



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
February 12, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

**“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.” – I John 3:18**

During my sermon on Sunday, I began by asking the congregation, “What is the most powerful word in the English language?” During both services, someone from the pews stated that they believed that it was “love.” I wish that the word “love” was the most powerful. As I said in my sermon on Sunday, “Love is intimate. It is meaningful. Love is a reminder of what we are called to do. But it is not as powerful as it could be because we all have different ideas of what love should look like.”

Love would be more powerful if we did not add so many exceptions to our love. “I love you, but you need to act more like me.” “I love you, but I cannot accept what you believe.” I would love them, but they don’t look like me.” We seemingly seek to restrict who is worthy of our love. As we said Sunday, anything before the word “but” is nonsense.

As we approach Valentine’s Day and the celebration of love, let us remember that God gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan to remind us of who it is we should love. From that parable, we learn that we are called to love not the few people close to us but all people. If we want “love” to really be one of the most powerful words in the world, we must stop putting restrictions on our love. Just love all people. No ifs, ands, or buts about it.

Altar Flower Coordinator Needed



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.

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org





Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, February 16th, will be the 6th Sunday after Epiphany. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Psalm 1 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>

A Bridal Tea

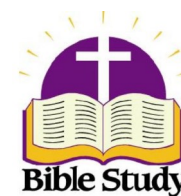


Please join us for a Tea to celebrate and meet Katherine Neusner, the bride-to-be of William Hitchcock. The Tea will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, from 2-4pm at the home of Liz Fournet. The address is 310 W. Cleveland Avenue - Monterey, TN - 38574. Please RSVP to Ashton Hitchcock at 931-644-2778.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

withjoy.com/willandkaty/registry

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.



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. On the menu for this evening is Chicken Cordon Bleu, green beans, carrots and rolls; apple pie for dessert.

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.

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

JOY Club Outing



The JOY Club will be going to the Soard Properties Museum on Thursday, March 6th, at 10am. Prior to that, at 9am, we will be going to Grandma's Pancake House on South Willow for breakfast (dutch treat). We will meet at the museum for a tour at 10am. We hope all the "youthful older folks" in our church will join us for this adventure. There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex.

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.



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 9, 2024

Commitments - \$7,770.00 Undesignated - \$6,965.15 Other - \$339.00

Included in other giving are a \$70.00 miscellaneous donation, \$100.00 to Recovery Kitchen, \$50.00 for altar flowers and \$119.00 in 02/05 Connection meal donations.

Total Deposit - \$15,074.15



*Annual
Giving
Statements*

Statements of Giving are now available on the narthex table. 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.

Sympathy



The church family extends its condolences to the family of Jim Lansford (Stacey Byers' father). Jim passed away on Sunday, the 9th, at Vanderbilt in Nashville. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 15th, at 1:00pm at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Visitation will take place from 10am to time of service. Please remember Stacey, Bill, Nate, Brody and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Thank You

To our church family we express our sincere gratitude for the pouring out of love and concern for our family as we process the loss of our John Wesley.

Sarah, Karen, John Daniel, Denise, Debbie, Dianne and all the family

To my Church family: I want to thank each of you for all the calls, cards, and most of all, the prayers, during this difficult time.

Georgia Hensley

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.



Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Jim Lansford; 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: Patty Shoulders (Janna Greer’s daughter - 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).

