



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 4, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.— John 14:27***

As I prepare for worship this coming Sunday, I keep being reminded that the theme for the day is “peace.” Yet, this week, peace seems to elude me. As I prepare for this service, I am also preparing for Tuesday/Thursday Bible studies, tonight’s worship service, working on denomination responsibilities, trying to visit members in the hospital and at home, and making trips to Murfreesboro to be with my father while he is in the hospital.

I do not say that to complain. I know that many of you are experiencing calendars that are filled with increased responsibilities during this season. I know that many of you have problems and pains with which you are struggling. For many of us, the theme of “peace” seems to mock us during this season.

With peace seeming so elusive, we are invited to Advent. The season of Advent is a reminder that something better is on the way. The season of Advent is a reminder that peace may not be today’s reality, but it is coming. While we have the “peace” of mind that we have a greater future, we are not promised that we will have an easy life as we approach that glorious future. This week is busy. This season is busy. “Peace” of schedule may not come my way soon, but I have the “peace” that God has a glorious plan that will come to fruition one of these days.

Coffee and Conversation Resumes

It has been a while, but Coffee and Conversation returns for 3 weeks beginning 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.



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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 8th, will be the 2nd Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach the sermon using Malachi 3:1-5 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 Service of Light **December 4, 2024 - 6pm**

On December 4th at 6pm, we will be having a service that is new to our congregation. This service of song and scripture will remind us of God's prophecies for a Messiah and how that promised savior will bring light and hope to the world. Please make plans to join us as we begin the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for the Christmas season with this service of light.

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.

Circle Meetings

The Love-Joy Circle will meet tomorrow, December 9th, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. All ladies of the church are invited to attend/participate in Circle activities..

The Sonshine Circle will meet Tuesday, December 10th, at 10am in the Family Life Center. Our study of hymns will include Christmas hymns to fit the season. All ladies are invited to attend.



Children/Youth Christmas Play

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas play on Dec. 22 (8:45 & 11am services). The play will feature children & youth of all ages! Practices will be during the Sunday School hour **December 8th & 15th**. If you have questions or can't attend a practice, contact Mel Presley at 931-260-4200.



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

(100) servings refried beans

(100) Nutri-grain bars

(10lbs) shredded Mexican cheese

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.

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>

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!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 1, 2024

Commitments - \$15,180.00 Undesignated - \$3,315.00 Other - \$925.00

This week's offerings includes \$225.00 for Poinsettias, \$100.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$250.00 for Tuesday Assistance, \$200.00 for Priority House and \$150.00 for altar flowers.

Total Deposit - \$19,420.00

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.



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 ladies in the church are invited to attend. Bring a snack or dessert to share; drinks and prizes will be provided.



"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.

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.



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/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrrsLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0

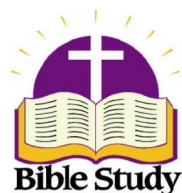


Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in honor of Sandra Robbins and Josh Davis in appreciation for the talents and blessings they share with us this season and all year long. Thank you! The Gotchers

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.



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.



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.



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

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.





*St. Michael's Craft & Bake Sale
Saturday, December 7
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
640 N. Washington Ave.*



*Pottery
Stained Glass
Woodworking
Baked Goods
Do your Christmas
shopping here!*



*ALL proceeds will be used for ongoing Outreach projects.
Parking is behind the church; follow signs to the Parish Hall upstairs. Cash, checks, and Venmo accepted.*



The church expresses condolences to the family of Dick Brumfield. Dick and Pat recently moved from Cookeville to an assisted living facility in the South Carolina area. Dick passed away on Monday of this past week. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date and that date will be made known when it becomes available..

Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Dick Brumfield; Eddie Smith (Christian's father); Patty Shoulders (Janna Greer's daughter - cancer surgery); Allison McDonald (surgery); Wanda McCaskey; Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); Mary Broussard (friend of Tim & Liz Fournet); 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: Allen Kolath; Niki Work; Heidi Blessing; Kim Daniels; Margaret Merrill (Evelyn Hyder's sister - pancreatic cancer).

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

