



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
November 23, 2022*

*For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. – Romans 8:24-25*

When I was growing up, I am not sure I ever heard the word “Advent.” But whether I was celebrating the correct church season or not, I was definitely living in a time of anticipation. I was anticipating Christmas Eve night and all day on Christmas when I would have the chance to open lots of presents. I am not sure I ever remember seeing the first candle of an Advent wreath, commonly called the candle of “hope,” lit when I was a child. Yet, I certainly knew what I was hoping to receive. I always had a list. It was a list of the “things” that I thought would make me happy. My hope for those presents was always high because I had seen what my parents, the rest of my family, and even Santa Claus had done in the past. They had rarely disappointed me. So, I never had a fear that they would disappoint me in the future. I had reason to have high hopes.

As the family of God, we have reason to have higher hopes than a child at Christmas. We have reason to have hope in the victory of Christ for us and for the world. We have reason to hope for the return of our Messiah. We have reason to hope for the guidance of God. We have reason to hope for Christ to provide mercy and justice for us and through us. We have reason to have hope because we have seen Christ come into the world before. We have seen Christ make a difference.

The birth of Christ, the ministry of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the ascension of Christ, and everything else that Christ did were all a part of his redeeming work for us and for the world. Everything that Christ did fulfilled the prophecy of the one that would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Jesus never failed to fulfill prophecy and he never failed to meet the greatest need of people.

During the season of Advent, we are reminded that our “hope” is found in the one who has never failed. Our hope is found in the one that is working in our lives today. Our hope is found in the one who has promised to return and finish his redemptive work.

All of those presents that I received as a child were great for a time. Unfortunately, I no longer have any of them. Some were broken. Some were lost. I simply lost interest in others. Those gifts for which I had hoped, only lasted for a time. As the family of God, our hopes are placed in the gifts of Christ that will never be taken away. During this Advent season, and every season, I invite you to remember and celebrate that Christ gives us reason to have high hopes.

Glorious God, we praise you for the hope that we have had, the hope we have, and the hope we will always have through the work of Christ. Guide us as we celebrate the hope that is available to us by sharing it with others. Amen.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 4th, will be the First Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45am or 11am as we worship God together and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Avery Trace Middle School Christmas Store

Once again, ATMS students will have the opportunity to shop at a school Christmas Store. This will allow them to surprise a parent, sibling, grandparent, or loved one with a gift at no cost to them. Clean out your closets/cabinets/drawers and gather gently used items that could be given as a gift. This might include:



candles
body wash
lotions
jewelry

t-shirts
sweatshirts
coffee mugs
silly/comfy socks

gift bags
perfume
small toys

Bring your donations by the church Monday-Thursday from 8-4, Friday from 8-2 or on Sundays. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 27th.

Recovery Kitchen Event

Recovery Kitchen is sponsoring a Winter Festival of Compassion for our friends who are homeless on Saturday, December 10th, at Collegeside Church of Christ. The church Missions team is asking for donations of the following new/gently used items for the event:

coats
scarves

hats
socks

gloves
blankets

Hot Hands hand warmers



**Homeless
MINISTRY**

Missions will also be preparing sweet potato and green bean casseroles to feed 100 people on the day of the event. Any and all donations are welcome and appreciated.

Love-Joy Circle Meeting/Lunch

The Love-Joy Circle will hold its regular monthly meeting on **TUESDAY, December 13th**, at 10am in the Session Room. We will convene for lunch at Nick's Restaurant following the meeting. All members and ladies of the church are invited to attend.



Food to the Rescue Packing Day

*** **DECEMBER 14th - 5:30-7:30 pm** ***

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 the Christmas break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities.





Children/Youth Christmas Play

The children and youth of the church will be presenting a Christmas play on Sunday, December 11. We will be practicing during the Sunday School hour on Sundays through that time. We welcome children and youth of all ages to participate! If you have any questions please reach out to Mel Presley at 931-260-4200.

