



IDLEWILD FALL 2026





This fall invites us into growth, gratitude, and community. Learn all the ways you can take part in the life of Idlewild, from worship to service, from care to formation.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Join us for worship on Sundays at 8:30am (Chapel) & 11am (Sanctuary)

Fall Sermon Series

Hebrew 101 – Sundays from September 13th to October 4th

Beginning on Kickoff Sunday, we will spend four weeks exploring Hebrew words that are essential to the language of faith: *Shema* – listen; *Mitzrayim* – Egypt; *Ruach* – breath or spirit; and *Zakar* – remember. These ancient words carry layers of meaning that are often difficult to capture fully in English translation. *Hebrew 101* will invite us to slow down, listen deeply, and allow the ancient language of scripture to open new ways of understanding God and ourselves.

Greek 101 – Sundays from October 11th to November 1st

As autumn comes to Memphis, we will turn from the language of the Hebrew Scriptures to the language of the New Testament with *Greek 101*. Over four weeks, we will explore *Parakletos* – advocate; *Ekklesia* – church; *Oikonomia* – stewardship or economy; and *Hagios* – saints. By paying closer attention to the language in which the New Testament was written, we will uncover dimensions of Christian faith that can be flattened or lost in translation and discover anew the kind of community God is calling us to become.

Until the Dawn – Sundays from November 29th to December 24th

A series inspired by the creative work of **A Sanctified Art** - *Until the Dawn* - will invite us into a season of waiting for the light of Christ. Through the weeks of Advent, we will hear the call to stay awake, make a way, look for the light, and trust the promise as scripture leads us from darkness toward the coming of Christ. Advent does not ask us to pretend that the darkness is gone; instead, it teaches us to watch faithfully for signs of God's promised future breaking into the world. Together we will wait, hope, prepare, and trust until Christmas Eve brings us again to the good news that the Light has come and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Dates to Remember:

Oct 4: Blessing of the Pets | 5pm | Sanctuary
Nov 1: All Saints Day
Dec 6: Blue Christmas | 5pm | Chapel
Dec 13: Festival of Christmas with Chancel Choir, Orchestra and Guest Narrator | 6:30pm | Sanctuary
Dec 24: Christmas Eve
Worship led by our Children | 3pm
Worship led by our Chancel Choir | 5:30pm
Worship led by our Youth | 11pm
Dec 27: One Worship Service | 11am | Sanctuary





Chancel Choir | Wednesdays | 7 - 8:30pm | Choir Room
The Chancel Choir provides the primary musical leadership for the 11am 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!

Handbell Choir | Thursdays | 5:45 - 7pm | Handbell Room
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 - 6:45pm | Room 302W
Beginning September 16, our children's choir for 1st-5th Graders begins meeting with Kindergarteners invited for the first 20 minutes of rehearsal. Providing 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!

Questions? Contact Chris Nemec, Director of Music Ministry & Organist, at chris@idlewildchurch.org.







ADULTS

Sunday School | Sundays | 9:40 - 10:40am

Christian Parenting | Room 304W
This welcoming class invites parents of infants to fifth graders to come together to explore the theme of faithful responses to our children's difficult questions. Join us for discussion, a deepening of friendships with one another, and prayer.

Stephen Class | Room 301W
Over the past few years the Stephen Class has read short stories. The class continues this discipline in the Fall-Winter Term 2026. We will read stories in the collection, THE OXFORD BOOK OF AMERICAN SHORT STORIES, second edition, edited by Joyce Carol Oates. Although we began reading this collection January 2026, you don't have to have read the short stories from the beginning–join us!

Tapestry | Harlan Room
Step out of the noise of routine and into a rich tapestry of contemplative practices. Engage your mind and soul as we weave ancient traditions with contemporary insights. Through sacred text, art, music, and mindful walking, you will discover new tools to center your thoughts and refresh your relationship with the divine. Whether you are a lifelong practitioner or completely new to these concepts, you belong here. Join us: Drop-ins and curious visitors are always welcome!

Faith & Function | Room 303W
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.

