



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
December 20, 2023*

***“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s only son,[a] full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14***

It is difficult to believe that it is almost time. In just a matter of days the packages will be open, and the family will return home and Christmas, at least in the secular sense, will be over. But this time next week, many of us will begin to put Christmas behind us and return to “normalcy.”

I often lament the fact that we do not celebrate the full season of Advent. I wish that we did not rush through this season of anticipation. I also wish that we did not rush through the season of Christmas once it finally arrives. On December 25th, we begin a season that is to last for 12 days. For 12 days we are to continue our celebration of the arrival of Christ and, with Him, the arrival of hope, peace, joy, and love.

We wait all year for the arrival of Christmas. We wait all year for the arrival of the messiah. Yet, once Christmas finally arrives, we tend to move past it rapidly. However, if we believe that Christ has arrived and that Christmas has truly changed the world, then we should never allow ourselves to return to the normalcy of the world. With the arrival of Christmas and the arrival of Christ, the world has changed forever, and we must allow ourselves to be changed along with it.

Merry Christmas to each of you. Let’s seek to allow Christmas to live on through us each and every day.

Candlelight 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.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 24th, will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The chancel color will be purple. During The sermon will include the opportunity to sing Christmas carols. The scripture for the sermon will be Luke 2:8-15. We hope that you will plan to join us at 10:00am as we worship God together. The service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.

Christmas Caroling

We invite **EVERYONE** in the church to join us for a time of caroling for those members of our congregation who are homebound. We will be meeting at 3:00pm TODAY to be on our way to spread Christmas joy to the homebound. After caroling, we will enjoy a time of fellowship with soup and chili in the Fellowship Hall. It doesn't matter whether you are a great singer, we want YOU to join us! Let's have a great time! See you this afternoon!



One Service Sundays



This month we will be having two **ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS**. On December 24th and December 31st, 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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 17, 2023

Commitments - \$4,105.00 Undesignated - \$1,840.00 Other - \$150.00

This week's offering includes \$150.00 for altar flowers.

Total Deposit - \$6,095.00





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>

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.



*Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas from
the Pastors and staff of the First Cumberland
Presbyterian Church!*





The church expresses condolences to the family of Melba Maxwell. Melba passed away on December 10th and funeral services were held this past Saturday. She was a member of our congregation for many years and will be missed. Please keep Melba's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Individuals: Jeff Peek (surgery); Don Holloway (NHC); Allison McDonald (home); the family of 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).

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

