



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
November 13, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

— Micah 6:8

As I write this message, I am preparing to report to the Putnam County Courthouse on Wednesday morning for jury duty. I have not hidden the fact that I received this notice a few weeks ago. Since that time, I have received advice from several people about what I need to do to be excused from service and avoid fulfilling the responsibility to which I have been called. But the call to serve and make a difference is never one that ought to be avoided.

Being called to serve on a jury is an opportunity to be a part of our justice system. If selected, I have the opportunity to uphold fairness and to ensure that the truth is sought out. It is a calling that is both an honor and a great responsibility.

We are all called to live out our faith by standing for justice and mercy in our everyday lives. We could seek loopholes that might make us feel better about avoiding our service to the kingdom of God, but in doing so, we are keeping others from knowing the love of God and God's call to salvation. By avoiding our service, we are preventing the truth from being shared with the world.

While I would rather have more time to do my job and things that I enjoy, I take seriously the responsibility and opportunity that I have to serve my community. If you are selected to serve on a jury and have the physical capabilities, I urge you to embrace the chance to serve. I encourage you to pray for wisdom in your role. Likewise, I urge you to remember that seeking to avoid that call is a disservice to you, your God, and God's kingdom. Instead, I urge you to pray for wisdom as you fulfill your call to live a life of mercy and justice for the Kingdom of God.



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 17th, will be the 27th Sunday after Pentecost. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach the sermon using Hebrews 10:19-25 as the scriptural text of the day. Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45am or 11:00am as we worship God together. If you are unable to join us in person, the 8:45am service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.

Advent Candle Lighters Needed



The season of Advent is quickly approaching. One very special tradition in the church is the lighting of the Advent candles. The combination of candle lighting and readings is a time-honored part of our worship during this time and considered an honor.

We are now seeking those from our congregation who would be willing to participate in this capacity. You do not have to be a member of our congregation and may have served in this role in the past. We would invite/encourage all families/groups to contact Christian or Sandra if this is something you would like to do.

SIGNUP SHEET FOR NURSERY HELP

Our nursery attendant, Kiana Gentry, is now on maternity leave and the church needs some help in the nursery. There is a nursery volunteer signup sheet on the narthex table. Please take a moment to find a date(s) that you will be able to give some time to the program. Please contact Sandra in the church office with questions or a time you are available.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry's 2024 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drive ends Sunday. **ALL SHOEBOXES ARE DUE THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH.** Envelopes are still available for your donations (narthex); the cost is \$25.00 per box. Make your check payable to CPWM and place it in the offering. You are able to donate to the project all year long - perhaps in honor or memory of a loved one. Your donations will be used for the 2025 shoebox project.



Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in memory of Jack McGee and Johnie Wright and all other veterans on this Veterans Day by Kim Wright.



Children/Youth Christmas Play

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas play on Dec. 22 (8:45 & 11am services). The play is open to children & youth of all ages! Practices will be during the Sunday School hour from November 24th through December 15th. There are speaking and non-speaking parts available! If you have questions or can't attend the first practice but would like to be a part of the program contact Mel Presley at 931-260-4200.

For Our Visitors AND Members

We are always excited to have the opportunity to worship with you on Sundays. Whether you are visiting with us or are currently attending our church, please take a moment to scan the QR code to the right and help us to get to know you and how we can better serve you. You may also use this form to share prayer concerns, praise reports, or other requests with your pastors.



2025 Flower Calendar



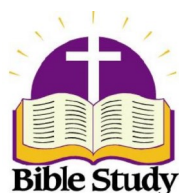
If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for 2025, the signup sheet is now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost for a flower arrangement is \$50.00 and you may submit payment the week that the flowers are ordered. Sally Beyer will contact you for a dedication (for the bulletin) and for a description of the type of arrangement you would like. Call Sandra in the church office for more information.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 11, 2024

Commitments - \$4,235.00 Undesignated - \$1,804.00 Other - \$656.00

This week's offerings includes a \$50.00 donation to Recovery Kitchen, \$235.00 for the Turkey Project, \$50.00 for altar flowers, \$40.00 in camp fees, \$225.00 to the OCC project and \$56.00 in Connection meal donations.

