



 FROM THE
PASTOR

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

*Isaiah 26:3 – “You will keep in
perfect peace those whose
minds are steadfast, because
they trust in you.”*

The Advent season is a time of waiting and anticipation, but it can also be a season full of stress and busyness. With the demands of the holidays, it's easy to lose sight of the peace that God offers us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Yet, in the midst of the chaos, we are invited to turn our hearts to God in prayer and experience the peace that only He can provide. Prayer is more than a moment of speaking to God; it is a sacred exchange. When we bring our



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool, family of Frank Norris, Dwight Black, James Harper, Patty Brown, Penny & Max Love, Suzy Hager, Nancy Smith, Charles & Kay Mathews & family, Whitey Ridenhour, Jack & Jeannie McClure, Charlie & Debbie McCrary, Ronnie Petursson, Ellen Jackson, Steve Self, Allyne Gant, Sara Yarbrough, Dale Luckey, Matt Thompson, Debbie Abernathy, Jerome Abernathy, Ginny Dunn (*visitors welcome!* @ The Laurels, Rm #D202, 704/249-0374c), Steve (Univ Nursing & Rehab, Rm 602A) & Sharon Gilmore (Residences @ Windsor, Rm 1408, 980-355-3242), David Luckey, Nicolas Wilson (grandson of Nancy Wilson), Betty McClure, Kurt Hollar, Michael Matrone, Judy & Richard Bogan,

anxieties, concerns, and fears to Him, we are reminded that He is in control. As we lay down our burdens at His feet, we create space in our hearts to receive His peace—a peace that cannot be explained but can be felt in even the most difficult circumstances. During Advent, consider setting aside time each day to pray. Begin by giving thanks for the hope we have in Christ, then ask God to guide your heart toward His peace. Whether it's a quick prayer before starting your day or a longer moment of reflection in the evening, these intentional pauses can help you stay centered in God's promises. As you light each candle on the Advent wreath, let it remind you to pray for peace—not only in your own life but also in the lives of those around you. Pray for relationships that need healing, for the weary and the hurting, and for peace in our world. May this Advent season be one where the Prince of Peace reigns in your heart and life, transforming your worries into worship and your fears into faith. Let's prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ by embracing the gift of peace through prayer. In doing so, we reflect the love and light of Jesus in a world that desperately needs His peace. In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jason

{Be sure to join us this Sunday at 10am for a sermon from Pastor Jason on '**All About Peace**' (John 14:25-27)!}

*Our '**Cook's Cares**' **COOKING CLASS** meets at 3pm in our Fellowship Hall kitchen (the *next*

Lisa Roth, Colette Roberts, Gloria Ricker, Carol Calhoun, Kathy Gant, Beverly Farquhar (M. McElhaney's sister), Robert Luckey, Cherie Lowman, Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter, Judy 'JJ' Jones, Steve Johnston, Fennel & Milam families (Playschool families/Riverside flood victims), **ALL the many others affected by Hurricane Helena...loss of family members/homes/income/jobs, etc.**, KCH/Kenya, Cook's Homebound mbrs/Active Military personnel, victims of mass shootings/ nat'l disasters, those with ongoing illnesses/grieving the loss of a loved one, and the many others whose name(s) are not listed here but are in need of our intercessory prayer

{*Names on for 4 wks - please let the church office know if they still are in need of add'l prayer. If a name has been removed and is still in need of add't prayer, please contact the church office and we'll be glad to put them back on the list.}

Homebound List: Sara Yarbrough, Steve Gilmore, Allyne Gant, Ginny Dunn

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.

class date in '2025' tba)...everyone is invited to join Pastor Jason to 'learn how to whip up a delicious dish' that highlights culinary-school level cooking with affordable ingredients found at your local grocery store'.

But the concept "Cook's Cares" is far broader. **To that end, **Jason would like YOU to lead a class** in which you teach to assist people... perhaps you've got some knowledge of plumbing, construction, car repairs, personal bookkeeping, etc. that could help people successfully manage life. Again, focus on techniques or things that you do or can accomplish that would offer a benefit to someone else. Just let Pastor Jason know (jason@cookschurch.org / 704/607-4162) and we'll work from there to potentially schedule a class.

*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.*

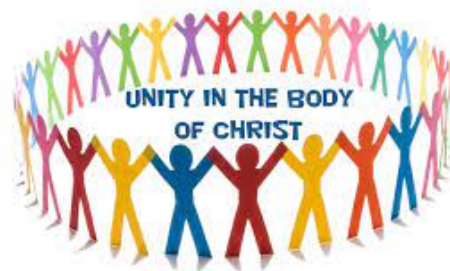


****Three 'Upcoming Musical Events' to put on your**



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.



Please note that our "Fellowship on the Lawn**" will now be held outside in front of our sanctuary unless it's raining (will set-up in the Ed Bldg lobby if weather is bad)...please join us after worship to **fellowship with your brothers & sisters in Christ** and enjoy a quick

calendar:

A Christmas Organ Recital – **THIS Sunday, December 8 @ 2:30pm**, join David, along with 2 other guest organists, in our sanctuary to enjoy some inspiring and festive Advent & Christmas music! A love offering will be received and sent to the Hurricane Helene NC Flood Victims.

Queen City Ringers Holiday Handbell Concert – **Saturday, December 21 @ 2pm**, this will be a fun & beautiful concert @ Cook's to bring your whole family & friends to enjoy! A love offering will be received for the Queen City Ringers.

