



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

*Wednesday,
January 3, 2024*

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:18-19

2024. It is a new year with all kinds of new possibilities. This past Sunday, Charles warned us that it would be difficult to remember to write 2024 instead of 2023. Today, I have had several chances to write the date, and, so far, I have written the correct date each time.

Perhaps, that is because I am ready to move forward. I am ready for a new year, and I am ready for whatever lies ahead of me. Thankfully, I cannot say that 2023 was a tough year for me, but I can say that I have made my fair share of mistakes over the last year. As we turn the calendar, it is a great chance to remind myself that, while I need to learn from those mistakes, the past is behind me. It is gone. It cannot be changed. It is time to move on to what God has prepared for me today and in the future.

Yet, it is hard to move forward when we are constantly focused on what has happened. To see the joy that God has in store for me, I have to remember that God has forgiven my mistakes and, therefore, I need to forgive myself as well. If I am going to enjoy what God has planned for me, then I have to let go of my sins and I have to let go of the sins of others. Just like I need forgiveness, so do others. Just as I am ready to put the past behind me and look forward to God's plan, so are others.

When we hold on to our troubles and the troubles of others, it is difficult to look toward the future and see anything but the troubles that might be heading our way. But if we will offer to ourselves and to others the same forgiveness that God offers us, we will see a clean slate and endless possibilities for God's glory in the new year.

Communion Preparation Signup



Holy Communion

We are seeking families to sign up for the preparation of communion elements for the first Sunday of the month and special services. Directions for the preparing of communion will be made available to you the week prior to the preparation process. If this is something you are interested in and able to do, you may call Sandra in the church office or click on the following link to add your name to the list. Let us know if you have questions.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13Mimf7y4LfkeXrrS0PcnhrsrLt4xRAjZTYf3mt4GK60/edit#gid=0>

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

931-526-6585
www.cookevillecpchurch.org



Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, January 7th, will be Epiphany Sunday. The chancel color will be white. The text that will be used for the sermon is Matthew 2:1-12. During the service, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45am or 11:00am as we worship God. The 8:45am service will be streamed via our YouTube channel.

Commitment Cards



**Remember
To Submit
Your Pledge**

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.

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.



Love-Joy Circle



The Love-Joy Circle will meet on Monday, January 8th, in the Session Room at 10:00 a.m. All members are asked to bring Valentine cards for our shut-ins. Geraldine Smith has our program and all ladies of the Church are invited to attend.

Sonshine Circle

The Sonshine Circle will be meeting at Chestnut Oaks (7355 Burgess Falls Rd.) at 11am on Tuesday, January 9th. All ladies of the Circle and the church are invited to attend.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 31, 2023

Commitments - \$1,535.00 Undesignated - \$4,262.00 Other - \$343.96

This week's offering includes \$100.00 for the Tuesday Assistance program and a \$243.96 reimbursement for Restoring Hope purchase.

Total Deposit - \$6,140.96





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:

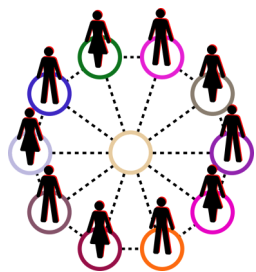
Facebook- <http://www.facebook.com/cookevillecpc/>
 YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/c/CookevilleCPChurch>

2024 Flower Calendar

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for 2024, the signup sheet is now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost for a flower arrangement is \$50.00 and you may submit payment the week that the flowers are ordered. Sally Beyer will contact you for a dedication (for the bulletin) and for a description of the type of arrangement you would like. Call Sandra in the church office for more information.



Wednesday Connection



We will be resuming Wednesday Connection on January 17th. Wednesday Connection offers members and guests the opportunity to fellowship and learn together. At 5:15 each Wednesday evening, we enjoy a meal together. 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.

At 6:00pm, we offer lessons and fun for both our children and youth. At 6:15pm, our adults will gather in the Upper commons for Bible Study. This semester, Christian will be leading a study on "The Lord's Prayer."

We encourage you to consider being a part of our Wednesday Connection program!

Individuals: Ethel James (Blue Roof); Georgia Hensley (CRMC); the family of Don Holloway; Allison McDonald (home); Janet Fowler (surgery); Charles Johnston; Jimmy Stringer; 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).

