



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
March 5, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” – Genesis 3:19

Today, we take our first steps on our journey through Lent. This journey will lead us down a path of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Tonight, we will receive the ashes on our foreheads, and we will be reminded of our mortality. It would be easy to hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” and to hear a message of despair. But this is also a message of invitation.

We are invited to remember that life is full of possibility and promise because we worship a God of possibility and promise. We worship a God who invites us to journey through life with the constant presence and divine love that can only be offered by God. So, Lent is our annual reminder of the constant invitation to turn our hearts toward God and ask, “What is my next step, and where is God leading me?”

No matter where you may find yourself on your faith journey, this season is an opportunity to take a step toward healing, toward renewal, and toward God. Over these forty days, we are invited to pray more intentionally, listen closely for God’s voice, and open ourselves to being transformed. May this season be an opportunity to discover where you are in your walk with God. May it draw you closer to God’s purpose for your life.



On March 22nd at 9:00am we will be having a church clean-up day to help prepare our sanctuary for the guests who will join us on April 12th for the spring meeting of Murfreesboro Presbytery. We encourage you to bring your yard tools and help us clean up outside or help us clean up spaces in the building. There is a job for everyone. Please join us as we take care of our worship space.

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

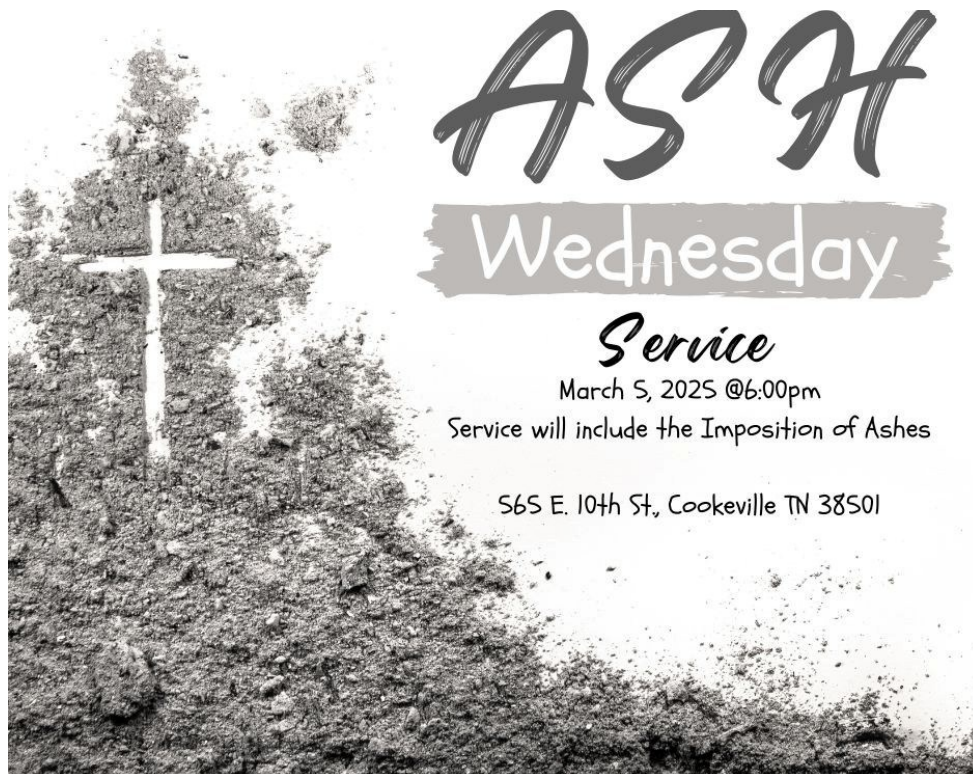
931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information



Sunday, March 9th, will be the First Sunday of Lent. The chancel color will be purple. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Acts 9:1-9 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "Where Do I Go?" 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.



Cosby King and Maggie Smith have been invited to join the Winchester, TN Cumberland Presbyterian Church mission trip to the Dominican Republic in June. Cosby and Maggie know many of the folks from that congregation due to their participation in many church retreats, camps and youth conferences.

Due to the distance from Winchester to Cookeville, the girls will not be able to participate in the fundraising projects with the Winchester group. The cost of the trip will be \$1,500.00 per person. We are giving the congregation an opportunity to donate to this mission. Please earmark your donation to the Mission trip for Cosby and Maggie "Mission trip" and place it in the offering plate or give it to one of our church staff.

