an editor for the Atlantic Monthly.

Class members facilitate discussion of the short stories. We will alternate between the three remaining Russian short stories and the stories in *God Stories*. 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." A detailed schedule will be available before the Winter-Spring Term begins.

**Tapestry: Contemplative Prayer Experience:** 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!

**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.

**Jan 5:** Dr. Matt Matthews

**Jan 12:** Dr. Patrick Gray

**Jan 19:** Dr. Kendra Hotz

**Jan 26:** Dr. Kendra Hotz

**Feb 2:** Special Forum with Dr. Victor Aloyo

**Feb 9:** Dr. Mitzi Minor

**Feb 16:** Dr. Mitzi Minor

**Feb 23:** Dr. Stephen Haynes

**Mar 2:** Dr. Stephen Haynes

**Mar 9:** Dr. Jody Hill

**Mar 16:** Rev. Butler Vin Cole

**Mar 23:** Rev. Butler Vin Cole

**Mar 30:** TBD

**Apr 6:** Dr. Peter Gathje

**Apr 13:** TBD

**Apr 20:** EASTER, No Class

**Apr 27:** Rev. Amy Howe

**May 4:** Rev. Amy Howe

**May 11:** Dr. Jim McClanahan

**May 18:** Dr. Jim McClanahan

**20/20:** Room 305

Through weekly leader-facilitated discussions, we consider what it means to be a Christian in our often challenging, contemporary world. Discussion leaders will be drawn from class members. The class is open to all; drop-ins are welcome!

**Christian Parenting:** Room 304

This semester we are following along with what our children are studying in Sunday School. 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.

# Adult Formation

## Weekday Offerings

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

The group is currently studying the Gospel of John. The group is small enough to allow for significant dialogue among participants but also large enough to allow for only contemplative participation. We are fortunate to have two excellent and well qualified leaders in Rev. Dr. Jim McClanahan and Dr. Ted Mealor, who offer significant insights into the passages under study for each week. For those participating in person, the church provides coffee and breakfast for a small fee.

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

The 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 and Times TBD | Room 305 & Zoom

Disciples Bible Study is a comprehensive, participatory study of the Bible in a small group setting. We are looking to form multiple levels of classes beginning after Easter. The Disciple 1 class meets 12 weeks to explore the Old Testament and 12 weeks to read through the New Testament. The Disciple 2 class will meet with a focused 12-week study of Luke and Acts. Please contact David Zanca for more information (voice or text at 901-484-5920).

### **Idlewild Book Club:** Fourth Thursday of the month | 2 – 3 pm | Room 305

Please join us the fourth Thursdays of the month, excluding major holidays. Check the Idlewild Calendar and weekly Idlewild communications for more information on book selections--chosen by the group--as well as dates and times. We are always looking for new faces and hearing new views!

### **Woven Together Wednesdays:** 5:15 – 7 pm | January 22 – February 26

This Winter on Wednesday nights we will delve into the letters of Paul in the New Testament, focusing on their history, composition, and theology. These scriptures give us a window into the life of the early Church and lay the foundation for the whole of Christian theology. We'll have table discussion, reflection, and large group conversation. We'd love to see you there!

### **Caregivers Support Group:** 1st Tuesday of the Month | 5 pm | Parlor

Are you the primary caregiver for a loved one? If so, we'd love for you to join us at our Caregivers Support Group. We gather in the parlor to support one another, share resources, and be present along the journey. Each month we focus on a different aspect of caring for a loved one and caring for ourselves. If you're interested, please contact Jenny Nevels (jennynevels@comcast.net) or Pastor Mary (mary@idlewildchurch.org).

# Adult Formation

## Special Events

**Adult Forum Presentation:** February 2 | 9:40 am

Join us to hear from Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary. All adult classes will join the forum!

**Grief Management Workshop:** February 13 and February 27 | 6:30 pm | Montgomery Hall

Throw out any ideas you have about a grief group. This is not that! This is experiential and focused on our joy, hope, and wholeness. Angela Kelly, LCSW Administrator Baptist Centers for Good Grief, will lead two sessions to teach tools for healthy processing of our grief to claim our joy and wholeness. The first session will be an introduction for those who are newly grieving and a reminder to all as to key concepts for processing our grief in a healthy and hopeful way. The second program, "Coping With Grief Through Journaling", will share various journaling techniques, how they help with grief, and then provide an opportunity to do some hands-on practices to experience the power of journaling.

**Sacred Ground:** Meetings begin in January

This film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith will walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This small group opportunity is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Meeting dates will be set by the group, facilitated by Virginia Evans, Barbara Key, and Forrest Sable.

**Idlewild's History with Race Lunch and Learn:** Sunday, March 2 | After Worship

The Standing Committee on Anti-Racism shares additional insight into the 1964 attempt to integrate IPC's worship services with the sharing of Church archives associated with the event. This will include an "easy" lunch that attendees will eat while the intro 10-15 minutes of "lecture" will occur. Lunch will be followed by independent study of various documents around the room and then we will come together at the conclusion for 10-15 minutes of discussion.

**Lenten Lectionary Study Groups:** Beginning after Ash Wednesday, March 5

Lenten Lectionary Groups will return for 2025! Small group participants will spend one hour together each week in prayerful consideration and discussion of the scripture that will be the basis of the following Sunday's sermon. Each group will have a trained facilitator, and several locations will be offered throughout the area at various times to make it convenient to attend. Start planning now to include this meaningful experience in your Lenten observance. Groups will meet weekly for 5 weeks, beginning after Ash Wednesday on March 5 (no meetings during Holy Week). Registration will begin in late January.

