



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Volume 64, Issue 26 • December 19, 2019

December

- 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 5 and 7 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day
- 24-26 Campus Closed
- 29 Children's New Year
- 30 2019 Contribution Deadline
- 31-Jan 1 Campus Closed

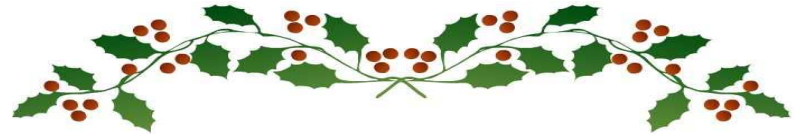
February

- 3 Second Harvest Delivery
- 15 First WNL of 2020

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The nursery will be available in room C116 of the sanctuary building for children birth through 3 years of age during both Christmas Eve services. Poinsettias may be picked up after the 7 p.m. service.



FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Last week, there was a story in the news about an especially cruel “porch pirate.” Not only was a box (probably of Christmas gifts) stolen from someone’s porch, but the thief or thieves left a “thank you” note! If you are like me, you are watching for deliveries nearly every day to make sure your Christmas gifts arrive as scheduled.

The story made me think of several ways the true gifts of Christmas can be stolen from you. Physical Christmas presents are expressions of love and giving in the truest sense of Christmas, however other intangible Christmas gifts can be stolen from you in various other ways.

Loss and grief can steal the gifts of Christmas from you. I never really understood how hard the Christmas season can be until I experienced deaths of loved ones and the loss of significant relationships in my life. So much of our lives is built around the relationship we have with the closest people in our lives. Each loss of a dear one creates a void. Coping with the loss of loved ones can rob us of Christmas joy.

Grieving can rob us of the gifts of Christmas. Whether it is the loss of a loved one or the loss of a relationship, a grieving process is involved. The stages of grief — denial, bargaining, anger, and sadness, on the way to some measure of acceptance, force us to find coping skills. Coping with change and loss is one of the biggest challenges of our life.

Sadness can rob us of the gifts of Christmas. Life is loss. Sadness is the emotional experience of loss. I often tell people to “feel what you feel.” We all try to ward off sadness, but usually it is better to just name it and claim it, reflecting on the source of the sadness, and understanding we all experience degrees of sadness in our journey of life and faith.

I hope this Christmas season you discover that the most precious gifts of Christmas can’t be stolen by a “porch pirate” or even death, loss of a relationship, grief, or sadness. True hope, peace, joy, and love are divine gifts that often come on the other side of the most challenging hardships of life. Moving through dark periods with hope helps us learn to savor the richest moments of light. My hope is that gathering in Christian community in the Advent and Christmas season will bring the light of Christ to the darkest parts of each of our lives, bringing the true gifts of Christmas that can’t be stolen from us. They come by abiding with Christ.

~ Kevin

Sunday Services

Worship Service:
8:30, 10:55, and 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Service Broadcast on
WAFX-AM 1600

Nursery Available

Sunday Worship and Sunday
School: 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Children ages birth to 4 years

Phone: 931-526-2177
Fax: 931-372-9905
Email: office@cookevillefume.org
www.cookevillefume.org

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Total Worship Attendance: 641

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Total Worship Attendance: 571

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Budget fund receipts \$41,366.75

Building fund receipts \$865.00

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Budget fund receipts \$20,894.62

Building fund receipts \$250.00

Stewardship Update

Your generosity allows us to engage in significant ministry here, so we deeply appreciate your faithfulness. Receiving pledges from members and friends for the upcoming year is crucial for our ministry planning. So far we have received 206 pledges totaling \$1,237,568. If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please consider placing it in the offering plate over the next couple of weeks (extra pledge cards are in the pew racks). You can also mail your pledge to the church office, or email or call it in to LuAnn at luann@cookevillefumc.org or 526-2177.

Sunday Services Online

Did you know all of our Sunday worship serves are recorded and available online through our website? Visit www.cookevillefumc.org, and click the *Sunday's Sermons* 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.



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

ADVENTURES IN LIFELONG LEARNING

ALL is a new outreach ministry sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry of FUMC. Each course is \$25 for a five-week, one hour per week class. Registration will be open January 5. Classes will begin the week of January 27 and run through February. If we have a snow cancellation, the classes will extend into the first week of March. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Winter Class Schedule

Mondays

10:00 a.m. Beginning Bridge (class limit 12)

11:00 a.m. The Journey—a Beginning Genealogy Series

Tuesdays

3:00 p.m. Strength and Balance

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. iPhone2—OK, Now What? (class limit 15)

9:30 a.m. Intermediate Bridge (class limit 12)

10:00 a.m. iPhone 1 (class limit 15)

11:00 a.m. Cooking with Chad (class limit 12)

1:00 p.m. Cooking with Chad (class limit 12)

