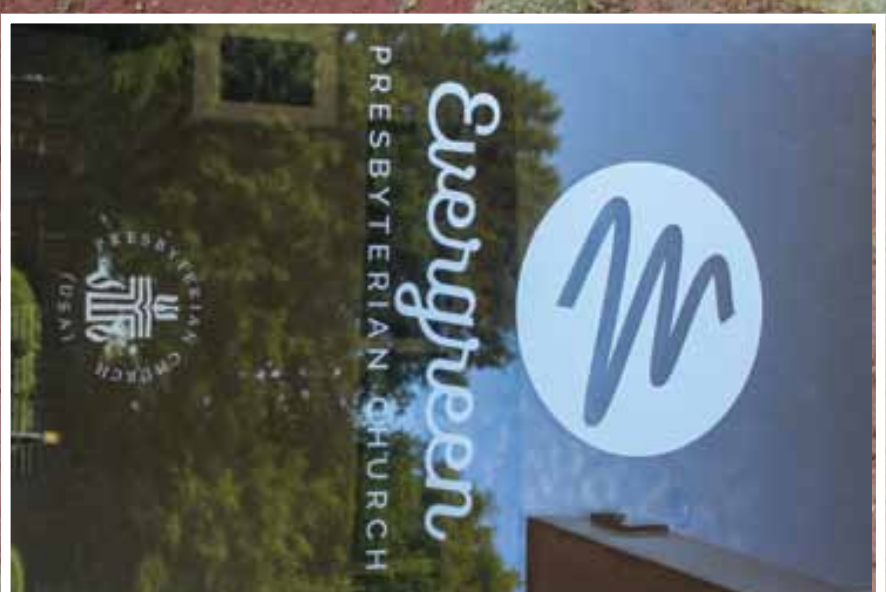


FLOURISH

In the future your children may ask,
'What do these stones mean to you?'

Then you will tell them...

~ Joshua 4:6



More than 100 years ago, the Holy Spirit breathed Evergreen Presbyterian Church into existence, and for over a century we have been serving the Memphis community in a multitude of ways. In 2013 our church made the difficult decision to move out of our second church home on University Street in search of our next call to ministry as a congregation. As we left that sanctuary behind we said goodbye to a place that held meaning to so many people who had celebrated life and love, learned about the world and God, and brought their sorrow and grief within those walls.

We believe strongly that physical space is powerful and can be an integral part of how people experience a particular community and engage their spirituality. It can even shape how we encounter that transcendent Love we call God. So as we settled into the third sanctuary this church has called home, we wanted to design a space that reflected the ministry into which God was calling us. We also knew, from the power of the story of our faith, that letting go of one life might actually birth another.

When you step into our space, we pray you experience refuge in the sanctuary of its beauty and also feel challenged to go out into the world to do justice. We pray you find God in the solitude of silence and in the connection to your neighbor. We pray the contours of this place help you to encounter the sacred in the mundane realities of our everyday lives. We pray that here, you flourish. ~



Inviting You In

After previously being isolated as a "church on a hill," we love that our new sanctuary is quite literally a "church on the street." The large windows give the community visible access into the church while letting us see out as we gather in worship, recognizing that our prayer is not separate from the pain and beauty of the larger world in which we live. The colorful design on the transoms evokes flowing water and is reminiscent of stained glass, and serves as a nod to our more formal tradition, while still welcoming the next century of faith.





The Evergreen Bell

Our 100-year-old bell is also a symbol of our tradition that we bring with us, signaling the age and evolution of our community. It has had a place in all three church homes. Each Sunday, the ringing of the bell gathers the community in, and our liturgy calls us outside the doors of the church to ring it.

Opening Our Doors

One of our goals in renovating the church space was to use local artists as much as possible. The exterior door pulls were handcrafted by artisans at the Metal Museum, a national museum located in Memphis that celebrates the history and culture of metal arts.



Worshipping in the Round

We gather in the round for many reasons. In this form we can see each other in our worship, demonstrating our care for each other. Gathering in the round disrupts the traditional hierarchy of the Church and calls all people into leadership and practice. It signals an openness in our community, the value that all people belong at the Table, and that there is a continuous line at the edge of the Table for anyone to pull up a chair. The circle is also womb-like, comforting and generative, birthing new life and healing from a place that holds us together in the struggle.



Celebrating the Sacraments

Sacraments happen in community, amongst the people who are gathered to bear witness to the in-breaking of grace upon our lives. Many in our community experience this grace in the natural world, and so you will see shapes and colors that reflect tree branches, water, waves and birds. The Love we encounter at the Table and Font, and the Love we experience out in the world and in creation are not so very different: we hold those sacramental encounters together in this space.

The location of the baptismal font helps to enclose the sacred space, and its design both relates to the shape of the communion table to further link the sacraments represented by the two, and incorporates stained glass, a traditional medium used in new and exciting ways.

The table's graceful, sweeping legs support a segmented top; the space between the segments forms a cross which is reflected as light from above shines through the gaps.

The communion table was designed and crafted by Daniel O'Grady, a local woodworking artist who creates custom furniture and installations. Daniel teamed with local glass artist Suzy Hendrix to create the baptismal font. Suzy works in a variety of glass styles, and her work is in numerous homes, churches, parks, hospitals and businesses, both in Memphis and beyond.



