



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
March 19, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***"When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him."
Luke 5:11***

Just before I began writing this message, I finished packing for a trip this week. Whether it's a short business trip, like mine to Bowling Green, or a long family vacation, the process is the same. I plan, pack, and prepare for what's ahead. If you are like me, you pack early and carefully, lay out all of the essentials to make sure that you don't forget anything, and inevitably end up taking far more than you need. Others will throw things into their bag at the last minute, hoping that they have everything that is important.

As we continue on our journey through Lent and reflect on the idea of "Discovering Our Next Steps," I urge you to consider what we need to take with us and what we need to leave behind. While we need to make sure that we have the right tools with us, we also need to make sure that we are leaving behind our unnecessary burdens. As we walk toward God's will, we must equip ourselves with prayer, scripture, community, and the gifts of the Spirit. At the same time, we should let go of fear, doubt, hesitation, complacency, and anything that pulls us away from God.

When Jesus called his disciples, he asked them to leave their nets behind and to take the next step. This week, I encourage you to name one thing to leave behind and one thing to take with you as you take your next step toward Easter and the celebration of resurrection. We may not know every step of the journey, but if we are willing to keep our eyes on Jesus and trust in Him, we will move closer to the life God is calling us to live.



THIS SATURDAY 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 23rd, will be the 3rd 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 Luke 5:1-11 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "How Do I Start?" 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.



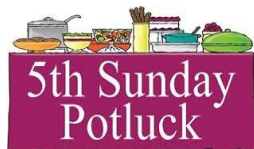
Discover Your Next Steps

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.cookevillecpchurch.org

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!



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.

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.

Holy Week Activities

We will soon be approaching Holy Week and all the activities that go with it. Please be aware that the following will be taking place during Holy Week:



Sunday, April 13

Monday-Friday, April 14-18

Thursday, April 17

Friday, April 18

Sunday, April 20

Palm Sunday Worship (8:45 & 11am)

Midday Holy Week Services (12pm)

Maundy Thursday Service (7pm)

Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)

Easter Sunday Worship (8:45 & 11am)

All services/activities will take place at FCPC.

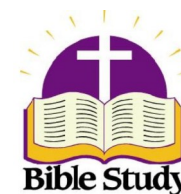
Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in appreciation for Sally Beyer and all that she has done to bring beauty to our church.



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.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, March 16, 2025

Commitments - \$7,890.00 Undesignated - \$2,284.00 Other - \$2156.00

Included in other giving is \$350.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$169.00 in Coke

money, \$1,530.00 donated for the Dominican Republic youth

mission trip and \$107.00 in donations for Connection meal donations.

Total Deposit - \$12,330.00

Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

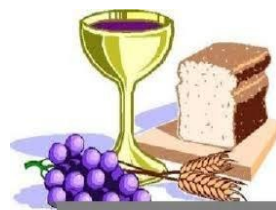
CPWM Spring Yard Sale



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

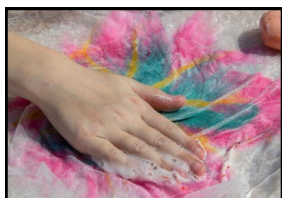
Worship and Music

Angie Knight
Dan Elbert

Presbyterian Student Association/ UKirk - Gary Alspaugh



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 just two more participants. If you would like to attend, please contact Angie Knight ASAP.

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>



Spring Break / Wednesday Connection

This week is Spring Break for our teachers and students. We will not be having our Wednesday Connection this. We will resume our program on the 26th of March.





Our church congregation expresses condolences to the family of Pat Brumfield. Pat passed away early last week in South Carolina. A Celebration of Life will be held for Pat and her husband, Richard (Dick) Brumfield, at a date later in the month. We will keep you informed about the service date. Please remember this family in your thoughts and prayers.



Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Pat Brumfield; 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).

