



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Wednesday,
May 7, 2025

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

“Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and so that the slave born in your household and the foreigner living among you may be refreshed.” – Exodus 23:12



In case you missed it, this past Sunday our church session shared that I will be taking a 30-day sabbatical later this summer. I am both humbled and grateful for this gift. This is not in response to a crisis or conflict. It is a proactive and prayerful investment in the long-term health of your pastor and your church.

Sabbaticals are common in many professions, especially in ministry, but I realize this may be the first time some of you have experienced one. A pastoral sabbatical is a time for rest, renewal, and reconnection with God, family, and oneself. Just as Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray and be restored, I will use this time for spiritual replenishment so I can return with fresh clarity, energy, and creativity.

As it was stated on Sunday, while I will not be in the office, this is not a vacation. I will be traveling to other churches, worshipping with them, learning from their pastors, and seeking inspiration and ideas that might strengthen my own ministry and how we serve as a church.

While I am away, the life of the church will continue in faithful and capable hands. Worship will be led by familiar faces and voices. Our ministries will carry on in service. And our session will remain actively engaged in the mission of our church.

I am grateful for the support that I have received for this opportunity to pause, listen, and grow. I look forward to the rest and the opportunity to study, and I am already excited about returning refreshed and ready to continue our ministry together.

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpcchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, May 11th, will be the 4th Sunday of Easter. The chancel color will be white. We will be continuing our sermon series, "Walking with the Spirit: A Pentecost Journey." Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Acts 1:12-14 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "United in Prayer." 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.



Twisted Stitches



Connection has concluded for the semester but the Twisted Stitches group **WILL** continue to meet through the summer. You are, of course, invited to attend any/all sessions; 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!

Church Directory Update

Our updated church directory is now available online and is accessible from your computer or through an app on your phone!

How to Access the Directory:

On your computer: visit <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

On your phone: download the *Instant Church Directory* app:

Apple devices, click here:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221?ls=1&mt=8>

Android devices, click here:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members>

Logging In:

You'll be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our church directory. If your email isn't listed yet, let Christian know, or fill out the information on this form:

<https://forms.gle/CpXSyeIwwCizY7cA>

Once information is entered, you can follow the on-screen instructions to complete your login.

Update or Add Family Photos:

We will soon begin taking family photos at church for those who need them, but you are also welcome to upload your own! After logging in, you can update your family's info and add a photo. You may also text or email your photo to Christian, and he'll upload it for you. If you need assistance at any point, Christian is happy to help. Just reach out!

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School will take place July 14-17, and preparations are now underway. We are very excited about what's ahead! Leadership roles have been filled, but we still need helping hands in several key areas to make this ministry a success.

We are holding a VBS Planning Meeting on **Wednesday, May 28th, at 5:30 PM** in the Family Life Center — dinner will be provided! We'll talk about how VBS will be structured this year, what's new, and where we hope to take VBS in the future. Whether you're already involved or just curious, we'd love for you to join us.

Want to help? Scan the QR code above or click the link below to see areas of need and to sign up where you feel led to serve. Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry to our children and families!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EiXC_9prfKWsxZkehiv18NQ7E0v6OHY2kj72KTrIYeo/edit

Circle Meetings

Members of the Love-Joy Circle will come together for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 12th, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. They extend a warm welcome to all ladies in the church to join them for a time of fellowship.

The Sonshine Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 13th, at 11am at Logan's Roadhouse on Interstate Drive. Representatives from *This Is Living Ministries* will be present to share about their program. All ladies in the church are invited and encouraged to attend.



Recovery Kitchen

Recovery Kitchen is a program that helps provide hot meals for the homeless in our community. We are still 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, May 9th**.



(96) hamburger buns
(96) slices of cheese
(12) tomatoes

(96) Nutrigrain bars
(4) heads lettuce

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.



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Every Thursday, from 7:00am-9:00am, Christian will be enjoying coffee at The Exceptional Bean (55 N Walnut Ave.).

You are invited and encouraged to join him for a cup of coffee and a chance to get to know each other better, share your thoughts and ideas for the church, or just enjoy a morning cup of coffee 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.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, May 4, 2025

Commitments - \$13,020.00 Undesignated - \$1,643.00 Other - \$50.00

Included in this week's offering was \$50.00 for altar flowers.

Total Deposit - \$14,713.00





Walking with the Spirit

A PENTECOST JOURNEY

Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Worship Times: 8:45am & 11:00am

Every Sunday through
June 8th, Pentecost Sunday.



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 Volunteers Needed

Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. We are in need of volunteers to assist us in the preparation of elements on Saturday and Sunday. Families/ Individuals are encouraged and welcomed to serve the church in this way. Directions for preparing communion are made available to you the week prior to the preparation process. If this is something you are interested in and willing to do, 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/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrsRLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0

Congratulations to our Graduates!



Senior Sunday is May 18th. We will be honoring our high school graduates during worship, but we also want to make sure that we celebrate all of the graduates of our church from Pre-K through graduate school. If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please let Christian or Sandra know so that we can include them in our celebrations!

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

*** **WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st - 5:30-7:30pm** ***

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112

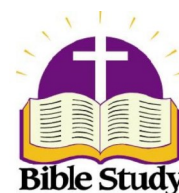
Roots Salon is in the front; Food to the Rescue is in the back



Part of the outreach program of our church is the packing of boxes for Food to the Rescue. This program helps to feed underprivileged children during the Summer Break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities.

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.



Email and Texting Update

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.

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.





Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in honor of Nathan Presley's birthday from Mom and Dad.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Carlos West (Peggy Rittenberry's brother); Dan Hilton (home); Kaye O'Brien; 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).

