



Volume 66, Issue 1 • January 14, 2021

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
Carol Bullington	Linda McConnell
Kathy Cavanaugh	Jeff Meek
Savannah Lynn	Naomi Mitchum
Caylor	Harper Mynatt
Peggy Cho	Larry Norton
Scott Crouch	Gretchen O'Neal
Mary Mac Darnell	Tom O'Neal
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	Lauri Sweeney
Pat Gilbreath	Jan Thompson
Nate Griffis	Tracy Thompson
Kyle Harmon	Jessie Watts
Hunter Harris	Pam White
Kevin Herbert	Carolyn Whitson
Bob Jones	Thomas Wofford
Ann Kellman	Leo Yates
	Patsy Yates

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

With the beginning of each new year, I find myself taking stock of where I am and who I am...and where we are going. What core values direct our spiritual and moral compass? As we respond to current events (political and the pandemic) and begin to think of how to reconvene church with strength and momentum post-Covid-19, what will we hold in our hearts and minds to guide our steps and our commitments? What really motivates our daily living? A promise of heaven? Being sanctified by love? Maturing in our faith and service to Christ? Or ... simply personal preferences and choices?

Dr. Charles Taylor was a professor of ethics at Oxford University. He says a fundamental aspect of our identity is making qualitative distinctions. That means we make value choices each day, directed toward some type of vision of what is "good." Traditionally, there have been higher goods, even supreme goods and lesser goods. Religious commitments are classified as higher goods that keep all our other values in perspective and in the right priority. Dr. Taylor says we regularly evaluate the direction of our life in relation to moral and spiritual landmarks of progress that indicate if we are accomplishing the fulfillment of our vision of values. In other words, we live toward what we value. We look for landmarks of progress in fulfilling our vision of a good life. What does that look like for you? The issue is, how are we defining a good life? What are our supreme value shaping priorities?

What is different these days, is individualism and the diminishing of exterior authority in determining a sense of what is good, or a good life. For centuries, religious texts and institutions have defined, by their authority, what our higher or supreme goods are. Today, we live toward self. Exterior authority no longer governs us. Even the government's authority, traditions of morality, and basic standards of decency and behavior are all questioned. We have entered the era of being self-defined and self-designed. Most people now live toward a picture of identity and values based on what serves the self above all other sources of value. SELF is the supreme value. All authorities now bow before the throne of self. Our design of an autonomous, freely acting self is the supreme value.

We have fully entered the era where "self" is the measure of all things. It's how we get lower levels of participation and commitment to church. It's how choice and freedom become larger values than the traditional supreme value of unwavering loyalty to God, Christ, and the Church. It's how we wind up with a self-described shaman dressed in buckskin and horns who is a proud marauder at the U.S. Capitol. We are free to be unique, to be unbound by tradition or authority, free to self-design ... and all that matters is our personal freedom and preferences as our new "supreme" good. No exterior authority is supposed to tell us what to value, or what to do, or how to live, or where boundaries of decency or behavior are. It is my "right" to choose for "me." Shared commitment to supreme good is almost gone.

So, how do we proceed as a community of faith in such an odd era? Maybe some soul-searching is required. We examine what we value. We ask, "Is there any authority beyond myself that I will listen to and submit to as a greater good than my own freedom or personal preference?" How then, shall I live in response? It is time for some soul searching. Will the lifting of Covid-19 bring a resurgence of commitment to the Christ of the Bible and the Church and not a culturally twisted Christ? Will we re-evaluate our value-choices and vision of our life and decide to live for something other than just me and my personal choices? Or, will we drift further in the direction of making our lives lone little ships, navigating in a sea of personal, customized options, all designed to help me be "self-designed" for me? I hope we return to "greater" goods. I hope we return to "time-honored" goods. I hope we recommit ourselves to a life lived fully in the direction of the "supreme" good. We shall see. It's your choice. It is our choice. I hope we will all recommit to lives shaped by the shared story of grace that comes from the true Christ, full of grace and truth. He is our "supreme" good. ~ Kevin

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

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Total In-person and Online Views 211

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Total In-person and Online Views 230

BY OUR GIFTS

Actual Receipts for Two Weeks \$29,632.75

Actual Expenses for Two Weeks \$37,819.92

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, *Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*”

~ Matthew 25:37-40

Our January Servant Ministry focus is our Homeless Ministry. This ministry is often as invisible as the people we serve. We want you to know how you are helping and can help.

Let's start with the Benevolence Fund managed by our Financial Aid Team. Through this ministry we serve our community by funding three basic needs: Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance, and emergency overnight housing. In 2020, we gave \$13,368 in rental assistance, \$7,229 toward utility bills, and \$3,751 for overnight stays. Because of Covid-19, we have spoken on the phone with every individual we have served. They extend their deep gratitude for your generosity and care as do we. If you would like to help meet these needs, donations can be made to the Benevolence Fund.