1:30 p.m. Vietnam—A Broader History

2:00 p.m. Introduction to Machine Sewing

Thursdays

2:00 p.m. Step Class

Brochures will soon be found throughout the church campus and in the office. Registration is required for participation. On January 5, you may register in the narthex or beginning Monday, January 6, you may register by phone at 526-2177, in person at the church office, by mail, or online at www.cookevillefumc.org. Payment is required in full on or before the first class. Submit your check with your registration at the church office. Come for fun and fellowship... and learn something new at the same time!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Vivian Barnes	Alma Jean Johnson	Aidan Moore
Janey Bassett	Bob Jones	Larry Norton
Tia Bassett	Ann Kellman	Winnie Peterson
Robert Buck	Gary Kellman	Rob Poteet
Savannah Lynn Caylor	Kirk Kellman	Pam Raines
Faye Curry	Nancy Kellman	Mary Jo Rogers
Jackie Donaldson	Mary Byrd King	Mollie Rogers
Delaney Duncan	Mike Lee	Roxanne Self
Hazel Dyer	Karen Macke	Sarah Stockton
Brian Lee Foster	Brian Maffett	Jessie Watts
Elaine Funk	Sylvia McCann	Harriet Wright
Mary Garrison	Brittany McCloud	Leo Yates
Nate Griffis	Paul McLendon	
Joe Hix	Linda McConnell	

Sympathy and Prayer

Phyllis Burem, on the death of her grandson Zachary Burem.

Sue Box, on the death of her grandson Thomas Austin Graham.

Missionaries

Eric and Liz Soard

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST

Please consider adding these items to your grocery shopping list so we may help provide needed items to our friends and neighbors:

- Box of instant pudding, bath soap, vegetable soup
- Promotional calendars you receive in the mail.
- Grocery bags that are clean and flattened, and plastic newspaper sleeves.

FUMC KIDS CORNER

FUMC Kids have been busy helping others as we celebrate the Advent season. On Wednesday, December 11, we gathered in the Freeman building to put together food bags for FUMC Kids Mission Day. A big thank you to everyone who donated items! The next Saturday, we placed wreaths on veterans' graves in cooperation with Wreaths Across America to honor the memory of those who served our country. On Sunday, we gathered to sing Christmas carols for our homebound church family who haven't been able to come out this holiday season. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who came out with us to serve our community!



CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Class Rooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Praise Band — Wesley Chapel

Monday, December 23

- 11:00 a.m. Advent Study — B210

Tuesday, December 24 — Offices Closed

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25 — Campus Closed

Thursday, December 26 — Campus Closed

Friday, December 27

- 8:00 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast — Dipsy Doodle Restaurant

Sunday, December 29

- 7:00 a.m. Children's New Year Celebration — Christian Life Center
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Class Rooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Praise Band — Wesley Chapel

Monday, December 30 — No Activities Scheduled

Tuesday, December 31 — Campus Closed

- 9:30 a.m. GriefShare — Dyer Funeral Home

Wednesday, January 1 — Campus Closed

Thursday, January 2 — No Activities Scheduled

Friday, January 3

- 8:00 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast — Dipsy Doodle Restaurant





First United

Methodist Church of Cookeville

165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

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Please join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24
5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
in the sanctuary

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

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions intended for the church for 2019 must be in the office by noon on Monday, December 30 or postmarked by December 31, 2019. If you have questions concerning your giving, please contact LuAnn at 526-2177 or email luann@cookevillefumc.org.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Out of concern for the welfare of those who participate in the ministries of the church, when there is inclement weather, we will follow the closure schedule of the Putnam County School system. When church activities are cancelled, an announcement will be posted on the homepage of the church website 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.

The Food Pantry will follow the Putnam County School system. If schools are closed for weather conditions on a Tuesday in which the Food Pantry is normally scheduled for distribution, the Food Pantry will be closed. This is for the safety of both our patrons and volunteers.

The primary concern for cancellation of activities is safety. Your support and understanding are appreciated.

HOLIDAY HOURS

All FUMC facilities will be closed December 24 - 26 and December 31 - January 1, with the exception of Christmas Eve services on December 24.

ANGELS ATTIC

Angels Attic requests donations of :

- Blankets—any size
- Coats and jackets for children, men and women

WARMING UP THE HEART OF TOWN – SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, February 2, following services, in the Christian Life Center

Join us for the 1st Annual Chili Cook-off! Come compete, sample and participate in the auction of handmade items, baked good and other products and services. All to benefit Habitat for Humanity and the Red Bird Build.

Be a part of the fun! **COMPETE** by entering your best chili (individual or team entries), **SAMPLE** and judge some of the best chili in the heart of town!, and **DONATE** items for auction (handmade items, baked good and other products, services or goods or creative ideas).

Sign up now to donate or participate! Contact Tamika at 526-2177 and be a part of the fun!