



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 14, 2022*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. - Psalm 32:11*

Over the last couple of days, I have been to the bank, the grocery store, to the dentist and I have heard the same question at each place. Someone at each place asked me, "Are you ready for Christmas?" They wanted to know if I had my decorations up. They wanted to know if I had my gifts purchased. They wanted to know if I had wrapped everything. I know because each of them shared that they had not done some or any of those things. To many people, getting ready for Christmas is buying gifts, putting up trees, and baking cookies. People decorate, cook, and wrap in order to prepare for the joy of Christmas. They do this in anticipation of a special event that is soon to come.

In the church we call that preparation Advent. We are anticipating the arrival of the Christ child at Christmas and the arrival of the second coming of the Savior. We prepare by offering people the greatest gift we can give them. We prepare by sharing the good news of God's love with others. We prepare by serving people in our community and our world. We prepare by sharing with others what it means to us to have a relationship with Christ.

People spend so much time "preparing for Christmas." They want to make sure that there is as much happiness and excitement as possible on that Christmas morning. Yet, for many, doing the tasks of preparation brings them great happiness as they think back on the memories of Christmases past and anticipate the excitement of this year. Likewise, as the church does the work necessary to prepare for the return of Christ, we still experience joy as we remember all that Christ has done for us and we experience joy as we think about all of the promises that God has made for us.

Whether it is looking for the hard-to-find gift or doing the ministry that seems impossible, sometimes the work of preparation seems overwhelming. We can find it easy to be stressed by the work that never seems to end. Yet, Advent seeks to remind us that, no matter how much is left to do, we have been given much to celebrate. Christmas is coming. Christ is coming again. That is reason to have joy as we make the necessary preparations.

Lord, thank you for the presence of joy in my life. Give me the wisdom to celebrate with joy all of your gifts no matter what comes my way. Amen.

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 18th, will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Sanctuary Choir will be presenting "The Glory of Christmas: Celebrating Christ's Birth." 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.

Christmas Eve Service



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 candlelight while singing the ageless carol "Silent Night". The service begins at 6:00pm and everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas Morning Worship Service

This year, Christmas will take place on a Sunday. We will be having **ONE SERVICE** at 10am. 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 and singing. Finally, we would love for everyone, especially the children, to bring one of their Christmas gifts to show everyone. We will look at those while we have an informal worship that will celebrate the Christ who was born in an unexpected manner and can be found in unexpected places.



The Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a Christmas cantata, "The Glory of Christmas", this Sunday, December 18th, in the 8:45 and 11am services. This will be a presentation of the Advent/Christmas journey in song. Narrating the work will be Steve Boots and Julie Stepp. Please plan to attend one of these services and experience with us the story of the Christ child.

Food to the Rescue Packing Day

***** TONIGHT - 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.

Mission Trip Fundraiser

On March 11-17, members of our church will be taking a mission trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Missions Ministry Team has initiated 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 checks that the money should be used for the mission trip.



“The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same - Yesterday, Today, and Forever!”



“Thank you very much to Mel, all the parents, and all the children for their hard work in making this Christmas program happen!”



December 18	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (6pm)
December 25	Sunday Worship (10am - no SS)
January 1	Sunday Worship (10am - SS at 9am)

We will be worshipping on Sunday morning, **January 1st**, with one service at 10am. Sunday School classes will be meeting at 9am. We will be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion during that service. We hope that you will be here to join us as we begin 2023 in worship together.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 11, 2022

Commitments - \$4,480.00 Undesignated - \$1,823.00 Other - \$1,535.00

This week's offering includes \$250.00 given for the Tuesday Assistance program, \$180.00 collected for Christmas Poinsettias, \$50.00 for the Recovery Kitchen and \$1,055.00 given for the youth mission trip.

Total Deposit - \$7,838.00

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.



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.



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/CookevilleCPCChurch>

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Sherrie Smith; Larry Taylor (Tracy Sparks' brother-in-law - open heart surgery); Rhonda Barlow (upcoming foot surgery); Denise Joyce (surgery); Madie King (upcoming knee surgery); Evelyn Hyder (broken hip); Wanda McCaskey (home); Dan Hilton (home); 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).

