



COOKEVILLE FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

565 E. 10th Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
931-526-6585
cookevillecpchurch.org

Staff

Rev. Christian Smith, Pastor
christian@cookevillecpchurch.org
Sandra Robbins, Music Director
sandra@cookevillecpchurch.org
Caleb Cashion, Director of
Discipleship and Family
Ministries
caleb@cookevillecpchurch.org
Kiana Gentry, Nursery
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

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

The story of Queen Esther is a story of courage. When her people are threatened, Esther risks her own life by going to the king in an effort to help. Her courage helps save them from destruction.

If you read the book of Esther in our Bibles, you will find that never it directly mentions God. No one prays. There are no miracles recorded. You are left to find God's presence somewhere beneath the surface.

The version of Esther in the Apocrypha includes additional scenes in which Esther and Mordecai pray openly. Before Esther goes to see the king, she cries out to God for strength. These passages make it clear that Esther's courage grows out of her trust in God.

I do not think we need to decide that one way of telling the story is better than the other. Each offers us something important. One reminds us that God can be present and active even when God seems hidden. The other reminds us that there are also times when God needs to be named.

That same tension exists in the way we live out and share our faith.

Christians often say that our actions should speak for us. But if we claim to follow Jesus but do not show compassion, practice forgiveness, seek justice, or care for our neighbors, our words sound hollow. Faith has to change how we live. People need to see Christ in the way we treat them. But we can't assume that our actions will always explain themselves. Someone may see us feeding hungry people, welcoming a stranger, visiting someone who is lonely, or lifting up someone who has been pushed down. They may see these as good things, but not know why we do them. If we never talk about God, people may see kindness without ever knowing the One who inspires it. Our actions should always reflect our faith, but our words are needed to help others understand it. We don't have to preach a sermon for every conversation, but we don't need to be afraid to tell people about the God who shapes our lives.

Esther challenges us both to look for God when God seems hidden. The additions in the Apocrypha invite us to speak openly about the God we trust. We need both reminders. Our faith should be visible in what we do, but it should also be heard in what we say.

May our lives show the love of God, and may we have the courage to tell others whose love they are seeing.

Coming Up This Week

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, September 13, is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, and the chancel color will be green. Our Director of Discipleship and Family Ministries, Caleb Cashion, will preach from Mark 10:17–31 in a sermon titled “What Are You Holding Onto?” We will examine Jesus’ encounter with the rich man and what it can teach us about the things that can keep us from following Christ more fully.

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 Christ may be asking us to release so that we can follow him more faithfully.



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.

Love-Joy Circle

Members of the Love-Joy Circle will meet this next Monday, September 13, at 10:00am in the Session Room of the church. Peggy Rittenberry will present the lesson. All ladies in the church are invited to attend; please join us.



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.



HELP NEEDED!

PACK Or DELIVER

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY FOOD BAGS



Your time makes a difference
for local students and families.



If interested, see Jodi Smith.



CINDY BUNCH
WOMAN
OF GOD

LifeGuide®
BIBLE STUDIES

Over
15 Million
LifeGuides
Sold

10 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

WOMEN'S

Bible Study

Join us at noon on Tuesdays
in the Foundations classroom.

Wednesday Connection



FREE DINNER
5:15 PM



**CHILDREN &
YOUTH CLASSES**
6:00 PM



**TWISTED STITCHERS
CRAFTING GROUP**
6:00 PM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY
6:15 PM

Other Opportunities



SECOND ORDER NOW OPEN

**You asked.
We're ordering
again!**

Comfort Colors® • Adult S-3XL
\$25 each

DON'T MISS OUT

Order by Sunday, Sept. 20

ORDER YOURS ONLINE
forms.gle/R32hrvKZm2CDDYuC9



Beginning September 20, we will take a fresh look at some of the Bible stories many of us have known for years. We will slow down, look at details we may have missed, consider the larger context, and sometimes discover that the story is different or deeper than we remember. The goal is not simply to learn something new about familiar passages, but to encourage all of us to dig deeper into Scripture, ask questions, and discover a God who is always bigger than what someone else has told us God should be.

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>

Stewardship Report

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Commitments - \$12,250.00 Undesignated - \$3,519.00 Other - \$511.50

This week's offering included \$50.00 for altar flowers, \$50.00 for t-shirts, \$100.00 in miscellaneous giving, \$181.50 for key cards, \$75.00 for facility use and \$55.00 in Connection meal donations.

Total contributions - \$16,280.50



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:

- Adam Wright - Jan Holloway Wright's stepson - construction accident
- The family of Annie Leona Hinton Bryant - Stephen Bryant's mother
- 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

