



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
February 22, 2023*

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” – Philippians 4:12

Today we begin the season of Lent. We begin our walk toward the celebration of the resurrection of our Savior. However, before we can arrive at Easter Sunday, we have to walk through the wilderness that is Lent. We spend the next several weeks in a time of fasting and prayer. We spend this time looking inwardly to the areas that need growth, so that we can look outwardly to the ways that we can use that growth for others. That season of preparation begins today with Ash Wednesday. We will gather for service tonight and, as the ashes are placed on our foreheads, we will be reminded that “From dust you came and to dust you shall return.”

It always seems so harsh. I know that each year, when I hear someone state that I am no more than dust, it cuts me deep. I have been given a great life. Often, I am guilty of thinking that I have earned what I have and that it is mine to use how I wish. Ash Wednesday reminds me that I could accomplish little on my own.

Yet, at the same time that I am being told that I am dust, that same person is making the shape of the cross on my head. Despite my weakness, I am loved by God. Despite my pride, Christ willingly died for me. When I am being called dust, it should not demean me, it should celebrate the unconditional, all-encompassing love of God.

As we enter into the season of Lent and face our humanity, let us remember that our strength and our identity come from the God who has given us all things. I hope that you will plan to join us tonight as we celebrate the strength and love of the God who guides us through this season and every season.

Ash Wednesday Service



This evening we will mark the beginning of the season of Lent and a special Ash Wednesday service is planned for 6pm. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and we encourage you to join us as we begin our journey into the Lenten season. Note that there will be no evening meal preceding the service.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
565 E. 10th Street - Cookeville, TN 38501

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www.cookevillecpchurch.org

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, February 26th, will be the First Sunday of Lent. The chancel color will be purple. Rev. Caleb Norris will be preaching and the scripture for the sermon will be Matthew 4:1-11. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45 or 11:00am as we worship God together.

Church Mission Trip: Help us get to Pittsburgh!

Sweet Treats! Sweet Treats! Sweet Treats!

Fresh baked goods will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday through March 5th.

ONLINE STUDY



We have resumed our Coffee and Conversation Bible Study Series. 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.

HELPING HANDS is an organization that helps families in our community and they are experiencing a shortage of powdered laundry detergent, deodorant and toilet paper. We are asking for your help during the month of February to assist them with this need. Boxes will be in the narthex of the church for you to bring any of the items you are able.



"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9

In the Church This Week

Wednesday	10:00am	CPNS Devotion	Sunday	5:30pm	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
	6:00pm	Ash Wednesday service		6:30pm	Youth activities
Thursday	8:30am	Coffee & Conversation	Tuesday	8:30am	Coffee & Conversation (online)
		(online)		1:00pm	Community Assistance
Sunday	8:45am	Sunday Worship			
	9:50am	Sunday School			
	11:00am	Sunday Worship			

Men's Bible Study

The Tuesday Noon Men's Bible Study will resume next week, February 28th. Join us as Tim Fournet leads a discussion on the book of Ephesians.



Love Joy Circle Collects "Hope Scarves"

The mission of **Hope Scarves** is to share scarves, stories & hope with women facing cancer. In order to meet the increasing interest in Hope Scarves we need to collect many scarves and stories to fulfill the requests. Ideally each scarf comes with a story from someone who has faced cancer. However, we have many stories donated that do not have scarves so we pair a donated community scarf with that story to begin its journey as a Hope Scarf. Scarf & Story drives are an important part of our ability to fulfill our mission. Please bring your unused scarves by the church office or see Nancy Miller with your donations.

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!



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>

Your Ministry Team Members

Building and Grounds

Al Middleton
Chris Langford
Shane Welch

Fellowship and Outreach

Elizabeth Fournet
Nathan Fletcher

Stewardship and Finance

Ron Thurman
Steve Boots
Mike Davidson

Christian Education

Cindy Putz
Lanny Knight

Mission

Kim Wright
Gary Alspaugh

Worship and Music

Corby King
Jim Gray



Sunday's altar flowers were placed to the glory of God and in memory of Alex Robbins by the Gotcher family. (It is difficult to lose our furry babies!)

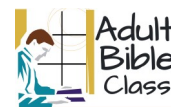
On April 2nd, 2023, the **JOY Club** (Just **O**lder **Y**outh) will be taking a field trip to Cumberland County Playhouse to watch the 2pm Sunday matinee showing of *Things My Mother Taught Me*. We have openings for twelve people. Tickets are \$29.00 per person. The first four to sign up will receive free tickets! All openings are first come, first served. You may reserve your ticket(s) using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA5AA28A4FDC25-joyclub>

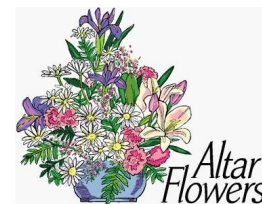


Connection Study

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.



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.



MasterSingers to Present Concert

*MasterSingers presents **Unity in the Community VII: Celebrating Diversity in Faith**. The concert will feature music from Paul Bassler’s “Songs of Faith” and includes choirs from churches in our region. The date for the program is Sunday, March 5th, at 3pm in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary at 165 E. Broad Street. You can reserve tickets at Mastersingersinc.com.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, February 12, 2023

Commitments - \$5,895.00 Undesignated - \$3,546.00 Other - \$6,563.00

This offering includes \$50.00 for flowers, \$400.00 in Mission Trip Deposits, \$441.00 from Mission Trip Bake Sale proceeds, \$340.00 from the Mission Trip Bologna Sale, \$60.00 from Weight Watchers and \$272.00 for Connection meals. A special gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 each was given to the following programs: Music, Family Life Center, Youth, CPWM and the Pathfinder’s SS Class.

Total Deposit - \$16,004.00

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, February 19, 2023

Commitments - \$4,375.00 Undesignated - \$991.00 Other - \$1,493.50

This week’s offering includes \$50.00 for flowers, a \$50.00 Mission Trip donation, \$145.00 in Mission Trip Bake Sale proceeds, \$215.00 for Connection meals and a \$1,033.50 Mission Trip Bus deposit refund.

Total Deposit - \$6,859.50



The Cumberland Presbyterian denomination’s Discipleship Ministry Team would like to help you examine yourself during this season. They would like to invite you to follow "A Path through Lent" with others in your church community and Cumberland Presbyterians around the world. Through daily scripture, conversation, and prayer, you will journey down a path of self-discovery that will help you to better recognize God’s gifts in your life. I hope you will join me and others from around our denomination as we take this "Path through Lent." You can find the devotionals and instructions at the following link: <https://t.e2ma.net/click/yg91fg/qu6qdk/6a6hsjb>





Sympathy

The church expresses sympathy for the family of Mr. Robert Buck, uncle of James Maggart. Mr. Buck passed away this morning. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Robert Buck (James Maggart’s uncle); the family of Carol Burgess; Lynn Twitty (hospice); Ginny Liebsch; Justin Davis (emergency appendectomy); the family of Ottis Phillips; the family of Linda Adams (Christian Smith’s aunt); Ginger Tevault (chemo); Sherrie Smith; Wanda McCaskey; Pete & Regina Weber; Hayden Lytle (Evon Maggart’s nephew); Don Holloway; Cindy Furcean.

Cancer Treatment: 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).

