



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
January 1, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

**Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but evil comes to the one who searches for it. – Proverbs 11:27**



Today, we begin the year 2025. It is a new year with new possibilities and new promises. So often, as we approach this day, people are longing for a new beginning. They want a clean slate. During the last year, we have all had disappointments. We have experienced loss and pain. We have seen division and anger. We have suffered through heartbreaks and difficult moments. So, we long for a new beginning and the hope of experiencing more joy in the upcoming year.

For many, it is easier to look back and see the frustrations than it is to look back and see the successes of the previous year. However, we have all had plenty of victories. We have had those moments that brought us happiness. We have had moments when we have experienced joy in our homes, our schools, our businesses, and our church. We have had the moments when we have seen God working in our lives and in the world around us.

As we begin a new year, perhaps the most valuable resolution that we can make is to strive to focus more on the good that is around us and less on the negative. We tend to find that for which we look. A new calendar year will not solve our problems, but a renewed focus on all the good that God is doing will certainly change our outlook on the world around us.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, January 5th, will be the 2nd Sunday of Christmas. The chancel color will be white. Our pastor, Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using John 1:9-18 as the scripture. We will begin the year by partaking in the sacrament of Holy Communion. 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 Bill and Janna Greer as the newest members of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They joined the church on December 22nd during our 11:00am service.



Seeking Liturgists for Sunday Services

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>





We are thankful to our children for doing a great job presenting our Christmas play in both of our worship services on December 22. We are also thankful to Mel Presley for directing 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/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrsrLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0





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.



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.

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 29, 2024

Commitments - \$7,785.00 Undesignated - \$975.00 Other - \$2,959.00

This week's offerings includes \$60.00 for facility usage, a \$150.00 donation to Recovery Kitchen and \$2,749.00 in Christmas Eve offerings.

Total Deposit - \$11,719.00

Wednesday Connection Resumes

We will resume our Wednesday Connection activities on January 15th. Connection begins with dinner at 5:15p.m. Dinner is free for everyone, and our Fellowship and Outreach Ministry Team does a great job providing us with a wonderful meal. To ensure we have plenty of food, we ask that you make either a one-time or a standing reservation by contacting the church office.

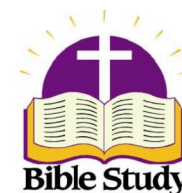
At 6:00pm, our youth group, children's group and our Twisted Stitchers crafting group meet. At 6:15pm, our adult meets in the Upper Commons. This semester, Christian will be teaching a class about the parables of Jesus.





Men's Bible Study

The **Tuesday Noon** Men's Bible Study will resume a study on the book of Galatians on **January 7th**. We are using Max Lucado's **Life Lessons from Galatians** as our text. All men in the church congregation are encouraged/invited to attend.



Prayer Requests



Individuals: Jere Gentry (heart bypass surgery); the family of Greg Hensley (Georgia's son); Claude Ann Burton (Lifecare in Sparta); 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; 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).

