



# ***Mid-Week Manna***

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

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*Wednesday,  
January 25, 2023*

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**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

***But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." - John 11:4***

For the last several weeks, I have had multiple opportunities to think about a question that I get quite often. When tragedy strikes or people are forced to deal with disappointment, the question that people often have is, "Why?" Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? Why does a God of love allow such pain in the world?

It is a question that we all ask at times in our lives. It is a question that I have been asked over and over again in my ministry. Unfortunately, it is a question for which there is not a good answer. While we often hear clichés, none of them really give a sufficient answer.

While we may not have the answers, we might find the strength to face our difficulties if we did not just ask "why" in the dark moments of life. Perhaps we should be asking why God allows good things to happen to us. Perhaps we should wonder more about why God has blessed us with so much. Perhaps we should question why we have been given so many opportunities in our life. Of course, we know the answer to that question. We know that we have those things because God loves us.

I cannot explain why bad things happen to us. However, I do believe we can take comfort in the fact that the God who loves us in the good times, still loves us in the dark days as well. The question of "why" will still come our way when we face trouble. Let's prepare ourselves for those moments by focusing on "why" God allows so much good to come into our lives the rest of the time.

## **One-Service Sunday**



One-Service Sunday

This Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, will be the fifth Sunday of the month and we will be having only one worship service. Sunday School is scheduled for 9am with worship following at 10am. We will have a congregational meal following worship. The church will be providing meat and bread; members are asked to bring sides and desserts. We hope you will join us!

## **Connection Study**

In the new year, the church will be focusing on what it means to be a good steward of more than just our finances. We have begun a new series of studies during Connection about the importance of good stewardship of all God's gifts. Please join us at 6:15.



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## Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, will be the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany. The chancel color will be green. The scripture for the sermon will be Micah 6:1-8. Dr. Charles McCaskey will be preaching. We hope that you will plan to join us at 10am as we worship God together.

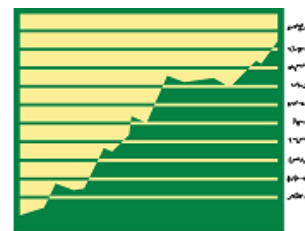
## Study on the Book of Acts



We resumed our Coffee and Conversation Bible Study Series this past week. These studies take place on Facebook at 8:30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you cannot join us live, you are welcome to watch them any time. For our new study, Christian will be leading us through the book of Acts.

## Notes from the Depositing Treasurer

- Please send 2023 Pledge Cards/Information ASAP to the church office. As always, Annual Statements of Giving are automatically generated for those who have designated a pledge.
- 2022 Annual Statements of Giving will be ready for pickup on the narthex table this Sunday. Any statements that have not been picked up within two weeks will be mailed to you. This year, any 2022 online donations made on Tithely will be integrated into your 2022 Statement of Giving.
- Please contact me at [lizsheets@charter.net](mailto:lizsheets@charter.net) if you have any questions about donations, records, or your Statement of Giving (where is my 2022 statement/I need to receive a 2022 statement, please mail my statement, or any discrepancies/general questions). I am happy to work with you to serve our church and our Lord. Thank you! Liz Sheets



Annual Giving Statements

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, January 22, 2023

Commitments - \$7,400.00    Undesignated - \$3,431.00    Other - \$559.00

This week's offering includes a \$100.00 donation for Recovery Kitchen, a \$50.00 donation for the Pittsburgh Mission trip, a \$100.00 reimbursement for Grace Convocation, \$100.00 for altar flowers, a \$29.00 donation to Samaritan's Purse and \$180.00 collected for Connection meals.

Total Deposit - \$11,390.00

## Wednesday Connection



We continue our Wednesday night Connection activities this evening with dinner at 5:15-6:00pm. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, but you do need a reservation for dinner. We ask that you make your reservation by Tuesdays at 10am. You can reserve your meal(s) online, complete a reservation card (narthex table), or call Sandra in the church office. On the menu for **NEXT** Wednesday evening is Chili & fixings.

At 6:00pm, we will have activities for our children and youth. Our "Twisted Stitchers" knitting and crochet group will also meet at that time. At 6:15pm our adults will meet for Bible study. Please join us!



## Attention Stitchers!

If you knit, crochet or sew, we are calling for 4x3 blankets to go to children in crisis. There is plenty of yarn available to you in the Session Room. Blankets may be brought by the office Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm, on Fridays from 8 to 2, and on Sundays. Your time, talents and donations are appreciated!



## Our Women Gather

All women in the church are invited to attend a special gathering on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm in the Family Life Center. We will start the afternoon with a business meeting and then move to a time of fellowship with Bingo, coffee and dessert. This is an opportunity for ladies of all ages to come together as one group. Please plan to join us!

## Men's Bible Study

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



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.

## This Week in the Church

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00am	Sunday School	<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	CPNS Devotion
	10:00am	Worship		5:15pm	Connection meal (reservation required)
	11:00am	Congregational meal		6:00pm	Children & Youth activities
	5:30pm	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal		6:00pm	Twisted Stitchers
	6:30pm	Youth activities		6:15pm	Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30am	Coffee & Conversation (online)	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30am	Coffee & Conversation (online)
	12:00pm	Men's Bible Study			
	1:00pm	Community Assistance			



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

*Our condolences to the family of Louise Burton-Buck (James Maggart's aunt). Mrs. Burton-Buck passed away this morning with family by her side. Please remember her husband, children and the rest of James' family in your prayers during this difficult time.*

### Prayer Requests

**Individuals:** the family of Louise Burton-Buck; Linda Adams (stroke - Christian Smith's aunt); Sara Gotcher (Mike's wife); the family of Ray Spencer (Esther's husband); Sherrie Smith; Zach & Jenny Fowler (surgery); Madie King (knee surgery); Wanda McCaskey; Pete & Regina Weber; Hayden Lytle (Evon Maggart's nephew); Don Holloway; Carol Burgess (NHC); Cindy Furcean.

**Cancer Treatment:** Lynn Twitty; Susie Hyder (Evelyn's daughter - breast cancer); Steven Middleton; Kendall Fogleman (3-yr-old with leukemia - Christy Huddleston's great-niece);

**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).

