



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

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

***James 4:8: "Draw near to God,  
and He will draw near to you."***

As we step into a new year, many of us make resolutions to improve our health, relationships, or careers. But what if this year, we resolve to deepen our connection with God through prayer? Prayer isn't complicated—it's simply opening our hearts to God, sharing our hopes, burdens, and gratitude. Start small. Set aside just five minutes each day to pray.

Maybe it's in the quiet of the morning, during a lunch break, or before bed. Don't worry about the perfect words; God listens to the honest ones. If you're not sure



***Prayer Requests:***

Cook's Church/Playschool, *Suzy Hager & family* (death of sister), *Paige Benson* (surg 12/31), *James Harper* (surg 1/8), *Patty Brown, Charlie & Debbie McCrary, Nancy Smith, Penny & Max Love, Jack & Jeannie 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 & Rehab, Rm 602A) & *Sharon Gilmore* (Residences @ Windsor, Rm 1408, 980-355-3242), *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, Beverly Farquhar* (M. McElhaney's sister), *Cherie*

where to begin, start with thanksgiving, then lift up your needs and the needs of others. As we make space for prayer, we invite God's peace and direction into our lives. Let this year be shaped by the steady rhythm of prayer, and may you discover the joy of drawing near to the One who knows and loves you deeply. In name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**Pastor Jason**

*{Join us this Sunday at 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on "When the Light Shines" (Mt. 2:1-12)!}*

\*Our 'Cook's Cares' **COOKING CLASS** meets at 3pm in our Fellowship Hall kitchen (the *next* class date will be held on **JANUARY 12, 2025**)...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](mailto: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**

Lowman, Audrey Bryan, Grey Frey, Angie Ross, Murray Lassiter, Steve Johnston, Branson Morris, Cam Carter, ***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.

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**\* 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](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)) or Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 /

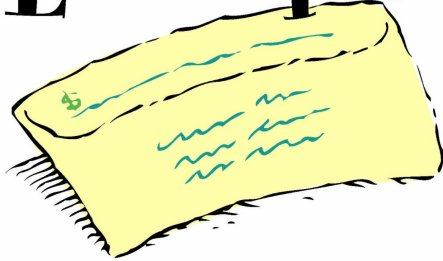
[Jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:Jason@cookschurch.org) or [jaydbryant@gmail.com](mailto:jaydbryant@gmail.com)) of any deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing so that we can let our Elders and Deacons know so that they can minister to you and/or your family.

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*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.

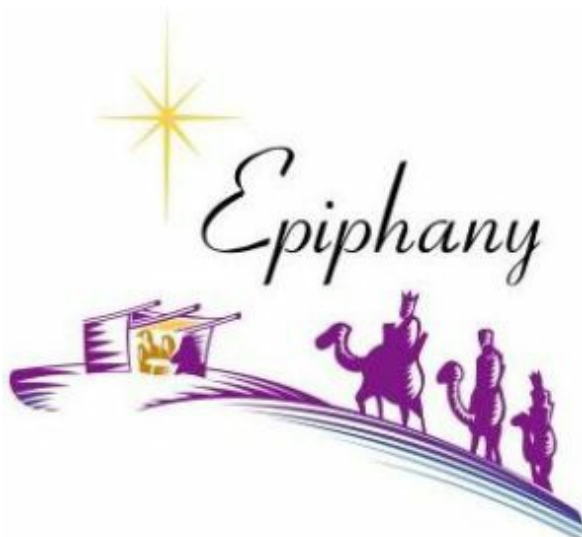
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## Offering Envelopes



Please note that the **2025 Giving Envelopes** are on a table in the Narthex for you to pick yours up either today or next Sunday. IF you don't see a box with your name on them and would like some, contact the church office and we'll get you a box asap.

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Please be sure to join us at our **Epiphany Worship Service** in which we celebrate the arrival of the 3 Kings to celebrate the newborn baby Jesus! **THIS** Sunday, **January 5, 2025,**



**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.

{\*\*The Viewpoint SS Class will meet this **Sunday, 1/5**, at 9am - if you have any questions, contact Reg King.}

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**\*\*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!**

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!}



**Congregation:** you are encouraged to prepare yourself for '**communion**' to be served next Sunday, January 5, through prayer and the reading of scripture... "**This do in remembrance of Me**" {Luke 22:19}.

## Free Community Dinner



**EVERYONE** is invited to join us for our *free and delicious* **COMMUNITY MEAL** on Thursday, **January 9**, from 5-



**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](http://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

6:30pm in Fellowship Hall! This month's menu will be pork roast, rice & gravy, veggie and dessert. Be sure to invited a friend and/or neighbor to come with you!

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### Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

**\*ALL LADIES** are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's **CIRCLE meeting** will meet on the **second Tuesday of every month (January 14)** 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 (January 12, 7pm)** 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

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

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**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).

(**\*\*Holiday Hours: no Mobile Lab again until Tuesday, January 7.**) *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](http://heartbeatspcc.org) and phone # is 704-489-0708.

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**CHECK THIS OUT!**

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

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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 Veal 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.

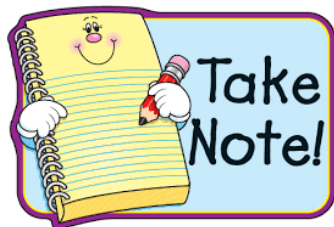
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\* At this time, we have **four '2025 Flower Calendar' dates** available: **January 26, March 2, April 27 and September 14.** If you are interested in supplying our sanctuary flowers in honor of and/or in loving memory of a loved one on any of these dates, please contact the church office as soon as possible...704-399-7735 / [office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org).

Thank you!

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

We have many people involved in each Sunday's worship service and



*\*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](mailto: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!*

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...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to [www.cookschurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)) and we'll see about getting it and your information included asap!

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**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

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) or Johnnie Quinn (704-941-5464) – 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**

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**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)

your debit/credit card and that "app" is available to download from our website... [www.cookschurch.org](http://www.cookschurch.org). If you have any questions, call Ginger Thompson, Treasurer @ 704/562-7558.

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

#### **Contact Us!**

**Pastor Jason Bryant**  
[jason@cookschurch.org](mailto:jason@cookschurch.org)

**Church Office**  
[office@cookschurch.org](mailto:office@cookschurch.org)

**Cook's Playschool**  
[cooksplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:cooksplayschool@gmail.com)

**Alyssa Overcash**  
[alyssa@cookschurch.org](mailto:alyssa@cookschurch.org)

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