



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

Wednesday,
April 9, 2025

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” – Galatians 6:9-10

This Saturday at 9:00 a.m., we have the rare and meaningful opportunity to host a meeting of Murfreesboro Presbytery. These gatherings are how our denomination stays connected as we plan church camps, train ministers, support congregations, and seek to build one another up in faith and mission.

This meeting will be especially meaningful for our congregation, as one of our own, Cosby King, will stand before the body, seeking to be accepted as a candidate for ministry. This is a significant step in the journey of discernment for those sensing a call to ordained ministry. It’s also an understandably vulnerable moment as people stand in front of these ministers and elders and ask to be accepted. Your presence can be a powerful act of encouragement for Cosby and her family. Just by showing up, we remind them that they are not alone and that their church stands behind them.

But Cosby will not be the only one stepping forward. We will witness others being examined for licensing and ordination. It is a reminder to us all that God is still calling people to serve the church. Even when we don’t know their names, we can still meet those stepping forward in faith and offer them our encouragement.

This past Sunday we were called to not grow weary in doing what is right and to be encouragers on the journey of faith. This Saturday offers a tangible way to live out that call. So, I invite you to come, listen, pray, and be a quiet but strong voice of support. Be an encouragement to Cosby and the others who are seeking to follow their call and discover their next steps.

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, April 13th, will be Palm Sunday. The chancel color will be purple. We will be continuing our sermon series, "Discovering Our Next Steps." Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Philippians 1:3-11 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "How Far Have I Come?" Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45 and 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.



Holy Week Activities

We will be observing Holy Week beginning this Sunday, April 13th. We encourage all of you to attend as many services/activities as possible. The services and activities that will be taking place during Holy Week include:



Sunday, April 13
Monday-Friday, April 14-18
Thursday, April 17
Friday, April 18
Saturday, April 19
Sunday, April 20

Palm Sunday Worship (8:45 & 11am)
Midday Holy Week Services (12pm)
Maundy Thursday Service (7pm)
Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)
Easter Egg Hunt (10:30am)
Easter Sunday Worship (8:45 & 11am)

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



Lenten Prayer Time



This Lenten season, we are offering you the chance to add some dedicated prayer time to your schedule. This Sunday, we will be opening the church chapel 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 Services

As we journey through Holy Week, we invite you to gather with us for two meaningful services that prepare our hearts for Easter:

Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a reflective service of worship as we remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another. We will share in Holy Communion through intinction.

Good Friday Tenebrae – April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

This service of shadows invites us to walk with Christ through his final hours. Through Scripture and song, we will reflect on the depth of Christ's sacrifice as we gradually move into darkness.

Wednesday Connection

Tonight is the final Connection for this semester. 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 standing reservation by contacting the church office. On the menu for this evening is grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, baked beans 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 evening, Christian is teaching a class about the parable "The Fig Tree." We look forward to having you join us. See you soon!



Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God in honor of Reese Elizabeth Bayless, the new granddaughter of Lanny & Angie Knight; parents are SaraBeth & Josh Bayless of Cookeville.



Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

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>

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

Communion Preparation Signup

We are still looking for a family or individual to assist us in the preparation of communion elements for the month of May.

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



Updating our Email and Texting

We have moved to a new email service which also allows us to send texts to you when necessary. If you are interested in receiving those texts (we promise not to spam your messages), we need you to fill out the form at this link (<https://cookevillecpchurch.flocknote.com>), or contact Christian with your phone number.





We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th, at 10:30am at the FLC. We will hunt eggs, decorate eggs, and have lunch together. **If you are willing to help by providing treats and/or stuffing Easter eggs, they are available for pickup in the church office.**



Community Holy Week Worship Services

Each day during Holy Week, April 14–18, we have the honor of hosting members of our community as we gather for 30-minute worship services at 12:00 noon.

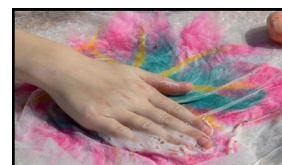
These brief but meaningful services feature a variety of ministers and musicians from churches across our area, offering a rich and diverse worship experience as we walk together toward Easter.

Following each service, lunch will be available and you're welcome to eat here or take it with you.

Everyone is invited to join us for this wonderful opportunity to pause in the middle of your day, worship with neighbors, and reflect on the meaning of the cross and resurrection.

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 is an opening for just one more participant. 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 left 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.

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.





Yard Sale a Great Success!



The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry expresses their utmost in gratitude for your contributions to making their Yard Sale a tremendous success! The ladies netted \$6,450.00 for their work in organizing and selling your generous donations. Our appreciation to all those that gave donations of sale items/financial contributions, helped organize/work the sale, picked up donations, those who provided lunch items and worked to clean up after the

sale. We thank the church for their support of our work, and monies collected are used to provide assistance to many in our community as well as support of many charities for various other ministries. Again, so many thanks to all of you for your help in making our sale such a successful venture!

New Church Directory

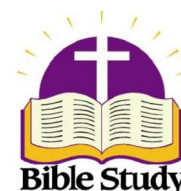
We are now working on a new church directory. We are asking each household to provide their information through a simple online questionnaire available at the following link:

(<https://forms.gle/53ZJKUrNsnEenHTd9>).

If you have a family picture that you would like to include, you can email or text that to Christian (christian@cookevillecpchurch.org / 931-265-8896). We will provide the opportunity for family pictures at a later date. Please let Christian know if you have questions or need help.

Men's Bible Study

The **Tuesday Noon** Men's Bible Study continues with a study on the book of Psalms. We are using Max Lucado's **Life Lessons from Psalms** as our text. All men in the church congregation are encouraged/invited to attend.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, April 6, 2025

Commitments - \$15,170.00 Undesignated - \$2,461.00 Other - \$923.00

Included in other giving is \$250.00 for the Tuesday Assistance program, \$185.00 for flowers, \$100.00 to the Music Program, \$60.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$145.00 for Easter Lilies, \$75.00 for facility use and \$108.00 in donations for Connection meals.

Total Deposit - \$18,554.00



CPNS Spring Prom!

The Cumberland Presbyterian Nursery School would like to invite you to our Spring Prom! It will be held in the Fellowship Hall on April 26th from 4:30pm to 8pm. This event is one of the ways CPNS fundraises to purchase needed items for our center.

The attire will be dressy casual and we will have music, food and door prizes! We will also have corsages/boutonnieres for purchase for the littles as well as a designated photographer to snap a photo for you to purchase.

Tickets will be \$25 for one adult and one child, and \$10 for each additional child. Tickets for church families will be available to purchase from Ms. Sandra's office or the nursery school from Madison or Ashlyn. Tickets go on sale April 1st!

We would ask anyone who is able and would like to, to donate items to help put this event/fundraiser together! Items that would be appreciated include: Baked Goods Fruit Trays Veggie Trays

If you would like to donate financially to sponsor ticket costs for families who may be unable to afford them or for the cost of decorations, that would also be greatly appreciated!

We look forward to having church families join us at this event as well as families from the center! Please join us!





I want to thank my church family for all the prayers and acts of kindness you have given to me. Blessings to everyone.

Carlene Byrne

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Jeff Peek (surgery); Kaye O'Brien (tests); 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; Nicki Work; Heidi Blessing; Kim Daniels; Margaret Merrill (Evelyn Hyder's sister - pancreatic cancer).

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

