



**FROM THE
PASTOR**

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

***John 6:35 – Jesus said to
them, “I am the bread of
life; whoever comes to me shall
not hunger, and whoever
believes in me shall never
thirst.”***

My waistline definitely confirms this truth – I love to eat. I know for some people it really is a matter of eating to live, I exist on the other end of the spectrum, I live to eat. That's likely why I became a chef and still enjoy cooking to this day. But Jesus speaks about something deeper than just our physical need for food as he talks about the Bread of Life in the Gospel of John.



Prayer Requests:

Cook's Church/Playschool,
Norman Thompson, James
Harper (back surg on 1/15, requesting no
visitors at this time but call to Kay are appreciated),
Paige Benson, Patty Brown,
Charlie & Debbie McCrary, Nancy
Smith, Max Love, Jack McClure,
Ronnie Petursson, Ellen Jackson,
Steve Self, Allyne Gant, Sara
Yarbrough, Debbie Abernathy,
Jerome Abernathy, Ginny Dunn
(visitors welcome! @ The Laurels, Rm #D202,
704/249-0374c), Steve (Univ Nursing, Rm
602A) & Sharon Gilmore (Residences @
Windsor, Rm 1408, 980-355-3242), Nicolas
Wilson (grandson of Nancy Wilson), Betty
McClure (Huntersville Health & Rehab), Kurt
Hollar, Michael Matrone, Judy &
Richard Bogan, Lisa Roth, Colette
Roberts, Gloria Ricker, Kathy Gant,
Beverly Farquhar, Angie Ross,
Steve Johnston, Cindy Folsom,
Branson Morris, Cam Carter, Scott

Jesus speaks about something deeper than just our physical need for food as he talks about the Bread of Life in the Gospel of John. He is pointing us to our spiritual hunger—a longing that no meal, no matter how satisfying, can fulfill. When Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life, He is reminding us that only He can nourish our souls in a way that truly satisfies. While the world offers countless distractions to try and fill that spiritual hunger—success, material possessions, entertainment—none of it lasts. Like eating junk food, these things may temporarily fill us but leave us hungrier in the end. Jesus invites us to a better way. He offers us Himself—a relationship that fills the empty spaces in our lives with peace, joy, and purpose.

To come to Him, as He says, means to trust Him with our lives, to believe that He is enough for us in every season. The question we all face is this: What are we feeding on spiritually? Are we trying to sustain ourselves with things that don't last, or are we coming to Jesus for the life-giving nourishment only He can provide?

This week, I encourage you to reflect on where you might be spiritually hungry and take Jesus at His word: come to Him, and you'll never hunger or thirst again. In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jason

{Join us this Sunday at 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on "Born Again!" (John 3:1-8)!}

Cook's Cares: Please join Pastor Jason at his cooking class at **3pm** in our FH kitchen (**next class date to be**

Bolick, **ALL those affected by Hurricane Helene and wildfires in CA...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.

announced at a later time). There we'll prepare some form of food that highlights culinary-school level cooking with affordable ingredients found at your local grocery store. But the concept "Cook's Cares" is far broader. ****We'd like YOU to begin thinking about a class** that you might 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. Just let Pastor Jason know (jason@cookschurch.org / 704/607-4162) – we'd like to potentially schedule a class for you to lead.

After a search, the Session of our church has extended an offer to 'Alyssa Overcash' to take over for Cheryl after her departure. This means that Alyssa will be here as a lot more. Please be on the lookout for office hours which we will post soon.

Alyssa was hired to be our Director of Community Outreach. She was doing such a good job that it seemed a natural extension to have her take on some of Cheryl's responsibilities when she retires at the end of the month. Please welcome Alyssa to her new role as you see her!



Cook's Church Congregation and friends.

It was a very good year for Cook's. What follows is a listing of many of Cook's important accomplishments completed during 2024:

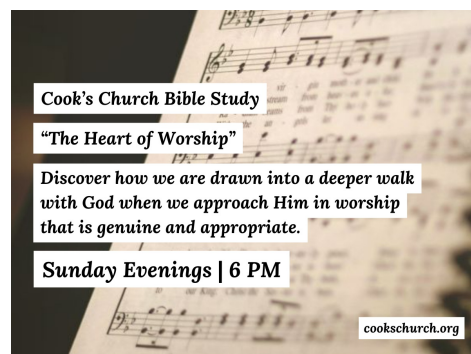
* Renovation of Fellowship Hall was



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 Beth Noles at 704/564-2447.

****Note that our 'Viewpoint Sunday School Class' will meet on Sunday, February 2 at 9am in Rm #101. {And just a reminder that the Viewpoint SS Class is having a get-together at Sports Page in Coulwood at 6:30pm...contact Reg King if you have ?'s.}**



completed.

* Not a part of the damage, however new flooring was installed.

* We upgraded the sound system in the sanctuary.

* We installed new equipment to enhance the streaming quality of our services to accommodate our members and neighbors who are homebound.

* We welcomed 7 Youth members through Confirmation and 5 Adult members.

* We added a new Staff Member: Alyssa Overcash.

