



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

COMING CHANGES

We will be making what I think are some minor adjustments to our worship service and I want to take a moment to explain the rationale behind them and take a moment to assure you all of our shared goals. To begin with, we all must recognize that we're in a precarious position presently as it relates to our future. We have seen dwindling interest, low visitor numbers and even fewer repeat visits. This has led to a reduction

in our operating budget which continues to decline in the face of reduced members and inflation. As we're all painfully aware, the pews are far less filled with people than they ever have been in the history of



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool, *family of Lyle Pace*, Jill Griffin (Novant/Main), Tom McClure (Stanley Total Living Ctr, Rm 502), Jack McClure, Steve Self, Rick Greene, Sara Yarbrough, Allyne Gant, Dale Luckey, F.D. & Pat Hager, Sarah Justice, Jerome Abernathy, Jimmy McClure, Steve (@ Univ Rehab & welcomes visitors!) & Sharon Gilmore, Nancy & Richard Smith, Debbie White, Nicolas Wilson (teenage grandson of Ed & Nancy w/brain tumor), Betty McClure, 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 Mummaw, Andy Burge, Ned & Carolyn Beatty, Sherry Wasek, Nancy Brammer, Chrissy Hart, Jack Byers, Kurt

Cook's Church. Unless we take measured and direct action, it is likely that Cook's will succumb to a variety of societal forces in the coming decade. If you are challenged by this awareness, I wholeheartedly encourage you to come and speak with myself and the Elders of our church. So, assuming we can all agree that numerical growth is necessary for our long-term survival, you'll understand the need we have to take action. Simply put, we must to design a service that is MORE attractive to younger families than ours presently is. We know ours isn't terribly appealing based on a number of factors (divergence in style from growing churches, younger families left and none seem to visit, Playschool parents don't visit, etc.) so we simply must alter things. Our present thinking is that by shortening the length of the service slightly, that we will represent a benefit to young families. In order to accomplish this, we will be taking the following actions – we will reduce congregational singing to one hymn and the concluding song. We will remove the Creedal Affirmation and we will change the timing of the passing of the peace until the end of the service. We will aim to complete the corporate worship component by 10:45am. With the remaining time, members and visitors will be encouraged to either: pass the peace, come to Room 113 to ask questions about the sermon or head to the library for prayer with one of our Elders or Deacons. These changes will occur NEXT SUNDAY (February 18). The idea is to provide a fully spiritually satisfying worship with an added bonus of time flexibility. These changes have

Hollar, Al Thompson, Bobby Hotaling, John Park, Michael Matrone, Joe Picard, Jim & Dawn Thompson, Lisa Roth, Colette Roberts, David Luckey, 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.

all been thought through and discussed in committees and by Session and represent attempts to craft a more appealing service to newer families. Please know, we recognize that disruptions to worship aren't typically welcomed. We all get into a routine and a rhythm and don't want that interrupted. Please bear with us in your discomfort, recognizing the goal to maintain Cook's historic legacy of faithfulness on the West Side. Also recognize that we aren't certain these changes will have the desired effect. We will be actively monitoring alterations to measure their intended outcomes. If they do not work, we will revisit our thinking. Presbyterian Churches require faith and love to run productively. If you aren't happy with any of this, please make an appointment to speak with me personally or one of our Elders. Please know, we are doing our best to navigate difficult waters and appreciate your prayers, your dedication and your ongoing support. Again, if you feel like you don't know what's going on, take the time now to come speak to me. If you hear others feeling underinformed, encourage them to talk with me or one of the Elders. The Elders believe that there is a bright and exciting future for Cook's right around the corner. We encourage you to see and hear what we'll be doing in the coming months, and get actively involved.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Pastor Jason**

Join us this Sunday, Feb. 11, @ 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on 'Necessary Traumas – Service' (John 13:12-20)}!

Thank you to all that have



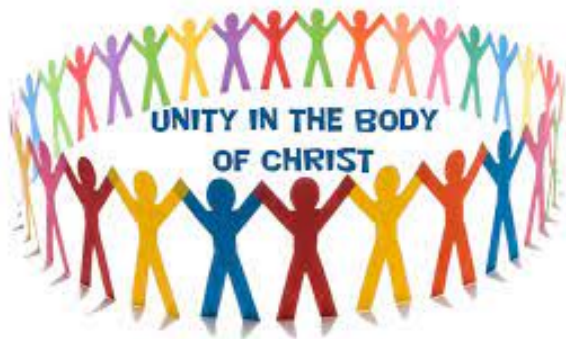
Our Christian sympathy is extended to Bonnie Pace, and her children, Parker & Laura, on the death of her husband and their father, Lyle, on Wednesday, February 1, 2024. Lyle's funeral service will be held here at Cook's Church this Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 2:00pm in the sanctuary, followed by visitation with the family in the Ed Bldg lobby, then a private/family only burial at Cook's. Please remember his family in your prayers during this time of loss.