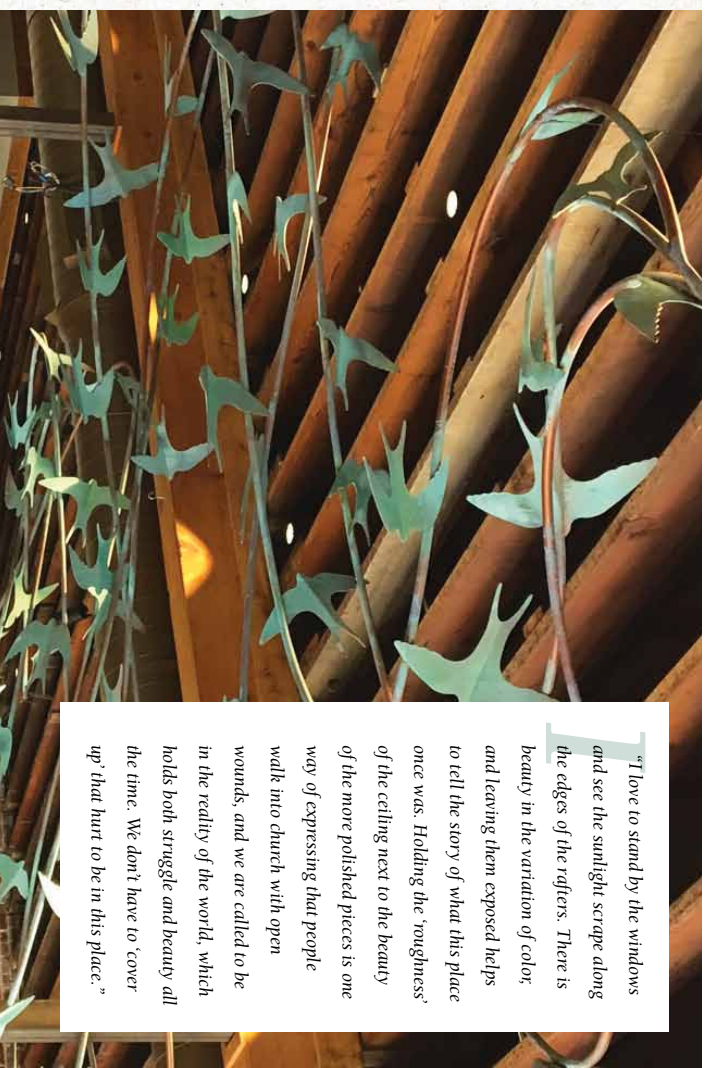
Reflecting the Wonder of Creation

Most sacred spaces invite us into a sense of mystery and wonder, leaving us in awe of Creation. The mummuration of birds ceiling sculpture reflects the values of our life together. The flocking behavior draws individual birds into cohesion while at the same time holds separation. There is a sense that each bird has its own flight pattern, and yet recognizes and respects the space of the neighbor flying alongside it. Alone and yet together they travel in ways that may initially appear disorganized, but resolve into a poetic pattern of wonder.

We invite our community into shared practice, recognizing that though we may end up in different places of belief, we travel down the road, alone and together, with questions, courage and in search of healing for ourselves and the world.



"Mummuration 2" is by Yvonne Bobo. Yvonne is a local metal artist whose work appears all over the city and beyond, in places such as Overton Park, Crosstown Concourse, Cooper-Young, Overton Square, Methodist Hospice and the Boston Children's Hospital.



I"I love to stand by the windows and see the sunlight scrape along the edges of the rafters. There is beauty in the variation of color, and leaving them exposed helps to tell the story of what this place once was. Holding the 'roughness' of the ceiling next to the beauty of the more polished pieces is one way of expressing that people walk into church with open wounds, and we are called to be in the reality of the world, which holds both struggle and beauty all the time. We don't have to 'cover up' that hurt to be in this place."

Evergreen Presbyterian Church Renovation 2018-2019

Staff

Luey Waechter Webb, Pastor
Mary Button, Mission Developer
Jim Cornfoot, Director of Music

Capital Campaign Committee

Roger Bransford
Pat Flynn
Kelsey Hamilton
Catherine Nathan
Jeremy Sorrells
Sara Taylor

Design Committee

Jeff Blankenship
Beverly Cruthirds
Jerry Hesson
Catherine Hutchison

ANF Architects –
Rebecca Conrad and Amanda Whitaker, leads
S. Webster Haining & Co., Contractors

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S. Summit in loving memory of Dr. Robert
L. Summit

Communion Table, given by John H.
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James D. Strickland

Sara Taylor

Revs. Luey and Daniel Waechter Webb

Jim and Jackie Williamson



God has told you, O Mortal, what is good. What does the Lord require of you?
But to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

~ Micah 6:8

We believe belonging should happen before believing. We believe people belong first, no matter what. We are committed to creating community that welcomes people alongside one another in shared spiritual practice. Eventually, we all arrive at belief. And we're energized if our belief is really different from our neighbors' beliefs.

Evergreen Presbyterian Church

1567 Overton Park Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38112
901.609.5902
evergreenmemphis.org