



Holiday Hours

The office will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas, and December 31 and January 1 in celebration of the New Year.

Thank You Senior Singers

Thank you all so much for making our day! We really enjoyed singing hymns with you. We miss all of you. Hope to see you soon,

~ Larry and Pat Griffis

Email Notifications

Are you on our email notifications list? We regularly send out notifications via group email for things like class and event announcements, weather delays, and deaths. If you aren't receiving these, and would like to be on our email notification list, send an email to Juliana@cookevillefumc.org with "Email Notification" in the subject line. Be sure to put your first and last name as well as your preferred email address in the body of the email. Some email apps hide the email address, so it's important to include it in the body of the email.

Sunday Services

Worship Service:

8:30, 10:55

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Service Broadcast on News Talk FM 94.1/AM 1600

Nursery Available

Sunday Worship and Sunday

School: 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Children ages birth to 3 years

Phone: 931-526-2177

Fax: 931-372-9905

Email: office@cookevillefumc.org

www.cookevillefumc.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Just last week, we started a new liturgical year. The liturgical year tells the story of Jesus, coming to us as God incarnate. Our three-year cycle of scripture readings tells of his "advent", or arrival, his "epiphany", or unveiling as the Messiah (Anointed One of God), his teachings, healings, discipling, sacrificial death, resurrection and continuing presence as the Holy Spirit. Quite a story. It is the story of grace as God's continual loving action in the world.

Scholars call the liturgical seasons "sanctuaries in time." Especially in the midst of Covid-19, we need a sanctuary in time, where we gather to worship God in many ways, expressing our new identity as those who live in Christ. As Paul says in Galatians 2:20, *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.* Christ has come to inhabit us, corporately and individually. This holy habitation changes our identity and our life. We get to participate in the life of God as a life of grace; a life of sharing divine grace through participating in Christ's own character and ministry. I look forward to sharing our new life story of grace in Christ in the months to come.

Two updates: Covid-19 is raging! Our circumstances remain fluid and dangerous. The CDC anticipates a post-Thanksgiving surge on top of a dangerous and tragic surge. We must be wise and care for the safety of our community of faith and our larger community. So, all small group gatherings, with the exception of worship taping and outdoor youth activities, must be canceled until after the first of the year. Worship will continue at 9 a.m. in the gym and 10:55 a.m. in the sanctuary, with social distancing and masks. We will monitor further community health stats, hospital capacity, and all other pertinent information this winter and respond as needed.

2021 Stewardship update: As of November 30, we have 120 financial commitments in for a total amount of \$654,107. We still have 108 pledges from last year remaining to be renewed. Please call LuAnn at (931) 526-2177, or email her at luann@cookevillefumc.org, to renew your financial commitment, or drop your card in the mail to 165 E. Broad St., 38501. If we can all be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us, we will be able to emerge from Covid-19 in 2021 stronger than ever!

~ Kevin

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If there is inclement weather, the church office will make a determination whether activities will be cancelled for weather related purposes. If an activity is cancelled, an announcement will be posted on the homepage of the church web-site by noon and the activity leader will be informed. Participants should contact their leader or the church office with any questions. When activities are cancelled, the facility will not be open nor will anyone be available to open or close the facility.

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Total In-person and Online Views 267

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Total In-person and Online Views 246

BY OUR GIFTS

Actual Receipts for Two Weeks \$46,447.90

Actual Expenses for Two Weeks \$51,516.23

Online Giving

During this time of social distancing, we have several ways for you to continue supporting the ongoing ministries and operating expenses of your church.

- Mail your check to 165 E Broad St.
Cookeville, TN 38501
- Automatic draft on the 5th and/or 20th each month.
- Online giving by credit card
- Online giving through recurring donations

Please call LuAnn in the church office at 526-2177 if you would like to setup automatic draft or have any questions about other options. Online giving is available through our website at www.cookevillefumc.org/giving. Thanks for your continued support during these different times!

Free Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic

When:
Every Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where:
Cookeville Community Center
240 Carlen Drive

Cost:
Free, No Charge

No appointment necessary
Remain in your vehicle
Wear a short sleeve

A service of the Putnam County Health Department



For updated information, please visit us online at www.cookevillefumc.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Martin Thielen, our former senior pastor, has launched a new website called "Doubter's Parish." The purpose of the site is to help thinking people navigate faith in the twenty-first century. The books, articles, stories, and posts are all free, including his new downloadable novel, *An Inconvenient Loss of Faith*. You can visit the site at www.DoubtersParish.com.

