



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
December 16, 2020*

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The journey is almost complete. We have walked through 3 Sundays of Advent and there is only one more candle left to light. We began the season of Advent with the acknowledgement of human despair. As we progressed through the season, we also progressed more and more into a feeling of hopeful anticipation. As people of faith, we are anticipating the return of our Savior and for the celebration of the Christ of Christmas. There are several in our congregation who have shared with me frustration, disappointment, and in some cases, despair that Christmas will not be the joyful celebration that it normally is. There is no doubt that this year will look different for many of us. Family gatherings will not be the same. For many, there will be no gatherings. For many, this will be the first holiday without a spouse or a parent or a child. Christmas 2020 will not be the same and there is nothing that I can say that will change that reality. However, as we look toward Christmas and we acknowledge the human despair that is very real, let us also acknowledge the hopeful anticipation that we have through the Christ of Christmas. Christ may not take away all of our pain, but Christ does assure us victory. Christ does not solve all of our hurt for today, but Christ promises freedom for eternity. This year will be different, but the promises of Advent and Christmas will always be the same.

Blessings, Christian

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

******TONIGHT from 5:30-7:30pm******

Central City Church (Cookeville Mall - enter on the back side of the mall facing I-40)

We need at least 25 volunteers to help pack food. The packing area is large, so we will be able to spread out. All ages are allowed to help and there will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical ability. Masks will be worn. Dress in cool clothing as the building is warm!! Text or Email Tracy Sparks to sign up - (931)261-1029 sparkst@pcsstn.com Drivers are also needed! For more information, go to:

<http://ow.ly/65Rs50zuDgw>

Food to the Rescue Deliveries

Food is needed now more than ever! We ask for your help getting food boxes to children's homes for Christmas Break. We will deliver the boxes on Thursday, December 17th, starting at 1:00pm. We will continue to send out food boxes until they are gone. We hope to be done around 3:30. We are doing it earlier so you won't be out delivering in the dark. **IF** you cannot deliver at this time, but **CAN** deliver later (in the dark), please sign up and mention it in the note section. We still may need you! Sign up on the following website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094eadae28aafa7-christmas2>

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
565 E. 10th Street - Cookeville, TN 38501

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org

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We thank Jim Gray, Sandra Robbins and Judy Sullivan for their leadership in our music. We also want to thank Jodi Smith for helping with the PowerPoint and Bill Byers for his work with the camera system.

Worship Information

Sunday, December 20th, will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The chancel color is purple. Our text for the sermon will be Romans 16:25-27. Please plan to join us in the sanctuary, online at 10:00am or in the Family Life Center pavilion at 11:00am as we worship God.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 13, 2020

Commitments - \$8,955.00 Undesignated - \$1,465.88 Other - \$100.00

Sunday's offering included \$100.00 Poinsettias.

Total Deposit - \$10,520.88

Tour of Lights

All elementary-aged and youth students are invited to join us tomorrow, December 17, at 6:00pm for a tour of Christmas lights around the city! We will return around 7:00pm. Masks are required on the bus or feel free to follow along in your own vehicles. The more the merrier! For questions or comments, please contact Caleb.



As with so many other things in 2020, our Christmas Eve services will be conducted differently this year. We will be having two services in our sanctuary, one at 6pm and one at 8pm. Our 6pm service will be broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube. Church members are requested to attend the 8pm service if possible. Many in the community will attend at 6:00pm as that is when it has been held in the past.

WINONA MEAL

Christmas dinner for our Winona folks is scheduled for Tuesday evening, Dec. 22nd; the menu is ham/green beans. If anyone would like to help, call Alice Peek 239-5513. We need the following items by noon on that Tuesday:

- (4) 9x11 pans of mac n cheese (45) rolls
- (3) 9x11 pans of sweet potatoes (45) servings of dessert

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help make these meals possible!



Christmas Dinner



Sunday's narthex flowers were placed to the wondrous glory of God, the blessings of my husband of 47 years, Phillip, and our children and grandchildren by Belinda Wynne.

The large altar Poinsettia is given by the Phillips family in memory of Harvey, Mildred, James Harvey, & Mike Phillips.



Sunday School for Children and Youth!

This past Sunday, we began having Sunday school classes for all of our school-aged children and youth. Classes begin at 9:00am. As we strive to make sure that your children and family stay safe, we will be using outdoor spaces when the weather permits and will maintain our distance from one another. When we must be inside the building, masks will be required. We look forward to seeing your children and youth on Sunday mornings!



11:00am Worship Service

We thank each of you who attend our outdoor worship service (Family Life Center). We will continue to offer this slightly abbreviated and less formal service each Sunday at 11:00am until we can all be in the building together again.

We ask that people not park in the spaces directly in front of the pavilion. We would like to leave those spaces available as a parking space for families who wish to worship from inside their vehicles.



The **Good News Sunday School** class is now meeting at 9:00am for Sunday School. This class will take place in the Upper Commons. The class will be studying the book of Revelation. Everyone is invited to come and take part in this study.

The **Pathfinders Sunday School** class is meeting at 8:45 on Sunday mornings in the outside area of the Pavilion. Please consider joining us.