# Adult Formation

## 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. Contact a member to join a circle and stop by an event. Groups meet the first Tuesday of the Month (except Hope Circle, which meets every Tuesday in February and October).

**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 am, led by Mary Lou McCaa & Patricia Suttle

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

**IdleWILD Women** meets at 7 pm at Judy Johnson's house, led by Alicia Powers - A multi-generational group that gathers in the evenings. They are reading *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.

## Special Presbyterian Women Events

**PW Project Day:** January 25 | 10 am - 1 pm | Montgomery Hall

**Presbytery of the Mid-South Spring Gathering:** April 5 | 8:30 am - 1 pm | Farmington Presbyterian

**Idlewild Spring Gathering:** May 20 | 11 am - 1 pm | Montgomery Hall



## Young Adults



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

Each semester Young Adults gather for fellowship and service. This Winter/Spring we will compete in a Trivia Night, laugh together over a Game Night, help welcome the families that stay with Room In The Inn, and even kayak the Ghost River! If you'd like more information, check out the QR code or sign up for the Young Adult email newsletter!

**YA Dinners:** Second Thursday of the Month | 7 pm

Join us for a casual meal together as you're available!

**January 9:** Pyro's Pizza

**February 13:** Global Cafe

**March 13 :** Bain BBQ

**April 10:** Las Delicias (Park Ave)

## 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.*

### **Spring Soccer Registration:** January 6 - February 9

**Ages 6 – 12:** Practices start the week of February 27, and games begin March 24. Registration is \$90.

**Ages 4 – 5:** The first session is Saturday, April 5 at 9 am. Registration is \$60.

Registration fees include uniforms. Scholarships available upon request.

### **1750 Arts Lunch & Learn - *Provoking Wonder Within*:** January 12 | After Worship

Join us on January 12 after church in Montgomery Hall for lunch and enjoy some conversations about 1750 Arts and how the arts tie to faith. Explore all the ways art already influences your faith development/formation, how creative you already are, and how you can tap into that side of you. There will be discussions and activities for all ages. No skills required!

### **Memphis Hustle Game:** February 22 | 7 pm

It's Idlewild night at the Memphis Hustle – the NBA G League affiliate of the Memphis Grizzlies! Enjoy a professional basketball game with friends and family at the Landers Center. Tickets are \$10 each. Register in Realm.

### **Shrove Tuesday:** March 4 | 5:30 pm

Our Shrove Tuesday dinner offers a time of joyful fellowship as we eat pancakes and anticipate our Lenten journey together. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child with a \$30 cap for family.

### **Yoga:** Saturdays | March 8 - April 12 | 9 am

For six weeks, engage the Lenten practice of Sabbath through prayerful yoga on Saturday mornings. Donations are appreciated.

### **Adult NaCoMe:** March 28 - 30

This weekend retreat for adults includes a blend of programming, intentional Sabbath, and Sunday morning worship. The tentative cost for the retreat per couple is \$375 (includes room and meals). Per individual, pricing ranges depending upon the number of people in a cabin. This price range is \$125 – \$145 (includes bed and meals). Scholarships may be available. Register in Realm.

### **Easter - Flower Cross:** April 20

On Easter, we move from the starkness of the empty cross and closed tomb to the death-shattering hope of Christ's resurrection. This Easter, join us in celebrating our resurrection hope through placing flowers on a cross. With each placement of a flower, we partake in and remember the Paschal Mystery as the cross shifts from bareness to beauty – from death to resurrection.



## 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  
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:

**Baptism Class:** January 12

**Created Good for Kids:** February 9

**Parents' Night Out:** March 21

**Children's Egg Hunt:** April 6

**Vacation Bible School:** 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:

**Pickleball Tournament:** January 5

**Confirmation Retreat:** January 11 – 12

**PYC (Presbyterian Youth Connection):** February 21-23

**Confirmation Sunday and Youth Sunday:** April 27

**Lock-in:** May 17

### Summer 2025 Trips:

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

**Montreat 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:** Fridays | 8:45 – 9:45 am | Idlewild Elementary | 1950 Linden Ave.

Those involved in this ministry serve as readers in kindergarten classes. 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 to volunteer or to receive more information.

**Our Compassion Fund** provides financial help for those needing emergency assistance with rent, utility bills, and prescription medication. To donate to the Compassion Fund, please mail or bring a check to the church with "Compassion Fund" in the memo line. Donations may also be made online via Realm. (Choose "Compassion Fund Payment" in Realm's Fund drop-down menu.)

**Cuba:** February 13 – 17

A group of Idlewilders will travel to Cuba this spring to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church. Please hold this group in prayer as they prepare for their upcoming trip. For more information, contact AJ Northrop at genteelrogue@yahoo.com.

**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.

**McMerton Gardens:** Saturdays | 10 am – 12 pm (times may vary)

Volunteer gardeners from Idlewild – alongside Binghamton's residents, neighbors, and friends – plant, tend, and harvest the gardens' produce. E-mail susankizee@gmail.com for more information.

**Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAH):** Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday | 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 to get involved.

**Midtown Legal Clinic:** TBD

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

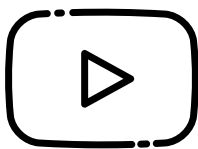
**More than a Meal:** Thursdays | 4 – 5:30 pm

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 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.

**Room in the Inn:** Thursdays 4 pm – Fridays, 7 am | November – March

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 amandasmithray@gmail.com for more information.



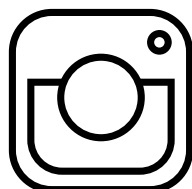
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