



COOKEVILLE  
**FIRST CUMBERLAND**  
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Staff

**Rev. Christian Smith, Pastor**

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**Sandra Robbins, Music Director**

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**Caleb Cashion, Youth and**

Young Adults

**Kiana Gentry, Nursery**

**Lexie Holder, Children's**

Ministry

**Joy Rachor, Organist**

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

**“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” — Colossians 3:2**

There is no shortage of things in our world to be passionate about right now. Everywhere we turn, there is another issue, another debate, another reason to take a side. We care deeply. But we also need to be honest. That passion is costing us. It strains relationships, turns conversations into arguments that don't end well, divides communities, and even affects the life of the church. The question is not whether we have passion. The question is what has our passion. And that is where we, as a church, need to really examine ourselves. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated Easter with some of the largest crowds of the year. We proclaimed that Christ is risen and that it changes everything.

But then the next week the crowds thinned. The urgency faded. Things returned to normal. Easter may fill our sanctuary. But it is the weeks after Easter that reveal what actually fills our hearts.

Too often, we show more passion for our opinions than we do for the resurrection. We are quicker to defend our positions than to live out our faith. And that reveals something about what truly shapes our lives. If the resurrection is true, it cannot be one priority among many. It is the center of everything. It should shape how we speak, how we listen, and how we treat one another.

What would it look like if our passion for Christ were greater than our passion for our politics and opinions? The world does not need more arguments. It needs people whose lives reflect the love of the risen Christ.

My prayer for our church, our families, and our world is that our passion would be reordered, that we would truly believe in the power and promise of the resurrection, and that our lives would bear witness to what we say we believe.

Credo Ergo Ago. We believe, therefore, we act. What are our actions revealing that we truly believe?

# Coming Up This Week

## Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, is the Sixth Sunday of Easter, and the chancel color will be white. We continue our series, "Sent: Living What We Believe." Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Luke 24:44–49 in a sermon titled "Sent with a Story."

During the 8:45 a.m. service, we will also celebrate Senior Sunday and Nathan Byers' graduation. 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 worship and reflect on the story we are called to share as followers of Christ.



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.

## Women's Bible Study Day & Time: Tuesdays @ Noon Location: Foundations Sunday School Classroom

Our Women's Bible study will resume Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The book entitled "Busyness: Finding God in the Whirlwind" will be the topic for the next eight weeks. It is never too late to join! Please contact Lori Varney for a study guide. Since the class is at lunchtime, feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. See you then!



The Tuesday Noon Men's Bible Study continues 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.



The Love-Joy and Sonshine Circles did not meet this week due to the Yard Sale event. Both will meet next week. The Love-Joy Circle will meet on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. Anita Stephenson will be presenting the devotion. The Sonshine Circle will meet on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at Tavern on the Green restaurant (old Country Club). Ladies of the church are welcome to attend either of these meetings.



### 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.



This Sunday we will celebrate Senior Sunday and honor the graduation of Nathan Byers. We give thanks for Nathan and this important milestone in his life.



There will be a table set up for Nathan in the Fellowship Hall, where you will find a book for the congregation to sign. We invite you to take a moment to share your memories, encouragement, and well wishes with him.

You are also welcome to bring any cards or gifts you would like to share as we celebrate this special occasion together.



Our Twisted Stitchers 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.



In the weeks leading to Pentecost, we are doing a sermon series titled "Sent: Living What We Believe." Easter reminds us of what we believe. Christ is risen. Death has been defeated. New life is possible. But Easter is not just something we celebrate. It is something we are called to live.

We will explore what happens next for the disciples after the resurrection, and what it means

for us today. Again and again, we will see that Jesus does not simply comfort His followers. He sends them. And the same is true for us. We are called. We are forgiven. We are empowered. And we are sent. I hope you will join us as we discover together what it looks like to live out our faith in everyday life.



# Other Upcoming Opportunities



## Food to the Rescue Packing Day

\*\*\*Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-7:30 pm\*\*\*

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112

In back of the Irrationale Kitchen

Dear Church family,

Scripture calls us not only to believe, but to act: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” (Matthew 25:35). And, “If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry... your light will rise in the darkness” (Isaiah 58:10). Caring for those in need is one of the clearest ways our faith becomes visible.

On May 20, we have a meaningful opportunity to live this out by serving with Food to the Rescue, a local Christian ministry that delivers meals to children in our community who might otherwise go without during school breaks.

As a church, we’ve committed to providing 30 volunteers, and every spot matters. When the crowds asked John the Baptist what real change should look like, he answered simply and directly: “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same” (Luke 3:10–11). This is that kind of moment, practical, immediate, and impactful.

Would you prayerfully consider being part of this? Whether you help pack, organize, or deliver, your time will directly serve children and families right here at home. And if you’re able, consider inviting a friend or family member to join you, small acts of faithfulness can multiply in powerful ways. A sign-up sheet can be found on the credenza in the Church narthex.

Let’s be a church that not only speaks of love, but shows it, clearly and consistently.



The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry of Cookeville expresses appreciation to all those who donated time and talents for the Spring Regional meeting. The event was a wonderful success and all who attended were so very thankful for the efforts and congeniality shown to all! Thank you to all our ladies!

Our church family expresses sympathy to the family of Evelyn (Bonnie) Hyder. Evelyn passed away at her home on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Funeral services will be held Thursday at Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral home. Visitation will be held from 10am to the start of service at 1pm. Please remember this family in your thoughts and prayers.











# Coffee & Conversation



BIBLE STUDY ON FACEBOOK LIVE

# HARD QUESTIONS *of* FAITH

8 WEEKS. REAL QUESTIONS.  
BIBLICAL TRUTH.

-  **WEEK 1** | Why does God allow suffering?
-  **WEEK 2** | What is faith when we doubt?
-  **WEEK 3** | Why do some prayers seem unanswered?
-  **WEEK 4** | What does it mean to forgive?
-  **WEEK 5** | Why do some people seem blessed while others struggle?
-  **WEEK 6** | Why does God feel silent?
-  **WEEK 7** | Are we saved by grace or works?
-  **WEEK 8** | What happens after death?



**STARTS JUNE 3!**



**TUESDAYS | 9:00 AM**  
**FACEBOOK LIVE**



**LIVE**

*Grab your coffee and join the conversation.*

➔ REAL QUESTIONS. HONEST FAITH. TRUSTING GOD TOGETHER. ⚡

## Stewardship Report

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

Commitments - \$8,930.00    Undesignated - \$4,640.00    Other - \$1,182.67

This week's offering included \$150.00 in donations for the CPNS Prom,  
\$50.00 for altar flowers and a \$982.67 reimbursement for the Explore Event.

Total Deposit - \$14,752.67



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:

- The family of Evelyn Hyder
- Wanda McCaskey - broken ankle
- Jim Dixon - Surgery
- Tamara Stephenson - Liver Cancer
- 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
- Roberta Ross - Standing Stone
- Ramona Tilghman - Life Care of Sparta
- Regina Weber - NHC

### Cancer Treatment:

- Kristen Simon - Cindy Putz's Niece
- 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