COOKEVILLE FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Staff

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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

James 1:19 reminds us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." It's simple advice, but following it requires humility. We have to recognize that we might not know the whole story and be willing to listen long enough to discover what we've missed.

Sometimes we form opinions about people based on something they said, a decision they made, or something we heard about them. And once we've made up our minds about someone, we often stop listening because we feel like we know everything about them that is important to us.

Last Sunday, we talked about the woman brought before Jesus by religious leaders who wanted to condemn her. We know what her accusers said, but we never hear her story. And the religious leaders weren't interested in hearing it. They were using her to trap Jesus, and her life was at stake.

I wonder how often we do something similar. We become so determined to defend our beliefs, prove we're right, or demonstrate our goodness that we stop seeing the person in front of us. We listen to find reasons to disagree rather than opportunities to understand. Sometimes we run them down or use them to lift ourselves up.

And the consequences can be serious. When someone comes to the church seeking help, our assumptions can determine whether they are welcomed or pushed away. When someone is struggling, our response can offer hope or leave them feeling even more alone. Sometimes, without realizing it, we may be dealing with matters of life and death.

We may think that we are standing up for what is right. But if proving our righteousness becomes more important than recognizing another person's dignity and needs, we ought to ask ourselves what we're actually defending.

James calls us to practice something different. Be quick to listen before forming an opinion. Get to know people and their needs. Recognize that their experiences may be very different from our own. Because sometimes the first step toward showing grace is admitting that we don't know the whole story.

Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, November 11
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 12
7:30am - Coffee with the Pastor - The Exceptional Bean
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Sunday, November 15
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 16
2:00pm - Mahjong - Family Life Center
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, November 17
12:00pm - Women's Bible Study
12:00pm - Men's Bible Study
1:00pm - Community Assistance

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

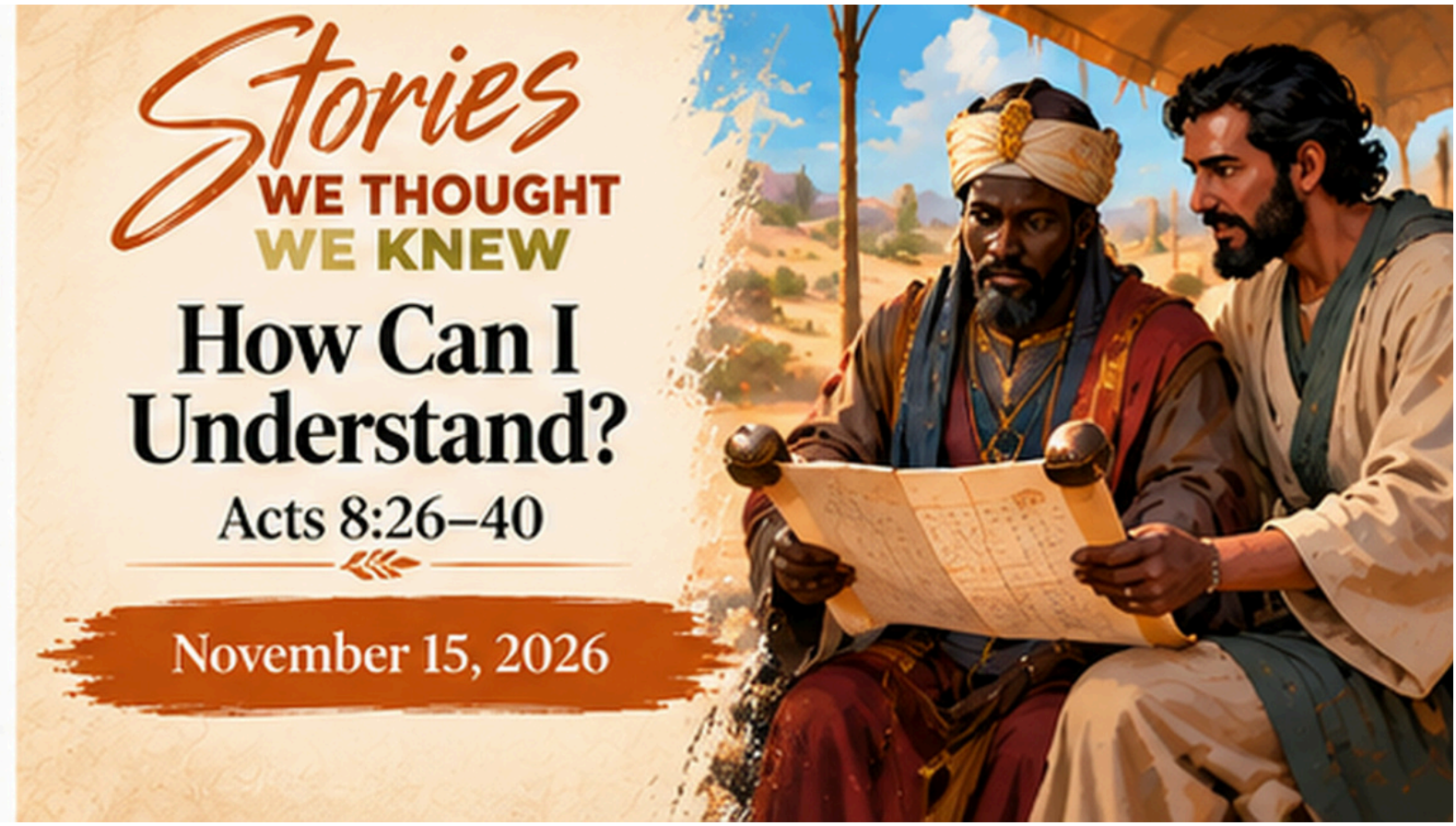
An Operation Christmas Child shoebox is more than a gift—it is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children in over 100 countries. Through ministry materials translated into their own languages, children learn about Jesus and are encouraged to share His love with others.