Special Events

Woven Wednesdays | September 16 - October 21 | 5:15 - 7pm

Weekday Offerings:

Tuesday Morning Men's Group | 9 – 10am | Montgomery Hall or Zoom
Come and enjoy breakfast while delving into scripture! 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).

The Art of Reading | Tuesdays 2 - 3:30pm | Parlor
The class will choose selections for discussion and alternate between fiction and non-fiction. The assignment for each week will be one to two chapters. Join us!

Book Club | Fourth Thursdays of the month 2 – 3pm | Room 303W
Each month we choose the book for the next month. We are always looking for new faces and hearing new views!

Presbyterian Women
This group is for all ages and for those who identify as women. Circles are at the core of our group and meet for fellowship and Bible study on the first Tuesday of the month. If you are interested, reach out to Sarah Prosser at sprosser901@gmail.com.

Fall Gathering | Saturday, September 26 | 11-1pm | Montgomery Hall





The Adult Ministry E-Newsletter comes out on Tuesday afternoons.
Subscribe to stay updated at idlewildchurch.org/news-events.

Questions? Contact Reverend Mary Newberg Gale, Associate Pastor for Formation & Care, at mary@idlewildchurch.org.

YOUTH

Youth Group | Sundays | 5:30 – 8:00pm | Jones Building
Sunday Night Youth Group combines faith formation, games, conversation, community-building, and shared meals. Our new schedule gives middle and high school youth dedicated age-group programming while preserving the joy of gathering around the table together.

5:30 - 7:00pm - Middle School | Room 305W
6:30 - 7:00pm - Dinner for all youth
6:30 - 8:00pm - High School | Montgomery Hall

Sunday School | Sundays | 9:40 – 10:40am | Jones Building

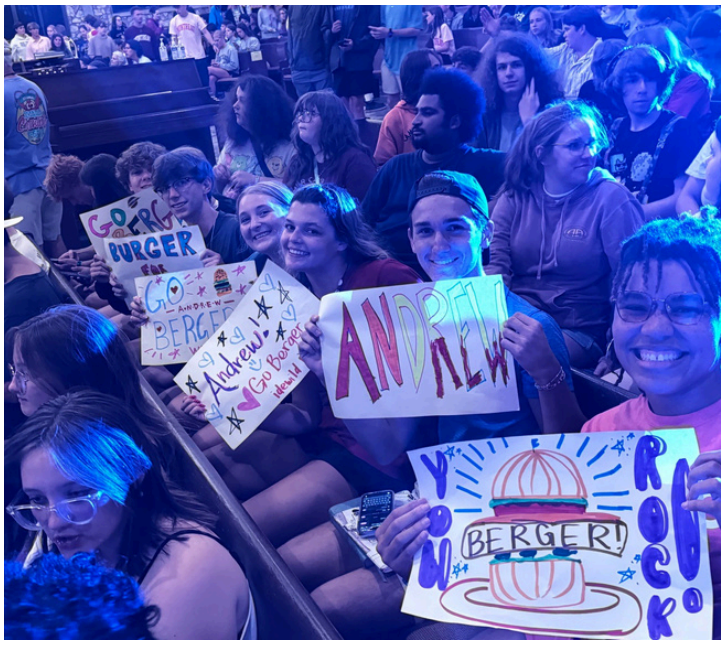
- Middle School youth will meet in Room 305W to explore faith through engaging lessons, conversation, creativity, and activities.
- High School youth will meet in Room 306W. Students will explore Scripture's larger story, make connections between the Bible and their lives, and have space for thoughtful conversation and honest questions.

Prayer Breakfast | 2nd and 4th Thursdays | 6:30 - 7:30am | Chick-fil-A | 4916 Poplar
Youth are invited to begin the school day with breakfast, conversation, and prayer.

The Study Table | Wednesdays | 5:30 - 7:30pm | Youth Room 306W
The Study Table is a welcoming midweek study break for youth who need time and space to catch up on homework.

Subscribe to the Youth E-Newsletter at idlewildchurch.org/news-events.

