



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**December**

- 6 Poinsettia order deadline
- 7 Breakfast with Santa
- 8 Hanging of the Greens  
Children's Advent Festival
- 11 Kid's Mission Day
- 15 A Service of Lessons and Carols  
Youth Christmas Party  
Kids' Christmas Caroling  
*The Longest Night* Service
- 17 Young at Heart Luncheon

**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**

As we move through the Advent Season toward Christmas, our thoughts turn toward celebrating the birth of Christ. Worship and music are means of grace for each of us that prepares us to receive Christ again, as one preacher expressed it, "into the cradle of our hearts."

As I shared in last Sunday's sermon, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany all focus this year on themes of light pushing back the darkness. Many of our hymns provide imagery for Christ coming as the light of the world. One of my favorites is *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, written by the famous preacher Phillip Brooks, who became an Episcopal priest and bishop and died at an early age.

Brooks was widely known as the "prince of the pulpit" in his day. His towering height (6'6") truly made him a formidable preaching presence. In 1868, Brooks wanted a new carol to share with the children of his church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Several years before, Phillips had visited the Holy Land. He spent Christmas Eve in Bethlehem worshipping in the Church of the Nativity, and then spent the night in Shepherd's Field. The experience left an indelible impression on Brooks. As a result, Brooks penned the words of the hymn. He asked his organist to set the piece to music. It was first published in 1874, and has become a beloved hymn of Christmas.

This Christmas, may the Christ-child of Bethlehem be born again "in the cradle of your heart." I hope the words of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* kindle a new light of hope, peace, joy, and love in your life.

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light—  
The hopes and dreams of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n.  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear my hear his coming, but, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in...**

~ 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  
WATX-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, November 24, 2019*

Total Worship Attendance: 506

*Sunday, December 1, 2019*

Total Worship Attendance: 426

## BY OUR GIFTS

*Sunday, November 24, 2019*

Budget fund receipts \$29,594.16

Building fund receipts \$520.00

*Sunday, December 1, 2019*

Budget fund receipts \$28,165.52

Building fund receipts \$150.00

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.cookevillefumc.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 7, 8—10 a.m., Jeff Wall Hall

We invite you and your family to spend the morning eating yummy pancakes and visiting with Santa! This event is free and the food is provided by the FUMC Youth Group. Special crafts and a Christmas movie will also be available for the children. We look forward to sharing some holiday fun with you!

### The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 8, 8:30 and 10:55 a.m. Worship Services

The 46th annual Hanging of the Greens, an Advent service of symbolism and music, will be held at both the 8:30 and 10:55 services. The 8:30 service will be led by the children, age 3 through grade 6, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Evening Ensemble, and Gospel Ensemble. The 10:55 service will be led by the 5th-6th grade choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Evening Ensemble, Gospel Ensemble, and Chancel Choir.

### Children and Families Advent Festival

Sunday, December 8, 9:40 - 10:40 a.m., Christian Life Center

Join us for a light snack, a simple ornament and Advent wreath craft and enjoy a presentation of the Christmas story! Contact Shannon Auberson in the church office or [children@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:children@cookevillefumc.org) if you plan to attend.

### Kids' Mission Day

Wednesday, December 11, 4 - 6 p.m., Freeman Building

FUMC Kids (grades K-6) are invited to Kids Mission Day. Special projects will include newborn baby baskets for Cookeville Regional Medical Center, emergency food bag preparation for those in need, and the purchasing and wrapping of presents for children on the Rescue Mission Angel Tree.

### A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15, 8:30 and 10:55 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us for the traditional readings of the Advent season with musical offerings by the Handbell Choirs, Chancel Choir, Evening Ensemble, Gospel Ensemble, Youth Choir and Brass Ensemble.

### Kids' Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15, 3 - 6 p.m.

FUMC Kids, grades 3-6, are invited to go Christmas Caroling. We will visit members of our church who are homebound. Seeing the children brings them a lot of joy during the holiday season. Contact Shannon Auberson at [children@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:children@cookevillefumc.org) to sign up.

### The Longest Night

Sunday, December 15, 6 p.m., Wesley Chapel

A special worship service designed for those living through difficult times during the holiday season.

For a list of all upcoming Advent activities, go to [www.cookevillefumc.org](http://www.cookevillefumc.org) and click on the Advent slide.

## 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.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Welcome Center is seeking volunteers for the second service. Contact Kathy Evans (526-2177) or Judy Layne (349-0030) if you are interested.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

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

### *Sympathy and Prayer*

Mike Phipps, on the death of his mother Margaret Phipps.  
Friends and family of Patsy Maxwell.

