

Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
November 22, 2023*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." – Psalm 23:1-3

Monday is normally my day off. I value Mondays. I get the opportunity to run errands and to do the housework I have been unable to do throughout the week. I also get the opportunity to spend some time alone to relax, reflect, and experience a Sabbath break. Therefore, I am typically very protective of my time on Mondays.

That being said, there is one Monday of the year that I enjoy coming to the church to work. On the Monday prior to Thanksgiving each year, I come to help Caleb, the youth, and our volunteers deliver our "turkey boxes" to our area schools. This week, several of us gathered and helped to deliver meals to our area schools. This year, thanks to your generosity, 110 families will have the opportunity to experience a meal they might not have had otherwise.

I love my day off. I love the opportunity to take a needed break. Those days give me much needed energy. However, there is nothing that revitalizes me more than knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for making a difference with your time and your donations. I hope that service to the Kingdom of God excites you.



The children and youth of the church will be presenting a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10th, at 8:45 and 11:00am. The title of the program is **'Twas the Night Before Christmas** and features dialogue, scripture readings and well-known Christmas carols.

Program rehearsals will take place on Sunday, November 26th, and Sunday, December 3rd, during the Sunday School hour. We will meet in the sanctuary and all participants are encouraged to attend both these rehearsals.

This is something our congregation looks forward to each year and we are looking forward to presenting our program!

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, November 12th, will be Christ the King Sunday. The chancel color will be white. The scripture for the sermon will be Matthew 25:31-46. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45 or 11:00am as we worship God together. The 8:45am service will be streamed live via our YouTube channel.

Avery Trace Middle School Christmas Store



As in years past, many ATMS students will have the opportunity to shop at a school Christmas Store. This will allow them to surprise a parent, sibling, grandparent, or loved one with a gift at no cost to them. Clean out your closets/cabinets/drawers and gather gently used items that could be given as a gift. This might include:

candles
lotions
small toys

gift bags
body wash
perfume

silly/comfy socks
jewelry
coffee mugs

Bring your donations by the church office Monday through Thursday from 8-4, Friday from 8-2 or on Sundays.



We are coming upon one of the busiest times of the church year and we want to keep you informed about upcoming events. Please see the following schedule and contact Christian, Caleb or Sandra with any questions.

November 23	Thanksgiving Day	December 10	Congregational Meeting
November 26	Christ the King Sunday	December 17	Choir Christmas Cantata
November 29	Hanging of the Greens	December 24	One service - 10am
December 3	First Sunday in Advent	December 24	Christmas Eve service - 6pm
December 10	Children/Youth program	December 25	Christmas Day

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 1 & 2 Peter.





As we begin our walk toward Christmas, we will gather at 6pm on Wednesday, November 29th, for a special service of music and lessons as we decorate our Chrismon tree and our sanctuary. We hope that you will join us as we prepare for the season of Advent.

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.



Young Adult Sunday School Class

The church now has a Sunday School class offering for young adults. This group is designed 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 various fellowship activities.



Corby King is the teacher/facilitator for the group and welcomes 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 is interested in this opportunity, please let Corby 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.

Help with Christmas Decorations

Advent is almost here. While we will celebrate our Hanging of the Green next week, there is work that has to be done to prepare. If you are available, we would love to have your help in decorating the church for Christmas. We will be working on Tuesday, November 28th, and Wednesday, November 29th, at 8:30 each morning.



Love-Joy Circle Meeting/Lunch



The Love-Joy Circle will hold its regular monthly meeting on **TUESDAY, December 13th**, at 10am in the Session Room. We will convene for lunch at Nick's Restaurant following the meeting. Note that the Tuesday meeting time is a change in date from the usual Monday meeting time. All members and ladies of the church are invited to attend.

OCC Christmas Child 2024

Please donate to the CPWM OCC Shoebox project for 2024!

The CPWM invites you to help prepare for OCC 2024 over the next few weeks. Consider donating items as you clean out your child's toy box to make room for this next year's toys. We would love to have items that your child has outgrown (soccer balls, small baby dolls, Barbie dolls, rubber balls, stuffed animals, etc.) These items would need to fit in a shoebox. A box will be soon be available for your donations. Call Belinda at 931-979-7816 if you need help transporting items.



CPWM Afternoon of Fun

All ladies of the church are invited to the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 3rd, from 2 to 4pm. We will enjoy an afternoon of good conversation, fellowship, games and much more. You are asked to bring a snack to share with the group. We hope to see you there!



Poinsettia Orders



The church has available 25 red Poinsettias for you to purchase in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00 and order forms will be available in this Sunday's bulletin. Please complete a form and fold your payment (checks to FCPC) into the form. Place them in the offering plate or drop them by the church office. The deadline for orders is December 12th.

OCC SHOEBOX PROJECT



The Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry delivered 451 OCC shoeboxes to the drop-off location in Livingston this past Saturday. We are so appreciative of your support for this important ministry.

We continue to look for sponsors for ready-made Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The cost is \$25.00 for a box which is filled with one large item, school supplies and personal items. We would also like to pack 300 boxes in

2024. Envelopes for monetary donations are available on the narthex table. We accept cash or checks (make checks payable to CPWM). You can drop envelopes in the offering plate and we are happy to give you a donation slip for your gift(s).

Elder Elections



As the end of the year approaches, it is our responsibility to elect five elders who will help to lead the church for the next three years. On December 10th, during both services, we will have a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing our next class of elders. The church session has met to act as a nominating committee. They will place into nomination the following individuals: Kathie Chapman, Tim Fournet, Carroll Gotcher, Jeff Peek, and Tina Thurman. These names are nominated to make sure that we have five individuals who are willing to serve. As

always, it is the congregation's privilege to nominate any other member of the church who states they are willing to serve, if elected.

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>



STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 12, 2023

Commitments - \$14,215.00 Undesignated - \$1,992.00 Other - \$1,698.00

This week's offering includes \$505.00 in donations for the Turkey Project, \$25.00 for OCC, an \$838.00 donation for handbell refurbishment, \$80.00 in camp reimbursements and \$50.00 for the Loaves & Fishes offering.

Total Deposit - \$17,905.00





Prayer Requests

Individuals: the family of Lorene Holland (Willene Gentry's sister); Charles Johnston; Jimmy Stringer; Amy Gentry (broken hip); Frankie Dickerson (Bethesda); Dick & Pat Brumfield; Don Holloway (NHC); Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); 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).

Assisted Living: Jo Gentry (Charter Senior Living); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe); Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Charter Senior Living); Bob Zolg (Heritage Pointe).