Total Deposit - \$6,695.00



Men's Bible Study

The **Tuesday Noon** Men's Bible Study continues with a study on the book of Galatians. We are using Max Lucado's **Life Lessons from Galatians** as our text. All men in the church congregation are encouraged/invited to attend.

Troop 20 Community Service and Veterans Day Parade

Last Saturday, Troop 20 spent the morning picking up trash along Maple Avenue and 10th Street near our church. Armed with gloves, trash bags, and plenty of energy, we collected five full bags of litter, helping to keep our local area clean and beautiful. We hope to make this a regular service project in the future, ensuring the space around our church remains welcoming for all.

After the cleanup, we proudly joined the Veterans Day Celebration Parade to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. It was an inspiring experience for our Scouts to pay tribute to these heroes and reflect on their sacrifices.

Thank you to all the Scouts and leaders who participated!



THANKSGIVING TURKEY PROJECT

This year we will be collecting items to provide 85 families in our community with a Thanksgiving meal. The youth will work to deliver those meals on Monday, November 25th. We will be collecting the following items on the following schedule:

Nov. 3 - Mashed Potatoes	Mac & Cheese
Nov. 10 - Dressing	Gravy
Nov. 17 - Cranberries	Pie Filling
Nov. 24 - Green Beans	Corn

There will be a tote in the Fellowship Hall for these items. Additionally, we will be purchasing a turkey breast for each box and you are invited to sponsor one or more boxes at \$10.00 each. Help us make a difference for local families at Thanksgiving!



Turkey Project Update

We have communicated with the guidance counselors from Algood Elementary, Algood Middle, and Cookeville High School and they have requested Thanksgiving meals for a total of 95 families. We always appreciate the generosity of the members of this congregation who provide this service to our community. Our youth will bag up the items for families on November 24th and they will be delivered the next day. So far, we have received the following items and amounts.

Corn – 55	Green Beans – 88
Mashed Potatoes – 59	Stuffing – 66
Mac and Cheese – 65	Gravy – 42
Cranberry Sauce – 43	Pie Filling – 32

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Communion Preparation Signup



We are seeking families to sign up for the preparation of communion elements for the first Sunday of the month and special services. Directions for the preparing of communion will be made available to you the week prior to the preparation process. If this is something you are interested in and able to do, you may call Sandra in the church office or click on the following link to add your name to the list. Let us know if you have questions.

www.docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0Pcnhrsrlt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0

Liturgist Sign-up

We would love to include your voice in worship. People of all ages are invited to help lead us in worship as our liturgist. Christian will provide you with instructions, liturgy, and, if you wish, the opening prayer early in the week. Please take a moment and sign up at this link:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA5AA28A4FDC25-50583122-liturgist>

Download the FCPC Smartphone App



For our smartphone users, there is a new church app available to you. While we are still learning to use all of its features, I hope you will consider downloading it and using the tools you will find there. It can be downloaded using the QR code at the left. If you need help, please feel free to see Christian for assistance.

Elder Elections

On November 24th we will be having a congregational meeting during both worship services for the purpose of electing elders. The session, acting as a nominating committee, will place the names of Stacey Byers, Dan Elbert, Jim Greeson, Angie Knight, and Jodi Smith into nomination. Members of the church are welcome to make additional nominations as long as they are sure the person they wish to nominate is a member of the church and has stated they are willing to serve.





Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Jim Ashley (J.B. Rittenberry’s brother-in-law); the family of Dianne Fletcher (Nathan’s mother); the family of David Van der Cook; Allison McDonald (surgery); Wanda McCaskey; Doris Baggett; Mary Broussard (friend of Tim & Liz Fournet); Grayson Gentry (premature son of Erica Gentry and husband, Trent); the family of Suzie Hyder (Evelyn Hyder’s daughter); Don Anderson (recovering from fall); Dave Van der Cook (hospice); Linda Stringer (Evon Maggart’s sister); Evelyn (Bonnie) Hyder; Sherry Lassiter (transplant list); Georgia Hensley; Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); Sherrie Smith; Cindy Furcean.



Cancer Treatment: Niki Work; Heidi Blessing; Kim Daniels; Margaret Merrill (Evelyn Hyder’s sister - pancreatic cancer).

Assisted Living: Jo Gentry (Heritage Pointe); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe).