* We re-designed the role of Secretary/Administrative Assistant and added the role of Director of Community Engagement. Alyssa will assume both roles.

* We completed our new Digital Sign.

* Several trees, all hazards, were either trimmed or taken down.

* Our Prayer room was created for reflection, prayer and guidance immediately after the morning worship service.

* We have had needed work done to certain plumbing systems and the boiler.

* Multiple music programs were held at Cook's and will become a staple for our congregation and the surrounding area.

* Our Social Media presence has been enhanced and increased.

· The sale of the adjacent 7.9 acres was approved and negotiations are now underway with a quality developer.

* Because of the property sale a group is being brought together to make plans for the use of the funds from the sale. Picture this as a VISION 2.0 group. Initial thoughts are: 1) Identifying the physical repairs for our aged campus that have long been put aside for lack of



****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!**



Thank you for supporting Cook's Church! Offering plates are available on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary and also in the Narthex area. If you prefer to give online, we have a QR code in the bulletin and also on the yellow tab in the pew racks, or you can go to our website and click on the 'Give Now' button and it will walk you through the process.

funds. 2) Planning with our Financial Advisor for the long-term investment of the funds. This will offer a great deal of financial stability for a very long time. **Please note that we are still at least a year and a half away from receiving these funds.

We would like to let you know that most of the projects were funded by specific gifts. Our normal receipts and balances for the General Fund would not have allowed for these projects had it not been for the generosity of members and friends, the diligence of the staff, and the close overseeing of Sessional committees. In fact, we ran with a deficit all year. We were blessed with funds when we needed them! Please note that our financial situation remains precarious, so we ask you to continue your giving and consider additional gifting if you are able all through the year. In addition, keep doing everything you can to grow our congregation!

Have faith and keep Cook's in your prayers! Stay safe, stay well and stay warm!!

- Reg King, Elder, Class of 2024

Join us this weekend!



Community
Prayer *Vigil*

Saturday, February 1 | 8 am - 12 pm

Cook's Church Sanctuary
3413 Mt.Holly-Hunterville Rd.

Drop-in for a time to pray for our families and friends, our neighbors, our nation, our world, and anything on your heart.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours'. Mark 11:24

Our quarterly '**Community-wide PRAYER VIGIL**' will be held here



* At this time, we have **2** '2025 Flower Calendar' dates available: **March 2 and April 27**. 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!



Cook's Playschool

*** NOW ENROLLING***

Summer & Fall

2-5 yr. olds

Cook's Playschool is held Monday thru Thursday from 9:30am-1pm each day!

If you'd like your 2-5 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 at 704/394-4422 or

at Cook's in our sanctuary
THIS Saturday, February 1, from
8am-noon - everyone is urged to
drop by to pray for 15 min or so for
yourself and/or your family, our city /
state / nation / world, and please tell
your neighbors they are invited also!



Cook's Scouts will lead us in
worship **THIS SUNDAY** for 'Scout
Sunday' - **February 2** at 10am -
please be sure to join us for
worship!

('Scouting For Food' is an ongoing
annual program of the Boy Scouts of
America that begun in 1985 by the
Greater St. Louis Area Council. The
program involves collecting for local food
banks and is organized at the local level
throughout the country. Cook's 'Boy &
Cub Scouts Troop #51' will be collecting
'**non-perishable food items**' (NO glass
containers!) here at Cook's on **Sunday**,
February 2. Please bring your donations
that day to the Narthex & they will take
them to a local food bank to help those
in need of food!)

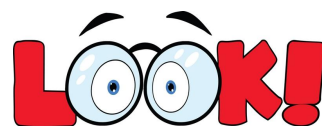


Congregation – please help
us to spread the word that
the "**Heartbeats Women's
Center Mobile Lab**" is in
Cook's parking lot **most
every Tuesday from 1-4pm**
(depending on rain/heat).
Anyone is invited to stop by to
receive one of their (free)
services. *Heartbeats* is
dedicated to serving our
community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





**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THESE EVENTS!**

**Community Daddy / Daughter
'Winter' Dance – Sunday,
February 23, 4-6pm** - in Cook's
FH...D.J., dancing, treats, photo
booth and more! *ALL fathers/grand-
fathers/uncles etc. are invited to join
their daughters/granddaughters/
nieces etc. of all ages!*

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper –
Tuesday, March 4** (More details to come!)

**Ash Wednesday Prayer/Ashes
Service – Wed., March 5, 11:30am-
1:30pm**, Cook's sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt {tentative date set for
Saturday, April 12}

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 13

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20

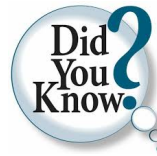


Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

***ALL LADIES** are invited to join our
Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE**

**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
ww.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

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.

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.

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 second Thursday of each month at 10:00am in the church office...contact Johnnie Quinn for details at 704/941-5464.

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.

"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

Worship with us

in person or on Livestream
Sundays at 10 AM



****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

[Alyssa Overcash](#)

alyssa@cookschurch.org

[Cook's Playschool](#)

cooksplayschool@gmail.com

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