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

This week, during our daycare chapel service, I talked with the children about what it means to be thankful. It is easy to find reasons to be thankful when life is going well, but I wanted them to think about how we can be thankful even when things do not go the way we want.

None of us enjoys getting hurt, but when we do, we can be thankful for the parents, doctors, nurses, and others who take care of us. We may be disappointed when it rains and we cannot go outside to play, but we can be thankful for the rain that helps things grow. It is a simple lesson for preschoolers, but it is also one that grown-ups need to be reminded of on occasion.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances." Notice that Paul tells us here to give thanks "in" all circumstances, not "for" all circumstances. There is an important difference.

We do not have to be thankful for illness to be thankful for those who care for us. We do not have to be thankful for grief to be thankful for the memories of those we have loved and the people who walk with us through our grief. We do not have to be thankful for our difficulties to be thankful for the ways God sustains us through them. Thanksgiving and disappointment can exist beside one another.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, I hope you will remember all of the good things that have happened this year, but also remember the blessings you have experienced during difficult moments. Think about the people who have cared for you, encouraged you, and helped you. And one of the best ways we can express our gratitude is by offering that same compassion to someone else. The kindness, encouragement, or love you offer someone may give them reason to give thanks.

I hope that during this holiday you will remember that God loves you, that you are not alone, and that God is faithful no matter how well your life is going. And I hope you will share the love you have received so that others may know that they are loved by God and are not alone.

Coming Up This Week

Thursday, November 26
12:00pm - Thanksgiving Dinner
Thanksgiving holiday - church offices closed

Friday, November 27
Thanksgiving holiday - church offices closed

Sunday, November 29
9:00am - Sunday Morning Small Groups
10:00am - Sunday Worship
5:00pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm - Youth and Young Adult Meeting

Monday, November 30
2:00pm - Mahjong - Family Life Center
4:00pm - God's 4H-ers: His & Hers Healthy Workouts to Hymns

Tuesday, December 1
9:00am - Coffee and Conversation
12:00pm - Women's Bible Study
1:00pm - Community Assistance

Wednesday, December 2
6:00pm - Advent Service of Light





Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 29, is the First Sunday of Advent, and the chancel color will be purple as we begin a new Christian year and a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ.

Our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Charles McCaskey, will preach a sermon titled “Guess Who’s Coming to Town?” During worship, we will also light the first candle of our Advent wreath, the candle of hope.

As you enter the sanctuary for worship, we encourage you to place a Chrismon or two on our tree, helping us prepare our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

This will be a One Service Sunday, with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and worship at 10:00 a.m. If you are unable to attend in person, the service will be streamed live on our church's YouTube channel.

Everyone is welcome as we begin our Advent journey together, preparing our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth and renewing our hope in the promises of God.

This Sunday is a **ONE SERVICE SUNDAY**.

Sunday Morning Small Groups are at 9am.

Worship is at 10am.

Other Opportunities

Christmas Angel Tree

As the Christmas season approaches, we have a wonderful opportunity to share the love and generosity of our congregation with families right here in our community. This year, our church is hosting an Angel Tree to benefit students at Cane Creek Elementary School whose families are facing financial hardship and could use some extra support during the holidays.

For many of these children, the gifts placed under our tree will make their Christmas morning truly special. Each angel tag on the tree represents a local student and includes their specific needs and wish-list items.

How You Can Participate:

Pick an Angel: The Angel Tree will be set up in the narthex starting Sunday, December 6. Simply stop by, choose one or more angels from the tree, and sign your name beside the corresponding number on the sign-up sheet.

Shop for Your Angel: Purchase the items listed on the tag (or as many as you are able). Please ensure gifts are unwrapped (or placed in a gift bag with the angel tag securely attached) so they can be easily sorted and delivered.

Return Your Gifts: Please bring all gifts back to the church narthex no later than Sunday, December 13. This deadline ensures we have plenty of time to organize and deliver everything to the school before Christmas break begins.

Your kindness and generosity consistently reflect the heart of our church, and we are so grateful for the ways you step up to care for our neighbors.

If you have any questions about the Angel Tree or how to get involved, please reach out to Carrie Jones at (931) 261-5887 or cjones@pcsstn.com.



Christmas Opportunities for our Children and Youth

Our children and youth are invited to travel to Lebanon to experience the Dancing Lights of Christmas. We will leave the church at 5:00 p.m. and stop for dinner along the way. We look forward to a fun evening together as we celebrate the Christmas season.

Then, they are invited to gather for a special time of devotion and Christmas fun. Together, they will reflect on the meaning of the season and enjoy icing and decorating Christmas cookies to enjoy themselves or share with family and friends. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season, grow in faith, and share a little Christmas joy with others.



"A Thrill of Hope"

Annual Christmas Cantata

Join us on Sunday, December 13, as our Sanctuary Choir presents its annual Christmas cantata *A Thrill of Hope* by Joel Raney, during both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Through inspiring music and narration, we will journey through the season of Advent to the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. Invite your family and friends to share in this special morning of worship and Christmas music!

Food to the Rescue

As we enter the Christmas season, we have a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action and make a direct impact on families right here in our community. One of our church's most popular stewardship traditions is returning! **We are partnering with Food to the Rescue for their Christmas Break food boxing event on Wednesday, December 16, at 5:30pm.**

In Middle Tennessee, 1 in 5 children faces food insecurity. Food to the Rescue works to ensure that local children in Putnam, Overton, and Jackson counties do not go hungry while schools are closed for the holidays. The boxes we pack on December 16 will be delivered directly to local children so they have nourishing meals throughout Christmas Break.

Our church has committed to providing 40 volunteers for this event, and we need your hands and hearts to help us fulfill that promise! Because this is always one of our most enthusiastic and well-attended service projects, spots tend to fill up quickly. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex starting this Sunday! This is a fantastic hands-on way to serve alongside fellow members of our congregation and a great opportunity for families, small groups, and individuals of all ages to share God's love tangibly. As 1 John 3:18 reminds us, "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Be sure to stop by the narthex this Sunday to claim your spot on the team. Thank you for your continued generosity and willingness to serve! Warmly, the Missions Committee



Feast of Ingathering • December 6

Our stewardship letter, 2027 budget, and commitment card were mailed this past weekend and should have arrived for those on our mailing list. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our church's ministry in the coming year.

During both worship services on Sunday, December 6, we will celebrate our Feast of Ingathering. You will be invited to bring your commitment card forward during worship, or you may place it in one of the offering boxes. Thank you for helping make our ministry possible.



Stewardship Report

Sunday, November 22, 2026

Commitments - $3,455.00 Undesignated - $1,420.00 Other - $320.00

This week's offering includes $145.00 in Turkey Project donations, $125.00 for altar fflowers, and $50.00 in Connection meal donations.

Total contributions - $5,195.00

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 Bill Bevins - Julie King's brother-in-law
- Lois Squires - NHC
- Nicholas Miller - Rachel Moses' cousin
- Michael Palmer - Belinda Wynne's nephew - heart surgery
- 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
- Lee Webb - Alzheimer's
- Unspoken Requests

Assisted Living:

- Doris Baggett - Signature Healthcare
- Roberta Ross - Standing Stone
- Ramona Tilghman - Life Care of Sparta
- Regina Weber - NHC

Cancer Treatment:

- Ruth Henry - Ruth Ann Henry's sister-in-law
- Traci Giezentanner - lung cancer
- 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