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

Have you ever heard someone say, "Well, you know what the Bible says…" and then follow it with something that isn't actually in the Bible?

For example, "God helps those who help themselves." I've heard that quoted as Scripture all of my life. But it's not in the Bible.

Or how about, "God won't give you more than you can handle"? People often say that with the best of intentions, but it isn't really what Scripture teaches. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul writes about God helping us through temptation, not promising that life will never overwhelm us. In fact, Paul himself described being under such great pressure that he "despaired of life itself" (2 Corinthians 1:8). The good news isn't that we'll always be strong enough to handle everything. It's that we don't have to face those things alone.

Most people aren't distorting Scripture on purpose. We've just heard some ideas so often that we've accepted them without checking.

But that raises an important question. How much of what we believe about God comes from Scripture, and how much comes from what we've always heard people say about Scripture?

We all bring assumptions to the Bible from Sunday School, preachers, family, and personal experience. Some help us understand Scripture more faithfully. Other ideas may need to be reconsidered. We are called to keep learning.

Sometimes Scripture comforts us. Sometimes it challenges us. And sometimes, when we read carefully and consider the context, we discover something we never noticed before.

This Sunday is Reformation Sunday. We'll remember that throughout history, the Church has needed to rethink its assumptions and practices in light of God's Word. That's not unfaithful. That's what it means to take God's Word seriously. And that work isn't finished.

No matter how long we've been reading the Bible, we should never assume we have it all figured out.

So the next time someone says, "The Bible says…," ask a simple question. "Does it?"

Then open your Bible and find out.

Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, October 21
5:15pm - Connection meal - no charge
6:00pm - Children/Youth meetings; Twisted Stitchers
6:15pm - Adult Study on The Apocrypha: First Maccabees, Pt 2

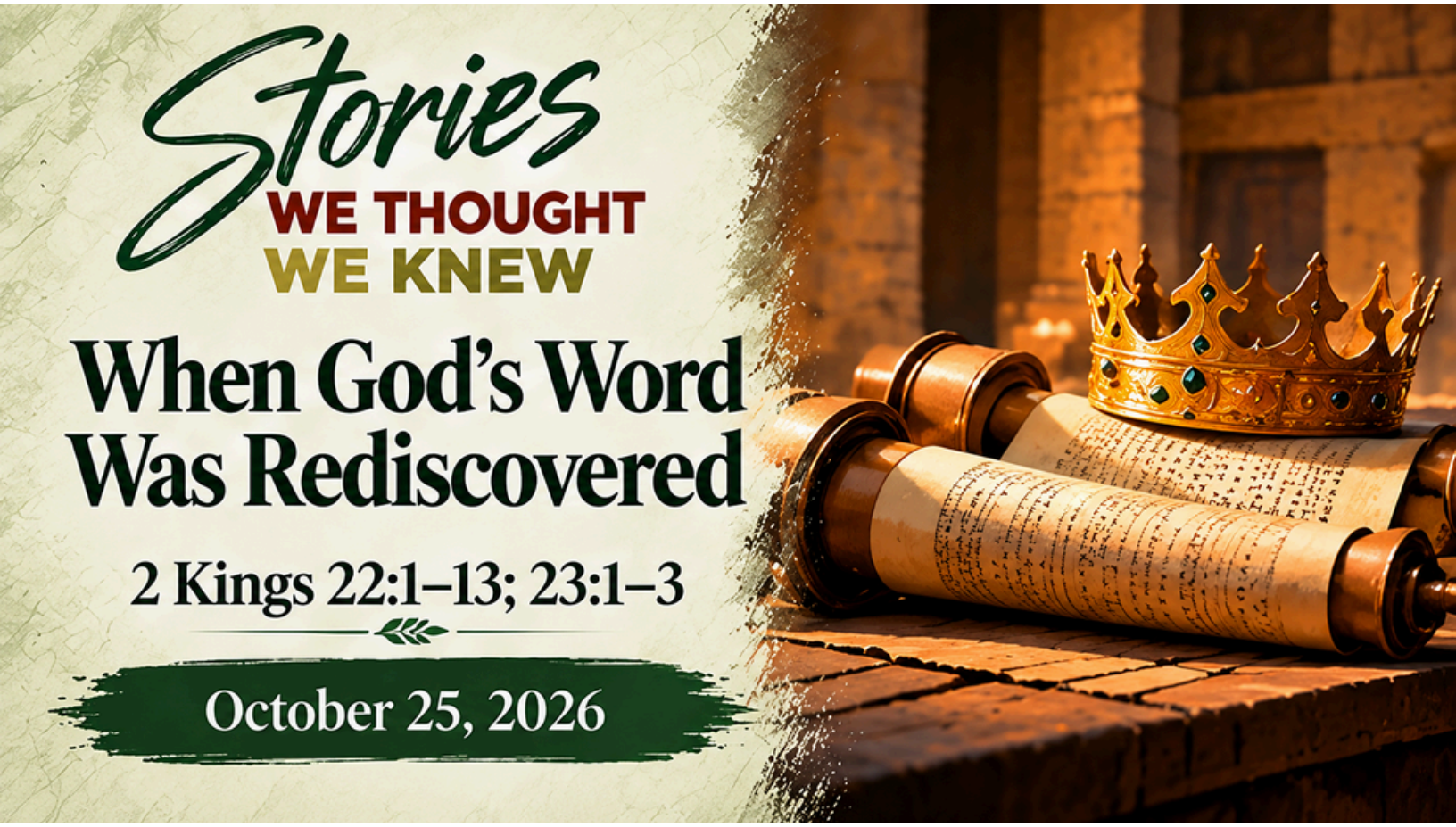
Thursday, October 22
7:30am - Coffee with the Pastor - The Exceptional Bean
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Sunday, October 25
8:45am - Sunday Worship
10:00am - Sunday Morning Small Groups
11:00am - Sunday Worship
5:00pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm - Youth and Young Adult Meeting
7:00pm - Session Meeting

