

Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
November 27, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***



Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. Many people will gather with their family and friends, and they will spend the day watching parades and football, eating good food, and enjoying the company of others. Hopefully, at some point, most of you will take a few moments to think about all of those things for which you are thankful. Perhaps, as you do, you will begin to name and count those blessings. When doing so, many will list the family, friends, and food that surrounds them. Other blessings will include God, Jesus, their church, their home, their job, and other items and people that mean a great deal to them.

However, I also hope that we will take some time to think about our overlooked gifts and blessings. For instance, I am thankful for the difficult tasks that God has called me to do. It helps me to see how much more I can do through the help and guidance of our divine Creator. I am thankful for the mistakes that I have made. They have helped me to learn and grow. I am thankful for the losses that I have experienced. They have helped me to appreciate what God has given me today. I am thankful for the valleys of life, because they make the mountain tops so much grander.

This Thanksgiving, I hope that you will take the time to appreciate all that God has given you. I hope that you will appreciate the wonderful gifts and the overlooked gifts that are ours.

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

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 1st, will be the 1st Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach the sermon using Jeremiah 33:10-16 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 and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are unable to join us in person, the 8:45am service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.



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.

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.

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.



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.

Communion Preparation Signup



list. Let us know if you have questions.

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

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>

Poinsettia Orders



We have just a few poinsettias for you to purchase in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00 and order forms are available on the narthex table. You are asked to complete a form and fold your payment (checks to FCPC) into the form. Place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. You may also call Sandra in the church office to place an order.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 25, 2024

Commitments - \$4,935.00 Undesignated - \$2,265.00 Other - \$410.00

This week's offerings includes \$270.00 for Poinsettias and \$140.00 for the Turkey Project.

Total Deposit - \$7,610.00

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.





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.



Recovery Kitchen

Recovery Kitchen is a program that helps provide hot meals for the homeless in our community. We are in need of the following items for this next meal. Contact Alice at 239-5513 if you are able to give to the project. Please have items to the church by NOON on Friday, November 6th.

(100) large tortillas

(15) tomatoes

(100) individual desserts

(10lbs) shredded Mexican cheese

(100) servings instant rice

(100) pcs fresh fruit

(100) servings pre-shredded lettuce

(100) servings refried beans

(100) Nutri-grain bars

If you would like to donate money, it will be used to purchase items for the program. You may give money to Alice or to Sandra in the church office. Thank you for your giving hearts and generous donations.



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

Bingo with CPWM

The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry will be hosting a BINGO party on Sunday afternoon, December 8th, from 2-4pm in the Family Life Center. All Circle members are invited to attend. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Drink and prizes will be provided.



Gifts for Priority House



Feeding 18 men once a month at Priority House has been one of our church's mission projects for the last few years. The Priority House is a transition home for men leaving jail, giving them support and counseling before they begin living independent lives. We would love to be able to gift each man a new fleece throw, pillow and pillow case with their meal in December. If you are able to donate any of these items there will be a box in the church fellowship hall, or if you would prefer to donate money and have someone from our committee make the purchase that will be wonderful also. Items purchased should be at the church by December 18th. This gift will be greatly appreciated by the men.

Coffee and Conversation Resumes

It has been a while, but Coffee and Conversation returns for 3 weeks on December 3rd. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30am, Christian will be hosting a study on our church's Facebook page. You can watch live or any other time throughout the week. This study will be about our journey to the manger and the people that we meet along the way.



Christmas Ornament Fundraiser

This holiday season, you are invited to buy a new Christmas ornament for your tree. These ornaments are locally made and available for \$20 each. There is a sign-up sheet located on the narthex table or you can contact the church office. Funds should be given to Christian or Sandra. The deadline for orders is December 15th and all profits will support the Soul Sisters' effort to provide Christmas gifts for those who may not have them otherwise.



Troop 20 Scouts in Action at Edgar Evins State Park

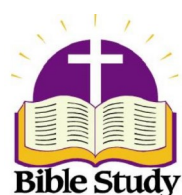
Our Scouts are hard at work again! The boys from Troop 20 recently lent a hand to the rangers at Edgar Evins State Park, clearing brush to prepare a site for a new historical exhibit. It's a great example of how our Scouts are actively giving back to the community and helping preserve local history.





HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 28th	Thanksgiving Day
December 1st	First Sunday in Advent Feast of Ingathering
December 4th	Advent Service of Light - 6pm
December 8th	Second Sunday in Advent
December 15th	Third Sunday in Advent Sanctuary Choir presents 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



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.



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.



The church expresses condolences to the family of Claudine Lacy. Claudine passed away this past week at her home. A Celebration of Life was held yesterday. Please remember Bill and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Claudine Lacy; 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).

