



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
May 21, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

"I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." – Psalm 27:13

The storms passed through last night. For us, the damage was minimal. The sun came up this morning, and life looked strangely normal. But not far from us, others were not so fortunate. Reports are still coming in, but there were tornadoes nearby, and some communities are waking up to destruction.

For many of us, especially those who lived through the tornado in 2020, storms like this don't just blow through. They stir something in us. We remember. We brace ourselves. We carry the uneasy mix of gratitude and sorrow as we wonder why we were spared while others were not.

That's the question of theodicy. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does suffering strike unevenly? It's a question too big for simple answers, and I won't pretend to offer one. While we can't explain the "why," we can choose where we look. And we ought to try to look for God's goodness.

I see it in the calm sunrise after the storm. I see it in neighbors checking on neighbors. I see it in first responders, linemen, and volunteers who show up in the storm to offer assistance to those in need. I see it in the shared prayers of people. I see it in the desire to share money and supplies to those who are suffering.

So today, let us hold the tension as we have sorrow for what others are facing, and gratitude for the mercy we've been shown, and may that tension move us, not toward guilt or fear, but toward compassion and action.

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Food to the Rescue Packing Day This Evening

***** 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.

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, May 25th, will be the 6th 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 1:21-26 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "Choosing Our Next Step." 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.



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

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!





COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Every Thursday, from 7:30am-9:30am, 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 18, 2025

Commitments - \$3,689.00 Undesignated - \$1,574.00 Other - \$650.00

Included in this week's offering was \$50.00 for altar flowers, \$500.00 for facility use, and \$100.00 for the Dominican Republic Mission Trip.

Total Deposit - \$4,339.00





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.



New Summer Bible Study Opportunity



On June 4th, at 6pm, Christian will begin a 4-week class that will discuss the history and beliefs of our local church and the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. Everyone is invited to bring their dinner, if they wish, and join in this discussion.

It does not matter if you are new to the church, have been here all your life, plan to join the church at the end of the study, or never plan to join the church; you are welcome to join us as we seek to learn more about who we are as a church.

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.





Walking with the Spirit

A PENTECOST JOURNEY

Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

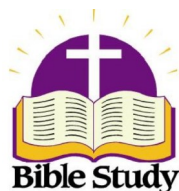
Worship Times: 8:45am & 11:00am

Every Sunday through
June 8th, Pentecost Sunday.



Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in celebration of Willene Gentry's 93rd birthday from her loving family.



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.

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

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



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/CpXSyElwwCizY7cA>

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!

Prayer Requests

Individuals: James Maggart; the family of Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart's brother-in-law); Dan Hilton (home); Kaye O'Brien; Georgia Hensley; Ken Soleck (Wendy Dewberry's father); Carlene Byrne; 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).