Cook's Adult Choir's Christmas Cantata – **Sunday, December 22**...please join us at our 10am worship service in which our Adult Choir will present the Christmas story' in song!



COMMUNITY DINNER

Everyone is invited to attend our '**COMMUNITY MEAL**' on **Thursday, December 12**, from 5-6:30pm in FH! Please bring a friend or two with you! (Menu will be ham, green beans, potato salad & dessert.)

treat while you do!

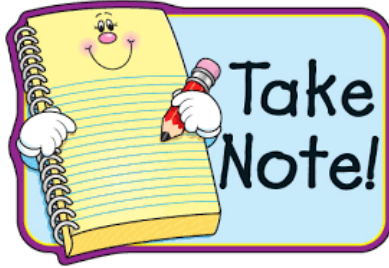


Please note: We want you to know that we have a **NEW** procedure' for the **receiving of your tithes and offerings to Cook's Church** – we have 2 offering plates available on the offertory table in front of the altar and 2 offering plates available in the Narthex every Sunday for your donations which can be put in either plate before and/or after worship each week, OR you can use our new 'QR code' that will be in our bulletin and also on the yellow card in the pew rack to make a donation, OR if you prefer, we have 'online giving' (see website: www.cookschurch.org, 'Give Now' link, for details on that option). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jason. As always, we thank you for supporting Cook's Church!



"Looking Forward to Christmas" Adult Bible Study!

This study is being led by



Cook's Worship Ministry needs YOUR help!!!!

We have many people involved in each Sunday's worship service and we are currently looking for **anyone that can help with 'audio/visual tasks'** (live streaming of service, showing slides on screen, running cameras, sound system, etc. - AV experience a plus but not mandatory... **it's not really as hard as it sounds!**), **'Fellowship on the Lawn'** and **'nursery' workers**. Even if you can help once a month or once a quarter, it would be a great help. Questions or to sign-up, contact Denise Veard (704-564-8030) – thank you!

****Important Note** - If you can't be here in person for worship on Sundays and would like to watch our service online, look for them on **'YouTube – Cook's Church CLT'**. And please sign up for this YouTube subscription:

**Link: Cook's Church CLT -
YouTube**



Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

We now have a new **'Digital/**

Fred Cox and Pastor Jason and they would love for **ALL Adults** to join them **each Sunday** at **6pm** in our sanctuary!



Congregation – please help us to spread the word that the **“Heartbeats Women's Center Mobile Lab”** is in Cook's parking lot **most every Tuesday from 1-4pm** (depending on rain/heat) and **anyone** is invited to stop by to receive one of their (free) services. *Heartbeats* is dedicated to serving our community with quality care by offering free and confidential medical services (pregnancy testing, ultrasounds), practical assistance, and emotional support. For more details, their website is heartbeatspcc.org and phone # is 704-489-0708.

CHECK THIS OUT!



For more details on ALL of our upcoming church events, be sure to 'check out' our website (www.cookschurch.org) & Facebook page, as well as the Thurs eNews and weekly mailed newsletter!

Communications Team" that will meet monthly - time/date tba. If you have any questions about this Team, contact Reg King.

Cook's **SESSION** will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month in Rm #113.

ALL LADIES** are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE meeting** will meet on the second Tuesday of every month (**for December, ALL Ladies are invited to join our Circles on Monday, December 9th at the 'home of Bonnie Pace' at 6:30pm...for more details, see Pede Self**) at 10:30am or 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pede Self with questions at 704/516-1753.

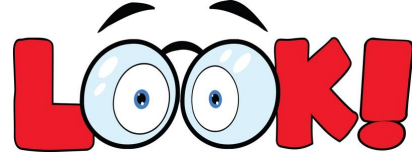
Cook's **MEN OF THE CHURCH** will meet monthly (as needed) at 7:30am in the lobby of the Ed. Bldg. and **ALL MEN** at Cook's are invited to attend! Contact Dale Luckey with questions at 704/309-0798.

Cook's **PROPERTY Ministry** normally meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in Rm #113 - check with Neal Hager to see when they will meet again.

Cook's **MISSION Ministry** meets on the first Friday of each month at 10:00am in Rm #113...contact Fred Cox with questions at 980/288-3307.

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00pm via Zoom and/or in the church office...contact Denise Vead for details at 704/564-8030.

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



**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

at 704/399-8837.



Cook's Playschool would love to have your 3-5 year old(s) join them!

Cook's Playschool is held Monday thru Thursday from 9:30am-1pm each day! If you'd like your 3-5 year old to be in on the 'all the fun they will have while they are learning important life skills and preparing for Kindergarten', please contact Kelly Carter and/or Bobbie Penninger in the Playschool office

immediately at 704/394-4422 or

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

****Everyone is invited to attend Cook's Playschool's Christmas Program on Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall!**

Enjoy an arrangement of holiday songs by all children as well as a live nativity from our Fantastic Fours. Refreshments will be served before the program. Doors open at 11:45 for you to come and enjoy!

can use the QR code above, or your debit/credit card and that "app" is available to download from our website... www.cookschurch.org. If you have any questions, call Ginger Thompson, Treasurer @ 704/562-7558.

Cook's Church has a FACEBOOK page! Come check us out and stay connected!

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 (www.cookschurch.org)!

Have you read your recent church newsletter? Recent issues of our Cook's Communicator can be found on our church website (www.cookschurch.org)!

Contact Us!

Pastor Jason Bryant

jason@cookschurch.org

Church Office

office@cookschurch.org

Cook's Playschool

cooksplayschool@gmail.com

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