



Mid-Week Manna

A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

*Wednesday,
December 7, 2022*

From Your Minister - Christian Smith

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. – 2 Corinthians 11:13

This past Sunday we lit the second candle of the Advent wreath. Traditionally, the candle has represented “peace.” When people are asked what they want for Christmas, I have often heard people respond, in a somewhat joking manner, that they want “world peace.” We desire peace for the world, but it has become a joke because it seems so impossible.

Unfortunately, every day, the world seems to get farther and farther from the kind of unity that can only be brought through peace. As we argue over politics, theology, and everything else about which we might have the slightest disagreement, we wander farther and farther away from the unity that might bring us peace. Yet, peace is exactly what Christ wanted for his disciples in John 16. Peace is exactly what Paul wanted for the Corinthian church. Peace is exactly what God has desired for us since the beginning of time. So, how do we reach the peace that God desires us and offers us?

We turn to the lyrics of the song written by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller in 1955. The song urges us to “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” What are we doing to bring peace to a troubled world? Especially during this time of the year, the world tells us that it is okay to want for yourself. We are constantly bombarded by advertisements that tell us we should desire more. But, in the church, we are celebrating a different kind of season.

We are in the midst of the season of Advent. We are in the midst of the season when we await the arrival of the Christ child who would sacrifice his life for us. He sacrificed because he wanted not what was easiest for Him, but what was best for all. Are we willing to sacrifice some of what we want in order to attain peace for others? Are we willing to sacrifice our need to be right in order to achieve peace? Are we willing to give up the need for others to be wrong in order for us to live in unity?

Certainly, there are things about which we must take a stand. But more often than not, we are dividing ourselves over topics that matter very little in the long run. Too often, we are involved in petty quarrels that make the idea of world peace little more than a joke. This Advent season, let’s sacrifice our pride in order to take the first steps toward that elusive peace on Earth.

Loving God, give us the patience and the humility that we need in order to help develop peace. Help us to see that you give us ample reason to find unity instead of division. Amen.

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Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, December 11th, will be the Second Sunday of Advent. Our children will be presenting their Christmas program. The chancel color will be purple. We hope that you will plan to join us at 8:45am or 11am as we worship God together.

Children/Youth Christmas Play

Our children have been hard at work preparing to lead us in worship this Sunday morning. They will present their program during both services. We hope that you will be here to support them. We would invite you to sit a bit closer to the front of the sanctuary so that you will be able to hear more clearly.

“The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same - Yesterday, Today, and Forever!”



Cast

Boy: Jonny Elbert
 Girl: Maggie Smith
 Angel: Conner Jones
 Mary: Cora Little
 Joseph: Nicky Elbert
 Shepherds: Simon Presley, Stella Boutilette, Ellie Hinch
 Wisemen: Isaac Presley, Tucker Hinch, Tripp Little
 Modern Day Shepherds: Cosby King, Abby Elbert,
 Reese Jones, Annabelle Ailshie



Food to the Rescue Packing Day

*** **DECEMBER 14th - 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 the Christmas break. There will be a variety of jobs available for all ages and physical abilities.

Mission Trip Fundraiser

On March 11-17, members of our church will be taking a mission trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Missions Ministry Team has initiated a 1-100 fundraiser to help finance that trip. We will have gift boxes in the narthex with the numbers 1 through 100 on a box. We are encouraging people to take a box (or 2) with a number and donate that amount to the mission trip. You may place that amount in the offering or bring them to the church office. Please be sure to note on any checks that the money should be used for the mission trip.



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.

Advent Candles

We are now in the season of Advent. As we do each year, we will light a new candle in our wreath each week. A set of Advent candles is now available in the church office. Please feel free to pick these up to help you worship from home. To have them delivered, please call the office and we will be happy to make those arrangements.



The Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a Christmas cantata, "The Glory of Christmas", on Sunday, December 18th, in the 8:45 and 11am services. This will be a presentation of the Advent/Christmas journey in song. Narrating the work will be Steve Boots and Julie Stepp. Please plan to attend one of these services and experience with us the story of the Christ child.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, December 4, 2022

Commitments - \$11,610.00 Undesignated - \$2,637.00 Other - \$8,112.71

\$90.00 was collected for Poinsettias, \$200.00 was given for the PSA Montreat trip and \$6,000.00 was reimbursed for the PSA program. \$120.00 was donated for Recovery Kitchen, Weight Watchers gave \$60.00 and an IRS refund of \$1,620.71 was received. \$22.00 was reimbursed by the CPWM for kitchen supplies.

Total Deposit - \$22,359.71

Christmas Morning Worship Service

This year Christmas will take place on a Sunday. We will be having **ONE SERVICE** at 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School. We invite you to dress comfortably (you are welcome to wear your Christmas pajamas). You are also invited to bring a breakfast snack to share as we have a time of fellowship, singing, and informal worship that will celebrate the Christ who was born in an unexpected manner and can be found in unexpected places.



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>

On January 1st, we will be having **ONE** worship service at 10:00am. Also, the church WILL be open for Sunday School classes at 9:00am. We hope that you will be here to join us as we begin 2023 in worship together.



	December 11	Children/Youth Christmas presentation
	December 18	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata
	December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (6pm)
	December 25	Sunday Worship (10am - no SS)
	January 1	Sunday Worship (10am - SS at 9am)

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. All members and ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Men’s Bible Study

The Tuesday Noon Men’s Bible Study is now meeting with a study on the book of Revelation. Tim Fournet is leading the discussion and all men in the church are invited to attend.



Volunteer Opportunities

We invite you to share your knowledge, talents, and time with the church. The following link leads to a survey that offers you the chance to share with us how you might like to serve and help us worship together. The link is (<https://forms.gle/ryVjDiGQLRLcGVXi9>). Take a moment to check it out.



Christmas Poinsettia reservations are now being taken. The cost of a Poinsettia plant is \$15.00 and reservation forms are available on the narthex table. Complete the form, include your check or cash, and place it in the offering. You may also give Sandra a call during the week. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar on December 18th; reservations should be made by **Wednesday, December 14th**.

Prayer Requests

Individuals: Larry Taylor (Tracy Sparks’ brother-in-law - open heart surgery); Rhonda Barlow (upcoming foot surgery); Denise Joyce (surgery); the family of Richard Morgan (Heather’s husband); Madie King (upcoming knee surgery); Evelyn Hyder (broken hip); Wanda McCaskey (home); Dan Hilton (home); Shelby Bennett (Patti Atnip’s granddaughter - ATV accident); Pete & Regina Weber (Regina at home); Ron Hensley; Kendall Fogleman (3-yr-old with leukemia - Christy Huddleston’s family); Hayden Lytle (Evon Maggart’s nephew); Don Holloway (home); Carol Burgess (NHC); Cindy Furcean.

Cancer Treatment: Lynn Twitty; Susie Hyder (Evelyn’s daughter - breast cancer); Steven Middleton.

Assisted Living: Lynn Dunham (Signature Healthcare); Jo Gentry (Charter Senior Living); June Guzlas (Charter Senior Living); Ruth Sapp (Heritage Pointe); Dave & Jackie Van der Cook (Charter Senior Living).

