



# ***Mid-Week Manna***

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

*Wednesday,  
November 29, 2023*

**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

***"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." – Jeremiah 33:14-15***

Tonight, we will be Hanging the Greens. This Sunday we will be lighting the first candle on our Advent wreath. Soon we will have the children's Christmas program, the choir cantata, and Sunday School Christmas parties. Those are just a few of the events that take place in the church. As the calendar turns from November to December, we move rapidly from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Unfortunately, aside from using an Advent calendar, few of us spend time remembering the importance of the season of Advent. Advent is a season of expectation and waiting that leads up to the Christmas season, which begins on December 25<sup>th</sup>. During Advent, we remember those who waited for thousands of years for the arrival of the Messiah. We also remember that we are still waiting. We are waiting for the return of Christ and the arrival of all that God has promised us.

For many of us the waiting is made easier as we remember all of the blessings that we have been given. We are not anxious during this season of expectation, because we are surrounded by people who love us and support us in our need. However, we are also surrounded by people who do not know that same love. We are surrounded by people who do not have enough to feel secure in this world. Their want for the arrival of the victory of Christmas is far more painful and anxiety filled than we can understand. Their season of expectation is excruciating.

As we walk through this season of Advent, let's remember that there are those who are waiting on far more than Santa, presents, family visits, or even food. They are waiting for hope, joy, love, and peace in their lives. During Advent, let's look for ways to meet those expectations for others.



**As we begin our walk toward Christmas, we will gather THIS EVENING at 6pm 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.**

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## Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be the First Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. The scripture for the sermon will be Matthew 13:24-37. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45 or 11:00am as we worship God together. We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion during the service. 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 today through Thursday from 8-4, Friday from 8-2 or on Sunday. All donations must be in on **THIS** Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.



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.

<b>THIS EVENING</b>	<b>Hanging of the Greens</b>	December 17	Choir Christmas Cantata
December 3	First Sunday in Advent	December 24	One service - 10am
December 10	Children's Program	December 24	Christmas Eve service - 6pm
	Congregational Meeting	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.





The children and youth of the church will be presenting a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Dress rehearsal will take place on this Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> during the Sunday School hour. Participants will meet in the sanctuary and all are asked to attend this rehearsal.

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

### *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.



### ***CPWM Afternoon of Fun***

All ladies of the church are invited to the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 are available on the narthex table. 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 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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>



## **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.



## **Love-Joy Circle Meeting and Luncheon**

The **Love-Joy Circle** will meet in the Session Room on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, for a short business meeting and then go to Mauricio's for a Dutch treat lunch and fellowship. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

## **Food to the Rescue Packing Day**

**\*\*\*WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-7:30 pm\*\*\***

1227 N. Washington Ave. Suite 112

Roots Salon is in the front; Food to the Rescue is in the back



Part of the outreach program of our church is the packing of boxes for Food to the Rescue. This program helps to feed underprivileged children during Fall Break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities.

## **MASTER SINGERS CONCERT**

Come celebrate the Christmas season with Mastersingers in their annual Christmas program. This year's theme is "the Many Moods of Christmas" featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The concert will be held at 3pm on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Wattenbarger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts Building on the TTU campus. Tickets may be purchased through the website: <https://mastersingersinc.com>. Come get in the spirit of the season!



## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, November 26, 2023**

Commitments - \$2,405.00      Undesignated - \$1,185.00      Other - \$245.00

This week's offering includes a \$20.00 donation for the Turkey Project and \$225.00 for Poinsettias.

Total Deposit - \$3,835.00

## **Commitment Cards**

Thank you to those who have submitted Commitment Cards for 2024. Please note that if you would like our depositing treasurer, Liz Sheets, to keep track of your giving, you are asked to turn in a Commitment Card at your earliest convenience. If you did not receive a stewardship letter/church budget, there are some available on the narthex table. Your commitment to giving to the church is an important part of our budgeting process and we appreciate your support.

It will soon be time for Liz to prepare Statements of Giving for 2023. If you did not turn in a commitment card for 2023 and wish to receive a Statement of Giving, please contact Liz at [lizsheets@charter.net](mailto:lizsheets@charter.net).





## Loaves & Fishes

Your Loaves & Fishes donation boxes are due now.  
If you still have those, please bring them in by this Sunday.



**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).



*St. Michael's Craft Sale  
Saturday, December 2  
9:00 a.m. - noon  
640 N. Washington Ave.*



*Coppersmithing  
Pottery  
Stained Glass  
Watercolors /  
Acrylics  
Woodworking*



*Do your Christmas  
shopping here!*



*ALL proceeds benefit the Mary & Martha Girls' School in Uganda.  
Parking is behind the church; follow signs to the Parish Hall upstairs.*