



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
July 2, 2025*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.” – Psalm 119:105-106

This past Sunday, we had a great worship experience. Rev. Montañó, our General Assembly moderator, was present and shared a wonderful message with the congregation. As great as it was to have Rev. Montañó, his wife Ruby, and his daughter Anna with us on Sunday, I think the hardest and most impressive work of the day was done by our interpreter, Daniel Pejendino. Thanks to his work, we were able to hear and understand the message that was presented in Spanish. As well as Daniel did, there were moments when he had to pause and search for the right word. His job was more complex than most people realize. He was not simply providing a basic translation between two languages. He was trying to bridge the gap between two cultures.

As he struggled for the right words a few times, I thought about how we experience scripture. Our scriptures can be difficult to understand. It was not written in English. Scripture was written in ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Additionally, it is shaped by historical settings and cultures that are vastly different than our own. So, even the best translators struggle to capture the depth of meaning and nuances of the original languages. At times, we find ourselves in the same place Daniel was on Sunday. We pause, search, and wonder what the words truly mean. We wonder, “What does or can this mean for me and my life?”

We need to remember that understanding scripture is not about having perfect knowledge. The purpose of scripture is about seeking, listening, asking questions, and trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide us. In moments, Daniel had to stop, think, and patiently wait for the right word to come to him. As we wrestle with scripture, if we are patient and prayerful, we will find that God still speaks to us. Thankfully, we are not left on our own. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would teach us and remind us of everything he said. We trust that the same Spirit who inspired the words when they were written is still at work within us today.

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, July 6th, will be the 4th Sunday after Pentecost. The chancel color will be green. Our pastor, Rev. Christian Smith, will deliver the sermon using Luke 10:38-42 as the scripture. The sermon's title is "Strength in Stillness." Everyone is invited to join us in the sanctuary at 10:00am as we all worship God together. If you are unable to join us in person, the 8:45am service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.



This past Sunday, we had the pleasure of hearing Rev. Johny Montañó preach. He, his wife Ruby, and his daughter Anna loved their visit and had nothing but great things to say about our church. Thank you all for your presence and your hospitality.



BABY BOY COMING!

Ladies in the church are happy to sponsor a card/gift table for Kristen Langford, a member of our congregation. Baby boy August Blake will be arriving soon and we invite you to give a special gift or card to honor the family. Kristen would love to have anything you might want to share, but especially needs diapers. The table will be set up from Monday, July 7th, through Monday, July 14th, in the narthex of the church. Please take this opportunity to help Kristen prepare for this addition to her family. An early congratulations to all!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Unity (Working Together)



14-17 JULY
2025

COOKEVILLE
FIRST
CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



ACTIVITIES

- Bible Stories
- Singing & Dancing
- Playing
- Arts & Craft
- Games
- Carnival Day (last day)

JOIN US ON OUR FUN ACTIVITIES!

Register your kids at:
<https://shorturl.at/1Hec0>





Summer Bible Study Wraps Up



This evening, Christian will wrap up a discussion on the history and beliefs of our local church and the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. You are invited to bring your dinner, if you wish, and join in this discussion.

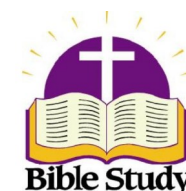
It does not matter if you are new to the church, have been here all your life, plan to join the church at the end of the study, or never plan to join the church; you are welcome to join us as we seek to learn more about who we are as a church.

Email and Texting Update

If you are interested in receiving the Midweek Manna and/or occasional text messages from the church (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 and/or email address.

Men's Bible Study

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



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 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!

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.



Ladies' Sonshine Circle to Meet



Members of the Sonshine Circle will come together this next Tuesday, July 8th, for their regular monthly meeting. The group will meet at 10am in the Family Life Center. Ruth Ann Henry will be presenting this month's hymn for the church. All ladies in the church are invited and encouraged to attend.





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.



Opportunities to Serve in Your Church

There are a number of ways in which you can become involved in serving your church. You can always contact our pastor, Christian, or any elder of the church regarding how you might become a participant in the church. Below are just a couple of ways that offer you opportunities to become involved in church life. Please feel free to call the church office at any time for more information.

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



Altar Flowers

Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and to celebrate a "Happy 1st Birthday" to Reid Kurtis Hughey from Pa and DeDe (Mike and Dana Davidson, grandparents)."



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!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, June 29, 2025

Commitments - \$1,305.00

Undesignated - \$1,886.00

Other - \$100.00

Included in this week's offering was \$100.00 for Recovery Kitch.

Total Deposit - \$3,191.00





Prayer Requests

Individuals: Maggie Wharton; Carolyn Pinkley; Kaye Powell; Regina Weber (home); Bill Byers; Mike Sheets; Dan & Kathy Hilton; James Maggart; Geraldine Smith; Kaye O’Brien; Ken Soleck (Wendy Dewberry’s father); Allison McDonald; Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); Evelyn (Bonnie) Hyder; Linda Stringer (Evon Maggart’s sister); Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); Sherrie Smith; Cindy Furcean.

Cancer Treatment: Allen Kolath; Niki Work; Margaret Merrill (Evelyn Hyder’s sister - pancreatic cancer).

Assisted Living: Jo Gentry (Willow Spring at The Arbors in Spring Hill, TN); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe).

