



# *Mid-Week Manna*

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

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**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

*Wednesday,  
December 23, 2020*

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This has already been an incredibly long and difficult week. I know that there are many people within our congregation who are hurting this week. We have seen more than our fair share of loss. We have seen more than our fair share of hurt. With all that is going on in the world around us and all that is going on in the lives of many within our congregation, I continue to hear the sentiment that it is difficult to get in the Christmas spirit this year. I, too, find it hard to believe that Christmas is just two days away. While Christmas will not look the same for many families this year and many of the secular aspects of Christmas have disappeared, that will make tomorrow night even more special for me. While there are parts of Christmas that will not look normal due to the chaos around us, I hope that when you hold your candle high and sing “Silent Night, Holy Night,” you can remember that the light of the world has come to bring us hope in the darkness. I hope that you will be able to remember that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Blessings, Christian



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.

## **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!



### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 20, 2020**

Commitments - \$8,755.00    Undesignated - \$1,016.80    Other - \$80.00

Sunday's offering included \$80.00 for flowers.

Total Deposit - \$9,851.80

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

931-526-6585  
[www.cookevillecpchurch.org](http://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 Steve Boots and Mark McKinley for their work with the camera system.

### Worship Information

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, will be the First Sunday of Christmas. The chancel color is white. Our text for the sermon will be Isaiah 61:10-62:3. Caleb Norris will be preaching. Please plan to join us in the sanctuary or online at 10:00am or in the Family Life Center pavilion at 11:00am as we worship God.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.





*Sunday's narthex flowers were placed to the glory of God in memory of Vernon Gene Pinkley by Carolyn Pinkley.*

*The credenza flowers were placed by Al Beyer and Andrea Beyer Schweikert for Sally Beyer and Brenna Schweikert's birthdays.*

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

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.

### *Love-Joy Circle Activities*

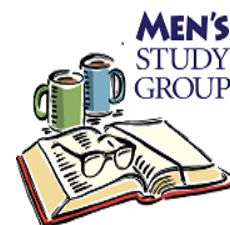


#### **MISSIONS**

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.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.



### **Newly Graduated**

Our congratulations to Jonathan Kelly on his graduation from Tennessee Technological University on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Jonathan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology. Our best wishes to him as he begins a new chapter in his life!





Thank you to all my church family for the cards, calls and visits. They all mean a lot to me and have helped me get through this ugly year. Because I am considered "high risk" I'm one of several who has not been attending church in person and I miss it very much. Blessings to all of you for a very beautiful Christmas and a much, much better 2021. Ginny Liebsch

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Mike Hawkins, brother to Dana Davidson and Alice Peek. Mike passed away on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Cookeville. Services were held yesterday. Please remember Dana, Alice and the family in your prayers.

Please remember the family of Polly DePriest in your prayers. Polly passed away on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December in Cookeville. Services were held on Wednesday of this past week.



## Prayer Requests . . .

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|---|--|
| The family of Polly DePriest                  | Dorothy Nichols                          |
| The family of Mike Hawkins                    | Ramona Tilghman                          |
| The family of Carolyn Zolg                    | Ruth Sapp                                |
| The family of Ardene Washburn                 | Junior Dickerson's sister, Fay           |
| The family of Noah Myers                      | Tim Fournet                              |
| Phillip & Belinda Wynne (COVID)               | Dave James                               |
| Rico Schwartz (17-yr old hit by drunk driver) | Wilma Diemer                             |
| Memory Turner (Rico's mother)                 | Bob Hill                                 |
| Rev. Blake Stephens                           | Jim Lansford                             |
| Jimmy Stringer (heart issues)                 | Levi Rector                              |
| Bobby Wallace (Evon Maggart's brother-in-law) | Robert Buck                              |
| Arnold Rice                                   | Johnny Dunn (COPD)                       |
| Ethel James                                   | Cindy Furcean                            |
| Kathy Hilton                                  | Clay Vanhooser                           |
| Lynn Dunham                                   | Lynn Twitty (cancer)                     |
| Ginny Liebsch                                 | Evelyn Hyder (cancer)                    |
| Devonia McGee                                 | Becky Knight (cancer)                    |
| Kathy Shanks                                  | Jeremy Germinis (cancer)                 |
| Julie Stepp's mother                          | Max Atnip (cancer)                       |
| Margie Copeland                               | Mel Brown (cancer)                       |
| Leighann Morgan and family                    | Steven Middleton (cancer)                |
| Wanda McCaskey                                | Charlene Huddleston (Cedar Hills)        |
| Ella Haynes                                   | Carol Burgess (Heritage Pointe)          |
| Pat Brumfield                                 | Lynn Dunham, (Signature Healthcare)      |
| Don Dyer                                      | Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Morningside) |
| Euna Hancock Brown                            | Unnamed prayer requests                  |
|   | Those in the military and their families |

