



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
March 4, 2026*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

Yesterday marked six years since the tornado that changed our community in a matter of minutes. I will be the first to admit that my memory is often unreliable, but the sounds, the phone calls, the images, and the weight of that day are not easy to forget.

Several families in our church suffered significant damage. Some lost their homes. And one beloved member of our church family lost their life. That reality still feels heavy. Anniversaries like this remind us that grief revisits us over and over.

I remember the shock. The uncertainty. The questions about what this would mean for our church, for our community, and for the days ahead. And yet, I also remember something else.

I remember strength. Not loud strength. Not dramatic strength. But steady strength. All over town, those words began to appear on shirts and signs, "Cookeville Strong." It wasn't bravado. It was resolve. It was a community choosing to stand up together. People came together to rebuild. When we could have given up, we chose to stand together.

And alongside that strength, I remember compassion. Huge crowds gathered for cleanup days. Members of this congregation worked tirelessly to help one another. Neighbors helped neighbors. Churches partnered together. Strangers showed up with chainsaws, meals, and open hands. Amid the devastation, we found a community that refused to stop loving.

This past Sunday, we talked about the heart of a witness being a heart shaped like Christ's. Courageous enough to stand firm. Compassionate enough to grieve. Strong enough to keep walking forward. When I look back at those days after the tornado, I see that kind of heart on display all around us.

We did not choose the storm. But we did choose how we responded. In the midst of fear, there was strength. In the midst of loss, there was compassion. In the midst of uncertainty, there was faithfulness. None of us would ever wish to relive that day. But we can give thanks for the ways God sustained us and shaped us through it. Even in devastation, Christ's heart was visible among his people.

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information



Sunday, March 8th, is the Third Sunday of Lent, and the chancel color will be purple. We continue our Lenten series, “Witnesses on the Way to the Cross.” Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Luke 13:1-9 in a sermon titled “Time to Bear Fruit.”

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. If you are unable attend in person, the 8:45 a.m. service will be streamed live on our church’s YouTube channel.

All are welcome as we reflect on what it means to live lives of repentance, renewal, and faithful fruitfulness in this season of waiting and hope.

Dates to add to your calendar:



Sunday, March 29th

Palm Sunday services (8:45 & 11:00am)

**Monday through Friday, March 30th through April 3rd,
Daily at Noon—Holy Week services**

Thursday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday service—6:00pm

Friday, April 3rd

Good Friday service—7:00pm

Sunday, April 5th

Easter services—8:45 & 11:00am

A vibrant poster for a Game Night event. The background is dark with a pattern of small, light-colored dots. On the left, there are illustrations of various games: a deck of cards with numbers and symbols, a checkers board with pieces, several dice, and pool balls. The text is arranged on the right side. At the top, it says 'ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL' in white, slanted capital letters. Below that, 'GAME NIGHT' is written in large, bold, orange 3D-style letters. Underneath, 'WEDNESDAY MARCH 4th' is written in white and orange. Further down, the location and times are listed: 'AT COOKEVILLE FIRST CP', 'DINNER: 5:15-6:00PM', and 'GAMES: 6:00-7:00PM'. At the bottom, it lists activities: 'CARD & BOARD GAMES - POOL (BILLIARDS) - PING PONG - FOOSBALL'. The address and phone number are at the very bottom: '565 E 10th Street' and '(931)526-6585'.

Let's Laugh & Play with Friends

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

GAME NIGHT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4th

AT COOKEVILLE FIRST CP
DINNER: 5:15-6:00PM
GAMES: 6:00-7:00PM

CARD & BOARD GAMES - POOL (BILLIARDS) -
PING PONG - FOOSBALL

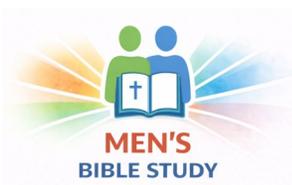
565 E 10th Street
(931)526-6585

2025 Statements of Giving

If you didn't pick up or need a Statement of Giving for 2025, please contact Liz Sheets, Depositing Treasurer, at lizsheets@charter.net.

