



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
January 22, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
- Matthew 5:16***

On Saturday, our church session will be meeting to have their annual retreat. During this retreat, the session will examine how our congregation might better serve one another, our community, and the Kingdom of God.

In preparation for the retreat, I sent a survey to the members of the session with a series of questions about the status of our church. One of the questions I ask the session each year is, “If we were to ask people in our community what this church is known for, what would their response be?”

That is an important question for our church and each of us individually. The answer I received from several members of our leadership is that we are known as the “church in the woods” or the “church with the cross in the window.” While those are important characteristics of our facilities, that is not enough. If that is all we are known for, then we are only known for existing. People need to know more about us. But we have to show them what we want them to know about us. Personally, I would much rather our church be known for what we are doing for God and for others.

Likewise, as people of faith, each of us needs to ask what we as individuals are known for. Are we simply existing or do people recognize us as being people of love, compassion, mercy, and service? Are we doing all that is necessary for people to see those characteristics in us?

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

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, January 26th will be the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Luke 4:14-21 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.

2025 Youth Retreat

Our youth group spent the past weekend fellowshiping, learning, and planning for the future. We are thankful to Ashley for her leadership with the group.



Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

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>

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

Our Church Ministries

This Saturday, January 25th, members of the 2025 Church Session body will meet to continue the process of making plans for various areas of the church. Below, you will find a list of the ministries to which our church elders have been assigned. We invite and encourage you to contact these representatives with any ideas or questions you might have regarding the church. While our church elders are beginning the process of reaching out to and asking people to serve with them, you do not have to wait for a call. Feel free to contact them and let them know that you would be excited to serve.

Building and Grounds

Chris Langford
Shane Welch

Missions

Al Middleton
Tina Thurman

Cumberland Presbyterian Nursery School

Jeff Peek

Christian Education

Carroll Gotcher
Jodi Smith

Stewardship and Finance

Tim Fournet
Jim Greeson

Fellowship and Outreach

Nathan Fletcher
Kathie Chapman

Worship and Music

Angie Knight
Dan Elbert

Presbyterian Student Association/

UKirk - Gary Alspaugh



Scout Sunday and Breakfast

On Sunday, February 9th, we will be celebrating the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and our congregation as we celebrate Scout Sunday during both of our worship services. As a part of the celebration, our local Boy Scout Troop, Troop 20, will be providing breakfast for the church during our Sunday School hour.



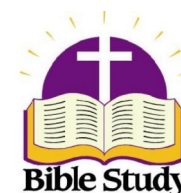
JOY Club Outing

The JOY Club is offering an outing for the “Just Older Youth” of our church. Please join us on February 6th at NOON for a dutch treat Valentine’s lunch at Nick’s Restaurant on Jefferson Avenue. There is a signup sheet on the narthex table for those who would like to participate.

Wednesday Connection ACTIVITIES CANCELED

Men’s Bible Study

The Tuesday Noon Men’s Bible Study resumes next week 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.



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.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, January 19, 2024

Commitments - \$6,105.00 Undesignated - \$1079.00 Other - \$112.00

This week’s offerings includes \$112.00 in donations for the 01/15 Connection meal.

Total Deposit - \$7,296.00





Inclement Weather Policy Reminders

We have seen quite a lot of snow and chilly temperatures in January and we will probably see more of the same. A reminder that if school has been dismissed on a Connection Wednesday, we will NOT meet. Decisions about Sunday services are discussed by Christian and the Church Session and decisions are made to protect you and your family. Correspondence via our church app will let you know of decisions made regarding inclement weather. Our primary concern is the safety of you and your family. As always, we encourage you to make the best decision for you and your family!



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.

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.

Prayer Requests



Individuals: Carlene Byrne; Georgia Hensley (home); Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart's brother-in-law); Claude Ann Burton (surgery); Jere Gentry (heart bypass surgery); the family of Jane Roberts (Mike Roberts' mother); the family of Greg Hensley (Georgia's son); Eddie Smith (Christian's father); Allison McDonald; Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); Mary Broussard (friend of Tim & Liz Fournet); Linda Stringer (Evon Maggart's sister); Evelyn (Bonnie) Hyder; 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; Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe).

