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

Almost everyone knows the story of David and Goliath. A young shepherd boy faces an enormous warrior, armed with nothing more than a sling and a few stones. And thanks to his faith, the little guy wins. It's the ultimate underdog story. Or is it?

If we go back and read 1 Samuel 17, we find that David may have been far better prepared for this encounter than we usually give him credit for. He had protected his flock from lions and bears, putting his own life at risk. He knew what it meant to face danger, and he had experience defending those entrusted to his care.

We sometimes picture David with a child's slingshot, but the sling was a legitimate weapon of war that was used by ancient armies. In skilled hands, it could launch a stone with tremendous force. Goliath was a heavily armed warrior, prepared for close combat. David approached him with a different weapon and a different set of skills.

There is also the armor Saul offered. David refused, not because it was too big, but because he wasn't used to it. He chose to use what he knew.

We have long imagined David as a boy with nothing but faith, as though the less capable he was, the more impressive his faith must have been. But David's experience and abilities didn't diminish the importance of his faith. In fact, his reliance on God despite those abilities is what demonstrated his faith.

David knew what he was capable of doing. He remembered how he had faced danger before. But he also remembered God's faithfulness through those experiences. When he stood before Goliath, he declared, "The battle is the Lord's." David didn't deny his abilities, but he also didn't put his ultimate trust in them. He understood that his strength, experience, and preparation were not substitutes for depending on God.

Faith doesn't require us to pretend we are helpless or incapable. In fact, sometimes the greater challenge to our faith comes when we know we're capable. It's easy to talk about trusting God when we have no other options. But do we still recognize our need for God when we feel confident that we can handle things ourselves?

If you read the story, you may discover that David and Goliath isn't just a story about an unlikely victory. It's a reminder that genuine faith doesn't mean having nothing to offer. It means remembering where to place our trust, even when we have plenty to offer.

Trunk or Treat 2026



A big thank you to Caleb and everyone who helped make our Trunk or Treat a success. Everyone had a great time!



Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

THANK YOU!





Pathfinders Class & Missions Committee

Thank you for packing food bags for the backpack program and students at Northeast Elementary School.



Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, November 4
5:15pm - Connection meal - free for everyone
6:00pm - Children and Youth activities; Twisted Stitchers
6:15pm - Adult Study on The Apocrypha - 2 Maccabees

Thursday, November 5
7:30am - Coffee with the Pastor - The Exceptional Bean
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Friday, November 6
10:00am - OCC Shoebox Packing Party - lunch provided

Sunday, November 8
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 9
10:00am - Love-Joy Circle Meeting - Session Room
3:00pm - Mahjong - Family Life Center
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, November 10
10:00am - Sonshine Circle Meeting - Family Life Center
12:00pm - Women's Bible Study
12:00pm - Men's Bible Study
1:00pm - Community Assistance



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 8, is the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, and the chancel color will be green. We continue our sermon series, “Stories We Thought We Knew,” as our Senior Minister, Rev. Christian Smith, will preach from John 7:53–8:11 in a sermon titled “Why Is This Story in My Bible?”

Together, we will revisit the familiar story of the woman caught in adultery, including Jesus' challenge to those who were ready to condemn her. We will explore what this passage can teach us about the history of Scripture, how the Bible came to us, and the grace and mercy of Jesus.

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, ask thoughtful questions about Scripture, and discover how even the stories we thought we knew can invite us into a deeper understanding of faith.



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.

Women's Ministry Circles to Meet

Members of the Love-Joy Circle will be convening for their monthly meeting on Monday, November 9, at 10am in the Session Room of the church. We invite all ladies in the church to attend and look forward to having Anita Stephenson lead the devotional.

Sonshine Circle members will come together for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 10, at 10am in the Family Life Center. Cindy Gray will be leading the devotional and all ladies in the church are extended an invitation to join us.

Other Opportunities



THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thanksgiving Day • November 26

12:00 PM

Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Turkey & ham provided by the church

RSVP & SIGN UP TO BRING FOOD

Tell us how many people are coming. Also, please sign up to bring food, even if you can't join us.

Scan or call the office to RSVP

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!

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!



St. Michael's Craft & Bake Sale
Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
640 N. Washington Ave.

Baked Goods
Coppersmithing
Photo cards
Pottery
Stained Glass
Woodworking

Do your Christmas shopping here!













ALL proceeds will be used for ongoing Outreach projects.

Parking is behind the church; follow signs to the Parish Hall

Stewardship Report

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Commitments - $8,415.00 Undesignated - $3,458.00 Other - $1,311.00

This week's offering includes $50.00 for altar flowers, $825.00 for Turkey Project, $75.00 for OCC Shoeboxes, $100.00 miscellaneous giving, $35.00 in coffee money and $226.00 in coke money.

Total contributions - $13,184.00

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:

- The family of Walter Hargis Shanks
- The family of Kathy Filipek
- Michael Palmer - Belinda Wynne's nephew - heart attack
- Adam Wright - Jan Holloway Wright's stepson - construction accident
- 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?"