COOKEVILLE FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Staff

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Lexie Rolman, 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

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." — Matthew 18:20

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the founding of our congregation. First Cumberland Presbyterian Church was officially formed on August 20, 1867, but the story of this church began even earlier.

Before there was a First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Cookeville, Cumberland Presbyterians worshiped alongside members of the Disciples of Christ, Methodists, and Baptists in a house on Washington Avenue. They came from different traditions and may not have agreed about everything, but they recognized that what united them in Christ was greater than what could have divided them. Before they established a congregation, they shared a community.

That history offers us an important reminder about what it means to be the church. The church is not primarily a building, a denominational name, or an organization. The church is what takes shape whenever people who have received the mercy of Christ learn to share that mercy with one another.

The church that gathered didn't know what would grow from their decision to worship together. They simply gathered to worship, and they trusted God to shape them into something more than they could be on their own. As we celebrate the 159th anniversary of our congregation's founding, we should consider what God is still forming within our church family today.

Those who came before us made room to worship beside people whose traditions were different from their own. As the congregation that eventually grew from those gatherings, we should ask what kind of community we are building today. Are we making room for others? Is mercy shaping the way we speak, serve, and disagree? Can people see what we believe by the way we love them?

This week, we honor those who came before us not simply by preserving what they built, but by continuing what they began. It is my prayer that we will continue worshiping God, making room for one another, and becoming a community that does not simply believe, but also puts that belief into action.

Coming Up This Week

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, August 23, is the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, and the chancel color will be green. Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Matthew 16:13–20 in a sermon titled “When Belief Becomes the Church.” Together, we will hear Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” and consider how our answer shapes not only what we believe, but who we are called to be together as the Church.
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 God and consider what it means for our confession of faith to become a shared life of worship, community, and witness.
We can’t wait to see you on Sunday!

Sanctuary CHOIR

It is never too late to become a member of the church’s Sanctuary Choir! If you have considered joining a vocal ensemble and feel that now is the time, come be a part of our group on Sundays at 5:30pm in the choir loft. We are in the midst of preparing anthems for the semester and are excited to present our praise in song!

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.

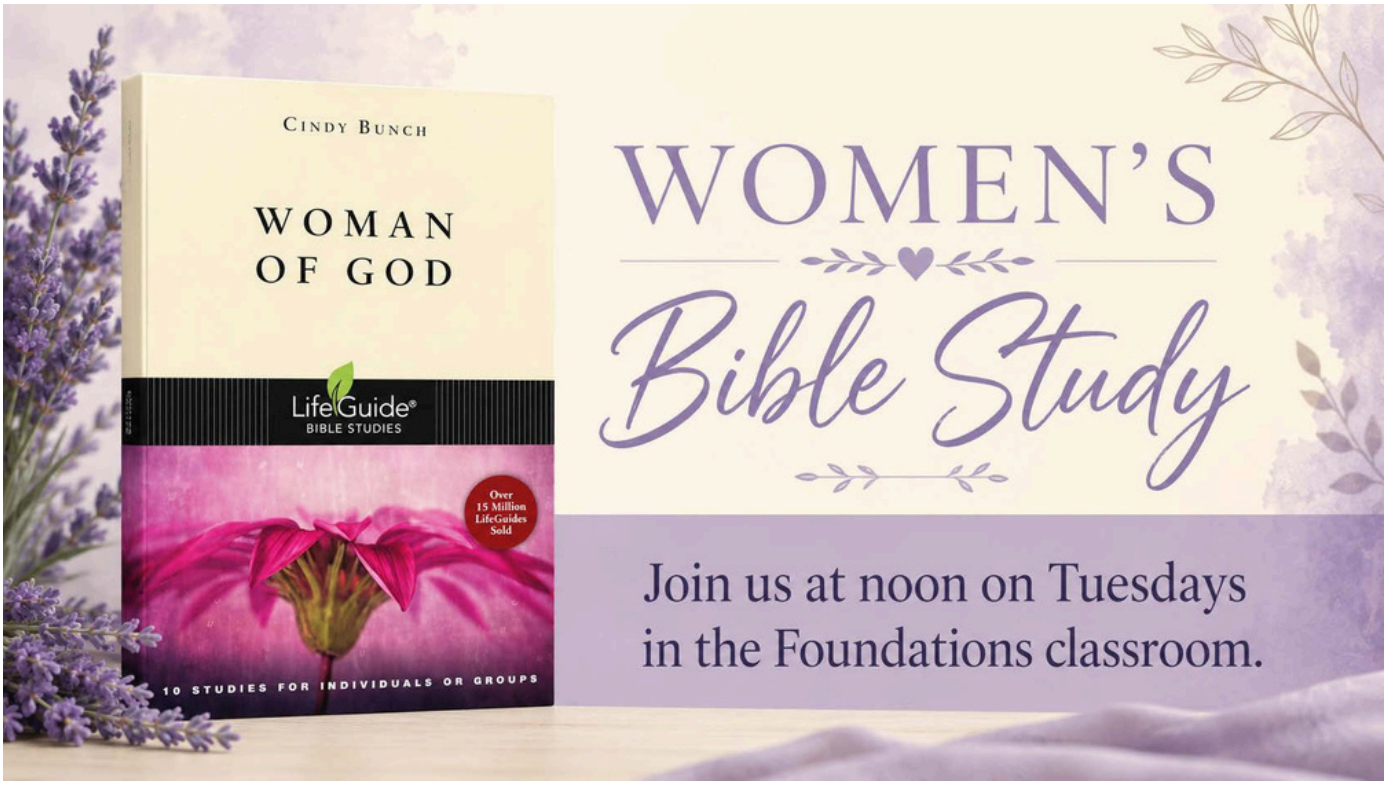
Our Twisted Stitchers group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Session Room of the church. You are invited to attend any or all sessions; we would love to have you join us. All levels of proficiency are welcome to come! We are involved in projects that help different agencies in the community.

