



# *Mid-Week Manna*

*A Weekly Newsletter from the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

*Wednesday,  
January 10, 2024*

**From Your Minister - Christian Smith**

***“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day;  
night is coming when no one can work.” – John 9:4***

The decorations have been put away and the Wise Men have returned home. After all of the activity of the past month and a half, Christmas has come to an end. Yet, in the church, the calendar does not slow down. This week, in worship we will have the opportunity to celebrate Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. We have just seen Jesus born and placed in a manger. Last week, got a brief glimpse of Jesus as a 2-3 year old infant who was having to flee from his home. Now, a week later, we have jumped ahead to a 30-year-old Jesus being baptized and beginning the very public part of his earthly ministry.

If we read any of the four gospels, we will see they move between events quickly. In the book of Mark, the word “immediately” is used 41 times as it seeks to give the reader a sense of how rapidly Jesus moved from task to task. The Gospel writers wanted us to see that the life and work of the Savior was done with a sense of urgency.

As the people of God, we are called to have that same sense of urgency. Jesus moved from place to place and person to person rapidly because he knew his time on earth was limited and he wanted to make a difference and to share the message of God’s love with as many people as he could during that time. We need to remember that our time is a gift from God that ought to be used to share the Good News of God’s love to all people.

## **Recovery Kitchen**

Recovery Kitchen is a program that helps provide hot meals for the homeless in our community. We are in need of the following items for this week’s meal. Contact Tracy at 261-1029 if you are able to give to the project. Please have items to the church by Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at noon.

**45 bananas    45 oranges    45 oranges  
45 Hawaiian Sweet Rolls    45 Hawaiian Sweet rolls**

Thank you for your giving hearts and generous donations.

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, January 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. The chancel color will be white. The text that will be used for the sermon is John 1:29-42. 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](mailto: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.



### *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.

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT for Sunday, January 7, 2024

Commitments - \$18,310.00      Undesignated - \$2,235.00      Other - \$847.50

This week's offering includes \$150.00 for altar flowers, \$50.00 for the Christmas Eve Offering, \$250.00 for Tuesday Assistance, \$100.00 to Recovery Kitchen, \$60.00 from Weight Watchers and a \$237.50 reimbursement from CPNS.

Total Deposit - \$21,392.50



## Seeking Greeters

The church is looking for individuals to serve as greeters between the 8:45 and 11:00am worship services. This opportunity would entail being available in the narthex to greet any visitors that might enter our church. You may be asked to direct them to a Sunday School class or simply get them seated for the 11:00 worship service. We most certainly want to make them feel welcome to worship with us.



If you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact Sandra Robbins in the church office (931-526-6585) or by email (sandra@cookevillecpchurch.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

## Inclement Weather Policy



Today, our school children are enjoying the day off because school were closed due to inclement weather. With the promise of more of those days ahead, it is a good time to review our church’s inclement weather policy. It has long been the policy of the church that if the Putnam County School System cancels classes for the day, any activities scheduled by the church for that day are canceled as well. On Sundays, we will always make every effort to have at least 1 worship service. However, if conditions become especially dangerous and we must close the

church, we will offer an online worship option. In all cases our priority is your safety, and we ask that you make the best decisions for the safety of you and your family.

## Wednesday Connection



We will be resuming Wednesday Connection this **NEXT** Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Connection program 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. On the menu for this

next week is Firehouse Subs. **The Building & Grounds ministry is in charge of setting up, serving and cleaning up.**

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.”

The Twisted Stitches group will be resuming their activities next Wednesday evening as well. Any level of experience is welcome. We will be working to make blankets for children in emergency situations. If you are interested, please text Liz at 931-260-8494.





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>

**Individuals:** Ethel James (Blue Roof); Georgia Hensley (home); Janet Fowler (surgery); Charles Johnston (hospice); Jimmy Stringer; Frankie Dickerson (CRMC); Dick & Pat Brumfield; Ramona Tilghman (Lifecare in Sparta); Sherrie Smith; Cindy Furcean.

**Cancer Treatment:** Niki Work; 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).