VISITATION

We are sad to announce the passing of Vaughn Barnard. Visitation will be this Friday, December 4 from 4-7 p.m. at Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. A service will be planned at a later date.

GENESIS HOUSE

The Genesis House serves the victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We have 12 angels from their program that need to be adopted. You may choose your angel from the wreath in the church office. There is a quick turnaround on this project. Please return your wrapped gift with angel ornament attached no later than December 7th. Your generosity will make a difference in the life of these angels.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Once again the pantry is offering you the opportunity to purchase a Christmas food box in honor or memory of an individual. The cost is \$35 each. We are planning to distribute 550 baskets this year. Order forms are available on line and in the church office. Forms and payment will be accepted until Christmas, however to ensure your acknowledgement cards are received before Christmas, orders forms must be returned to the church office by December 14. Please consider supporting the ministry of the Food Pantry in this way as we continue to share God's love and grace with our neighbors.

HOW TO ACCESS SUNDAY SERVICES

Visit www.cookevillefumc.org, and click the *Sunday's Service and Devotionals* slide. From there, you will be taken to a page that lists all the previously recorded sermons. Click on the date of the sermon title you want to watch, and you will be redirected to our YouTube page and the list of sermons. You can also live stream our service each Sunday on YouTube under CookevilleFUMC. There is a link to that page above the sermon titles on our web page.

Don't have Internet access? We also broadcast via radio at 11 a.m. on NewsTalk FM 94.1.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

On behalf of the family of Elaine Funk, we appreciate the memorial contributions made in her name to the church. Our mother spent the majority of her life with her church family at First United Methodist, and she loved the church dearly.

YOUTH NEWS

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a good and restful weekend. Here are the youth announcements for the week:



- When we return from Thanksgiving, we will not be having Youth in the usual way. Due to most people traveling for the holiday and COVID, when we return we will meet in small groups on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Each Sunday and Wednesday will be grade specific, so for example on Sunday the 29th, we will be having a field day for just juniors and seniors. Then on December 2, which is a Wednesday, 5th and 6th grade will be the only ones meeting in the gym that evening. This will be the pattern for all of December, so we can keep the groups small when we meet. This might not be ideal, but this does give the interns and I an opportunity to meet personally and get to know the students better!
- We will not be having a Youth Christmas party on December 13.
- Discovery/Warmth in Winter will be at the church on February 12-14! The cost for the weekend is 35 dollars per student. **YOU MUST SIGN UP BEFORE DECEMBER 18 FOR THIS WEEKEND!!** Email Youth@cookevillefumc.org for a link to the sign-up page.
- Usually on Wednesday nights we have worship. We have run into the problem of students sometimes not knowing the songs that we sing, so I have created a Spotify playlist that has several worship songs! Parents and students, hopefully these songs can bring you peace and joy when you need it. Email Youth@cookevillefumc.org for a link to
- Miss Kathy has asked me to remind everyone that Hanging of the Greens will be filmed December 2. Dress as you see fit, as groups will not be wearing robes this year. Age three - grade 4 will meet from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and grade 5 through 12 will meet from 6 - 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Lastly, our t-shirts came in! Be sure to come to youth when we get back from Thanksgiving so you can get yours!

I hope you all have a fun and safe holiday. Please let me know if you have any questions!

~ Clinton Wheeler

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

FUMC Kids Advent

Children grades K-4 are invited to join us for Kids Worship at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Join us through December 27 for a special celebration of Advent. Each week, we will explore the story of Christmas as we anticipate and prepare for the birth of baby Jesus!

The Hanging of the Greens, December 6

6 p.m. via YouTube/cookevillefumc

The 47th annual Hanging of the Greens, an Advent service of symbolism and music, will be available online on Sunday evening, December 6 at 6 p.m. The service will include musical selections by the Children, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Instrumental Ensembles, and Gospel Ensemble. The children and youth of the church will participate in the decorating of the sanctuary with greenery, wreaths, poinsettias, and candles.

A Service of Lessons and Carols, December 13

6 p.m. via YouTube/cookevillefumc

The service of traditional Advent readings and seasonal music will be available online on Sunday evening, December 13 at 6 p.m. The service will feature well-loved Christmas carols, instrumental music, soloists, choirs and the handbell choir.

