



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

***2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – “Blessed be
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of mercies and God
of all comfort, who comforts us in all
our affliction, so that we may be able
to comfort those who are in any
affliction, with the comfort with which
we ourselves are comforted by God.”***

One of the most inspiring Christians I ever met was a woman at a previous church. This woman's husband died very suddenly of a heart attack just a month prior to my arrival at that church. Within a few weeks of my arrival, she arrived hopeful to start a ministry towards people struggling with grief. Eventually, we began a GriefShare group that continues to operate at that church. In moments of loss and grief, our hearts search for solace and understanding, often



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool, Carrie Troxler & family, Lyle Pace, 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 Bogan, Judy Rozzelle, Angie Ross, Ann Drake, Baby Carson, Al & Frances Lancaster, Mark Lackey, Dr. Jeff Ruskusky, Nancy

finding them elusive. It is during these trying times that the words of **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** bring a beacon of hope, reminding us of the comforting embrace of our Heavenly Father. Grief, a journey unique to each individual, can feel isolating and overwhelming. However, it's important to remember that we are not alone in this journey. Jesus Christ, who experienced profound sorrow and understands our deepest pains, walks beside us. He offers not only an empathetic shoulder but also a steadfast promise of comfort and strength. In Christ, we find a safe space to mourn, to cry out, and to question. His presence provides a sanctuary where our vulnerabilities are not weaknesses, but bridges to deeper faith and understanding. Jesus doesn't ask us to mask our pain but invites us to lay it bare before Him, where it can be met with divine compassion and healing. In this time of loss, let us lean into the embrace of Jesus, finding in Him the comfort and peace we seek. Let us also reach out to one another, sharing the love and comfort we've received from Christ. Together, in His love, we can navigate the seas of grief, finding hope and restoration on the shores of His grace.

{**CAUTION!!!** It's January and that must mean it's time again for Scamming Season. We've heard multiple reports of texts messages being sent, presumably from Pastor Jason, asking for assistance for various things. First of all, know that should I ever need assistance I will reach out to schedule a time to see you **IN PERSON**. I WILL NEVER ASK FOR FUNDS VIA A PHONE CALL OR A TEXT MESSAGE. If someone is doing that, you can be 100% confident it is not me. If I ask for help outside of a general, church-wide appeal, I will speak to you privately and confidentially. I say this because I'm hearing reports in other areas of scammers using Artificial

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, Jane Mitchell's father-Joe Picard, Jim & Dawn Thompson, Lisa Roth-Julia Sasnett's granddaughter, Colette Roberts, Jane Jones, 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) or Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 / Jason@cookschurch.org or 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 and/or your family.

Intelligence to mimic particular people's voices, maybe even that of your loved one. Perhaps best is to come up with a family word. Make certain that word is deliberately tested in electronic communications and phone calls.}

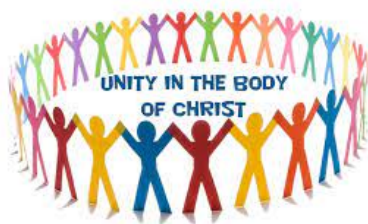
Peace in Christ, **Pastor Jason Bryant**

****ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN:**
Pastor Jason has 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, 1/21, @ 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on '**Necessary Traumas – Surrender**' (Romans 2:1-2)!}

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.



****Please note that our
"FELLOWSHIP ON THE LAWN"



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 meet **THIS Sunday, January 21**, at 9am in Rm #207...see Reg King with questions.}



**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.**

will be set-up in the lobby of the Education Building for the rest of February, and possibly into March, depending on the 'cold' weather.

Join us there after worship to ***fellowship with your brothers & sisters in Christ*** and enjoy a quick treat while you do!



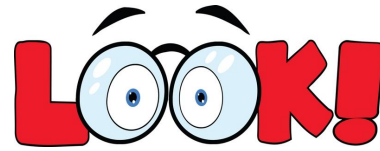
****We will have a 'Called Congregational Meeting' on Sunday, January 21, 2024, to elect one Elder to the Class of 2026 and to elect the 2024 Nominating Ministry; and on Sunday, 1/28/24, the 2024 Budget and 2023 Mission Giving information will be available to you in the Narthex.**



Cook's Church's 'Confirmation Program'

'CONFIRMATION SESSION'
THIS Sunday, January 21, 2024,
will start at **11:15am in Room #113:**
"Viral Virtues: Living the Beatitudes Today" - discussing how the Beatitudes apply to modern life, especially in the digital age.

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.***

*****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 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 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. Also, if your picture (or families') is not currently in our directory, please send a photo to the church office (office@cookschurch.org) and we'll see about getting it and your information included asap!

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. If you have any questions, call Ginger



Cook's sanctuary will host a **'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).



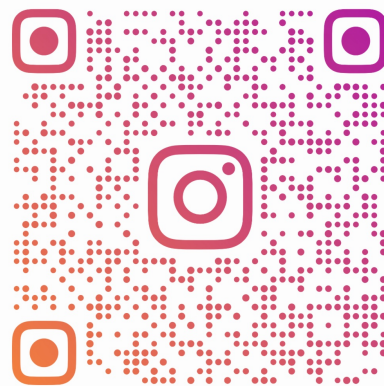
"SCOUTING FOR FOOD" is an ongoing annual program of the Boy Scouts of America that began in 1985 by the Greater St Louis Area Council. The program involves collecting for local food banks. It is organized at the local level throughout the country. Cook's 'Boy & Cub Scouts Troop #51' will be collecting **'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!

Thompson, Treasurer @
704/562-7558.



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. 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!



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



Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Cook's **SESSION** meets on the **2nd Sunday** at 7pm in Rm #113.

ALL Ladies are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE meetings** on the **2nd Tuesday** @ **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 have any questions.



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

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

Contact Us!

Pastor Jason Bryant

jason@cookschurch.org

Church Office

office@cookschurch.org

Cook's Playschool

cooksplayschool@gmail.com

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