



***Grace and peace to all of you  
from our Lord and Savior,***

***Romans 12:2:*** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

As we embark on the New Year, it's a time for setting goals and embracing change. This season of transformation is beautifully captured in ***Romans 12:2***, reminding us to seek spiritual renewal rather than conforming to worldly trends. This renewal leads us to discern God's will, guiding us toward what is truly good and fulfilling. Embracing change with faith in Jesus Christ gives us the courage to step out of our comfort zones. Faith guides us through uncertainty and fuels our journey of



**Prayer Requests:**

Cook's Church/Playschool, **Carrie Troxler & family** (death of son, Scott...memorial service, 2pm, Sun, 1/14, @ M.L. Ford & Sons Funeral Home, 209 N Main St, Clover SC...Visitation with the family at 1pm), **Lyle Pace** (home), **Jill Griffin** (Novant/Main), **family of Annie Luckey**, **Sarah Penninger**, **Jimmy McClure** (Chlt Healthcare, Toddville Rd), **Tom McClure**, **Jack McClure**, **Steve Self**, **Rick Greene**, **Sara Yarbrough**, **Allyne Gant**, **Dale Luckey**, **F.D. & Pat Hager**, **Sarah Justice**, **Jerome Abernathy**, **Steve** (@ Univ Rehab & welcomes visitors!) & **Sharon Gilmore**, **Nancy & Richard Smith**, **Debbie White**, **Nicolas Wilson** (teenage grandson of Ed & Nancy w/brain tumor), **Betty McClure** (Nan's mom), **Jo Price**, **Jerry Hunter**, **Melody Mathews**, **Judy & Richard**

transformation. By renewing our minds through prayer and meditation on God's Word, we reshape our thinking and align our desires with God's. This spiritual practice transforms our outlook, turning challenges into opportunities for growth. In our pursuit of positive change, serving others plays a crucial role. Following Jesus' example of compassion and service not only benefits others but enriches our own spiritual journey. Such acts of kindness and service are tangible expressions of our faith and bring joy that comes from living according to God's will. Ultimately, embracing positive change is about aligning our goals with God's desires for us. This might involve tough choices and letting go of certain plans, but the peace and fulfillment that come from being in God's will are incomparable. As we move forward into this year, let's invite Jesus to guide us in making changes that transform our lives and those around us, leading us on a spiritual journey towards a deeper, more fulfilling life in God's grace.

Peace in Christ, **Pastor Jason Bryant**

**\*\*ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN:**

Last week, Pastor Jason introduced us all to the Navigator's One-Year Bible reading plan. It's a great way to break the Bible up into manageable sections to be read once a day over the course of a year. This dedication and effort will be well worth it as people that know the Word report stronger faith, greater residency and overall contentment with life. It takes just 15-25 minutes per day.

Start now and be done in one year.

Here is the link to the readings:

<https://shorturl.at/nsDL9> (you may need to copy and paste this link into your browser for it to work, and for those of you that can't access it by computer, you can attain a copy in the church office, either by stopping by to pick one up, or it can be mailed/emailed to you).

{Join us this Sunday, 1/14, @ 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on '**Necessary Traumas – Self-Awareness**' (Romans 3:21-26)}!

Bogan, Judy Rozzelle, Angie Ross, Ann Drake, Baby Carson, Al & Frances Lancaster, Mark Lackey, Dr. Jeff Ruskusky, Nancy Mummaw, Jason Brown, Andy Burge, Ned & Carolyn Beatty, Sherry Wasek, Nancy Brammer, Chrissy Hart, Jack Byers, Kurt Hollar, Al Thompson, Bobby Hotaling, John Park, Michael Matrone, *family of Daniel Mork*, Jane Mitchell's father-Joe Picard, Jim & Dawn Thompson, Lisa Roth-Julia Sasnett's granddaughter, Israel, KCH/Kenya, NC School System/Students/Teachers/Administration, victims of natural disasters, those suffering from long-term illnesses, families who grieving the recent loss of loved ones, and all those in need of our prayers of intercession

{\*Names are left on for 4 weeks, so if they are still in need of 'extra' prayer after that, please let the church office know.}

Homebound List: Jill Griffin, Steve Gilmore, Sarah Penninger, Tom McClure, Sara Yarbrough, Allyne Gant, Jack Parker

Soldier List: Austin McCrary, Clara DeFeo, Turner Salm, Anne Ledford, Eddy Self, Andy Dula, Chris Dula, Seth Seal, John Makahilli Jr., ALL Vets & families.