GIVING

It is our hope that, during this world health crisis, Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church can continue to be the church and offer hope, assistance, and love to our community. However, in order to do that, we need your help. In order to continue with Tuesday Assistance, pay bills and our staff, we need you to prayerfully consider your ability to continue your regular giving. We know that it is a scary time for a lot of people. If you are able, please consider helping us to help some of the others that are being hurt during this time.

1. mail an offering to the church at 565 E. 10th St., Cookeville, TN 38501
2. give using a debit card through the church website. <http://www.cookevillecpchurch.org/give/>
3. instruct your financial institution to make a contribution from your account (each institution may have different rules/instructions for how to do this)

Camera Persons Needed

The church needs one or more persons to learn to run our new camera system for the 8:45am service on Sundays. The new system supports many views of the church and works to highlight various viewpoints, including a wide view of the church, the pulpit, lectern and music instruments. The new system is not difficult, but will require some training and Steve Boots, who currently runs the system, would be available for that purpose. We would like to have at least a couple of people become proficient at running the system and would like to have you express your interest to Steve or Christian. We would love to begin training you immediately.





This year we will not be able to go Christmas caroling as we have in the past, but we don't want to forget those who are unable to attend church with us. We would ask that you set aside some Christmas cards this year for those folks. Call Sandra or Christian in the church office (526-6585) to get a roster of names and addresses. We will be happy to email you a document with that information.

Love-Joy Circle Activities

We are inviting the congregation to assist us in our ministries by saving 'Education Box Tops' and aluminum can pop tops. We are collecting children's tennis shoes size 10 kids to size 4 girls/boys (new or slightly used) for Park View School. As we share hope with those with cancer, we are collecting scarves for Hope Scarves, a non-profit organization that recycles used scarves for cancer patients. Hold on to your saved items and contributions until we are once collecting them.

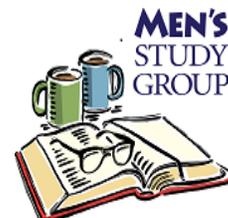


CHURCH MISSION NEWS

Twisted Stitcher's goal is to have a couple of finished and tagged **PRAYER SHAWLS** on the desk in the Session Room at all times. Please help our ministry by getting them to anyone who could benefit from prayers and the love of Christ. Please indicate on the list who the blanket went to and help us cover everyone. Thank you.

Men's Bible Study

Tim Fournet is conducting a Men's Bible Study on Tuesdays at 12:00pm. The first study is "Ten Men of the Bible" by Max Lucado. This study guide is widely available on multiple sites. If you need help finding or purchasing this guide, please let Christian (931-265-8896) or Tim (931-239-9752) know. Each lesson is a 5-day guide and the study lasts for 10 weeks. We will discuss one lesson each week.



The first class was held yesterday and will continue on November 24th. We are meeting in the church pavilion and invite you to bring a lawn chair and your lunch. We provide a Zoom link to the study as well.

Everyone is welcome. We will be following Church Guidelines on Social Distancing. If you have any questions, please let Tim or me know.



Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Carolyn Zolg who passed away on Tuesday of this past week. Bob and Carolyn have been an integral part of our church family for many years and Carolyn will be missed. Please remember Bob and the family in your prayers.

Please remember the family of Ardene Washburn in your prayers. Mrs. Washburn was the sister of Carlene Byrne and passed away on December 11 in Florida.

Prayer Requests . . .

The family of Carolyn Zolg (Bob's wife)
 The family of Ardene Washburn (Carlene Byrnes' sister)
 The family of Noah Myers (parents -Ryan & Valerie)
 Phillip & Belinda Wynne (COVID)
 Rico Schwartz (17-yr old hit by drunk driver)
 Memory Turner (Rico's mom - a co-worker of Sarah Gray-Jordan)
 Rev. Blake Stephens
 Jimmy Stringer (heart issues)
 Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart's brother-in-law)
 Arnold Rice
 Ethel James
 Kathy Hilton (surgery)
 Lynn Dunham (broken hip)
 Ginny Liebsch
 Devonia McGee
 Kathy Shanks
 Julie Stepp's mother
 Margie Copeland (Freeman Smith's sister)
 Don Anderson (serious auto accident)
 Leighann Morgan and family
 Wanda McCaskey
 Ella Haynes
 Pat Brumfield
 Don Dyer
 Euna Hancock Brown (Sarah Joyce's sister)

Dorothy Nichols
 Ramona Tilghman
 Ruth Sapp
 Junior Dickerson's sister, Fay
 Tim Fournet
 Dave James
 Wilma Diemer
 Bob Hill
 Jim Lansford
 Levi Rector
 Robert Buck
 Johnny Dunn (COPD)
 Cindy Furcean
 Clay Vanhooser
 Lynn Twitty (cancer)
 Evelyn Hyder (cancer)
 Becky Knight (cancer)
 Cindy Bilbrey (Jerry Samon's sister - cancer)
 Jeremy Germinis (cancer)
 Max Atnip (cancer)
 Mel Brown (cancer)
 Steven Middleton (cancer)
 Charlene Huddleston (Cedar Hills)
 Carol Burgess (Heritage Pointe)
 Lynn Dunham, Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Morningside)
 Unnamed prayer requests
 Those in the military and their families

