



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

***Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the
Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice!"***

Christian joy is more than a fleeting feeling or a response to our circumstances. It's a deep, abiding confidence in the goodness of God, rooted in the unchanging truth of His love for us. The Apostle Paul, who wrote these words while in prison, reminds us that joy is not dependent on where we are or what we're facing but on who God is. True joy flows from knowing we are beloved children of God, redeemed by Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. It



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool,
Charlotte, Victoria & Stephen
Dennis, *family of Frank Norris*,
Dwight Black, James Harper,
Patty Brown, Penny & Max Love,
Suzy Hager, Nancy Smith, 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,
Lisa Roth, Colette Roberts, Gloria

gives us strength in trials, hope in uncertainty, and peace in a world that often feels chaotic. It's a gift we receive as we trust in Him and a response we offer in gratitude for all He has done. This joy is not meant to be hidden but shared. When we live with joy, it becomes a testimony to those around us of the transformative power of God's love. In our conversations, our work, and our worship, we have opportunities to reflect the light of Christ's joy.

This week, take a moment to reflect on the joy that comes from the Lord. In prayer, in Scripture, or even in a quiet walk, let your heart rejoice in His presence and His promises. Then, look for ways to bring that joy into your relationships and daily life, allowing others to see the hope and peace that only God can provide. Let the light of Christian joy shine brightly in your life, drawing others to the Source of our unshakable hope. Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice!

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 Joy' (John 15:9-11)!}

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

Ricker, Carol Calhoun, Kathy Gant, Beverly Farquhar (M. McElhane's sister), Robert Luckey, Cherie Lowman,
Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter, Judy 'JJ' Jones, Steve Johnston, **ALL those 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.

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.*



COMMUNITY DINNER

Everyone is invited to attend our **'COMMUNITY MEAL'** **TONIGHT, 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.)



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: due to the cold/wet weather, we will NOT have 'Fellowship on the Lawn' after worship through the winter months. It will resume in April, 2025. Please be sure to greet your fellow church members inside before leaving worship each Sunday!**



***Session has called for a 'Congregational meeting' for this Sunday, December 15, at the end of our worship service for the purpose of voting on selling an additional acre of land to include the church office.**



For this year's '**Angel Tree offering**' we have found a 'family of young people who are in great need'. You can make a donation to this family with a Wal-Mart or Target gift card and it can be put in the church offering plate **this coming Sunday morning, December 15**. If you have any questions, contact Fred Cox. Thank you!



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 Fred Cox and Pastor Jason and they would love for **ALL Adults** to join



****Upcoming Events to put on your calendar:**

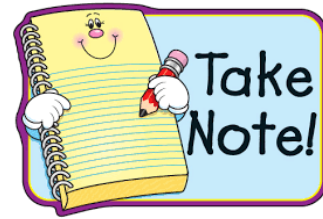
Queen City Ringers Holiday Handbell Concert – Saturday, December 21 @ 2pm, this will be a fun & beautiful concert @ Cook's to bring your whole family & friends to enjoy! A love offering will be received for the Queen City Ringers.

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!

Make plans today to join us for our Christmas Eve Worship with communion, carols and candle lighting at 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2024!

And don't forget to put our **Epiphany Worship Service** in which we celebrate the arrival of the 3 Kings to celebrate the newborn baby Jesus on your 2025 calendars! On Sunday, **January 5, 2025**, during our **11am worship service**, there will be **communion** during the service, and 'cupcakes' will be served after the service and **three** will have a special surprise in them and the finder of those 3 will be '**crowned**

them **each Sunday** at **6pm** in our sanctuary!



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 Vead (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



Congregation – please help us to spread the word that

'King of the Day'!

{Anyone that can stay after worship on 1/5/25 to help us remove our Christmas decorations, our Worship Ministry would greatly be appreciative!}



Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

We now have a new '**Digital/ 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 at 10:30am or 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pede Self with questions at 704/516-1753.

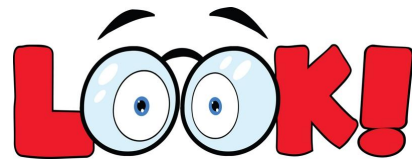
Cook's **MEN OF THE CHURCH** will meet monthly (as needed) at 7:30am in the lobby of the Ed. Bldg. and **ALL MEN** at Cook's are invited to attend! Contact Dale Luckey with questions at 704/309-0798.

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.

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!



****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!***

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 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!

****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



...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 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

will be served before the program. Doors open at 11:45 for you to come and enjoy!



***Dear Church family,
I would like to thank everyone for all the calls, texts, visits and prayers during my recent hospitalization and illness and that each and every one is most appreciated.***

– Whitey Ridenhour

**ATTENTION
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As you may know, we are trying to rebrand our church name to 'Cook's Church', previously Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church. Our new sign out front was a great start! Now we are working on changing our name on Facebook and Google. When you search for our church on either platform, **please search under "Cook's Church"**. Our Facebook link is www.facebook.com/cooksmemorialpresbyterian/ and our website is www.cookschurch.org. Thank you for being patient as we make these changes.



Check out what is happening @Cook's Scan to connect with Us on Facebook

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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