Please pray for all daily; to make changes to any of these lists, contact the church office @ 704/399-7735.

**\* WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO YOU!**

Please don't hesitate to notify the church office (704-399-7735 / [office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)) or Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 /

[Jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:Jason@cookschurch.org) or [jaydbryant@gmail.com](mailto:jaydbryant@gmail.com)) of any deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing so that we can let our Elders and Deacons know so that they can minister to you

*Thank you to all that have graciously made an additional contribution to our church since the first of last year. It is very much appreciated. Please note, our financial need remains this year. If you have available funds, please consider making an over-and-above contribution to our general fund. Thank you for considering this request.*

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### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**\*\*We will have a 'Called Congregational Meeting' on Sunday, 1/21/24; and then again on Sunday, 1/28/24, at the end of worship to elect members to our 2024 Nominating Ministry and to present the 2024 Budget and 2023 Mission Giving.**

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### **Cook's Church's 'Confirmation Program'**

**UPCOMING 'CONFIRMATION SESSIONS'** to put on your calendars: Sessions will start at 11:15am in Room #113 on the following dates:

**January 14, 2024:** "Faith Unplugged: Exploring Personal Beliefs" – a session to encourage

and/or your family.

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**Looking for a class that will help you grow in your knowledge of what God's Word is saying to each of us?**

*You are always invited to join us at one of our Sunday School classes (for all ages!) each Sunday at 9am to study His Word and what it means for our daily living!*

For more info, contact Paige Benson at 704/488-7417.

{FYI: The Viewpoint SS Class will resume meeting on Jan. 21, at 9am in Rm #207...see Reg King with questions.}

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**ALL Ladies are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's CIRCLE meetings on Tuesday, January 16** (\*-rescheduled from Jan. 9 due to weather conditions) – **either at 10:30am in Rm #113 or at**

teens to articulate and explore their own beliefs.

**January 21, 2024:** "Viral Virtues: Living the Beatitudes Today"  
- discussing how the Beatitudes apply to modern life, especially in the digital age.

**\*\*If you have a sixth grader or older youth and you weren't able to attend last Sunday's organizational meeting, please contact Pastor Jason (704/607-4162 or [jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:jason@cookschurch.org)) to let him know your youth will be attending!**



## COMMUNITY DINNER

**EVERYONE** is invited to join us for our monthly **COMMUNITY MEAL TODAY, Thursday, January 11**, from 5-6:30pm at 'Hillcrest Baptist Church's Family Life Center' (corner of Bellhaven Blvd & Kentberry Dr) until our FH is repaired! This month's menu will be pork roast, black-eye peas, green beans & dessert. Please be sure to join us for this delicious & *free* meal and some wonderful fellowship and invite your family, friends and neighbors to come with you!



Cook's sanctuary will host a

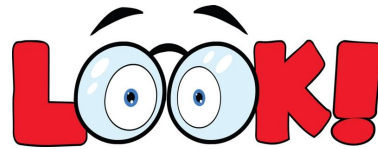
**7:00pm also in Rm #113!**



## 2024 Flower Calendar dates that are

**AVAILABLE:** If you'd like to supply our sanctuary flowers in honor and/or in loving memory of a loved one, these dates are available at this time (there may be more forthcoming): **Feb. 11; April 14; May 12; Sept. 15; Nov. 3.**

Contact the church office if you'd like to reserve a date!



*\*Anyone who would love to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" is invited to join Cook's Adult Choir! Contact Clayton for questions at [claydeacon@gmail.com](mailto:claydeacon@gmail.com).*

**\*\*Cook's NURSERY** is available each week (for SS at 9am & worship at 10am) for our youngest members, ages birth thru 4 yrs old!



...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to

[www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org) and

at the very bottom of that page you will see "Church Directory"...click on that button), you can go into your information and make changes such as address, phone #'s, if in military past or present, the different groups

**'PRAYER VIGIL'** for anyone that would like to come and say a 'silent prayer' on **Saturday, February 3** from **8am-12pm**. Come pray for yourself/family/neighbors, all churches, our state/nation/world! *Praying together, with God's help we can accomplish many things!* **"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours"** (Mark 11:24).

