



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
April 16, 2025*

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***“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!”
And she told them that he had said these things to her.” – John 20:1-18***

This week is full. It's full of services and songs, prayers and preparations, meals, and moments of reflection. It is full of community events, church events, and family events. The staff and many of the volunteers of the church have spent large amounts of time at the church already this week, with the promise of more to come. It can feel like we're moving nonstop from Palm Sunday to Easter morning.

But here's the thing. This week is full because it matters. Holy Week is a long and meaningful journey. It's emotional. It's sacred. And sometimes it's exhausting. We walk with Jesus through the cheers of the crowd, the quiet of the upper room, the agony of betrayal, the sham trials, and the heartbreak of the cross.

It is a painful, long journey. But it is worth it because Holy Week leads to resurrection. This Sunday, we'll gather with joy to proclaim what Christians have proclaimed for centuries: Christ is risen! But this year, I want to remind you that Easter is not the end of the story. In fact, it's just the beginning. As we conclude our Lenten series, “Discovering Our Next Steps,” we'll reflect on the question, “Is It Time to Celebrate?” We'll hear the story of Mary at the tomb, and we'll wonder together what it means to be people who don't just rejoice in the resurrection but follow the risen Christ into whatever comes next.

It's a busy week. But it ends in new life. It ends in hope. It ends in a new beginning. I hope you'll join us for this final step in the Lenten journey—and the first step of whatever God is doing next.

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We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th, at 10:00am at the FLC. We will hunt eggs, decorate eggs, and have lunch together. All our Easter eggs have been picked up for treats and we encourage you to return those as soon as possible.



First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, April 20th, will be Easter Sunday. The chancel color will be white. We will be concluding our sermon series, "Discovering Our Next Steps." Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using John 20:1-18 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "Is It Time to Celebrate?" 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 Schedule



Monday-Friday, April 14-18

Thursday, April 17

Friday, April 18

Saturday, April 19

Sunday, April 20

Midday Holy Week Services (12pm)

Maundy Thursday Service (7pm)

Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)

Easter Egg Hunt (10am)

Easter Sunday Worship (8:45 & 11am)

All services/activities will take place at FCPC.

You're invited to an Easter Sunday Potluck Brunch



This Sunday, join us for a potluck brunch between our two Easter services! Bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School classes are welcome to meet as usual, and families are invited to take Easter photos in the prayer garden.

We want this to be a simple, no-fuss gathering. Come as you are, bring what you can, and let's celebrate the joy of resurrection together with food, friendship, and faith!

JOY CLUB Outing

The JOY Club (anyone who is young at heart) invites you to attend Cookeville High School's production of "Mary Poppins" on Sunday, April 27th, at 2pm! We will be taking a bus to the High School and ask that you meet us in the parking lot of the church at 1pm. Ticket cost is \$20.00 per person.

There is a signup sheet on the narthex table and we ask that you sign up AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we may acquire tickets early. There will be a well-attended show and we don't want to miss out!



Hosanna to the King

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025



We want to thank our kids and their director, Mel Presley, for their hard work and leadership in our worship service.



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.

Attention Twisted Stitchers!



Connection has concluded for the semester but the Twisted Stitchers group **WILL** continue to meet through the summer. You are, of course, invited to attend any/all the meetings; we would love to have you join us. All levels of proficiency are invited! The stitchers meet on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Session Room of the church. Please join us!

Wednesday Connection

Last Wednesday concluded our Connection activities. We will, of course, pick back up in the Fall. We hope you will plan to join us then!

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.



Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in thankfulness to Him for the many years we have had together as we celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Ed & Drue Ann Huddleston





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>

Join a Church Ministry Committee

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

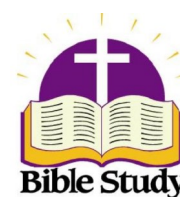
Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. **We are in need of a family or individual to assist us in the preparation of communion for the month of May.** Directions for preparing communion will be made available to you the week prior to the preparation process. If this is something you are 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. Please let us know if you have questions.



www.docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrsLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0

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.



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.

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.

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.



MASTERSINGERS CONCERT *ILLUMINARE: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS*

BY ELAINE HAGENBURG



Mastersingers Incorporated will be presenting composer Elaine Hagenberg's **ILLUMINARE: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS** on Sunday, May 4th, at 3pm in the Wattenbarger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts Building on the TTU campus. Tickets are \$15.00 and may be acquired through their website: mastersingersinc.com. Ann Clark and Brenda Johnson from our congregation will be performing with the group and would love to have you attend.

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!

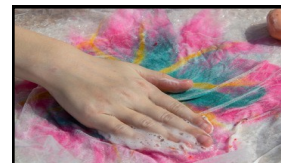
We look forward to having church families join us at this event as well as families from the center! Please join us!



Wet Felting Class

You are invited to join us for a Wet Felting Class this 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.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, April 13, 2025

Commitments - \$4,580.00 Undesignated - \$6,402.00 Other - \$252.00
Included in other giving is \$40.00 for Recovery Kitchen, \$133.00 for Easter Lilies
and \$79.00 in donations for the 04/09 Connection meal.
Total Deposit - \$11,234.00

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.



Prayer Requests

Individuals: Jeff Peek (Vanderbilt); Dan Hilton (Lifecare in Sparta); Kaye O'Brien (tests); Ginny Liebsch; Randal Risher; Aaron Rutledge (nodular melanoma); Georgia Hensley; Ken Soleck (Wendy Dewberry's father); 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: Terry Frye; 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).

