

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Asante family Janey Bassett Tia Bassett Juanita Bilyeu Nathaniel Bone Robert Buck Savannah L. Caylor Peggy Cho JoAnne Clark Scott Crouch Mary Mac Darnell Ferdinand DiFurio Nadia DiFurio Delaney Duncan Hazel Dyer Carole Dysart Hollis Ferris Brian Lee Foster Serenity Garrett Mary Garrison Pat Gilbreath Nate Griffis Kyle Harmon Hunter Harris Bob Jones Ann Kellman

Mary Byrd King Susie Klein Brady Livingston Annette Lynch Brian Maffett Svlvia McCann Linda McConnell Jeff Meek Naomi Mitchum Harper Mynatt Larry Norton Sue Pope Rob Poteet John Pugh Mary Jo Rogers Roxanne Self Garvan Smith Hazel Smith Sarah Stockton Jan Thompson Tracy Thompson Jessie Watts Pam White Carolyn Whitson Thomas Wofford

Carolyn Whitson

Sympathy and Prayer:

Friends and family of Chuck MacKenzie. Woody & Lucy Adams in the death of their daughter-in-law, Lisa Adams.

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 Wotship 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

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

As we move closer to Christmas, I thought I would share a few Christmas-y items. First, on December 21, the "great conjunction" of the planets Jupiter and Saturn will occur. They have not been this closely aligned - this closely to earth - in about 800 years. That night is the "longest night" (winter solstice). Some have speculated that this celestial phenomenon is the "Christ star" the Wise Men saw at Christ's birth. Fascinating, right?

Here is a bit more Christmas trivia. Did you know that the Twelve Days of Christmas originated from the days between Christmas, December 25, and Epiphany, January 6? In early Christian origins, prior to the Christianizing of the Roman Empire, Epiphany was actually more recognized and celebrated as a commemoration of the appearing of Christ.

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is thought to have emerged as a children's game and rhyme turned into a repeating chain song for memorization. It is thought to have originated in the area of Newcastle upon Tyne in England in 1717. By 1780, a children's book was published titled *Mirth without Mischief*. Twelve days of Christmas merriment were celebrated with gifts each day, culminating in the Twelfth Night festivities on the Eve of Epiphany. By 1855, the tradition developed that if the child could not repeat each verse correctly, the gift associated with the day they could not repeat correctly was eliminated.

Here's the last bit of trivia: for 37 years, the PNC Christmas Price Index has been calculated and published, indicating the cost of the items in the *Twelve Days of Christmas* song. This year, the total has decreased 58.8% due to the cancellation of many live performances! So, here is the cost list, totaling \$16,168 for 2020:

- A partridge in a pear tree: \$210.18. (0% increase)
- Two Turtle Doves: \$450.00 (50% increase)
- Three French Hens: \$210.00 (+15.7% increase)
- Four Calling Birds: \$599.96 (0%)
- ◆ Five Gold Rings: \$945.00 (+14.5% increase)
- Six Geese-a-Laying: \$570.00 (35.7% increase)
- Seven Swans-a-Swimming: \$13,125.00 (0%)
- Eight Maids-a-Milking: \$58.00 (0%)
- Nine Ladies Dancing: Not Available in 2020
- Ten Lords-a-Leaping: Not Available in 2020
- Eleven Pipers Piping: Not Available in 2020
- Twelve Drummers Drumming: Not Available in 2020

Even if the Twelve Days of Christmas are different this year, our celebration of Christ's birth will still draw us to the heart of God. A bit of good news: our Hanging of the Greens, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve Worship will all be broadcast on WCTE. Check your local listings!

We continue to pray for one another, our church, community, nation and world. May the twelve days of Christmas bring God's grace closer to home for you than ever!

~ Kevin

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, December 6, 2020	
Total In-person and Online Views	308
Sunday, December 13, 2020	
Total In-person and Online Views	284
By Our Gifts	
Actual Receipts for Two Weeks	\$115,516.83
Actual Expenses for Two Weeks	\$73,041.02

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.



THANK YOU!

December has been busy! Thanks to Food Lion and Second Harvest Food Bank, we received our large refrigerator and freezer units this month. They are going to make a big difference in what we can order and distribute through God's Grace Food Pantry.

Thank you to our generous church friends who supported the *Santas for Seniors* program and *Angel Tree* program. We served 10 Seniors through Home Instead and 12 Angels currently residing at Genesis House.

Because of Covid-19, we are unable to do our regular event inviting the students from Jere Whitson Elementary School to come to our church and shop for their parents. After lots of discussion with the school, we decided to provide enough similar items for the children to get two items for their mothers and fathers. Those items will be delivered to the school for the children to shop in a safer environment. Thank you to our Elves, who helped us gather the items needed. We are also providing a stocking stuffed with goodies for each of the 300-plus students at Jere Whitson Elementary School. Thank you to our Stocking Stuffers!

We have received many donations for Christmas boxes and appreciate each and every one of these donations. We have 550 pre-packed boxes to distribute on December 15. Because of your generosity and care, we also have plenty of supplies in the pantry if we should need to pack more.

One more big thank you goes to ATC Automation for their \$840 donation to help the pantry meet some of the needs of those with limited incomes or facing unexpected bills.

With your help, we are sharing the story of grace along with the light of Christ in the heart of downtown. Merry Christmas!

~ Tamika and Kathy



YOUTH NEWS



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

- → Due to most people traveling for the holiday and COVID, we are meeting in small groups on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Each group meeting is grade specific. 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! Youth grades 9 - 12 will meet this Wednesday in the gym from 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- → After this week we will not be having Youth again until January. I am still working on a date for us to return, but I will let you know as soon as we have a plan for next semester.
- → Discovery/Warmth in Winter will be at the church on February 12-14! The cost for the weekend is \$35 per student. YOU MUST SIGN UP BEFORE DECEMBER 18 FOR THIS WEEKEND!! Email Youth@cookevillefumc.org for a link to the sign-up page.
- → We still need chaperones for Discovery Weekend! If you would like to help and volunteer for this weekend please text or email me directly. The dates for this weekend are February 12 -14.
- → 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 the Spotify playlist!
- \rightarrow Lastly, our t-shirts came in! Be sure to 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 morning. Join us 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!

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*.

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.

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.





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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.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Thanks to all who have returned their commitment cards for our Stewardship Emphasis. To date, we have received 160 pledges for a total of \$917,127. Our preliminary 2021 budget total is \$1,696,665. This is a little less than the current 2020 general budget.

Your response is invaluable towards the process of adopting a budget. If you have not notified the office of your commitment for next year, please prayerfully consider how you can help with the ministries of your church. You may place your card in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it off at the church office during the week, send it by postal mail to FUMC, 165 E. Broad St., Cookeville, 38501.

I thank each of you for your energy, dedication and generosity. This is truly an amazing church! Together we are "Keeping the Faith"!

~ LuAnn

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.

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.