Questions? Contact Sage Scott-Jamison, Director of Youth Ministry, at sage@idlewildchurch.org.





YOUTH



Fall Special Events to look forward to:

September 26-27 | Annual Fall Lock-In
In partnership with Room in the Inn, Idlewild youth will explore issues of hunger and homelessness and consider how Christians are called to welcome and care for their neighbors. There will be food, games, laughter, and plenty of time to hang out together!

October 11 | Suicide Awareness Youth Group with Grace-St. Luke's
Idlewild and Grace-St. Luke's youth will gather for an age-appropriate evening focused on mental health, suicide awareness, supportive friendship, and the importance of asking trusted adults for help.

October 18 | Grace-St. Luke's v. Idlewild Kickball Tournament | 5:30 - 7:30pm
Middle and high school youth from Idlewild and Grace-St. Luke's will meet for an afternoon of kickball, teamwork, and community. No athletic experience is required –enthusiastic players, sideline encouragers, and friends are all welcome.

November 8 | Friendsgiving Youth Group
Idlewild youth will celebrate the season with a shared Friendsgiving meal, gratitude practices, and plenty of fun. This evening will also continue our fall emphasis on hunger and homelessness as we consider how gratitude calls us toward generosity and care for our neighbors.

November 15 | Outdoor Movie Night with Grace-St. Luke's
Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join youth from Idlewild and Grace-St. Luke's for an outdoor movie night. We will enjoy snacks, fellowship, and a relaxed evening with friends. Movie details and weather plans will be announced closer to the event.

December 13 | Middle and High School Christmas Party
All middle and high school youth are invited to celebrate the season together with Christmas games, festive food, music, and plenty of holiday cheer. Friends are welcome!

Help Us Gather Around the Table

Shared meals are an important part of Sunday Night Youth Group.
Individuals, families, and supper clubs are invited to provide dinner for approximately 25 youth and adults on a Sunday evening.
Meals may be homemade, purchased, or sponsored financially. You do not have to stay for Youth Group, although we would love for you to meet the young people you are feeding!

Become a Youth Advisor

Youth advisors help create a safe, joyful, and welcoming environment during Sunday School, Sunday Night Youth Group, trips, and special events. We are looking for dependable and caring adults who are willing to show up, build relationships, and serve as part of a supportive team.
Whether you can volunteer regularly or assist with occasional events, there is a place for you in this ministry.

Interested in becoming a youth advisor or providing dinner for youth?
Contact Sage Scott-Jamison at sage@idlewildchurch.org

CHILDREN

Sunday School | 9:40 - 10:40am | Rooms 323E-326E

Worship & Wonder | Following Time with the Younger Church
Pre-School children ages 3 – JK are invited to leave the sanctuary and continue their worship in a service of their own.

Parents' Prayer, Bible Study, and Fellowship | Tuesdays | 8:30-9:30am | Room 323E
Join Whitney Getman or Pastor Mary for a time of group study of the week's lectionary passage. We'll also spend some time sharing and praying together.

Celebrating Faith Milestones
At Idlewild, we believe important moments in our faith journey are worth celebrating. For our children, these milestones give us a chance to recognize their growing faith and remind them that they are an important part of our church family. Throughout the year, we'll celebrate several special faith milestones with our children and families. We invite our church family to join us in celebrating with them as we learn, grow, and walk together in faith.

September 20: 2nd Grade Milestone Bible Workshop
September 27: 2nd Grade Milestone - Bible Presentation
October 9-11: NaCoMe
October 18: 4th Grade Milestone - Stewardship
October 28: Halloween Carnival
November 1: All Saints' Day Activity
November 8: 1st Grade Milestone - Communion
November 13: Parent's Fall Gathering
November 22: Fall Family Movie Night
December 2: Advent Celebration
December 13: Children's Christmas Party
December 20: Waffle Sunday and Christmas Eve Service Practice
December 24: Child-led Christmas Service

Subscribe to the Children's E-Newsletter at idlewildchurch.org/news-events.

Questions? Contact Whitney Getman, Director of Children's Ministry, at whitney@idlewildchurch.org.





FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION

Basketball Registration | September 14 - October 16 | Ages 4 - 14

Ages 4-5: $70: First session is Saturday, January 9 at 9am.
Ages 6-14: $100: Practices start the week of November 16. Games begin December 5.

Registration fees include uniforms. Scholarships are available upon request.

All-Church Camp @ NaCoMe | Friday, October 9 – Sunday, October 11
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 27. Cost is $250 per private room or $65 per gender-specific shared room (max of 4 people per shared room). Meal packages are $60 for adults and $40 for children (ages 3–12). Scholarships are available. Questions? Contact Shari Gross at sgross@idlewildchurch.org.

Halloween Carnival | Wednesday, October 28 | 5:15 - 7:15pm
Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, invites us to celebrate 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 share a meal at 5:15 and party and play starting at 5:45 at our annual Halloween Carnival– a fun-filled evening of games, trick or treats, cake walks, and more.

All Saints' Potluck & Pottery/Craft Sale | Sunday, November 1 | After Worship
Feast with us at our All Saints' Potluck immediately following worship as we honor our connection with the one continuing, living communion of saints and give glory to God for our ordinary, holy lives. Bring a side dish/salad/dessert that reminds you of a loved one while we provide our famous fried chicken.

If you're an artist/crafter and would like to join us as a vendor, register here.







Basketball Practice begins: Monday, November 16

Advent Celebration | Wednesday, December 2 | 5:15 - 7:15pm
Join us for a meal and fellowship as we prepare our hearts and homes for the Advent season.

Waffle Sunday | December 20 | 9:40-10:40am
Join us for Waffle Sunday during the Sunday School hour! Come enjoy a delicious morning of waffles, fellowship, and fun as we celebrate the Christmas season together. Bring your family and friends and come hungry. We can't wait to share this special Sunday with you!

Pottery Open Studio | Wednesdays | 6-8 pm | Saturdays | 8am-12pm | Room 225E
The Pottery Studio is on the 2nd floor of the Jones Building, at the east end. The suggested donation is $10 per person per session, which covers materials and firing costs. Donations may be given via cash, check, or through Realm. Youth under age 14 are welcome with an adult. The studio is open to anyone in the community, so feel free to bring a friend! Contact pottery@idlewildchurch.org for more information. Note: this year, the studio will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Pickleball | Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays | 1 - 3 pm | Gym | Pay what you can

Open Mahjong Play | Various Evening and Daytime Slots Available
Please take a look at the sign-up for more details and to save your spot.

Questions? Contact Jacob Pierce, Director of Fellowship & Recreation Ministry, at jacob@idlewildchurch.org.







OUTREACH

There are multiple ways to join together as the body of Christ to **build a more just, inclusive, and welcoming community in Memphis and beyond.**

If you are interested in exploring where you are being called to serve, or want information about a specific ministry, please contact Tricia Vesely, Director of Outreach Ministry, at outreach@idlewildchurch.org.

Adopt-a-School: Idlewild is an official Adopt-a-School partner of Idlewild Elementary School. Volunteers may sign up via sign-up genius to read to kindergartners every other Wednesday from 9:30am-10am, tutor students in grades 1-5, or serve as a coach for Arise2Read.

Care Closet: Provides essential items such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, and clothing to neighbors in need. Support by donating gently used clothes to the front desk or through our Amazon List.

Children and Family Enrichment (CAFE): Supports Memphis families with tools for resilience against Adverse Childhood Experiences through two programs: the Early Enrichment Center and the Parent Enrichment Place.

Clean Waters Ghana: Through Living Waters for the World, a PC(USA) ministry and non-profit, Idlewild members have installed multiple water purification systems and provided education on how to use the treated water through health & hygiene education to thousands of Ghanaians. Alongside volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, they also train people to sustain existing systems. This sustainability model expands access to clean water–primarily for schools and health clinics across Ghana.

Community Support Grants: Idlewild's Community Support Grants fund local nonprofits that provide compassionate services, extending our outreach and working toward a more just, inclusive, and welcoming community.

