



COOKEVILLE
FIRST CUMBERLAND
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!



From Your Minister

**“If we have died with him, we will also live with him.” — 2
 Timothy 2:11**

This time of year moves quickly. We just gathered for Palm Sunday. There were voices raised in praise, palm branches waved, and a sense of anticipation in the air. It was a day full of hope. And then, before we know it, we are celebrating Easter. The tomb is empty. The victory is proclaimed. Joy breaks through.

But in between those two moments, there are parts of the story we are often tempted to rush past. The table, the garden, the trial, the cross, and the silence of the tomb are all part of Holy Week. It is easy to move from “Hosanna” to “He is risen” without slowing down long enough to experience everything that happens in between. But those moments are not just part of the story. They are essential to it.

In those moments, we see the depth of Christ's love and learn what it means to remain faithful when our path is difficult, uncertain, or painful. Our lives do not move from one celebration to the next. We experience joy, but we also experience seasons of struggle, waiting, loss, and uncertainty.

Holy Week reminds us that our faith is not formed only in moments of victory. It is shaped in the difficult places, too. It teaches us how to remain present and trust in God when things are difficult. It shows us how to walk with others in their pain without rushing them past it.

So, as we move through these days, I want to encourage you not to rush the story. Take time to sit at the table, to walk in the garden, to stand at the cross, and to feel the weight of the silence. Because when we do, we don't just arrive at Easter. We arrive ready to celebrate it. Ready to see the depth of what God has done. Ready to recognize the power of life over death. Ready to proclaim with joy that neither Christ's story nor ours ends in darkness.

Coming Up This Week

Sunday Worship Information

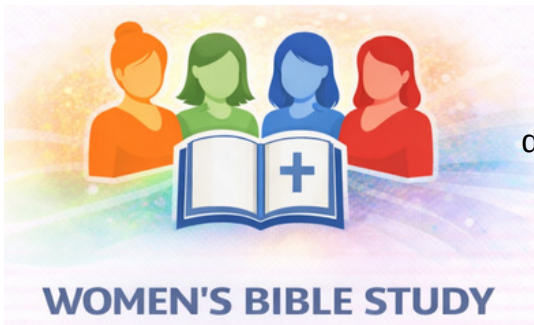
Sunday, April 5, is Easter Sunday, and the chancel color will be white as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Mark 16:1–8 in a sermon titled “Credo Ergo Ago.” During worship, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. If you are unable to attend in person, the 8:45 a.m. service will be streamed live on our church’s YouTube channel. All are welcome as we gather to proclaim the good news that Christ is risen and to reflect on what it means to believe and to live in light of the resurrection.



Our church is sponsoring a meal train for Lois Squires, who has recently experienced some health issues and is now recovering at home. Providing meals during times of recovery is a great way to show we care. Whether it's a home-cooked dish or a thoughtfully prepared store-bought meal, each contribution serves as a reminder that Lois is surrounded by a caring and supportive church family. Members of the congregation who would like to participate may contact Alice Peek at 239-5513. Your willingness to help will be deeply appreciated.



Because this week is Holy Week, we did not have our Tuesday Bible Studies. We look forward to resuming them on Tuesday, April 7th.



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.

✠ Holy Week 2026 ✠

Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 28

8am - Church Cleanup Day

Palm Sunday, March 29

9am - Sunday Morning Small Groups

10am - One Service Sunday Worship Service

11am - Pottuck Lunch

Monday-Friday, March 30-April 3

12pm - Community Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 2

6pm - Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Friday, April 3

7pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 4

10am - Easter Egg Hunt

April 5 - Easter Sunday

8:45am - Easter Sunday Worship Service

9:45am - Finger Food Brunch

11:00am - Easter Sunday Worship Service

Join us as we journey through Holy Week together

Holy Week Opportunities

As we look ahead, Holy Week is just around the corner. We will gather for a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m., and a Good Friday Tenebrae Service on Friday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m. In addition, we will host Community Holy Week Services each day, Monday through Friday, at noon. These services last about 30 minutes and are followed by a free lunch each day.

