



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
January 5, 2022*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith



I need to admit something. I am struggling. For the last 2 years we have been dealing with Covid. For the last 2 years we have lost our sense of normalcy. We have not been allowed to do many things the same way we did previously and are constantly left trying to figure out new ways to do those tasks that were already familiar to us. At the same time, many are calling for us to go back to normalcy and ignore or live with the virus. It is just one more way that we live in a society that seems to thrive on disunity. For a while, the world was divided by quarantine. Then the world was divided by facemasks. Then the world was divided by politics. Then the world has been divided by vaccines. The world seems to be divided over anything and everything.

Unfortunately, sometimes it seems that we will never see normalcy or any sense of unity. Every time that it might seem that we are getting over Covid, a new variant appears, normalcy is lost again, and the arguments that lead to division grow even louder.

So, I have to admit that I am struggling. I have gotten to the point where far too often I don't know what to say, so I say nothing. Far too often I don't know what to do, so I do nothing. The disunity and the frustration of the last two years has affected my attitude and my confidence.

Yet, over the last few weeks, I have sought to do exactly what I have preached. I have sought to see more of the hope and more opportunity in the world around me. I have a long way to go, but I am already seeing a change in my attitude and my outlook. I know that if I continue to lean upon the God who seeks to show me light, I will continue to heal.

Why do I tell you this? I have a feeling that I am not the only one who is struggling. The last two years have been incredibly difficult for all of us, and it is ok to admit that we are not ok. You are struggling. Your friends are struggling. Your family is struggling. You are not alone. It is also important for us to remember that the person with whom you cannot see eye-to-eye or the person whose attitude or life-choices have changed is also struggling.

The last 2 years have strained us all personally and collectively. As the circumstances of life seek to tear us apart, let's commit to working harder and leaning more on God so that we maintain the connection and community that God created for us to enjoy together.

Blessings, Christian

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We thank Sandra Robbins and Jim Gray for leadership in our music for Sunday services. We also want to thank Jim Gray for leading us in special music. Finally, we thank Jodi Smith for helping with the church PowerPoint.

Worship Information

Sunday, January 16th, is the Second Sunday of Epiphany. The chancel color is green. Sunday’s sermon text will be John 2:1-11. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45 or 11am as we worship and celebrate God.

Church Volunteers Needed

As we try to get back to some normalcy and the full ministry of the church, we need more people to share their knowledge, talents, and time with the church. This survey offers you the chance to share with us how you would like to serve and help us to better worship and serve together. We are asking you to follow this link (<https://forms.gle/ryVjDiGQLRLcGVXi9>) and discover several ways that you can serve the church.



Connection Resumes THIS NEXT WEEK



Our Connection program will resume on Wednesday evening, January 19th, with dinner at 5:15. We ask that you make a reservation for dinner if you do not already have a standing reservation. Likewise, let us know if you have a reservation and will not be joining us. Dinner is \$3.00 for children and youth and \$4.00 for adults. A household will

not pay more than \$12.00 for dinner. You can complete a dinner reservation online, by completing a reservation card found in the narthex or give Sandra a call in the church office. Reservations must be made by Tuesday morning.

We offer classes for all ages, including children, youth and adults. More information about the adult class will be made available in the next week.

Please plan to come join us!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, January 9, 2022

Commitments - \$3,760.00 Undesignated - \$1,345.00 Other - \$2,147.25

\$50.00 was collected for altar flowers, \$2,000.00 was given for assistance, \$30.00 from Weight Watchers, \$50.00 for the youth and a \$17.25 credit card reimbursement.
Total Deposit - \$7,252.25



Each week our services are broadcast online for those who are unable to join us in person. Our services are streamed live at 8:45am every Sunday. Those services remain online and can be watched at any time. There are two ways to view our service online:

- Facebook- <http://www.facebook.com/cookevillecpc/>
- YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/c/CookevilleCPChurch>



Sympathy is expressed to the family of Perry Rowe Harris, Maggie Wharton's brother. Mr. Harris passed away earlier this week in Massachusetts. Please remember Maggie and her family in your prayers.



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Noon Bible Study meets on Tuesdays in the Family Life Center. Tim Fournet leads the study and all men in the church are invited/encouraged to attend.

The **2022 FLOWER CALENDAR** signup sheet is now posted in the narthex. Please place your name next to the date(s) for which you are interested. You may also call in your request for placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday. The cost for placing flowers is \$50.00. Sally Beyer will call you for a dedication the week the flowers are ordered.

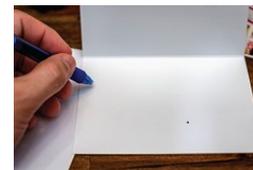


Commitment Cards

If you have not yet submitted your pledge for year 2022, please take a moment to complete a **Commitment Card** and place it in Sunday's offering. A copy of the 2022 Budget is on the narthex table if you would like to see how the church disburses its funds. Commitment Cards are also available on the narthex table.

Card Ministry

The Missions Ministry invites you to take a card or cards from the Fellowship Hall and prepare them for special occasions - prayer concerns/sympathy/birthdays/praises - while they are fresh on your minds. Take your card with you or leave it for the Missions/Outreach committee to address, stamp, and mail for you. This is a wonderful way to express care, concern and support for others in our church.





Prayer Requests

The family of Perry Rowe Harris (Maggie Wharton's brother)
 The family of Joe Henry Nash (Geraldine Smith's brother)
 Ron & Georgia Hensley (Covid)
 The family of Lilah Clack
 The family of Joyce Keller
 Dan Hilton (hip replacement)
 Pat Brumfield (broken hip)
 Mike Sheets (back surgery)
 Perry Green (Evon Maggart's nephew)
 Susie Hyder (breast cancer)
 Cindy Furcean (surgery)
 Carter Apple (teen diagnosed with cancer)
 Mike Scardina (Don & Ann Dyer's son - lung cancer)
 Tim Fournet
 Don Sundquist (with family in Florida)
 Joan Errick
 June Guzlas
 Frankie Dickerson
 Wanda McCaskey
 Connie Boots
 Geraldine Dunn
 Bob Zolg
 Kathy Hilton
 Kathy Shanks
 Ella Haynes
 Jim Lansford

Dorothy Nichols
 Ramona Tilghman
 Levi Rector
 Robert Buck
 Clay Vanhooser
 Dan Sutherland (cancer, heart problems)
 Don Anderson
 Louise Burton-Buck (James Maggart's aunt)
 Those addicted to drugs/alcohol and their families
 Jimmy Stringer
 Bobby Wallace
 Lynn Twitty (cancer)
 Jim Dixon (cancer)
 Evelyn Hyder (cancer)
 Becky Knight (cancer)
 Jeremy Germinis (cancer)
 Max Atnip (cancer)
 Steven Middleton (cancer)
 Charlene Huddleston (Cedar Hills)
 Carol Burgess (Heritage Pointe)
 Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe)
 Lynn Dunham (Signature Healthcare)
 Jo Gentry (Morningside)
 Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Morningside)
 Unnamed prayer requests
 Those in the military and their families

