



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
January 29, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

**“Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us[e] by the hand.”
– Psalm 37:23**

While I don't often announce this, every December, I try to choose a theme on which I will focus during my preaching and teaching during the coming year. For 2025, I chose to focus on the idea of “next steps.” During the year, I will challenge myself, the session, and the congregation to focus on what they can do next. While we ought to celebrate the work and the victories that we have along the way, it is those “next steps” that we are willing to make that will make a difference in the lives of others.

During worship this coming Sunday, we will remember the life and ministries of the founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. Our founders had faced difficult times. They attempted to do the work of the Kingdom of God, but were met with numerous roadblocks along the way. They could have simply been content with the work they had done. They could have complained about the people who stood against them. They could have declared that they could not make a difference. Instead, they decided to take the “next step” and sought to share the message that salvation was available to all people and not just a few.

Because they sought to take the “next steps” and share a message of grace, our denomination was formed, and countless people have found salvation through Christ. Because they were willing to take the “next steps,” our denomination and our message of grace have spread across the globe. Without them taking those steps, it is not unreasonable to believe people would have missed out on a relationship with Christ. What are the “next steps” that you can take to share the message of grace? Who will miss out on a relationship with Christ if you don't take those steps?

JOY Club Outing

The JOY Club is offering an outing for the “Just Older Youth” of our church. Please join us on Thursday, 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. We will be discussing plans for the remainder of 2025. We would love to have you join us!



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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, February 2nd, will be Denominational Sunday. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Luke 4:21-30 as the scripture. Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45am or 11:00am as we worship God, celebrate the 215th birthday of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination, and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. 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 White and Donna Larsen as the newest members of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They joined the church on January 26th during our 8:45am service.



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>





Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

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 our 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, February 7th**.

(6) 45 oz marinara sauce
(96) hoagie buns (Aldi)
10 lbs shredded mozzarella

(4) 100 oz green beans
(100) individual chips

(96) bananas or oranges
(96) individual desserts

Please let Alice know if you would prefer to donate the funds for an item or items. She is happy to pick them up for you! You can get your money to Alice or Sandra in the church office. Thank you for your giving hearts and generous donations.

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 preparing 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

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 continuing to reach out to find people to serve with them, please do not 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.



Wednesday Connection



Our Wednesday Connection program has resumed! As always, we begin with dinner at 5:15p.m. Dinner is free for everyone, and our Fellowship and Outreach Ministry Team does a great job of providing us with a wonderful meal. To ensure we have plenty of food, we do 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 class meets in the Upper Commons. This semester, Christian is teaching a class about the parables of Jesus.

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.



NEW Inclement Weather Policy



In the January 25th church session retreat/meeting, a decision was made to make some changes to the existing church inclement weather policy. In the past, all church activities were canceled if our school system was closed. The new policy states that while children and youth activities will still be canceled if school is dismissed, adult activities may meet if the participants wish to do so. As always, the safety of church members comes first and each person/family should attend activities as they feel comfortable.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, January 26, 2024

Commitments - \$5,605.00	Undesignated - \$2828.00	Other - \$0.00
Total Deposit - \$8,433.00		



A Bridal Tea



Please join us for a Tea to celebrate and meet Katherine Neusner, the bride-to-be of William Hitchcock. The Tea will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, from 2-4pm at the home of Liz Fournet. The address is 310 W. Cleveland Avenue - Monterey, TN - 38574. Please RSVP to Ashton Hitchcock at 931-644-2778. William and Katherine are registered at:

withjoy.com/willandkaty/registry



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.

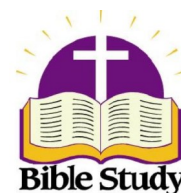
CPWM Spring Yard Sale

You read it right! The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry is once again sponsoring a yard sale - this time in the Spring of the year!!! Many of you will be "spring-cleaning" soon and the Women's Ministry would love to have you donate items that you no longer need or use. The Spring Yard Sale is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 5th, at 7am in the area of the Family Life Center. We will begin collecting items on the 31st of March and encourage you to bring in your items early in the week if possible.



Men's Bible Study

The **Tuesday Noon** Men's Bible Study has resumed 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.



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.



Sympathy



The church expresses condolences to the family of John Joyce, Sarah Joyce’s son. John passed away yesterday evening in Cookeville. Service arrangements are incomplete at this time. We will keep you informed of service plans. Please remember Sarah and the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of John Joyce (Sarah Joyce’s son); Nate Byers (broken leg); Mike Clift (Rome, GA); Carlene Byrne; Georgia Hensley (home); Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart’s brother-in-law); Claude Ann Burton (home); Jere Gentry; Eddie Smith (Christian’s father); Allison McDonald; Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); 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).

