



COOKEVILLE
FIRST CUMBERLAND
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From Your Minister

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

— Romans 12:2

While I try not to be, I am aware that sometimes my messages are heard as political. I have been warned to avoid topics that could be seen that way. I understand that concern, but I also believe it reveals something deeper about how we often misunderstand the relationship between faith and politics.

Recently, we have seen moments where calls for peace and justice from faith leaders have been labeled as political, while political voices have warned the church to stay in its lane. Moments like this remind us how easily we draw lines between what we consider “political” and what we consider “spiritual.”

As people of faith, our calling is not to protect political comfort, but to live and speak the truth of God’s Word in every part of life. At times, that truth will overlap with public issues. At times, it may challenge systems, leaders, or even deeply held personal views. And yes, sometimes it may feel political. But that should not be the goal. The goal is to be faithful.

Faithfulness means that our allegiance to Christ comes first. When faced with issues, we ought to begin by examining what our faith says about it, before considering any party, platform, or position. It also means that when the Word of God challenges us through Scripture, through preaching, or even through the voice of a faith leader, we should be willing to listen before we react.

The gospel has always had something to say about how we live, how we treat others, and how we order our lives together. And, as people of faith, we are called to engage the tensions of our world as people whose first allegiance is to Christ, and to remember that we are not called to shape the gospel to fit our worldview. We are called to let the gospel shape us.

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Are you new here? Do you have
 a prayer concern or idea to
 share? Do you want to be on our
 email list for the newsletter?

Just scan the code below!



Coming Up This Week

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, April 19, is the Third Sunday of Easter, and the chancel color will be white. This will be a One Service Sunday, with worship at 10:00 a.m., and the service will be streamed live on our church's YouTube channel.

We will celebrate the children of our church as we worship together. Following the service, through fun activities and fellowship, we will explore what our children experience in worship and how we can more fully welcome and include them. Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Mark 10:13–16 in a sermon titled "Empty Hands and Full Hands." All are welcome as we gather for this meaningful day of worship, learning, and shared life together.



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.



Next week! The Explore Event will be here!

- I've invited friends. *(It's not too late; do it today!)*
- I've registered my family. *(It's not too late; do it today!)*
- I have an appetite for tasty food and fresh worship skills. *(It's never too late!)*

 **Worship together!**

 **Eat together!**

 **Play together!**

All to enhance worship for God's children of all ages.

The Worship Adventure Team Explore Event

April 19

Join us for worship, then head to the Fellowship Hall for lunch, followed by fun worship-related activities for children, families, church leadership, and anyone who worships alongside children. Following this one-day event, the Worship Adventure Team will keep the adventure going with monthly newsletters, quarterly care packages, free worship resources, and more! This event is all about working together to foster a welcoming environment for children and families in the worship service. Let's enjoy this Worship Adventure together! This event is intended for the ENTIRE congregation, and we hope that all will attend. Regardless of age, please take a moment to register with the QR code or at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/sV1uv559ghrLHrRy5>



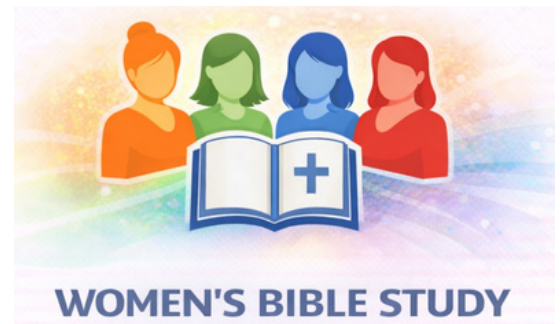
The Tuesday Noon Men's Bible Study resumes with a study using Max Lucado's Life Lessons from the Gospel of Matthew as the text. All men in the church congregation are encouraged/invited to attend.

Women's Bible Study

Day & Time: Tuesdays @ Noon

Location: Foundations Sunday School Classroom

Don't merely age - embrace wisdom! Lori Varney has launched a new daytime Bible study class, welcoming all women (and their friends) to join. Through the book Growing Older & Wiser, Lori will facilitate a discussion aimed at enriching your spiritual journey. You can obtain a copy of the book for the class directly from Lori. And it's at lunchtime, so feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.



Weekly Mahjong Game

All Mahjong players are invited to open play on Mondays from 3-5.

