



Volume 65, Issue 26 • December 17, 2020

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

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!



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

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.



First United

Methodist Church of Cookeville

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.

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.