The preaching schedule for the week is as follows:

Monday – Katie Long

Tuesday – Ethan Breeding

Wednesday – Christian Smith

Thursday – Michael McLaughlin

Friday – Melissa Roysdon

Other Upcoming Opportunities

JOIN OUR

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH
10AM

Join us as we hunt eggs, dye
eggs, eat lunch, and have a
great time together.

The hunt is open to children
from birth - 5th grade. The fun
is open to everyone.



565 East 10th St.
COOKEVILLE FIRST CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for a fun and joyful Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 at 10:00 AM! After the egg hunt, we'll continue the celebration by decorating eggs, sharing lunch, and enjoying a time of fellowship together.

We would love your help in making this event special for our children and families. We are currently collecting donations of candy or small items to fill the eggs.

We also have a limited number of plastic eggs available at the church for pickup on Sunday. However, many of these have been used for several years and are in need of replacement. If you are willing to purchase plastic eggs and fill them with candy, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping us create a meaningful and fun Easter celebration for our church family!



SAVE
THE DATE

Sunday, April 19

Stay after church for lunch,
worship-related games & activities
for all ages, and much more!

Psssst...It's called an EXPLORE EVENT!



**WORSHIP
ADVENTURE**

EXPLORE. PREPARE. ENGAGE.

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 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. Contact Belinda Wynne at 979-7816 with questions.

The **Tennessee Smart Steps** program is a child care payment assistance initiative that provides financial aid to working families and parents pursuing post-secondary education who have children aged six weeks through kindergarten.

Smart Steps federal funding was cut approximately \$44.5 million in FFY 2025 due a reduction of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant. This shortfall forced the state of Tennessee to freeze the program and implement a waitlist for child care assistance. Additionally, CCDF provides flexibility to match state and federal funds to improve the overall quality of child care within Tennessee.

We currently serve 15 children at CPNS that receive these benefits. We have had as many as 19. This is about 1/4 to 1/3 of our enrollment. As a result of this funding cut, CPNS stands to lose up to \$60,000 in state funding this year. That's a lot of money for our children and teachers, but you can help bridge the gap. This is a list of essential items that you can purchase and donate. There will be a tote placed outside Christian's office for the purpose of collection. Please have your donations in by April 5. Let's pitch in to support this great mission of our church.

- Construction Paper (any and all colors!)
- Glue Sticks (any brand is fine)
- Hot Glue Sticks (mini & regular)
- Pens
- Sharpies
- Crayons
- Sanitizing Wipes (Lysol or any other brand)
- Baby Wipes (Fragrance Free)
- Hand sanitizer
- Coloring Books
- Playdoh
- Dawn Dish Washing Liquid
- Cardstock (white)
- Cotton Balls
- Popsicle Sticks

The JOY Club (Just Older Youth) is ready for 2026! You are invited to join us for an outing to the Appalachian Craft Center on Saturday, April 11 (address is 1560 Craft Center Drive, Smithville, TN 37166). You will have the opportunity to enjoy crafts and food trucks on your own. If you would like to ride the church bus to the venue, it will leave the church at 9:30am and will return at 1:15pm. A signup sheet is available on the narthex table. Please sign up right away so that we know how many to expect! We hope you will join us!



A Celebration of Life

There will be a Celebration of Life for Sherry Trentham Shockley and Don Shockley on Saturday, April 11, at Cavin Haus in Cookeville (453 E Broad Street). A reception will be held for friends and family from 10am to 2pm with a brief Memorial Service at 11am. All friends and acquaintances of Sherry and Don are welcome to join in this time of remembrance.



Easter Sunday Worship

April 5th

8:45am (Live and on You Tube)

10:00am Finger foods and

Small Group Study

11am (Live)

Stewardship Report

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Commitments - \$2,460.00 Undesignated - \$2,442.00 Other - \$538.64

This week's offering included \$144.00 for Easter Lilies, \$75.00 for altar flowers, a \$109.64 Amazon reimbursement, \$40.00 for Youth Camp registration, \$100.00 memorial to Women's Ministry and \$70.00 in Connection meal donations..

Total Deposit - \$5,440.64



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:

- Willene James - Freeman Smith's sister
- Ray Smith - Freeman Smith's brother
- Margaret Weaver - Evon Maggart's sister
- The family of Annette Flanders
- Lois Squires
- 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
- Jim Dixon - Sarah Joyce's son-in-law
- 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