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

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”** will be set-up in the lobby of the Education Building for the month of February, and possibly into March, depending on the ‘cold/rainy’ weather. Join us there after worship to ***fellowship with your brothers & sisters in Christ*** and enjoy a quick treat while you do!



****ASH WEDNESDAY**

9am to study His Word and what it means for our daily living!
For more info, contact Paige Benson at 704/488-7417.



*** Please make plans to help with the trimming, cleaning and mulching along the street beside our Education Building on **Saturday, February 17, from 9am-1pm.** Our rain date (or possible second cleaning day) is Saturday, 3/2, 9am-1pm. Bring rakes, blowers, string trimmers, hedge clippers, gloves, trash bags, your own water/snack, and a readiness to make a difference. Equipment should be battery powered or manual due to no electrical outlets close by.

Thank you for helping to make our church look it's best!



Dear Fellow Church Members,
We have felt your

SERVICE:

Pastor Jason will be in our sanctuary from **12-2:00pm** on '**Ash Wednesday**', **February 14, 2024**, for ***anyone*** to stop by to receive 'ashes' and a prayer with/for you if you'd would like him to do so.

{We are also in the process of planning a '***Maundy Thursday Service***' on **3/28** – more details to follow.}



YOUTH / COOKIE MAKING EVENT for Kairos Prison

Ministry

SUNDAY, MARCH 3,

after worship in FH kitchen

*ALL Youth - please plan to join us!

***MEMBERS** - if you'd like to donate packs of cookies, please bring them to worship on March 3 and give them to Clayton.

Thanks so much for your help!



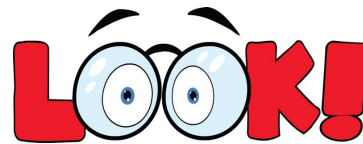
2024 Flower Calendar dates that are AVAILABLE: If you'd like to supply our sanctuary flowers in

encouragement and unwavering support over the last few months with the passing of my sister, Elaine, and Annie. We wanted to let you know that we appreciate each thought, prayer, phone call and card. "*A friend loves at all times*" and we are blessed to have many in our church.

- Dale & Connie Luckey

Thank you so much to my Cook's family for all the texts, phone calls, food and the many cards & prayers. They all meant so much to me during this difficult time.

- Carrie Troxler



*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!

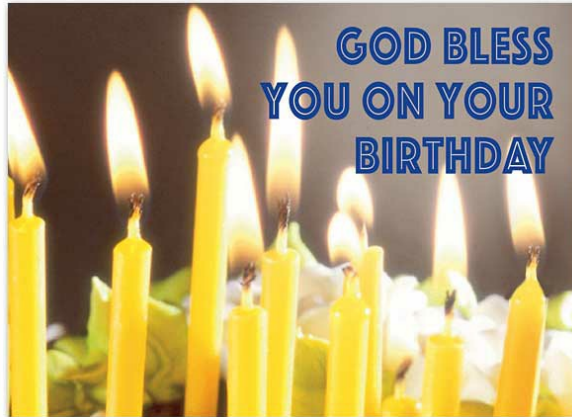


...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to

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

honor and/or in loving memory of a loved one, these dates are available at this time (there may be more forthcoming): **April 14; May 12; Sept. 15; Nov. 3.** Contact the church office if you'd like to reserve a date!



We wish you a Blessed and Happy Birthday!

Feb. 20 - Jerry Benson
Feb. 23 - Kelly Harper
Feb. 24 - James Harper
Feb. 26 - Sandy Birmingham
Feb. 27 - Natalie Bryant
March 4 - Heather Lyerly,
Rebecca Wilz
March 8 - Paul Love
March 9 - Hayden Bolz



Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

****Cook's SESSION will meet on**

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 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!**

TUESDAY, February 13, at 7pm
in the sanctuary.

****ALL Ladies are invited to join**
our Presbyterian Women's
CIRCLE meeting on the second
Tuesday (February 13) @
10:30am (**unfortunately the **7pm**
meeting has been
cancelled this month) **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 third 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 **second Thurs at 6:30pm in**
Rm #113 - contact Mike Stanford with
questions.

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

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on
the **first 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.



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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

**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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