Men's Bible Study

The **Tuesday Noon** Men's Bible Study will be taking a break for the next several weeks while Tim is out of town. We will let you know when the study will resume.





Coffee...

On Thursday mornings, from 7:30am to 9:30am, Christian enjoys coffee at The Exceptional Bean (55 N. Walnut Avenue.) 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.

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.



Youth Sunday 2026!

Psalm 100

- When? April 12th Both services
- Where? Cookeville First CP Church
- Who? All Middle and High Schoolers
- How? Sign up with link in caption

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

*****NEXT Wednesday, March 11th - 5:30-7:30pm*****

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112
In back of the Irrationale Kitchen

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 Spring Break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities.



WE HAD A GREAT FIRST WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY!

We offer our thanks to Lori for leading the study and invite you to join us on Tuesdays at noon.

Yard Sale



The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry has scheduled their annual Yard Sale for May 8th and 9th at the Family Life Center. They will be accepting donations the week of the sale. Please save your "get rid of" items for the sale, especially those you have gotten together as result of your Spring Cleaning efforts. Contact Belinda Wynne at 979-7816 with questions.





WORSHIP ADVENTURE EXPLORE EVENT

 April 19 at 10am |
  Cookeville CP Church

The Worship Adventure Team is coming to lead a special one-day Explore Event

Following worship, we will enjoy:

- Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- Fun, worship-related activities for:
 - Children
 - Families
 - Church Leaders
 - Anyone who worships alongside children

The adventure continues after the event!

- Monthly newsletters
- Quarterly care packages
- Free worship resources
- Much more!



Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4cuaxu>

Intro Video: <https://youtu.be/mrK7jz7eS7Q>



Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
565 E. 10th St., Cookeville, TN

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Commitments - \$8,005.00 Undesignated - \$3,659.00 Other - \$480.00

This week's offering included \$310.00 in Connection meal donations, \$50.00 for altar flowers, and \$120.00 in Middle School Spring Retreat deposits.

Total Deposit - \$4,569.00

Receive Email and Text Alerts



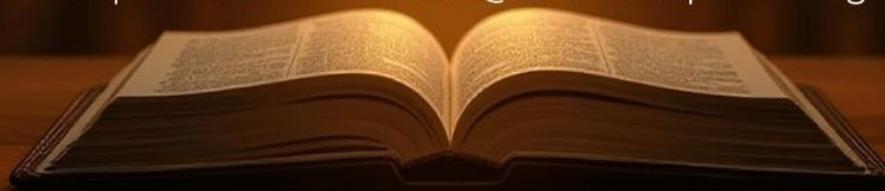
If you are interested in receiving the Midweek Manna and/or occasional text messages from the church (we promise not to spam your messages), we need you to fill out the form at the link below, or contact Christian with your phone number and/or email address: <https://cookevillecpchurch.flocknote.com>

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



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.



Our Twisted Stitches group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Session Room of the church. You are invited to attend any or all sessions; we would love to have you join us. All levels of proficiency are welcome to come! We are involved in projects that help different agencies in the community. We would love to have you join us!



Prayer Concerns:

- Roberta Ross—Standing Stone—Monterey
- Regina Weber—NHC
- Unspoken requests

Assisted Living:

- Doris Baggett—Signature Healthcare
- Ramona Tilghman—Life Care in Sparta

Cancer Treatment:

- Kristen Simon—Cindy Putz’s niece—surgery
- Brian Beckham—Ellen Beckham’s son
- Becky Hull
- Jim Dixon—Sarah Joyce’s son-in-law
- Robert Marbury—Jean Webb’s brother
- Barbara Spurgeon—colon cancer
- Anne Taylor—Tracy Sparks’ sister
- Bill Snyder—Virginia Lovellette’s brother
- Janet Lapoint—Evelyn Plecan’s cousin
- Linda Stringer—Evon Maggart’s sister
- Niki Work—Jodi Smith’s cousin

