



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

**“And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city...?” —
Jonah 4:11**

If I asked you to tell me the story of Jonah, I suspect a large fish would take up a good part of your answer. Jonah runs from God, ends up in the sea, and spends three days inside a great fish before being deposited back on dry land. Then he follows God's instruction. At least, that's where I remember the Sunday School version of the story ending.

It is one of the Bible stories many of us learned as children. The fish is certainly the most memorable part, but it isn't really what the book of Jonah is about.

After Jonah finally goes to Nineveh, he warns the people that judgment is coming. They listen. They repent. And God shows them mercy. You might expect Jonah to be thrilled. A prophet has preached, people have listened, and an entire city has changed its ways. Instead, Jonah gets angry.

In fact, Jonah tells God that this is why he ran away in the first place. He knew that God was “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” Maybe we learned that Jonah ran because he was afraid to do what God asked. But Jonah tells God something different. He wasn't afraid of the work or that his preaching would fail. He was afraid it would work. Jonah knew God was merciful. He just didn't want God to be merciful to “those people.” Suddenly, the story becomes much more challenging than a story about a man surviving inside a fish.

It is easy to celebrate God's grace when we are the ones who need it. It can be much harder when that same grace reaches someone who has hurt us, someone we disagree with, someone we distrust, or someone we have decided doesn't deserve it.

The book of Jonah ends with God asking Jonah whether God should be concerned about the people of Nineveh. Interestingly, Jonah never answers.

Maybe that's because the question isn't only for Jonah. It's for us. Are there people we believe are beyond God's mercy? Are there people we would rather God judge than forgive? Have we ever tried to make God's grace smaller because we wanted God to share our prejudice? Maybe we remember Jonah as the man who was swallowed by a fish. But go back and read the story. The biggest surprise in Jonah may not be that a man survived inside a fish. It may be that God's mercy was bigger than Jonah wanted it to be.

Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, September 22

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 23

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

4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Sunday, September 27

8:45am - Sunday Worship

9:00am - Sunday Morning Small Groups

11:00am - Sunday Worship

5:30pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm - Youth and Young Adult Meeting

Monday, September 28

3:00pm - Mahjong

God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, September 29

12:00pm - Women's Bible Study

12:00pm - Men's Bible Study

1:00pm - Community Assistance

— IMPORTANT SCHEDULE UPDATE —

FOOD TO THE RESCUE PACKING

CANCELED FOR SEPTEMBER 30

Food to the Rescue has informed us that our packing team will not be needed this time.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTION WILL MEET
AT THE CHURCH ON ITS REGULAR SCHEDULE.**

Dinner at 5:15 p.m.

Children, Youth, and Twisted Stitchers at 6:00 p.m.

Adult Study at 6:15 p.m.

PEOPLE
FOOD
HOPE
COMMUNITY
♡

Food
Changes
Lives
♡

Stronger
Together
♡



Stories

**WE THOUGHT
WE KNEW**

Almost Too Simple

2 Kings 5:1–19

September 27, 2026



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, September 27, is the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, and the chancel color will be green. We continue our sermon series, “Stories We Thought We Knew,” as we take a fresh look at familiar stories of Scripture and discover details and lessons we may have overlooked.

Our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from 2 Kings 5:1–19 in a sermon titled “Almost Too Simple.”

Together, we will revisit the story of Naaman and consider why something as simple as washing in the Jordan River was so difficult for him to accept. His story invites us to consider the ways our expectations, pride, and misunderstanding of God can sometimes keep us from receiving what God freely offers.

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 continue exploring “Stories We Thought We Knew” and discover what these familiar stories might reveal when we encounter them again with fresh eyes.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

BY HAZEL OFFNER

TUESDAYS AT NOON
FOUNDATIONS CLASSROOM



BRING YOUR LUNCH



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LORI VARNEY



Other Opportunities

HELP NEEDED!

PACK Or DELIVER

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY FOOD BAGS



Your time makes a difference
for local students and families.



If interested, see Jodi Smith.



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>



**Pumpkin
GIVE-A-WAY**

Sunday, August 27
Open Area of the
Family Life Center

**45
pumpkins
available!**

**First come,
first served!**

Anyone who wants one
may come by and pick one out!

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

-  **Lower Commons**
-  **Mondays and Thursdays at 4:00 PM**
-  **FREE**
-  **Everyone is invited**

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

God's 4H-ers meets every Monday and Thursday at 4:00 PM in the Lower Commons. Join us for His and Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns! The class is free, and everyone is invited to be part of a healthy community for body, mind, and spirit.

For Thursday's class, wear comfortable clothing and, if you have them, bring a set of hand weights. Three or five pounds is a good starting point. Bring heavier weights if you're used to lifting them. You don't need a mat yet. And don't worry if you arrive late or need to leave early. Come when you can!



THRIVE JUMP NIGHT

October 2

Children & youth invited!

Meet at church • 5:00 PM
Jump at Thrive, then pizza at church
Pickup at church • 8:00–8:30 PM

Parent or guardian: complete the online waiver before the event
thrivecookeville.com/waiver/
Questions? caleb@cookevillecpchurch.org

Bring a friend!

Stewardship Report

Sunday, September 21, 2026

Commitments - \$3,370.00 Undesignated - \$1,437.00 Other - \$1,423.00

This week's offering included \$100.00 for altar flowers, \$75.00 for t-shirts,
\$1,150.00 for the Troop 20 Eagle Scout Project and \$98.00 in Connection meal donations.
Total contributions - \$6,230.00



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:

- Dixon Zendt - surgery on both thumbs
- 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

