



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 11, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!— Psalm 95:1***

Many of you know that my father has had some health issues over the last week. He is having problems that are affecting his brain and causing his memory to suffer. While we have hope that most of his memories will return, for the past week and a half, his memory has been greatly diminished and he has not been able to communicate with more than a few words at a time.

While there are some things that he cannot remember, one thing that he has not, and likely will not, forget is music. This past weekend, my brother started playing some of the music that my dad has always loved. My father, who had not been able to remember his date of birth or, at times, the names of some of his children, began to sing.

Music is powerful. One of the things I enjoy is attending concerts and live music events. At those events, you will find people from different walks of life. You will find people with different opinions and experiences. But music brings them all together. Music has the power to evoke emotions, bring people together, and even impact mental and physical health.

This week, we will have the opportunity to worship together through music as the Sanctuary Choir shares the cantata that they have been rehearsing. I invite you on Sunday as we celebrate God through the power of songs that can bring us hope and healing.

Coffee and Conversation Resumes

We invite you to join us for Coffee and Conversation during the time of Advent leading up to Christmas. 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.



First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 15th, will be the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. Our Sanctuary Choir will be presenting our Christmas Cantata entitled "Hope." 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.

We are excited to welcome Gene and Vicki Schmid as the newest members of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They joined the church on December 8th during our 11:00am service.



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.



"Hope"

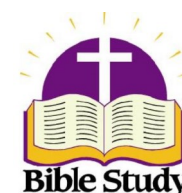
Sunday, December 15th

8:45 & 11:00am

The First Cumberland Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir will present a Christmas Cantata THIS SUNDAY in both worship services. The work features narration and songs that represent 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.



Food to the Rescue Packing Day

*****NEXT 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 8, 2024

Commitments - \$2,280.00 Undesignated - \$3,221.00 Other - \$722.50

This week's offerings includes \$90.00 for Poinsettias, \$280.00 for Christmas ornaments, \$50.00 for Missions, a CPNS reimbursement for \$227.50 and \$75.00 for altar flowers.

Total Deposit - \$6,763.50

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.



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

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.



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 this Sunday and all profits will support the Soul Sisters' effort to provide Christmas gifts for those who may not have them otherwise.





HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 (2:30 - 5:00pm)
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service - 6pm
December 25th	Christmas Day
December 29th	One-Service Sunday Sunday School - 9am Worship - 10am



Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and to thank Christian, Jodi and Maggie for their hard work and dedication to all the church family.

Don Anderson

Christmas Concert

Mastersingers Incorporated of Cookeville will be presenting Sir John Rutter's: **Gloria**, as well as timeless Christmas favorites on Sunday, December 15th, at 3pm. The choral concert, **Welcome All Wonders!**, will take place in the auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts Building (1150 N Dixie Avenue). Tickets are \$15.00 per person and may be purchased at Mastersingersinc.com.



Christmas Caroling

Everyone in the church is invited to come together for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Monday, December 23rd, at 2:30pm. The homebound in our church are always so grateful and excited to have a group of folks come bless them with helping to celebrate the season. Soup and chili will be served after the Caroling adventure. Plan to stay, fellowship, and get warm!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The church's annual Christmas Eve Service features nine lessons and carols and includes a time of open communion. It concludes with the sharing of candlelight while singing the ageless carol "Silent Night". The service begins at 6:00pm and everyone is 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.

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>

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.

5th Sunday Worship

Sunday, December 29th, is a fifth Sunday and we will come together to worship as one congregation. Sunday School will start at 9:00am with worship following at 10:00. Come join us as we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas!





Prayer Requests



Individuals: Claude Ann Burton (pacemaker); Jere Gentry (heart bypass); Sandra Robbins (wrist surgery); 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).