Compassion Fund: Offers financial support to those in need of emergency assistance with rent, utility bills, and prescription medications. This fund relies entirely on donations. You can give online by choosing "compassion fund" in the drop-down menu.

Cuba: In a partnership of mutual love and support with Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas, Cuba, Idlewild seeks to grow together in Christ across cultural, political, and systemic barriers. Through this relationship, we experience the power of God's love, the meaning of being siblings in Christ, and the joy of sharing life and faith.

Friends of the Mental Health Court | Thursdays, 12:15 – 3:00pm: In partnership with Calvary Church, this ministry supports participants and officials in the Mental Health Court. Volunteers visit clients and attend court hearings at 201 Poplar to offer presence and care.

Make a Meal. Share a Meal.: Teams meet in the Idlewild kitchen to cook healthy meals for Church Health patients! Each team cooks about once a month.

McMerton Gardens: Saturdays at 10am on the corner of Merton and McAdoo. Volunteer gardeners from Idlewild – alongside Binghampton's residents, neighbors, and friends – plant, tend, and harvest the gardens' produce.

MICAH Core Team: Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAH) works for social justice in Memphis. Idlewild, a founding member, serves on the board and task forces. Our MICAH Core Team meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Midtown Legal Clinic | Saturday, October 24: Idlewild partners with Memphis Area Legal Services and Community Legal Center to offer free legal advice to anyone seeking assistance. Volunteers with legal expertise provide guidance, supported by others who help the clinic run smoothly.

More than a Meal | Thursdays at 4pm: This ministry offers a chapel service, hot meal, prayer, and connection to those in need. Volunteers serve, worship, pray, and share fellowship with guests. On the first and third Thursday each month, volunteers fulfill needs of our guests from the Care Closet.

No Longer Strangers: We support immigrant neighbors through Good Neighbor Welcome Teams that assist with housing and transportation, and by advocating for just immigration policies. Support our ministries – and growers in Mexico – by buying our truly fair trade Cafe Justo Coffee!

Room in the Inn: On Thursday evenings, Idlewild partners with Room in the Inn to host women in need of shelter, offering dinner, access to showers, a secure and comfortable place to sleep, and breakfast the following morning. Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals of all ages to serve and support this ministry. Sign up to volunteer!

Samaritan Counseling Center: Offers affordable, professional counseling and resources that honor individuals' personal and spiritual values. Idlewild has provided essential clinical and administrative office space for Samaritan for over 30 years, allowing us to provide over 3,200 affordable counseling sessions to children, adults, couples & families per year.









GENEROSITY

Growing in Gratitude

Annual Campaign

We hope you will join the Idlewild family as we continue to grow in gratitude. In the coming weeks, check your mailbox for more information about how your generosity has enabled the ministries of the church in 2026.

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, and during worship, we will ritualize our commitments to God's work through Idlewild in the year ahead.

You can make your commitment online by using the QR code.

Need assistance with Realm, making your commitment, setting up a recurring gift, securing a spot in our Columbarium, or anything else generosity related? Contact Amanda Kohr, Director of Generosity, at akohr@idlewildchurch.org or 901-259-4352.

FALL AT IDLEWILD







A Vision of Idlewild

Idlewild Presbyterian Church is a community in which …

Jesus Christ is the center;
the mighty voice of God inspires us to love;
the Spirit joyfully sustains and nurtures seekers of every age,
stage, and circumstance.

Worship forms the core of community life;
prayer binds our brokenness and connects us in Christ's love
to God and to one another;
music, poetry, and art flourish in gratitude to our Creator;
the beauty of creation is treasured and preserved;
all the members of the church are ministers.

The focus is scripture and its meaning for today;
faith is formed and spirits nourished through reflection,
practice and shared learning;
the wisdom of other faith traditions is respected;
and a diverse membership enriches and unites us.

Justice speaks loudly and peace is our aspiration;
all voices are heard;
recreation and play are a wellspring for fellowship,
celebration, and growth;
the love of God guides our minds and spirits,
leading us to right action in our hearts, our homes,
our community, our nation, and our world,

And all who enter find a home.







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