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.

MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

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.



COOKEVILLE
FIRST CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH LOCK-IN

FOR ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

GAMES • FOOD • WORSHIP • MOVIE

FRIDAY NIGHT INTO SATURDAY MORNING

FIRST CP CHURCH • 565 E. 10TH STREET, COOKEVILLE

See Caleb for details and permission forms.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

FREE EVENT

DROP-OFF	PICKUP
7:00 PM	8:00 AM
FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Other Opportunities

Holy Land 2027 Trip

In September 2027, members of our church will join First United Methodist Church for a tour of the Holy Land. If you have ever dreamed of visiting many of the places where Jesus lived and ministered, we invite you to learn more about this exciting opportunity. You can also learn more by speaking with Christian and/or visiting the following link: https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl27091527p59093

One-Service Sunday & Church Anniversary Celebration

Join us on Sunday, August 30, for a special One-Service Sunday as we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of our church!

We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. outdoors near the Family Life Center. Dress casually, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy a morning of worship and celebration with your church family.

Following the service, we will continue the celebration with a church-wide cookout. The main course will be provided, and everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Come worship, eat, celebrate, and enjoy time together as we give thanks for our church's history and look forward to all that God still has in store for us!

Stewardship Report

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Commitments - $2,280.00 Undesignated - $1,941.00 Other - $1,753.06

This week's offering included $100.00 for altar flowers, $50.00 in anonymous giving, $1,175.11 for Women's Care projects, a $195.00 reimbursement from CPNS for accounting expenses, a $158.94 overpayment refund and $74.00 in Connection meal donations.

Total contributions - $5,974.06

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 Anne Taylor - Tracy Sparks' sister
- The family of Betty Richardson - Caleb Cashion's grandmother
- Abby Putz - hip surgery
- Peggy Rittenberry - surgery
- Lois Squires - home
- Mike Clift - back surgery
- Janet LaPoint - Evelyn Plecan's cousin
- Nancy Bunnell - Evelyn Plecan's cousin
- Allen Mackrill - Lataine Perry's brother - stroke
- Jason Lingerfelt - bypass surgery
- Lee Webb - Alzheimers
- Willene James - Freeman Smith's sister
- Ray Smith - Freeman Smith's brother
- Unspoken Requests

Cancer Treatment:

- Nancy Rector - breast cancer
- Bailee Brown - Caleb Cashion's sister
- Kristen Simon - Cindy Putz's niece
- Jim Dixon
- Robert Marbury - Jean Webb's brother
- Barbara Spurgeon - colon cancer
- Bill Snyder - Virginia Lovellette's brother
- Linda Stringer - Evon Maggart's sister
- Niki Work - Jodi Smith's cousin

Assisted Living:

- Doris Baggett - Signature Healthcare
- Roberta Ross - Standing Stone
- Ramona Tilghman - Life Care of Sparta
- Regina Weber - NHC