Monday, October 26
3:00pm - Mahjong
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, October 27
12:00pm - Women's Bible Study
12:00pm - Men's Bible Study
1:00pm - Community Assistance





Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, October 25, is Reformation Sunday. The chancel color will be red as we remember the work of the Holy Spirit in renewing and reforming the Church.

We continue our sermon series, “Stories We Thought We Knew,” as our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from 2 Kings 22:1–13; 23:1–3 in a sermon titled “When God's Word Was Rediscovered.”

Together, we will consider how God's Word continues to challenge our assumptions, renew our faith, and call the Church to examine whether we are truly living as God intends.

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 remember that the work of reformation is never finished. God is still speaking, still challenging, and still calling us to become the people and the Church we were created to be.



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!



Other Opportunities



Chili & Soup Cookoff and Trunk or Treat - Wednesday, October 28

Pick out your favorite recipe and start planning your trunk decorations! We'll begin with a chili and soup cookoff at 5:30 p.m., with a trophy for the winner. Then, at 6:30 p.m., we'll hand out candy and treats from our decorated cars and trucks.

Help make the evening a success by signing up to bring soup or chili, drinks, cheese, crackers, or s'mores ingredients. Use the QR code on the announcement or signup at the following link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA5AA28A4FDC25-37808134-trunk

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fall fun! More details will be coming soon.

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

Pastor APPRECIATION SUNDAY

During the Sunday School hour

Sunday, October 25



Doughnuts and pastries will be served.

Please feel free to bring a card or gift of appreciation for your Pastor and all that he does for our church family.



RACE TN SERIES

JUSTIN BROWN MEMORIAL HALLOWEEN RACE



TRUNK OR TREAT 3:00
LIVE MUSIC
HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL 12:00

$5 ENTRY

Don't Miss It

OCTOBER 24, 2026

First Race At 4:00 PM
OLD PUTNAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Ghouls and Gourds

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sharing the Good News of Jesus—One Shoebox at a Time!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Luke 18:16



An Operation Christmas Child shoebox is more than a gift—it is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children in over 100 countries. Through ministry materials translated into their own languages, children learn about Jesus and are encouraged to share His love with others.

The Cookeville CP Women's Ministry (CPWM) has collected enough supplies to fill 300 shoeboxes, but our goal is over 400! We invite everyone to help us reach that goal.

There are two ways to participate:

- Fill Your Own Shoebox: Empty boxes are available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. Please return filled boxes to the church by November 15.
- Sponsor a Shoebox: For $25 per box, you can sponsor a shoebox filled by CPWM. These donations will help purchase supplies for next year's ministry. Please designate your check as a donation to CPWM.

Together, we can share God's love and the Good News of Jesus with children around the world!



Stewardship Report

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Commitments - $2,545.00 Undesignated - $1,179.00 Other - $100.00

This week's offering included $100 for the OCC Shoebox Project.

Total contributions - $3,824.00

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:

- Angie Knight
- Maggie Wharton
- Dixon Zent - 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

There is a lot happening at First Cumberland this fall. Who might enjoy being part of something you see in this week's Manna? Encouraging people and getting them involved often begins with the simple question, "Would you like to come with me?"