We continue to provide food for anyone that needs it. We have some that call and make appointments and others that walk up and knock on our door. If our guest doesn't have a means to cook, we are able to provide items more fitting for their needs. During this cold weather, \$5 gift cards to Dairy Queen, Burger King, or Hardees would provide a meal as well as a place to stay warm for a short period of time.

An ongoing tradition of this church is the quilting ministry. Heavy fleece material is purchased and distributed to a number of people in our church who cut, tie, and pray over these warm blankets. We are able to distribute these blankets to those needing both warmth and comfort. Thank you to our team!

As we continue to serve during these restricted times, we have made a wish list on the Walmart website. Our non-profit status is being confirmed and when that is completed, we will share a link with you of items needed for our clients without permanent housing. We hope you will enjoy safely shopping from your homes and helping others at the same time.

Grace and peace, Tamika P. and Kathy C.

GRIEF SHARE 2021 - WINTER SESSION

Wednesday, January 27 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at Dyer Funeral home. We have purchased hand sanitizer and face masks. We will also have water available. Workbooks will be available for a \$20 fee. This fee will be covered by a scholarship fund if the participant can not afford this. For more information, email Jessica at connecting@cookevillefumc.org.

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.

YOUTH NEWS



Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying this cold weather!

- Register now for Discovery Weekend! Even if you are only participating in the virtual option, we still need you to register so we can figure out D-groups for the weekend. Email me at youth@cookevillefumc.org for a link to the online registration page.
- The cost to attend Discover is \$35 per student. If you have already registered, you can either bring a check or cash to the church office or mail it in! Our mailing address is 165 E. Broad St, Cookeville 38501. We have scholarship options as well.
- We will be offering a virtual option for Discovery. However, this will only be for the student led talks and D-groups. We have several games that we will be playing throughout the weekend and we are going to try and play most of those outside, weather permitting. For those of you who will be participating through the virtual option, we will let you know the time and place of the games in advance so you can join us if you feel comfortable!

I hope you all have a great week! Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

~ Clinton Wheeler

HOLIDAY HOURS



The office will be closed Monday, January 18, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT SUPPORT



For the past two years the Music Ministry has presented the Bel Canto Concert, featuring TTU students who are a part of our Music Scholarship program. The concert has also featured soloists who have been a part of the program over the years.

The love offering taken at the concert has gone towards the support of this ministry for the students and for our choirs and ensembles.

Due to the pandemic we are not able to present that concert this year; however, the Music Scholarship Program has remained steadfast during this past year and will continue to do so this spring. The Scholarship Students have been at the core of our online worship, in-person services, services in the park, and the special Advent services.

Cookeville FUMC has been a 'teaching and training' church for many young people preparing for the ministry over the years. It has also done the same for many who will eventually serve the church as leaders in church music.

Your donations to the Music Scholarship Fund are deeply appreciated and will make an impact on church music for years to come. Please prayerfully consider your part of this ministry.

Should you have questions, please contact Kathy Evans at kathye@cookevillefumc.org, or LuAnn Throgmorton at luann@cookevillefumc.org.

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.

KROGER REWARDS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

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

Last quarter the Food Pantry received \$735.75 as a result of folks adding the Food Pantry to their 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**.



First United
 Methodist Church of Cookeville
 165 East Broad Street
 Cookeville, TN 38501

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 165 E. Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501

*Did you know God's Grace Food
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 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.

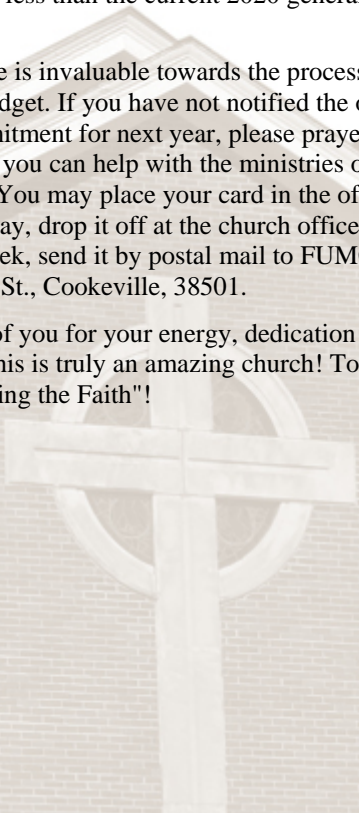
KEEPING THE FAITH

Thanks to all who have returned their commitment cards for our Stewardship Emphasis. To date, we have received 184 pledges for a total of \$1,144,410. 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



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.

