

This Week At FCC

Sunday	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Church Christmas Party
	6:30 pm	Live Nativity
Tuesday	2:30 pm	Deliver Food boxes
	6:00 pm	Women's Christmas Party
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Bible Study (Tom Frisbie)

2024 Budget

The 2024 budget is available on the Information Table. The vote will take place tonight at the Church Christmas party. Questions may be directed to the Elders or Scott Francis.

Christmas Food Boxes– December 17th

We will be packing Christmas food boxes after the Christmas potluck dinner tonight at 5:00pm. Thank you to everyone who brought food items in or gave financially. The boxes will be delivered to Walnut Village on Tuesday, December 19th, at 2:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Owens (call or text 931-319-7784).

Angel Tree– December 17th

If you picked up an angel this year, please place those unwrapped items with the angel in EDW 101. All gifts will be delivered December 20th. If you have any questions please contact Steve Owens (931-319-7784).

Women's Christmas Party– December 19th

The Women's Ministry is having a Christmas party **Tuesday, December 19th, at 6:00 pm at Christina Goolsby's home**. This event is open to all women of the church. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) for a gift exchange and a finger food or dessert to share. Please sign up at the Information Table. If you would like to carpool or have any questions about the event please **contact Christina Goolsby (931-252-1847)**.

Announcement

There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

December 17, 2023

OUR VISION AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Making Disciples in Cookeville, Putnam County, and to the ends of the earth.



Current Sermon Series:

'Unexpected Jesus'—a Christmas series revealing the beautiful surprises of Jesus' advent. Together we will discover afresh the wonder in God's mysterious plan and be inspired this Christmas season!

Church Office

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UNEXPECTED JESUS 04 The Unexpected Obscurity of His Childhood

Brad Windlan First Christian Church

Learn more: fcc-cookeville.org

Luke 2:44-52 (NIV) “Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

2 ENCOURAGING TRUTHS FROM JESUS’ EARLY LIFE

TRUTH #1: He knew God was His _____.

Luke 2:49 (NIV) “‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’”

Ephesians 4:11-14 (NIV) “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”

John 1:12 (NIV) “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

TRUTH #2: He _____.

Luke 2:52 (NIV) “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV) “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 3:12-14 (JBP) “Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have “arrived”, spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward the honour of being called by God in Christ.”

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

TALK IT OVER

1. How can we emulate Jesus' awareness of God as our Father in our daily lives? (Luke 2:49; John 1:12)
2. In what ways can we actively pursue growth in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and others, following Jesus' example? (Luke 2:52; 2 Peter 3:18)
3. Discuss the role of spiritual leaders mentioned in Ephesians 4:11-14 in helping believers mature and avoid being pushed around by “every wind of doctrine”.
4. In Luke 2:49 Jesus said, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” What does this statement reveal about Jesus’ heart and priorities, and how can we emulate Jesus here?
5. Reflect on the idea of “not considering ourselves spiritually arrived”, as Paul states in Philippians 3:12-14, and share practical way we can keep growing in Christ.