



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
November 20, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.— Psalm 24:7-8***

This Sunday is Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday. This Sunday, which is the last of the Christian year, allows us to celebrate the ultimate victory of our Lord and Savior. During the last 12 months, we have walked through celebrations of the liturgical church year. We walked through the season of Advent as we prepared for the arrival of our King. We have walked through the season of Lent as we prepared our hearts for the sacrifice of our king. We have walked through the events of Easter and celebrated our king's victory at the resurrection. As we approach this Sunday, we have the opportunity for reflection, thanksgiving, and preparation.

The end of the Christian year invites us to pause and reflect on how we have grown in faith over the last 12 months. How well have we embodied the love of Christ in our service to others? Have we deepened our relationship with God? These questions are not meant to make us feel guilty but are intended to guide us as we prepare to welcome the opportunities of a new liturgical year with renewed hearts and minds.

The end of the Christian year also provides us with the opportunity to remember that Christ is not a distant ruler but a loving and constant presence in our lives. Christ continues to seek to remind us of his grace and compassion for us. We are invited to celebrate and offer praise for the light that Christ continues to shine into our lives.

The church year is drawing to a close. Next week we will begin our march through a new year as we begin the season of Advent. As we do so, let's remember who Christ has been for us and how we can make the next step in our walk for Him in the new year.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
565 E. 10th Street - Cookeville, TN 38501

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org





Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 24th, will be Reign of Christ Sunday. The chancel color will be white. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach the sermon using Revelation 1:4-8 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.



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.



Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in memory of my grandmother, Anna Lee Moses, by Rachel Moses.





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.

We are excited to welcome Tony Smith as the newest member of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He joined the church on November 17th during our 11:00am service.



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.

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

The following numbers represent the items still needed to reach the goal of providing adequate food for 95 families in our community.

Green Beans – 0

Corn – 73 (12.5 oz) cans or 37 larger ones

Mashed Potatoes – 35 smaller bags or 18 family-size

Mac and Cheese – 39 small boxes or 20 family size

Stuffing – 0

Gravy—14 jars or pouches

Cranberry Sauce—18 cans

Pie Filling—0

Our youth will pack bags on Sunday night and they will be delivered to schools on Monday morning. **WE ARE IN NEED** of people to help us deliver those items. If you have a vehicle that will hold bags or turkeys, we need your help on Monday between 8am and 9:30 or 10am. If you do not have a vehicle, but have the time, we would welcome you to come assist. If you can help, please let Christian know as soon as possible.

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



On November 12th the Sonshine Circle hosted a brunch for "This Is Living Ministries." They are a Christ-centered reentry program for women. Several clients and counselors attended. We are thankful for the good work of our women's groups and all organizations that seek to serve and help our community members.

Poinsettia Orders



It is time to place orders or Christmas Poinsettias. The church has available 30 plants for you to purchase in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00 and order forms will be available in Sunday's bulletin as well as on the narthex table. You are asked to complete a form and fold your payment (checks to FCPC) into the form. Place them in the offering plate or drop them by the church office. You may also call Sandra in the church office to place an order.

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>

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 17, 2024

Commitments - \$4,505.00 Undesignated - \$3,512.35 Other - \$1,730.00

This week's offerings includes \$350.00 in donations to Recovery Kitchen, \$1,230.00 for the Turkey Project, \$50.00 for altar flowers, and \$100.00 for OCC shoeboxes.

Total Deposit - \$9,747.35



On Sunday, December 1st, as we begin the season of Advent, we will provide the opportunity for you and your family to make your financial pledge to the church for 2025. You should have received or will soon receive a letter, a copy of the church budget and a pledge card. If you wish to have the church keep a record of your giving for tax purposes, you will need to return a commitment card or give through our church website. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

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.

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th - 5:30-7:30 pm

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112

Roots Salon is in the front; Food to the Rescue is in the back



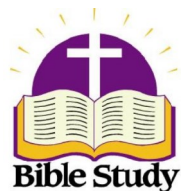
Part of the outreach program of our church is the packing of boxes for Food to the Rescue. This program helps to feed underprivileged children during Christmas Break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities. Come join us!

"Hope"

Sunday, December 15th

8:45 & 11:00am

The First Cumberland Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir will present a Christmas Cantata on the 15th of December in both worship services. The work features narration and songs that represent the hope for the glorious advent of the birth of Christ. Steve Boots will serve as narrator for the work. Please join us for a very special morning of word and music.



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.

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.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry's 2024 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drive collected 424 shoeboxes. Envelopes are still available for your donations (narthex); the cost is \$25.00 per box. Make your check payable to CPWM and place the envelope 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.



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 24th	Reign of Christ Sunday Youth prepare turkey bags - 6:30pm
November 25th	Turkey Project box deliveries (youth) <i>*we need trucks and assistance from the congregation!</i>
November 26th	Decorate church for Advent - 9am - all welcome to help
November 28th	Thanksgiving Day
December 1st	First Sunday in Advent
December 4th	Advent Service of Light - 6pm
December 8th	Second Sunday in Advent
December 15th	Third Sunday in Advent Sanctuary Choir present Christmas cantata "Hope"
December 22nd	Fourth Sunday in Advent Children/Youth present Christmas play, "The Party"
December 23rd	Christmas Caroling (time TBA)
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service - 6pm
December 25th	Christmas Day
December 29th	One-Service Sunday Sunday School - 9am Worship - 10am



Prayer Requests

Individuals: Greg Hensley (son of Georgia Hensley - brain surgery); Mike Bowman (Carlene Byrne’s son-in-law - CRMC); Patty Shoulders (Janna Greer’s daughter - cancer surgery); Allison McDonald (surgery); Wanda McCaskey; Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); Mary Broussard (friend of Tim & Liz Fournet); Grayson Gentry (premature son of Erica Gentry and husband, Trent); Don Anderson (recovering from fall); 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).

