



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
March 12, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

“My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.” – Galatians 6:1

It is always easier to see someone else's mistakes than our own, isn't it? Yesterday, our men's Bible study group discussed the 6th chapter of Galatians. This passage offers clear guidance on how to compassionately help someone recognize their sins. Often, it is easier to look around and see the sins of others than it is to examine ourselves and discover our own shortcomings. It is also easier to tell someone else that they might be on the wrong path than it is to admit that we have strayed from where we ought to be. Sometimes, we judge others to make ourselves feel better about who we are. Other times, we judge others because we desperately want to put the spotlight of transgression on anyone other than ourselves.

But Paul doesn't stop at telling us what not to do—he also tells us what to do instead. In this passage, Paul instructs us to “Bear one another's burdens.” Paul is calling us to help others to understand not just where they may have failed but, more importantly, that they are still valued and loved by us and by God. In the same passage, Paul warns us against pride, saying, “For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.” It is easy to start making comparisons with others but it is not rewarding. God calls us to the rewarding path, and that is to walk in humility, to deal with others in gentleness, and to make sure that we are tending to our own spiritual health.



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 16th, will be the 2nd Sunday of Lent. The chancel color will be purple. We will be continuing our sermon series entitled “Discover Your Next Steps.” Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Hebrews 12:1-3 as the scripture. The sermon’s title is “What’s In My Way?” 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.



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



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.

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.

Wednesday Connection

Our Wednesday Connection program continues! 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-fried Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and 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.

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.



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>

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.

Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

CPWM Spring Yard Sale



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.

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

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



Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in celebration of and appreciation for the youth of our church by the Pathfinders Sunday School Class.

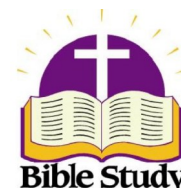


Sunday is the last day to pick up Statements of Giving. Please take a moment to pick yours up if you have not already not done so. If you did not turn in a commitment card for 2024 and wish to receive a 2024 Statement of Giving, please contact Liz immediately at lizsheets@charter.net. Also, let Liz know if you have any questions about your Statement of Giving.

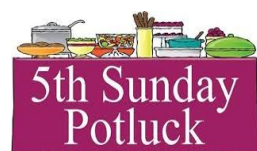


Men's Bible Study

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.

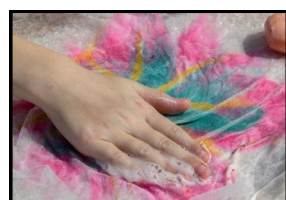


5th Sunday Worship & Lunch



Sunday, March 30th, is a fifth Sunday and we will come together to worship as one congregation. Sunday School will start at 9:00am with worship following at 10:00. We will fellowship together with a potluck lunch after the worship service. The church will provide meat, bread and tea, and you are asked to bring a side and/or dessert. Come be with us as we worship and fellowship together!

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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, March 2, 2025

Commitments - \$5,465.00 Undesignated - \$1,495.00 Other - \$1,425.00
Included in other giving is \$100.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$150.00 for altar flowers
and \$1,175.00 donated for the Dominican Republic youth mission trip.
Total Deposit - \$8,385.00





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.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Ginny Liebsch; 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).