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 byTHIS SUNDAY, 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!



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 15, is the Twenty-Fifth 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 Acts 8:26–40 in a sermon titled “How Can I Understand?”

Together, we will revisit the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, a powerful encounter that begins with a simple question about understanding Scripture.

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.

Everyone is welcome to join as we worship God and discover how opening ourselves to questions, conversation, and the leading of the Holy Spirit can deepen our understanding of not just Scripture, but one another as well.

Other Opportunities

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our annual Turkey Box Project! We are preparing Thanksgiving boxes for 105 families, and we still need your help filling them.
To provide our usual amount of food, we need:

Corn - 141 regular-size cans
Green beans - 114 regular-size cans
Potatoes - 107 regular-size packages
Mac and cheese - 54
Stuffing - 32
Cranberries - 69
Pies - 69
Gravy - 68



Our usual goal for corn, green beans, and potatoes is two regular-size containers or one family-size container per family. Each family-size donation reduces the shortages above by two.
To provide a smaller amount of those three items, we would still need 36 corn, 9 green beans, and 2 potatoes.
We are also collecting monetary donations to help purchase turkeys and any items still needed as we finish packing the boxes. Whether you contribute food, funds, or both, your generosity helps provide Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

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!



Congregational Meeting to Elect Elders

A congregational meeting will be held during both worship services on Sunday, November 22, for the purpose of electing elders. The Session, acting as the nominating committee, will nominate the following people:

Dana Davidson
Chris Langford
Rachel Moses
Tim Noonkester
Ron Thurman

All members are invited to vote. Members may also nominate additional candidates during the meeting, if they wish. Before making a nomination, please confirm that the person is an active member of the church and has agreed to serve if elected.

Please keep these nominees and our congregation in your prayers as we choose those who will serve in leadership.

Advent
SERVICE OF
Light

Join us as we anticipate the arrival of the light of Christ.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 6:00 P.M.

IN THE SANCTUARY



Stewardship Report

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Commitments - $4,445.00 Undesignated - $1,507.00 Other - $470.00

This week's offering includes $200.00 in Turkey Project donations, $195.00 from CPNS for accounting, and $75.00 from Weight Watchers.

Total contributions - $6,422.00

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 - Alzheimer's
- 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

Thank You!

I want to thank my amazing church family for the many prayers, cards, and food. The beautiful blessing bouquets and gifts were so appreciated. The many messages during my recent diagnosis of breast cancer were very encouraging. I could not have navigated this journey without you. I am thankful that it was caught early and that all seems well at this time. Thank you for your continued prayers. With my heartfelt thanks!

Nancy Rector