



**FROM THE
PASTOR**

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

***1 John 4:9: "This is how God
showed His love among us: He
sent His one and only Son
into the world that we might live
through Him."***

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and preparing. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we focus on Love—the heart of the Christmas story. God's love is not distant or abstract; it is a love that takes on flesh and dwells among us. In Jesus, Love comes close, breaking into our brokenness, offering healing, restoration, and new life. This Love is relentless. It reaches beyond our failures and fears. It calls us to love others as



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool, Charlotte, Victoria & Stephen Dennis, 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 Ricker, Carol Calhoun, Kathy Gant,

we have been loved—freely, sacrificially, and unconditionally. Advent Love transforms us and compels us to share the light of Christ with the world. In a season that often feels hurried and overwhelming, let us pause to receive this love anew. The birth of Christ reminds us that God steps into the chaos of our lives, meeting us with grace and hope. This love is our anchor, holding us steady when life feels unsteady and pointing us to the promise that God is with us—

Emmanuel, Love in human form. As we approach Christmas, let us slow down and reflect on this great gift: God's love, poured out for us in Jesus. May we carry this Love into our homes, our community, and our world, so that all may know its life-giving power. Love has come. Let us rejoice and share it.

In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Pastor Jason

{Join us this Sunday at 10am for our Adult Choir's **Christmas Cantata** and as we celebrate the '**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love**'!}

*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'.

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 know-

Beverly Farquhar (M. McElhaney's sister), Robert Luckey, Cherie Lowman,
Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter, Judy 'JJ' Jones, Steve Johnston, Branson Morris, *family of Lois Lowe*, **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.

ledge 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.*

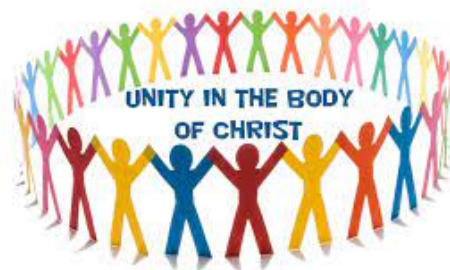


We will receive our '**Joy Gift Offering**' during worship at 10am on **December 22** and also during our 'Christmas Eve Worship Service' at 5pm on **December 24**. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Special envelopes for your donations to this offering are available in the pew racks on these 2 dates, and can be put in the offering plates on the



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!**

communion table and in the Narthex before or after worship. {Note: the entire offering rec'd on 12/24 will go towards this fund *unless* otherwise noted. *Thank you!*}



****We'd love to have you join us at these upcoming Events:**

Queen City Ringers Holiday Handbell Concert – THIS 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 – THIS 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



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

newborn baby Jesus on your 2025 calendars! On Sunday, **January 5, 2025, during our 10am 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 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!}



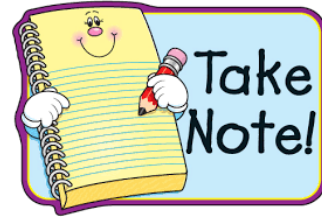
CORRECTION to the '2024 Poinsettia Listing:

These 2 were mistakenly left off last week's listing:

in honor of Paige, Jerry, Darian, Taylor & Logan – with love, Johnnie & Van;

in memory of Dot & Ben Burge by Van & Johnnie Quinn.

for **ALL Adults** to join 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



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.

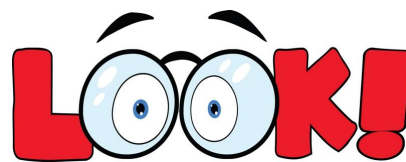
Cook's **MISSION Ministry** meets on the **first Friday** of each month at **10:00am** in Rm #113...contact Fred Cox with questions at 980/288-3307.

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on the **first Thursday** of each month

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; *Holiday Hours: no Mobile Lab again until Tuesday, January 7*) 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

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!

**ATTENTION
ATTENTION!**

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

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 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

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.

Also, please note that our newest employee, Alyssa Overcash, now has a church email in which you can correspond with her through it - it is alyssa@cookschurch.org.



* At this time, we have **four '2025 Flower Calendar' dates** available: **January 26, March 2, April 27 and September 14.**

If you are interested in supplying our sanctuary flowers in honor of and/or in loving memory of a loved one on any of these dates, please contact the church office as soon as possible...704-399-7735 / office@cookschurch.org.

Thank you!



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

cooksplayschool@gmail.com

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