



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

“Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” — Psalm 119:18

Some of us have been hearing certain Bible stories for so long that we have stopped actually reading them. I remember those Sunday School lessons about Noah, David and Goliath, Daniel, and Jonah. Those stories taught me important lessons about Scripture and God, but they weren't meant to be the end of our understanding.

Beginning this Sunday, we will start a new sermon series called “Stories We Thought We Knew.” We are going to revisit familiar passages and pay attention to things we may have missed, including the surrounding verses and easily overlooked details. We may even discover that something we have heard repeated about a passage for years is not exactly what the Bible says.

We will begin with Cain and Abel. Sometimes we talk about someone carrying “the mark of Cain,” and it usually means that a person has been marked by something terrible they have done. But is that actually what the mark means in Genesis? Later in the series, we will look at the widow who placed two small coins in the offering, and we will ask whether Jesus was really praising what happened. We will even look at a familiar story about Jesus that may not appear in the earliest manuscripts.

I don't intend to spend this fall telling you that everything you learned in Sunday School was wrong. Instead, I hope we will discover that what we learned as children was really just the beginning.

MoI hope this series encourages us to keep studying. Your understanding of God should not be limited to what a Sunday School teacher told you years ago, what a preacher, myself included, tells you on Sunday morning, or what someone posts on Facebook. Because when we allow someone else to tell us what Scripture says without ever exploring it ourselves, we can also allow someone else to define who God is for us. Questions about Scripture do not have to threaten our faith. Sometimes asking the questions is what allows our faith to grow.

We should never be afraid to dig deeper into Scripture. We may discover that some of our assumptions need to change. We may find questions we cannot answer. But we may also discover that God is more gracious, more challenging, more mysterious, and far bigger than we ever imagined.

I hope these stories leave us wanting to open our Bibles again, not just to learn more about Scripture, but to know God more deeply.

Coming Up This Week



Wednesday, September 15

5:15pm - Connection Dinner - no charge for meal

6:00pm - Children and Youth / Twisted Stitchers

6:15pm - Adult Study - Apocrypha: Book of Sirach

Thursday, September 16

7:30am - Coffee with the Pastor - The Exceptional Bean

Sunday, September 20

8:45am - Sunday Worship

9:00am - Sunday Morning Small Groups

11:00am - Sunday Worship

5:30pm - Sanctuary Choir

6:30pm - Youth and Young Adult Meeting

Monday, September 21

3:00pm - Mahjong

Tuesday, September 22

12:00pm - Women's Bible Study

12:00pm - Men's Bible Study

1:00pm - Community Assistance



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, September 20, is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, and the chancel color will be green. This Sunday, we begin a new sermon series, "Stories We Thought We Knew." Together, we will return to some of the familiar stories of Scripture and take a closer look at details, questions, and lessons that we may have overlooked along the way.

Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Genesis 4:1–16 in a sermon titled "The Mark of Cain." We will revisit the story of Cain and Abel and consider what Scripture actually tells us about the mysterious mark God placed on Cain. In a story we often remember primarily for violence and judgment, we may discover a surprising word about mercy, protection, and the grace of God.

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 begin "Stories We Thought We Knew" and discover what familiar passages might have to teach us when we encounter them again with fresh eyes.



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

HELP NEEDED!

PACK Or DELIVER

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY FOOD BAGS



Your time makes a difference
for local students and families.



If interested, see Jodi Smith.





Beginning this Sunday, 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.



Thank You

I want to sincerely thank everyone for your prayers and kindness during my sister Anne Marie's battle with cancer. It has been such a comfort to know that so many of you have been praying for Anne and our family throughout this difficult time, and especially during the time of her passing. I am truly grateful for all of your prayers, love, and support. With love and gratitude, Tracy Sparks and Family



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>



Cumberland Presbyterian Nursery School Fundraiser

Our Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser is HERE!

When you purchase a Nothing Bundt Cake through our fundraiser, you get a delicious treat **AND** help support CPNS.

Why Cake?

Because fundraising should be delicious!

Your purchase helps us raise money for classrooms, activities, supplies, & special experiences for the children.

