



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
September 6, 2023*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

***"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,
for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers."— Psalm 24:1***

We have spent a great deal of time talking about stewardship. Being a steward means that we are to be caretakers of the gifts that God has given us. And as Psalm 24:1 reminds us "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers." There are times that the task of offering everything to God can seem extremely daunting. There are times where it would seem that offering every moment and every opportunity to God would seem to take away the opportunity for fun and play. But the truth is, God created this world for us to enjoy. God wants us to have a good time.

When we think about Jesus, too often we think about the serious side of Christ and forget that he also liked to have a good time. When Jesus performed his first miracle in scripture he was at a party. He was at the wedding feast at Cana. That first miracle was to turn the water into wine in order to save the host from embarrassment. But that miracle also made sure that the party continued.

Jesus loved dinner parties. We often read of him being criticized for the people with whom he ate. He would attend dinners with sinners. He would attend dinners with Pharisees. He offered instructions to people about how people ought to be welcomed and treated at dinner parties. He wanted everyone to feel included.

As the people of God, we are encouraged to have fun. We are encouraged to enjoy the time that we are given on this earth. Yet, even as we are having fun, we can be stewards who share God's blessings. Jesus went to the party and helped to make sure others had fun. Jesus went to the party with whoever invited him. Jesus sought to make sure that all people were included in the party. He had fun, but he also used the opportunity to share an example of love and hope. That is stewardship at its finest.

Youth Sunday

Our church youth will be leading us in worship during both services on September 17th. Their theme for the service will be "Seize the Day." The message will be given by Elisabeth Hudson and Caden Langford. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be here and support our young people.



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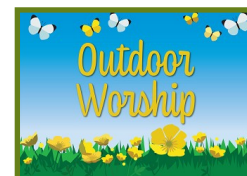


Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, September 10th, will be the 15th Sunday after Pentecost. The chancel color will be green. The scripture for the sermon will be Matthew 18:21-35. Rev. Caleb Norris will be preaching. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45 or 11:00am as we worship God.

Outdoor Worship Service

Back by popular demand. On September 24th we will be worshipping outdoors. We invite you to dress comfortably, bring your lawn chair and worship outside in God's creation.



Baby Shower for *Courtney & Jonny Dowd*



Please join us for a drive-thru Baby Shower to be held for Courtney & Jonny on Sunday, September 17th, from 1:00 to 2:00 in the afternoon at the Family Life Center. They currently have two beautiful little girls and are looking forward to welcoming a baby boy to their family. They are registered on Amazon and hope to see/meet you on the 17th!

Wednesday Connection

Wednesday Connection has resumed! As usual, we begin our evening with a meal. We would love to have you and your family join us for this fellowship opportunity. Meals cost \$6.00/person and no one household is expected to pay more than \$20.00. You do need to make a reservation on a weekly basis or make a standing reservation by completing a reservation card (located on the narthex table), registering online or by contacting the church office. The meal for tonight is a baked potato bar and the **Missions Ministry** is in charge of preparing, serving and cleaning up after the meal. Next Wednesday's meal menu and the Ministry team that will be serving will be noted in this next Sunday's bulletin.



At 6:00pm, our youth and children will meet downstairs for Bible Study and recreation. Our Twisted Stitchers Group meets in the Session Room to crochet and knit together as they work on projects for various service organizations in the community.

At 6:15pm, our adults meet in the Upper Commons for Bible Study. This semester, Christian will be leading the group in a study about the history and meaning of the Apostles' Creed. The group will also look at some other creeds the Church has used throughout its history. We encourage you to come and be a part of our Wednesday Connection program!





Julie Stepp
and
Eric Howard

invite you to share
in the joy and celebration
of their marriage
on Saturday
September 16, 2023
at 1:00

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

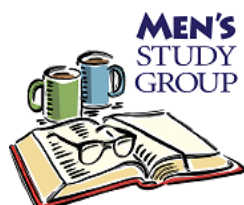
Reception immediately following.
Your presence is our present.

Recovery Kitchen

Recovery Kitchen is a program that helps provide hot meals for the homeless in our community. We are in need of the following items for this week's meal. Contact Tracy at 261-1029 if you are able to give to the project. Please have items to the church by Friday, September 8th, at noon.

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|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 80 pre-cut sub sandwich rolls | 80 bottles water | 80 oranges |
| 7 32-oz. bags of shredded mozzarella cheese | 80 p/b crackers | 80 bananas |
| 5 67-oz. jars marinara sauce (need at least 320 oz.) | 80 soft granola bars | 80 individually wrapped desserts |

Thank you for your giving hearts and generous donations.



Men's Bible Study

The Tuesday Noon Men's Bible Study continues and we invite all the men in the church to attend the study with us each week in the Session Room of the church. Feel free to bring along your lunch. Tim Fournet is leading a discussion of Max Lucado's book on James.

New Sunday School Class



On September 17th, we are planning to begin a new Sunday School class for our young adults. This new group is being formed to allow those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's to have a place to study the scriptures together as they reflect on the issues they are facing in this chapter of life. We plan to provide opportunities for those within this group to further develop new relationships through dinners and fellowship activities.

Corby King has graciously volunteered to be the teacher/facilitator for the group. We are looking for a core group that would like to participate in the formation of this new young adult group. We would welcome those who are currently attending our church, former members of our church, or new members to be a part of this new group. If you or someone you know would be interested in this opportunity, please let Corby King or Christian Smith know so that we can provide more details.



Online Bible Study

Join Caleb live in a study presentation on Minor Prophets in the Bible. The study is streamed live on Facebook on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30am. Make a cup of coffee and join Caleb for Coffee and Conversation! All studies are recorded on our Facebook page and can be viewed at any time.



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>



The church expresses sympathy to Steve Dunham and family on the loss of his mother, Lynn Dunham. Mrs. Dunham passed away yesterday morning. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Please keep Steve and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Individuals: the family of Lynn Dunham; the family of Ella Haynes (Don's wife and Barbara Greeson's mother); Frankie Dickerson (Bethesda); the family of Jeff Comer; Martha Clift (broken shoulder); Dick & Pat Brumfield; Lorene Holland (Willene Gentry's sister - NHC); Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); Don Holloway (NHC); Wesley Sanders - Kiana Gentry's brother-in-law in car accident); Georgia Hensley (home); Amelia Kate Moore (premature daughter of Liz & Ryan Moore); Rand & Allison McDonald; James Lacy (Bailey Manor); Reagan Bacgi (tumor); Jim Baggett (surgery); Cody Liddle (boating accident); Sherrie Smith; Cindy Furcean.



Cancer Treatment: Bill Snyder (Virginia Lovellette's brother); Kim Daniels; Ginger Tevault (Julie Stepp's mother - chemo); Susie Hyder (Evelyn's daughter - breast cancer; brain tumor surgery); 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); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe); Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Charter Senior Living); Bob Zolg (Heritage Pointe).

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, September 3, 2023

Offerings - \$9,384.00 Other - \$461.00

This week's offering includes \$250.00 for Tuesday Assistance and \$151.00 for Connection meals.
Total Deposit - \$9,845.00