Please see Elizabeth Fournet or Angie Knight to sign up.



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.

Our Wednesday evening Connection program begins with dinner at 5:15pm. There is no cost for dinner but donations to help defray costs are appreciated. Please let us know that you are coming by completing a reservation card or contacting Sandra in the church office. You may make a standing reservation if you wish to attend on a regular basis.

We have several learning opportunities in the program including children and youth at 6pm in the Lower Commons area and an adult study at 6:15pm in the Upper Commons. The Twisted Stitches group meets in the Session Room at 6pm.

We hope you will join us for a time of fellowship and learning on Wednesday evenings.



Sunday Schedule

9:00 - Sunday Morning Small Groups

10:00 - Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 - Lunch (reservation required)

Following lunch:

The Worship Adventure Team Explore Event

(see page 3 for more information)

Other Upcoming Opportunities

Our Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry will host the Spring Regional Meeting at the church on Saturday, April 25th. Sign-in will take place from 8:30-9:00am with the meeting commencing at 9:00. An invitation is issued to ALL women in the church to join in activities. Lunch will be provided. Each lady is encouraged to bring her favorite Spring/Summer recipe on an index card.



CPWM sponsors the Haiti Mission Hospital and is now collecting medications for use in the facility. A list of medications is available on the credenza; donations should be delivered directly to Christian or Sandra.

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 a result of your Spring Cleaning efforts. We will also be needing clothes hangers. Contact Belinda Wynne at 979-7816 with questions.



To the Congregation of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church:

We want to extend our deepest thank you for the overwhelming love, generosity and support you have shown our center. The outpouring of encouragement, support and all the kind words about our center has touched our hearts.

The kindness of this congregation reminds us that we are surrounded by people that care deeply and we are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you! Your support has blessed our center, our teachers and these amazing, sweet children and their families that we serve in ways that will not be forgotten. Thank you again standing with us and for showing us such incredible love.

The CPNS Director and Staff

**FROM
CPNS**

CP Nursery School Prom Fundraiser

It is time again for our annual CPNS Prom fundraiser. We invite you to join us for a night of dancing, fun, door prizes and so much more! The Prom will be held at the Family Life Center on May 2nd from 4:30-7:00pm. The attire will be dressy casual (think church) and small bouquets of flowers will be available for purchase for the littles.

This event is one of the ways the center fundraises to purchase items needed for our school and teachers. If you would like to donate financially to sponsor ticket costs for a family who may not be able to afford them or to help cover the cost of supplies, food or decor, that is always greatly appreciated!

Tickets will be \$25 (includes one adult ticket & one child ticket) and \$10 for each additional child. Tickets are on sale now and will be so until April 30th. Tickets are presale only and will NOT be sold at the door. You can see Madison, Ashlyn or Sandra (in the church office) for tickets!





Join us for our annual

CPNS

PROM NIGHT

MAY 2ND, 2026 | 4:30PM-7PM

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

FAMILY LIFE CENTER ON CHURCH SIDE

(SMALLER BRICK BUILDING BY PLAYGROUND)

Stewardship Report

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Commitments - \$5,500.00 Undesignated - \$2,206.00 Other - \$295.00

This week's offering included \$125.00 for flowers, \$60.00 for facility use,
\$60.00 for Connection meal donations and a \$60.00 donation to the Women's Ministry.

Total Deposit - \$8,001.00



Giving is one of the ways we respond to the grace we have received in Jesus Christ. Although we do not pass the offering plates during worship, the ministry of this church continues because of your faithful generosity. Offering boxes are available beside the narthex credenza and by the "Amen Corner." Plates are also available on the table at the front of the sanctuary. You may also give electronically by scanning the QR code shown here. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of this congregation as we seek to love God and love our neighbors.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns:

- Regina Weber - NHC
- Willene James - Freeman Smith's sister
- Ray Smith - Freeman Smith's brother
- Margaret Weaver - Evon Maggart's sister
- Unspoken Requests

Assisted Living:

- Doris Baggett - Signature Healthcare
- Ramona Tilghman - Life Care of Sparta

Cancer Treatment:

- Kristen Simon - Cindy Putz's Niece
- Brian Beckham - Ellen Beckham's son
- Becky Hull
- Robert Marbury - Jean Webb's brother
- Barbara Spurgeon - colon cancer
- Anne Taylor - Tracy Spark's 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