



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
February 5, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” – Isaiah 43:18-19

Yesterday, our denomination celebrated its 215th birthday. For over two centuries, Cumberland Presbyterians around the globe have sought to share the good news of Christ and to help people understand that “whosoever will” is welcome in the Kingdom of God. Our denomination has seen its ups and downs. We have seen mighty victories, and we have faced immense struggles. When we come to these anniversary dates, it is tempting to simply remember our history and live in the past.

However, while we learn a great deal from our past, we are called to focus not on what we have done but on what we can do. If we, as a denomination, a church, or individuals, want to continue to help people to have better relationships with Christ and want to continue to make a difference for God’s kingdom, then we need to focus not on the problems and successes of yesterday, but instead, we need to seek out the chances that we have to serve God and the people around us.

Taking a step into the future and seeking new opportunities to help other people know the comfort and hope of God can be scary. However, we are promised that if we will leave the past behind and move forward into the future, we will not do so alone. We are promised in Jeremiah 29:11, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Happy anniversary to our denomination. Now let’s look to see what the future holds.

Scout Sunday and Breakfast

This 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.



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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, February 9th, will be Scout Sunday. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Matthew 25:31-46 as the scripture. Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45am or 11:00am as we worship God. If you are unable to join us in person, the 8:45am service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.

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>

Circles to Meet



The ladies' Love-Joy Circle will be meeting on Monday, February 10th, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. All women in the church congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

The women's Sonshine Circle will meeting Tuesday, February 11th, in the Family Life Center next to the church. We will continue our study of hymns of the church. All ladies in the church are invited and encouraged to attend.

NEW Inclement Weather Policy

In the past, all church activities were canceled if our school system was closed. Our new inclement weather policy states that when we experience bad weather, children and youth activities will be canceled when 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.



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



Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

The Role of Greeters in the Church

An important part of what we do in our church is greeting those that come into the church for the first time. They sometimes come in during the Sunday School hour and we like to have someone available to meet and greet them. We are in need of folks to take on this duty.



With a number of greeters signed up, you would be responsible for serving once every four to six weeks. We would love to have several people serve in this role. Please contact Sandra in the church office if this is something you are interested in and would be willing to do. Thank you!

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/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrrsLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/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



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.

Statements of Giving

Statements of Giving will be available on the narthex table this Sunday, February 9th. Please take a moment to pick yours up. If you did not turn in a commitment card for 2024 and wish to receive a 2024 Statement of Giving, please contact Liz immediately at lizsheets@charter.net. Also, let Liz know if you have any questions about your Statement of Giving.

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.



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, February 2, 2024

Commitments - \$9,435.00	Undesignated - \$3,751.00	Other - \$798.00
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Additional income for Sunday includes \$250.00 for the Tuesday Assistance program, \$270.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$83.00 in donations for the 01/29 Connection meal and a \$195.00 reimbursement from CPNS.

Total Deposit - \$13,984.00



Altar Flower Coordinator

We are seeking someone to oversee the task of coordinating Sunday's altar flower arrangements. This position would entail keeping up with who has signed up for flowers, contacting them to determine what type/color flowers they would like, ordering the flowers from Gunnels, and gathering information about the dedication to be put in the weekly bulletin. The dedication goes to Sandra in the church office. Sandra will assist with contact information. If interested in the position, contact Angie Knight or Sandra Robbins.

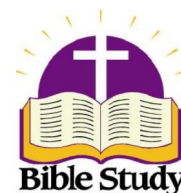
CPWM Spring Yard Sale

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.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Jim Lansford (fall); David Huddleston; the family of John Joyce (Sarah Joyce's son); Nate Byers (broken foot); Mike Clift (Rome, GA); Carlene Byrne; Georgia Hensley; 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: Caleb Reese; Allen Kolath; Niki Work; Heidi Blessing; Kim Daniels; Margaret Merrill (Evelyn Hyder's sister - pancreatic cancer).

Assisted Living: Jo Gentry; Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe).