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

"The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God." — Revelation 8:4

This Sunday, we will observe All Saints Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember the people who have helped shape our faith. Some taught us to pray. Some encouraged us when life was difficult. Some showed us what it meant to follow Jesus, not just through the words they spoke, but through the way they lived.

Many of those people are no longer with us, and we miss them. We miss their voices, their love, their encouragement, and the comfort of knowing they were there with us and for us. But we also know that the love they shared and the lessons they taught continue to be an important part of who we are.

Though I do not teach or preach a lot from Revelation, I find something comforting in the image of the prayers of the saints rising before God. It reminds me that prayer is part of something much larger than any one person or moment. When we pray, we join generations of faithful people who have turned to God with their gratitude, their struggles, and their fears. They prayed with hope for their own lives, but they also prayed for those who would come after them, including us.

This Sunday, we will remember those who have gone before us. We will bring in the banner, speak names, light candles, and give thanks for lives that have touched our own. Some memories will bring smiles, and others will bring tears. Some will experience both. Grief is one of the ways we are reminded of just how deeply we have loved and been loved.

There is nothing wrong with grieving, and we should never feel that our sadness is a failure of faith. As Christians, we can carry grief and hope at the same time. We trust that God will remain faithful to the promises of Scripture. That includes the promise that, through Jesus Christ, even death does not have the final word.

As we prepare for Sunday, I encourage you to take a few moments to remember the people who helped shape your faith. Give thanks for their lives, for the love they shared, and for the ways their influence and example continue to be felt through you.

And remember that just as others have helped shape our faith, God is using our lives to encourage and strengthen those who will come after us. Never take that privilege and responsibility lightly.

Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, October 28
5:30pm - Chili/Soup Cookoff - meal free for everyone
6:30pm - Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 29
7:30am - Coffee with the Pastor - The Exceptional Bean
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Sunday, November 1
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

Monday, November 2
3:00pm - Mahjong
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, November 3
12:00pm - Women's Bible Study
12:00pm - Men's Bible Study
1:00pm - Community Assistance





Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Sunday, and the chancel color will be white as we remember and give thanks for the faithful witnesses who have gone before us.

We continue our sermon series, “Stories We Thought We Knew,” as our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from Luke 24:13–35 in a sermon titled “When Their Eyes Were Opened.” As we remember those who have gone before us, we will reflect on the hope that comes from knowing the risen Christ continues to walk alongside us.

During worship, we will take time to remember those who have passed away during the past year. We will give thanks for their lives, the love they shared, and the ways their faith continues to shape our own. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, remembering that we are united in Christ with believers of every time and place.

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.

Turkey Project

Help provide Thanksgiving meals for local students and their families.

Our goal: 105 boxes

NOVEMBER 1 Green Beans Corn	**NOVEMBER 8** Mashed Potatoes Stuffing
NOVEMBER 15 Mac & Cheese Gravy	**NOVEMBER 22** Cranberry Sauce Pie Filling

Monetary donations for turkeys are also welcome.

Help us share a Thanksgiving meal with our neighbors! Our annual Turkey Project will provide 105 Thanksgiving meal boxes for local students and their families who might otherwise go without. Monetary donations to help purchase turkeys are also welcome. Whether you bring a few items or help cover the cost of a turkey, your generosity will help a family gather around the table this Thanksgiving.





Showing Up for Our Friends

Our youth and college-aged group recently visited Cookeville High School to support friends performing in

Argonuts: Jason and the Quest for the Golden Fleece.



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!





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

This evening's festivities will begin with a chili and soup cookoff at 5:30 p.m. with prizes for the top three winners. Then, at 6:30 p.m., we'll hand out candy and treats from our decorated cars and trucks.

If you signed up to bring chili, cracker, cheese or drinks, please bring those before 5:30. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fall fun!



Other Opportunities



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!





This past Sunday, we were blessed to have some volunteers from Restoring Hope to share with the church some information about its work in our community. Restoring hope is local ministry that provides food, clothing and household items to folks in need. They are located in the Baxter community and have been in existence for 15 years. Our church has supported them in various ways for the past several years and we would like to continue doing so.

Recently, they have been closed while renovating their buildings and look forward to re-opening n in the next few weeks. They are in need of some specific items for use in the renovation process. If you would like to help support this ministry, the following are needed:

Roll up garage door
Attic insulation (2 buildings)
10-15 gallons of paint
33 & 55 gallon trash bags

If you do not have any of these items and would like to make a monetary donation, please give those funds to Sandra Robbins or Alice Peek. Please feel free to contact Alice at 239-5513 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of the Restoring Hope ministry!

Stewardship Report

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Commitments - $2,395.00 Undesignated - $3,639.00 Other - $80.00

This week's offering included $60.00 for altar flowers and $20.00 in donations for the 10/21 Connection meal.

Total contributions - $6,114.00

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:

- 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?"