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**"SCOUTING FOR FOOD"** is an ongoing annual program of the Boy Scouts of America that began in 1985 by the Greater St Louis Area Council. The program involves collecting for local food banks. It is organized at the local level throughout the country. Cook's 'Boy & Cub Scouts Troop #51' will be collecting '**non-perishable food items**' (please NO glass containers!) here at Cook's on **Sunday, February 4, 2024**. Please bring your donations that day and put them in the Narthex & they will take them to a local food bank to help those in need of food for their families!

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***We wish the following a 'Blessed***

you have been a part of at the church, etc. If you have any problems and/or questions on how to do so, please contact Gaye List at [gayelist@gmail.com](mailto:gayelist@gmail.com). Also, if your picture (or families') is not currently in our directory, please send a photo to the church office ([office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)) and we'll see about getting it and your information included asap!

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## NEWS FROM FINANCE MINISTRY

The Finance Committee would like you to know that we now have another way to donate funds to Cook's Church...you can use your debit/credit card and the "app" is available to download from our website... [www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org). If you have any questions, call Ginger Thompson, Treasurer @ 704/562-7558.

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The Digital Ministry of Cook's is working on all things that you need to stay connected with Cook's as well as resources to grow in your faith. Check out our **REFRESHED** website - [CooksChurch.org](http://CooksChurch.org). Join us today and be a part of our online community!

**\*\* We're now on 'Instagram' so be sure to check it out and "Like" and share!**

**and Happy (and for some, Belated...sorry!) Birthday!"**

Jan. 8 - Toni Thompson

Jan. 14 - Christi Brafford

Jan. 15 - Rick Wilz

Jan. 16 - Ellen Jackson

Jan. 18 - Ronnie Petursson

Jan. 21 - Jeannie McClure

Jan. 27 - George Wilz

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## **Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Cook's **SESSION** meets on the **2nd Sunday (1/14/24)** at 7pm in Rm #113.

**ALL Ladies** are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE meetings** on the **2nd Tuesday (1/16/24) @ 10:30am or 7pm** in Rm #113 in the Ed Bldg. Contact Pede Self with questions.

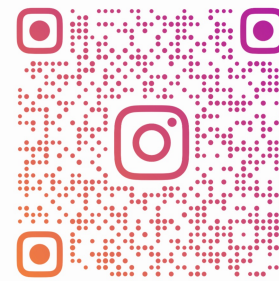
Cook's **MEN OF THE CHURCH** will have their monthly breakfast meeting **on the 3rd Sunday at 7:30am** (Ed Bldg lobby) and **ALL men** at Cook's are invited to attend! Contact Dale Luckey with questions.

Cook's **PROPERTY Ministry** meets on the **2nd Thurs at 6:30pm in Rm #113**-contact Mike Stanford with questions.

Cook's **MISSION Ministry** meets on the **1st Friday** at 10:00am in Rm #113...contact Fred Cox with questions.

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on the **last Thursday** at 2:00pm via Zoom and/or in the church office...contact Denise Vead for details.

Cook's **FINANCE MINISTRY** meets on the **fourth Sunday** at **11:15am** in Rm #113. Contact Joe Thompson if you



**COOKSCHURCH**

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Cook's Church has a **FACEBOOK** page!

Come check us out and stay connected!

[www.facebook.com/pages/Cooks-Memorial-Presbyterian-Church](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cooks-Memorial-Presbyterian-Church)



## **SERMONS:**

Did you miss worship this past Sunday? Do you ever want to listen to a recent sermon again?

Recent sermons from Sunday morning worship can be found on the Cook's Church website!

Click here:

[www.cookschurch.org/sermons](http://www.cookschurch.org/sermons)

**Have you read your recent church newsletter?** Recent issues of our Cook's Communicator can be found on our church website!

Click here:

[www.cookschurch.org/newsletters](http://www.cookschurch.org/newsletters)

## **Contact Us!**

**Pastor Jason Bryant**

[jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:jason@cookschurch.org)

**Church Office**

[office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)

**Cook's Playschool**

[cooksplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:cooksplayschool@gmail.com)

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