

Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 18, 2024*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.— Joshua 1:9



I don't know who, though I have my suspicions, but someone has left several of these little Jesus figures around the church. I have found one on my office door, one on Sandra's office door, one in the church mailboxes, and one under the pulpit. I have no idea how many more there might be, but I have enjoyed finding them.

At first, it was just an amusing distraction as I wondered who left them and where I might find the next one. But then I realized that the person who was leaving them behind was making a great theological point. This person could have chosen to leave Jesus in their pocket. Jesus could have just been this person's lucky charm that they pulled out when it was convenient. Instead, they chose to share Jesus with others. They chose to make sure that other people would have the joy of finding the presence of Christ in their lives.

Are we simply holding on to Christ for ourselves? Or are we making sure that others have the opportunity to find Jesus? Are we treating Christ as ours alone? Or are we sharing Christ with the world around us? Everywhere we go, people ought to have the chance to find Jesus. Giving Jesus to others will not leave us without, but will help the presence of Christ to grow greater in our lives and the lives of others.

Lots going on!

Check out the Christmas Schedule for a list of special services/events during the remainder of the Advent and Christmas season!

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

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 22nd, will be the 4th Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. Our children will be presenting their Christmas program, "The Party." Afterward, our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will be sharing a brief sermonette using Micah 5:2-5 as the scripture. 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.



Children/Youth Christmas Play

Please join us for a very special presentation to take place this coming Sunday. The children and youth of the church will be presenting the Christmas play, "The Party." They have worked hard to put the play together so be sure to come out and support them!

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/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnnhrsrLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

THIS EVENING 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!

Coffee and Conversation

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.



SIGNUP SHEET FOR NURSERY HELP

Our nursery attendant, Kiana Gentry, is now on maternity leave and the church needs some help in the nursery. We have just a couple of weeks left before Kiana returns in January. There is a nursery volunteer signup sheet on the narthex table. You can 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.

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!



Christmas Caroling

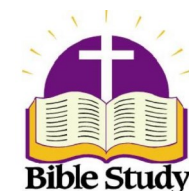
Everyone in the church is invited to come together for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Monday, December 23rd, at 2:30pm. The homebound in our church are always so grateful and excited to have a group of folks come bless them with helping to celebrate the season. Soup and chili will be served after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

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.





HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 in loving memory of Gene (Vernon) Pinkley by Carolyn Pinkley.

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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 15, 2024

Commitments - \$5,470.00 Undesignated - \$2,143.00 Other - \$25.00

This week's offerings includes \$15.00 for Poinsettias and \$10.00 for Recovery Kitchen.

Total Deposit - \$7,638.00





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.



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>

Prayer Requests



Individuals: Greg Hensley (brain tumor); Claude Ann Burton (pacemaker); Jere Gentry; Sandra Robbins (wrist surgery); the family of Dick Brumfield; Eddie Smith (Christian's father); 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).





There will be no Mid-Week Manna distribution next Wednesday, the 25th of December. The Pastor and Staff of the church want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You are a blessing to us all and for that we are thankful!