Important Date:

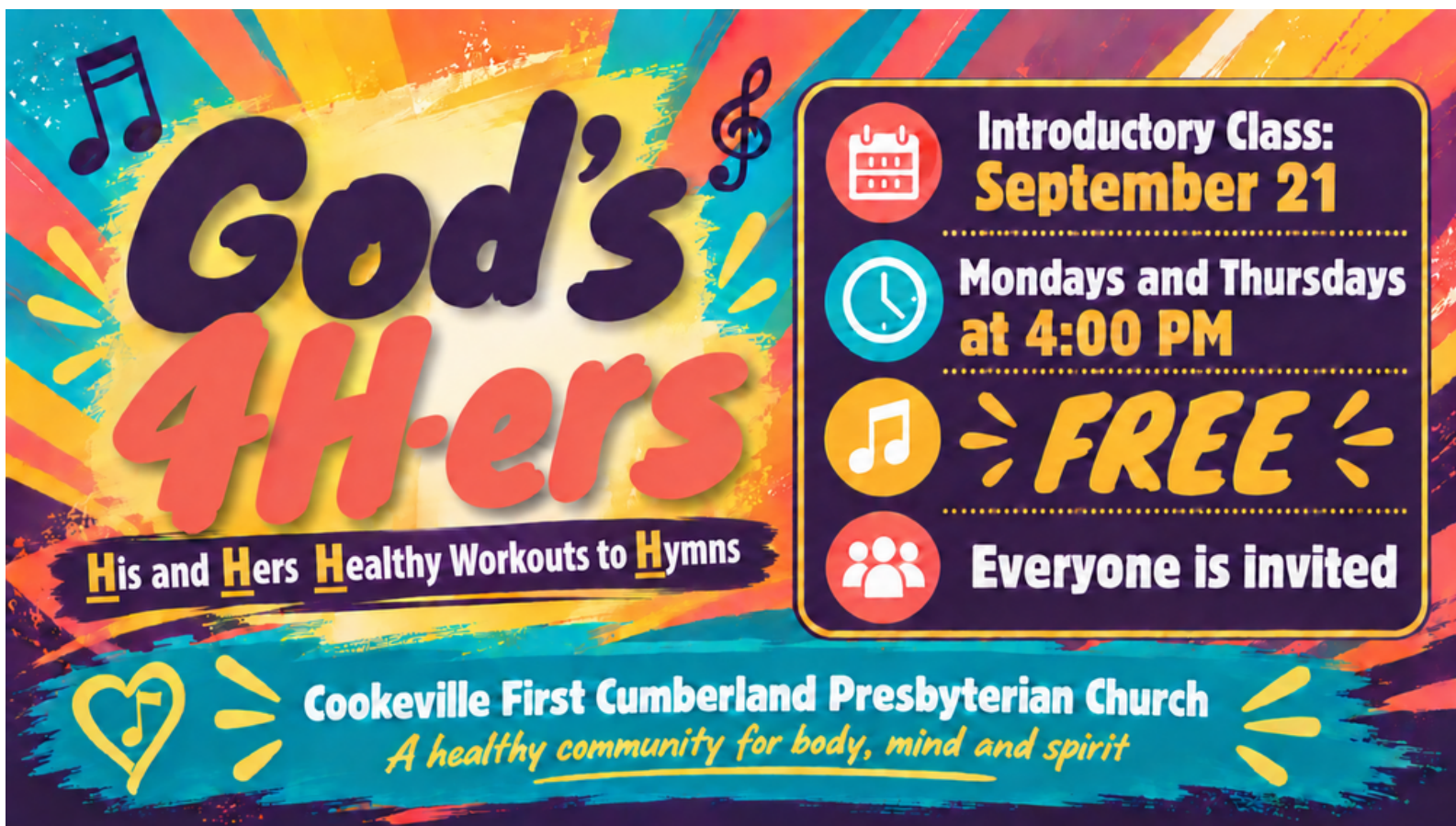
Orders are due September 30th, 2026

Please complete the attached order form and return it to CPNS by the deadline. No later orders will be accepted. Please let me know if you need extra order forms.

Thank you for supporting CPNS!

Every cake purchased makes a difference and helps us continue creating a fun and enriching environment for our children!

You can call or come by the church office -931-526-6585 - if you are interested in purchasing one or more bundt cakes for our daycare fundraiser. The cost per cake is \$7 and there are several flavors available. Help support the activities of our daycare!



God's 4H-ers

His and Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

-  **Introductory Class: September 21**
-  **Mondays and Thursdays at 4:00 PM**
-  **FREE**
-  **Everyone is invited**

 **Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church**
A healthy community for body, mind and spirit

We are excited to introduce God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns! This all ages-workout class is completely free, and everyone is invited. Come move, enjoy great music, and become part of a healthy and encouraging community.

An introductory class will take place Monday, September 21, at 4:00 p.m. in the Lower Commons at Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Afterward, the class will meet each Monday and Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Stewardship Report

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Commitments - \$5,060.00 Undesignated - \$1072.01 Other - \$204.00

This week's offering included \$50.00 for altar flowers, \$25.00 for t-shirts,
\$50.00 for facility use and \$79.00 in Connection meal donations.

Total contributions - \$6,336.01



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:

- Kathie Chapman - surgery on broken leg and wrist
- Adam Wright - Jan Holloway Wright's stepson - construction accident
- Reggie Brown - surgery on broken leg
- 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