### *Missionaries*

Eric and Liz Soard

## KIDS' MISSION DAY

Wednesday, December 11, 4 - 5:30 p.m. in the Freeman Building.

FUMC Kids will be helping people in our community who do not have enough food to eat by collecting items for food bags. We will also be collecting items for newborns and their mothers who are patients at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. We will put these bags together on Kids Mission Day in the Freeman Building. You do not have to be a kid to help with this mission! Many giving hands and hearts are needed to make this outreach a success. Help us collect the following items and join us on December 11 to pack the kits!

### → Food Bag Items:

All canned or packaged items need to be pop top. We need bottled water, peanut butter pouches, peanut butter and crackers, cheese and crackers, cereal bars, protein bars, pop tarts, fruit cups, juice boxes, and a protein: beans and franks, chili, ravioli, tuna pack, or potted meat, Slim Jims or small beef jerky packs.

### → Newborn Items:

Diapers, wipes, crib sheets, bottles, lotion, wash clothes, onesies, baby caps. NO POWDER.

For more information, or to drop off items, contact Shannon Auberson at 526-2177 or [children@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:children@cookevillefumc.org).

## CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 8**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Class Rooms  
Children's Advent Festival — Christian Life Center
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Praise Band — Wesley Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. UMYF — Youth Room
- 6:00 p.m. Wesley Foundation Meal — Wesley Foundation, TTU

### **Monday, December 9**

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study — B213
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Study — B210
- 3:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer — B214
- 4:30 p.m. Finance Committee — Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting — B213
- 6:00 p.m. United Methodist Men — Jeff Wall Hall

### **Tuesday, December 10**

- 9:30 a.m. GriefShare — Dyer Funeral Home
- 1:30 p.m. Quilting Ministry — Jeff Wall Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Cookeville Dulcimer Society — B214
- 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry — Wesley Chapel
- 3:00 p.m. Strength and Balance — Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace — B206

### **Wednesday, December 11**

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 9:00 a.m. Hope Academy
- 10:00 a.m. Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 3:30 p.m. Knitting — B206
- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer — B214  
Kids' Mission Day — Gym and Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple I — B017  
Youth Choir — Music Suite
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir — Music Suite

### **Thursday, December 12**

- 1:30 p.m. Jubilee Ringers — Sanctuary
- 4:45 p.m. Sanctuary Ringers — Sanctuary
- 5:45 p.m. Evening Ensemble — Music Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Ensemble — Music Suite

### **Friday, December 13**

- 8:00 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast — Dipsy Doodle Restaurant  
Jere Whitson/Angel's Attic Christmas Party — Freeman Bldg.

### **Saturday, December 14**

- 6:00 p.m. Cookeville Christmas Parade

## 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 300 baskets this year. Order forms are available in the narthex and 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 13. Please consider supporting the ministry of the Food Pantry in this way as we continue to share God's love and our gifts with our neighbors.





**December 7, 8-10 a.m.**

**in Jeff Wall Hall**

Pancakes and a picture with Santa!

All proceeds go to FUMC Youth

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

## YOUTH EVENTS

December 7: Breakfast with Santa  
December 15: Youth Christmas Party

### SAVE THE DATE:

January 31 - February 2: Warmth-in-Winter  
February 28 - March 1: Discovery Weekend  
March 15 - 20: Spring Break Mission Trip

## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia order forms are available in the narthex, in the church office, and online at [www.cookevillefumc.org](http://www.cookevillefumc.org). Red poinsettias are \$18 and wreaths are \$20. The poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary for Sunday, December 22 and our two Christmas Eve services on the 24th. They may be picked up after the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The deadline to submit orders is Friday, December 6, at noon.

## YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

*Christmas Stories To Tell* – Join us as we celebrate Christmas with stories old and new, sung and dramatized, serious and fun. Enjoy Bob Jager's *Esau A Christmas Fable* debuted on the big screen; hear Jennie Ivey read a new Christmas story; and enjoy funny stories and sing story-songs sure to help you capture the joy of the season! Cost: \$5. Make reservations by Tuesday, December 17 through the church office.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 6 at 9 a.m., Wesley Chapel parking lot.  
The pantry needs an additional six people to serve during the holidays. Our next Second Harvest Delivery is on December 6 at 9 a.m. in the Wesley Chapel parking lot. This delivery will be larger than usual. If you can't serve this day but would like to serve in another way, please contact Tamika in the church office at 526-2177.

## 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!