Questions can be directed to Cosby, Maggie or Christian. We look forward to hearing Cosby and Maggie sharing their experiences with us on their return.



Discover Your Next Steps

Join us for a 7-week sermon series that will lead us through Lent and Easter Sunday as we work together to discover our next steps in our service to God's Kingdom.

Beginning Sunday, March 2

Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
565 E. 10th St. Cookeville, TN 38501
www.cookevillecpcchurch.org



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, March 7th**.

(96) hoagie rolls (Aldi)
(6) heads of lettuce
(16) tomatoes
(4) 100 oz cream corn

(100) individual chips
(96) bananas or oranges
or fruit cups
(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.



Download the FCPC Smartphone App

For our smartphone users, there is a 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.



Lenten Prayer Time



This Lenten season, we are offering you the chance to add some dedicated prayer time to your schedule. During Lent, (March 9 - April 13) we will be opening the church chapel on Sunday evenings from 4-5pm to offer you a time and a place away from the distractions of the outside world so that you can speak to God and, more importantly, listen for God's instruction and love for you. If you do not know what to pray for, we will have some suggestions available for you.



Flower Challenge

The Pathfinders Sunday School Class challenges other adult Sunday School Classes and other church groups to recognize a mission, cause, group, or event by providing flowers in the church sanctuary from time to time. There are several open slots for reserving flowers. For details, please contact Barbara Greeson at 931-260-3069.

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>



TIME CHANGE!

Prepare for church an hour earlier on Sunday! Daylight savings time takes effect this weekend.

Circles to Meet



The Love-Joy Circle will be meeting on Monday, March 10th, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. Members are encouraged to attend and an invitation is extended to any lady in the church who would like to join us.

The Sonshine Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 11th, at 10am in the Family Life Center. We will continue our study on Christian hymnody. All members are encouraged to attend. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.



Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

Needed: 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 still looking for families/individuals to assist us in the preparation of communion elements for services. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month as well as for a couple of special services in the year. 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 willing to participate in, you can 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

Christian Education

Carroll Gotcher
Jodi Smith

Fellowship and Outreach

Nathan Fletcher
Kathie Chapman

Missions

Al Middleton
Tina Thurman

Stewardship and Finance

Tim Fournet
Jim Greeson

Worship and Music

Angie Knight
Dan Elbert

Cumberland Presbyterian Nursery School

Jeff Peek

Presbyterian Student Association/

UKirk - Gary Alspaugh

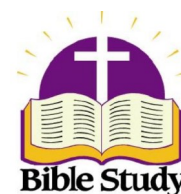


Statements of Giving are available on the narthex table. Please take a moment to pick yours up. If you did not turn in a commitment card for 2024 and wish to receive a 2024 Statement of Giving, please contact Liz immediately at lizsheets@charter.net. Also, let Liz know if you have any questions about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



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.



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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, March 2, 2025

Commitments - \$24,015.00 Undesignated - \$4,394.00 Other - \$1,268.00

Included in other giving is \$250.00 for Tuesday Assistance, \$50.00 for altar flowers, \$825.00 for the Dominican Republic mission trip, \$83.00 in donations from the 02/26

Connection meal and \$60.00 for facility use.

Total Deposit - \$29,677.00

Wet Felting Class



You are invited to join us for a Wet Felting Class on Friday, April 18th, from 8am to noon. Following the class (at noon), will be a Friday Holy Week service.

The cost for instructions and class materials will be \$35.00. Payment will be due at the time of the class. There are openings for six participants. If you would like to attend, please contact Angie Knight.





Bill, Nate, Brody, and I want to thank our church family for all of the love and support you've given us over the last few weeks. We appreciate every single prayer, message, card, call, and meal. You have all helped us get through such a hard time, and we appreciate you all so much.

The Byers family

Altar Flowers

This past Sunday's altar flowers were placed in loving memory of Jessica Rector Clark. Love, Mom and family.



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.



Prayer Requests

Individuals: Randal Risher (medical emergency); Aaron Rutledge (nodular melanoma); Georgia Hensley (CRMC); Ken Soleck (Wendy Dewberry's father); Jackson Wigtil (juvenile diabetes); Carlene Byrne; Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart's brother-in-law); 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); 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).