Christmas with the Children, December 20

6 p.m. via YouTube/cookevillefumc

The FUMC Children's Choirs will present the Christmas story through instrumental music, solos, and readings. The program will conclude with the ever popular Nativity.

The Longest Night, December 20-25

via YouTube/cookevillefumc

A special devotional, designed for those living through difficult times during the holiday season, will be available online from December 20 - 25.

Christmas Eve, December 24

Communion Elements Distribution

4 - 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Our pastors will distribute consecrated communion elements (to be taken home for your Christmas gathering) from 4 - 6 p.m. at the front entrance to our sanctuary. You and your guests are welcome to enter the sanctuary to light candles, pause in prayer, and then exit out the south side of the sanctuary. Communion elements will also be available on Sunday, December 20, at both services.

Candlelight Service

6 p.m. via YouTube/cookevillefumc

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, available online, will feature favorite carols and Christmas music, a sermon by Dr. Kevin Conrad, and the opportunity for your family to observe Holy Communion. The candlelight service will close with the singing of *Silent Night*.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Thanks to all of you who have already turned in your pledge cards for 2021. For those who have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so within the next two weeks. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate at a worship service (extra pledge cards can be found at the welcome table), mail it in, email luann@cookevillefumc.org, or call LuAnn at 526-2177. These annual pledges are a crucial part of our ministry planning. Prayerfully consider what God can do with your investment in the ministries of First United Methodist Church ... then give with joy. Let's join together in "keeping the faith."



165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

COOKEVILLE METHODIST
(USPS 563-600) Published biweekly,
except Christmas week at
First United Methodist Church
165 E. Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cookeville, TN 38501
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Cookeville Methodist
165 E. Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501

***Did you know God's Grace Food
Pantry can receive cash back from
purchases using your Kroger
Rewards Card?***

You get to keep all your same gas benefits and discounts, this is just an additional benefit provided by Kroger.

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your card. You will be asked for the NPO number for God's Grace Food Pantry which is **96948**.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open Doors. The people of The United Methodist Church.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| The Asante family | Susie Klein |
| Janey Bassett | Gayle Lester |
| Tia Bassett | Brady Livingston |
| Juanita Bilyeu | Annette Lynch |
| Nathaniel Bone | Brian Maffett |
| Robert Buck | Amy Maberry |
| Savannah Lynn Caylor | Sylvia McCann |
| Peggy Cho | Linda McConnell |
| Scott Crouch | Jeff Meek |
| Mary Mac Darnell | Naomi Mitchum |
| Ferdinand DiFurio | Harper Mynatt |
| Nadia DiFurio | Larry Norton |
| Delaney Duncan | Sue Pope |
| Hazel Dyer | Rob Poteet |
| Hollis Ferris | Mary Jo Rogers |
| Brian Lee Foster | Roxanne Self |
| Serenity Garrett | Garvan Smith |
| Mary Garrison | Hazel Smith |
| Pat Gilbreath | Sarah Stockton |
| Katie Goryl | Jan Thompson |
| Nate Griffis | Tracy Thompson |
| Hunter Harris | Jessie Watts |
| Bob Jones | Pam White |
| Ann Kellman | Carolyn Whitson |
| Mary Byrd King | |

ADVENT STUDY

Advent has arrived! Each season we participate in a church-wide Advent study, and we are off and running this year. *Sent: Delivering God's Gift of Hope at Christmas* is our study this year. Books are available in the church office for \$10. You can participate in the study at your own pace. Each week a video lesson from either Dr. Kevin or Rev. Rob will be available on our YouTube channel to accompany each chapter. We hope you will join us for this meaningful and timely study.

We also have a daily devotional to share with you for Advent, free of charge. You are welcome to pick it up in the church office at any time.

Happy Advent!

— Rev. Rob W.

GET THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

Consider getting the Cookeville Methodist digitally! In addition to helping us save on postage and printing costs, you'll get the newsletter in full color before the printed copy has even been folded!

Email office@cookevillefumc.org with "Newsletter" in the subject line with your first and last name. Every other Tuesday you'll receive an email with a link to the current newsletter. You can also find it (along with past editions) and subscribe through an online form on our website at www.cookevillefumc.org/resources/fumc-newsletters.

Sympathy and Prayer:
Friends and family of Vaughn Barnard.