

# ***Mid-Week Manna***

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

*Wednesday,  
December 13, 2023*

**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

***“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.” – Isaiah 7:14***

It is that time of the year. Christmas is just a week and a half away and, for many, our calendars are filling up. I have heard the laments from many who wonder how they are going to be able to do it all. Our schedules are filling up with service projects, worship services, and caroling at the church. There are the parties and family gatherings for which we must prepare and attend. There are the presents that still need to be purchased and wrapped. Then, of course, there is the fact that we are still dealing with our regular work and school schedules. There are times that this season of “peace” feels far from peaceful.

In those moments when the activities of the Christmas season seem to be overwhelming, it is important to remember the season of Advent. It is important to remember that Advent seeks to remind us that no matter what is happening around us, God has a plan to provide us hope. No matter how difficult life becomes, Advent reminds us that God is still in control. Advent seeks to remind us that we can take a break from the secular expectations around us and rest in the assurance that God fulfills promises.

Scholars have different opinions about how many Old Testament messianic prophecies are fulfilled in the life of Jesus, with estimates generally ranging between 200 to 400 prophecies. Yet, while their numerical estimates disagree, they all agree that God fulfilled those promises in Christ. Life gets difficult, but Advent reminds us that God keeps his promises and God has promised us that Christmas will happen and Christ will arrive.

## **Jesus: The Advent of the Messiah**

**THIS Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - 8:45 & 11:00am**

The First Cumberland Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December in both worship services. The work features narration and songs that represent the glorious advent of the birth of Christ – the Messiah. Gary Alspaugh and Julie Howard will serve as narrators. Please join us for a very special morning of word and music.



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

931-526-6585  
[www.cookevillecpchurch.org](http://www.cookevillecpchurch.org)



## Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, will be the Third Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. During the service, the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata, "Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah". 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 via our YouTube channel.



We are amidst 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.

December 17 Choir Christmas Cantata  
December 24 Sunday School - 9am  
One worship service - 10am  
Christmas Eve service - 6pm

December 25 Christmas Day  
January 1 Sunday School - 9am  
One worship service - 10am

## 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.*



## Christmas Caroling

We invite **EVERYONE** in the church to join us for a time of caroling for those members of our congregation who are unable to attend church services. We will be meeting at 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, to organize the group and be on our way to spread Christmas joy to the homebound. After our caroling excursion, we will enjoy a time of fellowship with a meal in the Fellowship Hall. It doesn't matter whether you are a great singer or tone-deaf, we want YOU to join us! Let's have a great time! See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!





## Avery Trace Angel Tree



The Avery Trace Middle School Angel Tree needs your help! As the Christmas holiday approaches, we have so many students in need. At ATMS we still have 13 angels who are in need of a sponsor for this holiday season. If you would be interested in sponsoring a child for the holiday this year, please contact Carrie Jones at [cjones@pccsstn.com](mailto:cjones@pccsstn.com) or (931)261-5887.

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 10, 2023**

Commitments - \$6,270.00      Undesignated - \$1,946.00      Other - \$984.00

This week's offering includes a \$100.00 donation to Recovery Kitchen, \$429.00 for Loaves & Fishes, \$135.00 for Poinsettias, \$60.00 from Weight Watchers and a CPNS reimbursement for \$260.00.

Total Deposit - \$9,200.00

## **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).

## **One Service Sundays**

This month we will be having two **ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS**. On December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, we will gather for Sunday School at 9:00am and we will gather for worship at 10:00am. We hope that you will be here to celebrate as we end Advent and celebrate the season of Christmas.



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>







# Christmas 2023

## Youth/Children Christmas Program

*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*



## 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.



## 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.



**Individuals:** Jeff Peek (surgery); Don Holloway (CRMC); Allison McDonald (home); Cynthia Cottrell (Adam Boutillette's mother); Dave Van der Cook (home); Janet Fowler (surgery in January); Charles Johnston; Jimmy Stringer; Amy Gentry (broken hip); Frankie Dickerson (home); Dick & Pat Brumfield; Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); Sherrie Smith; Cindy Furcean.

**Cancer Treatment:** Heidi Blessing; 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).