CHRISTMAS



PLAY

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

The church's annual Christmas Eve Service features nine lessons and carols and includes a time of open communion. It concludes with the sharing of candle-light while singing the ageless carol "Silent Night". The service begins at 6:00pm and everyone is invited to attend.

Advent Candles

We are now in the season of Advent. As we do each year, we will light a new candle in our wreath each week. These candles are now available in the church office. If needed, the church would be happy to provide you with a set of Advent candles to help you worship from home. To have them delivered, please call the office and we will be happy to make those arrangements.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 27, 2022

Commitments - \$11,320.00

Undesignated - \$1,075.00

Other - \$1,190.00

This past week, \$50.00 was collected for altar flowers, \$340.00 was given for the Turkey Project and \$575.00 was donated for the PSA Montreat trip. In addition, \$165.00 was collected for Poinsettias and \$60.00 was submitted for Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox program.

Total Deposit - \$13,585.00



Christmas Poinsettia reservations are now being taken. The cost of a Poinsettia plant is \$15.00 and reservation forms are available on the narthex table. Complete the form, include your check or cash, and place it in the offering. You may also give Sandra a call during the week. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar on December 18th; reservations should be made by **Wednesday, December 14th**.



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>





Mission Trip Fundraiser

On March 11-17, members of our church will be taking a mission trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On December 1st, Missions Ministry Team will begin a 1-100 fundraiser to help finance that trip. We will have gift boxes in the narthex with the numbers 1 through 100 on a box. We are encouraging people to take a box (or 2) with a number and donate that amount to the mission trip. You may place that amount in the offering or bring them to the church office. Please be sure to note on any that the money should be used for the mission trip.



December 4	Congregational Meeting/Elder Elections
December 11	Children/Youth Christmas presentation
December 18	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (6pm)
December 25	Sunday Worship (10am - no SS)

Church Session Class of 2025 Elections

Prior to each of the morning worship services on Sunday, December 4th, we will be holding a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing five members to serve on the church session for the next three years. The current session, acting as a nominating committee, will place in nomination the following individuals: Gary Alspaugh, Nathan Fletcher, Chris Langford, Al Middleton, and Shane Welch. During the meeting, members of the church will have the opportunity to make any other nominations that they wish to make. The only thing that we ask is that you make sure those individuals are members of the church and make sure they are willing to serve, if elected.



Christmas Morning Worship Service

This year Christmas will take place on a Sunday. We will be having **ONE SERVICE** at 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School. We invite you to dress comfortably (you are welcome to wear your Christmas pajamas). You are also invited to bring a breakfast snack to share as we have a time of fellowship, singing, and informal worship that will celebrate the Christ who was born in an unexpected manner and can be found in unexpected places.

Men's Bible Study

The Tuesday Noon Men's Bible Study is now meeting with a study on the book of Revelation. Tim Fournet is leading the discussion and all men in the church are invited to attend.





CPWM Executive Committee Meeting

The CPWM Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, December 4th, at 4pm in the Session Room. Members, please make plans to attend.

Volunteer Opportunities

We invite you to share your knowledge, talents, and time with the church. The following link leads to a survey that offers you the chance to share with us how you might like to serve and help us worship together. The link is (<https://forms.gle/ryVjDiGQLRLcGVXi9>). Take a moment to check it out.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Rhonda Barlow (upcoming foot surgery); Denise Joyce (surgery); the family of Richard Morgan (Heather’s husband); Madie King (upcoming knee surgery); Evelyn Hyder (broken hip); Wanda McCaskey (home); Dan Hilton (home); Shelby Bennett (Patti Atnip’s granddaughter - ATV accident); Pete & Regina Weber (Regina at home); Ron Hensley; Kendall Fogleman (3-yr-old with leukemia - Christy Huddleston’s family); Hayden Lytle (Evon Maggart’s nephew); Don Holloway (home); Carol Burgess (NHC); Cindy Furcean.

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

Assisted Living: Lynn Dunham (Signature Healthcare); Jo Gentry (Charter Senior Living); June Guzlas (Charter Senior Living); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe); Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Charter Senior Living).

