



# ***Mid-Week Manna***

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

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*Wednesday,  
January 28, 2026*

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**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

**“The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.”  
– Proverbs 16:9**

This past Sunday reminded us of something we should know well. We don't always know what the future holds.

As we watched the forecast Saturday afternoon, the information we had pointed toward potentially dangerous conditions for Sunday morning. Out of an abundance of caution, we made the decision to cancel in-person worship and gather online instead. And then, the rain came, and much of the ice washed away.

Moments like that can leave us second-guessing ourselves. I certainly did so on Sunday morning. Those moments tempt us to wonder whether we made the “right” call. But faith is not lived with the benefit of hindsight. Faith is lived by taking the next faithful step with the best knowledge we have, and trusting God with what we cannot see.

In worship last week, we heard Jesus say to the disciples, “You will be my witnesses.” Not because they knew what was coming next. Not because they had clarity about the future. But because God promised to be present with them. They were asked to trust, to wait, and to move forward without having all the answers.

This coming Sunday, Paul continues that conversation by reminding the church that faithfulness and control are not the same thing. Our responsibility is not to predict outcomes, but to be faithful with what we have been given in the moment before us.

Both messages remind us that we are called to live by trust, not certainty. We can and should plan carefully. We can and should act responsibly. And then we need to release what we cannot control into the hands of God. Whether we find ourselves in sunshine or uncertainty, we ought to trust that God is at work among us.

## Sunday Worship Information



Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, is the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany and Denominational Sunday. The chancel color will be green.

Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from I Corinthians 3:5-11 in a sermon titled “Faithful Stewards of What We Have Received.”

During worship, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and all who place their trust in Jesus Christ are invited to share in the meal.

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. If you cannot attend in person, the 8:45 a.m. service will be streamed live on our church’s YouTube channel.

All are welcome as we continue our series, “Evangelism What It Is and What It Isn’t” and reflect on how God calls us to be faithful stewards of the grace we have received.

## Congregational Survey

As the session prepares for our upcoming Session planning retreat, I would like to invite you to complete the attached Congregational Ministry Feedback Survey. The purpose of this survey is to help the session and pastoral leadership listen carefully to the joys, strengths, needs, and hopes of our congregation so that our ministry teams can enter the retreat with greater clarity and purpose. You will notice that the survey is fairly long. That is intentional. It is designed to give space for reflection across the full range of our shared ministry, while also allowing respondents to focus on the sections that feel most relevant to their experience. No question is required, and participants are encouraged to respond to the questions that speak most clearly to them. Please know that this survey is completely anonymous, and your honest responses are deeply valued. Your feedback will help guide the session and ministry teams as we discern strengths, needs, and future priorities in the life of our congregation.

<https://forms.gle/X8Ug3ggnzkU5rjHu5>

## SOUPER BINGO PARTY

The CPWM annual **Bingo Party** schedule for Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1pm in the Family Life Center **HAS BEEN CANCELED** and will be rescheduled for a future date. We hope you will join us at that time.



## Twisted Stitches



Twisted Stitches group continues to meet. You are invited to attend any/all sessions; we would love to have you join us. All levels of proficiency are welcome to come! The stitchers meet on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Session Room of the church. We hope to see you there!





please join us for a

# BRIDAL SHOWER

Honoring Lexie Holder and Mason Rolman

Saturday, January 31, 2026  
2:00 - 4:00pm

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Upper Commons Fellowship Room  
565 E. Tenth St.  
Cookeville, TN

All Are Welcome

Registered at Walmart & Amazon



## 2026 Flower Calendar



If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for 2026, the signup sheet is now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost for a flower arrangement is \$50.00 and you may submit payment the week that the flowers are ordered. Barbara Greeson will contact you for a dedication (for the bulletin) and for a description of the type of arrangement you would like. Call Sandra in the church office for more information.

### 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.



We are looking for Volunteers to help us deliver meals to church members on Wednesday nights!

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW IF YOU WANT TO HELP!

(931)526-6585  
Christian@cookevillecpchurch.org

## Eagle Scout Service Project Announcement



On February 7<sup>th</sup>, church member Wyatt Barnes will be completing his Eagle Scout Service Project on the church grounds. This will include redoing the landscaping near the new sidewalk, removing the old swing set, and installing erosion control mesh near the basketball court. The scouts will also be picking up trash in and around the church campus.

If you are interested in supporting this project financially, please consider a donation toward this project, either by making a note on your contribution in the collection plate, or by giving your donation directly to Christian or Sandra.

Thank you for your continued support of our Scouts, and for your continued care of our church property.



**EQUIP & LEAD**

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**Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.**  
in the Upper Commons

**Young Adult Bible Study**

*Upcoming Weeks*  
*The Book of James*

**CONNECT WITH US**



### Receive Email and Text Alerts



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 the link below, or contact Christian with your phone number and/or email address.

<https://cookevillecpchurch.flocknote.com>



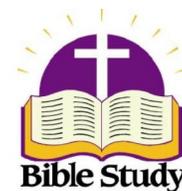
## USHERS Needed for 8:45am Worship



Ushers serve to hand out bulletins prior to the 8:45am service, be available to answer questions and help collect the offering. You are generally asked to serve for one month a couple of times throughout the year. While we currently have a number of ushers, we would like to fill out the roster a bit. Contact Sandra in the church office if you are willing to serve or would like more information.

## Men's Bible Study

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



# THANK YOU!

It requires a tremendous effort from many individuals to make the support for the Northeast Elementary School food pantry a success. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed!

CFCPC will once again pack bags in February and April. If you're interested in helping out but haven't yet signed up, please scan and fill out the QR code provided below.



2025 year-end Statements of Giving will be available starting this Sunday in the narthex. Please contact Liz Sheets, Depositing Treasurer, at [lizsheets@charter.net](mailto:lizsheets@charter.net) if you have any questions, or if you are not sure if you completed a pledge card for 2025.



FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT



## JOY Club Outing

Our “Just Older Youth” are invited to join together for lunch at Nick’s Restaurant on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm. Lunch will be Dutch treat and following the meal, the group will have an organizational meeting to plan for future events. There is a signup sheet in the narthex or you can give Sandra a call in the church office; that number is 931-265-6585. Come join us!

## Church Directory “How-To”

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/CpXSyE1wwCizY7cA>

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

### Update or Add Family Photos:

We are now 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:** (Cindy Putz's niece - surgery); Allison McDonald (surgery); Roberta Ross (CRMC); Brittany Teeters (car accident); Sarah Joyce (home); Regina Weber (NHC); unspoken requests.

**Cancer Treatment:** Randy Brown (kidney cancer and blood clots); Jim Dixon (Sarah Joyce's son-in-law); Robert Marbury (Jean Webb's brother); Kristen Simon (Barbara Spurgeon (colon cancer); Anne Taylor (Tracy Sparks' sister); Janet Lapoint (Evelyn Plecan's cousin); Bill Snyder (Virginia Lovellette's brother); Linda Stringer (Evon Maggart's sister); Allen Kolath; Niki Work.

**Assisted Living:** Doris Baggett (Signature Healthcare); Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta).

# New Prayer Group Forming

We are beginning a new group at the church that will gather regularly for intentional prayer for the ministries, leaders, and future of our congregation, as well as ongoing personal prayer requests and pertinent community / worldly concerns. This group is open to anyone who feels called to support the life of the church.

**Whether this has been a lifelong practice for you, something you are hoping to deepen, or something you'd like to begin, you are welcome.**

If you are interested in being part of this new prayer ministry or would like more information, please contact: [christian@cookevillecpchurch.org](mailto:christian@cookevillecpchurch.org)

