



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 21, 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***

We read in Exodus that the Israelites spent 430 years as slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to urge Pharaoh to set his people free. It took ten plagues, including the death of all of Egypt's first born, before Pharaoh finally released their slaves. But, as Israel fled captivity, Pharaoh and the Egyptians changed their minds. The army was sent to bring the Israelites back. Israel was blocked by the Egyptian army on one side and the Red Sea on the other. While they felt trapped, God had a plan. God parted the Red Sea, and the Israelites were allowed to cross on dry ground. When the Egyptian army attempted to follow, the sea crashed back in on them.

Israel was finally free. The above verse was part of a song that was sung by Moses and the Israelites after they crossed through the Red Sea. They had seen the work of God and they wanted to rejoice in God's steadfast love for them. What they did not know was that this was not the end of their journey. They would soon find themselves wandering in the desert for 40 years before they were allowed to enter into the Promised Land. Then, when they finally reached their new home, they would find themselves constantly at risk of violence from other nations.

Yet, through all of the trials, God would continue to lead them in "steadfast love." The Hebrew word for love in this passage is *hesed*. While difficult to translate, it is understood as a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate actions toward another person. The greatest act of mercy and compassion that was ever produced by God's love and loyalty is the gift of a Messiah. It is that Messiah who gives us hope, peace, and joy as we walk through the wilderness of life.

We are only a few days away from the celebration of Christmas. For many, it will be a great break from the troubles of the world around them. Yet, we know that Christmas will not be an end to our trials and troubles. Thankfully, we have a Savior who will guide us through the wilderness of this world and to the eternity that is promised by the God who offers us "steadfast love."

Lord, thank You for your steadfast love that leads me through the wilderness and promises me hope, peace, and joy for eternity. Amen.

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 25th, will be the First Sunday of Christmas. The chancel color will be purple. We hope that you will plan to join us at 10am for a fun time together as we worship God and welcome the Christ of Christmas.

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.



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.



Flowers

The flowers for this coming Sunday, December 25th, are placed to the glory of God and in celebration of Ron Thurman's birthday by Tina Thurman.

The **2023 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 for which the flowers are ordered.

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.



We are so thankful for our church family and all that you mean to us. We have been immensely blessed with food, gifts, visits, cards and well wishes during difficult times. Your thoughts and prayers have been constant and are so much appreciated. Thank you for being there for us!

Sincerely and with much love - Pete and Regina Weber



Best wishes for "Happy Holidays" from the Pastors and Staff of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church!
Christian, Caleb, Sandra & Lataine



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 18, 2022

Commitments - \$3,770.00 Undesignated - \$4,712.00 Other - \$435.00

This week's offering includes \$15.00 collected for a Poinsettia, \$100.00 given for Recovery Kitchen and \$320.00 donated for the youth mission trip.

Total Deposit - \$8,917.00

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.



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 Requests

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

