



# ***Mid-Week Manna***

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

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*Wednesday,  
February 23, 2022*

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**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**



For the last few weeks, we have been discussing Luke's account of the Sermon on the Plain in our Sunday worship services. We have looked at his list of blessings and his list of woes. This past Sunday, we talked about the ridiculously difficult task of loving our enemies and doing good to those who hate us and overturning the systems of the world that abuse people.

Following our narrative from Sunday, Jesus makes another statement that is incredibly difficult. Jesus tells us "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The systems of the world tell us that some people are better than others. The systems of the world tell us that some people are not worthy of our time. The systems of the world tell us that if we find someone to be difficult or odd, then they are not worthy of our effort. The systems of the world tell us that when we disagree with another, we no longer have to have anything to do with them. Yet, when we make those determinations, we are judging who is worthy of love. We are judging who is worthy of compassion. We are judging who is worthy of forgiveness.

I am thankful that no matter what, God decided that we were worthy of time, effort, and love. I hope that we will make the effort to overturn the systems of the world as we strive to judge less and love more.

Blessings, Christian

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will mark the beginning of the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. This service includes the imposition of ashes and begins our walk toward Holy Week and Easter. The service begins at 6:30pm.

Prior to the meal, we will be having our Wednesday evening dinner beginning at 5:15pm. Everyone one is invited to dinner; we do ask that you make reservations ahead of time. The cost of the meal is \$4/adult and \$3/child.



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## Worship Information

Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, will be Transfiguration Sunday. The chancel color is green. The scripture for the sermon is Luke 9:28-36. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45am or 11:00am as we worship God.

## Tonight’s Adult Bible Study

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” -Matthew 5:5-6**

Although it includes the usual sense of the term—justice in human relations—justice, as it is understood in the fourth Beatitude, has a much larger meaning. It is first of all a divine quality, of which the Bible often speaks: “The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.”

Tonight we discuss what justice is and, equally important, what it is not. We will also seek to discover how we might better pour out mercy on all people. We will discuss these items this evening at 6:15. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us.



## Food to the Rescue Packing Day

**\*\*\*MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-7:30 pm\*\*\***

**(In place of Connection)**

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112

Roots Salon is in the front; Food to the Rescue is in the back

Part of the outreach program of our church is the packing of boxes for Food to the Rescue. This program helps to feed underprivileged children during Spring Break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities. Masks are optional. We hope you will be able to join us!

## Church Ministry Teams and Leaders

We want your help in the church. Our ministry teams help our church session form the creative vision and direction of our church. We would love to have your help. All of those who attend the church are encouraged to join a team. Additionally, if you have questions or suggestions, you may always direct those to the church staff or the appropriate ministry team chairperson. Below you will find a list of our ministry teams and their chairpersons.

**Building and Grounds – Jeff Peek  
Fellowship and Outreach – Liz Fournet  
Stewardship and Finance – Ron Turman**

**Christian Education – Cindy Putz  
Missions – Tracy Sparks  
Worship and Music – Corby King**

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, February 20, 2022**

Commitments - \$4,090.00    Undesignated - \$6,316.00    Other - \$122.00

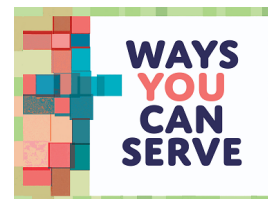
\$122.00 was collected for Wednesday evening’s Connection meal.

Total Deposit - \$5,523.00



## Seeking Church Volunteers

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.



## Change in Connection!



ASH WEDNESDAY

This next week, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, regular Connection classes are canceled and instead, we will be having our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm. Dinner begins at 5:15 and we ask that you make a reservation if you are not already on our standing list. 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, complete a reservation card found in the narthex or give Sandra a call in the church office. Reservations must be made by Tuesday morning. On Ash Wednesday evening, we will be having strawberry congealed salad, chicken and rice casserole, broccoli, rolls and Mountain Dew cake. We hope you will join us for dinner and our Ash Wednesday service.

## MasterSingers Celebrates Women Composers

MasterSingers of Cookeville presents "Unity in the Community VI", a choral concert focusing on the works of women composers. The event will take place on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm in TTU's Wattenbarger Auditorium. The concert will feature the TTU Chorale, TTU Concert Choir and the White County High School Advance Choir. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for those 18 & under; tickets will be available at the door. Included in the Mastersingers group are members from our congregation, Brenda Johnson, Jim Gray and Sophie Norris. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful, quality music!

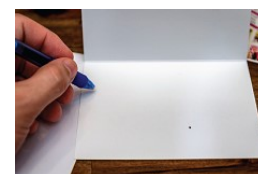


## Men's Bible Study

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.

## 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.





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>

### **Prayer List Update**

Some of you will notice that many names have been removed from our prayer list. Prayer is an important part of our life as a Christian community. We want to be able to pray for those we love and have people pray for us when needed.

However, at times it seems that people are added to the prayer list and rarely removed. While we want to offer prayer for those in need, we are trying to come up with a more effective system that removes people from the prayer list after a reasonable amount of time. If your loved one is removed and you would like them to be placed back on the list, please simply let us know and we will be happy to do so.

## *Prayer Requests*

**Individuals:** Kathy Shanks (hospice); the family of Brenda Nash (Geraldine Smith’s sister-in-law); the family of Arnold Flottman (Lynn Twitty’s father); the family of Keith Schweikert (Brenna’s father); the family of Helen Knight (Lanny’s aunt); the family of Joe Nash (Geraldine Smith’s brother); Don Holloway (NHC); Joe Thompson (Chuck Sparks’ brother - surgery); Ed Fowler (heart procedure); Jenni Fowler (tests); Colleen Campbell (Angie Knight’s mom - biopsy); Pat Brumfield; Wayne Sullivan (Teresa Smith’s father - Covid); Cindy Furcean.

**Cancer Treatment:** Carter Apple; Lynn Twitty; Evelyn Hyder; Susie Hyder (Evelyn’s daughter - breast cancer); Max Atnip; Steven Middleton.

**Assisted Living:** Carol Burgess (Heritage Pointe); Lynn Dunham (Signature Healthcare); Jo Gentry (Charter Senior Living); Charlene Huddleston (Mike’s mother - Heritage Pointe); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe); Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Charter Senior Living).

