



Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope. These are the themes for Advent and for our Christian life. In my lifetime, I'm not sure if we have ever needed to be reminded of the promises of Advent more than right now. We have been through quite the year as a community and church family, and it will be a blessing to spend these weeks focusing on the treasures of the season and the faith that we share together.

We are excited to share some wonderful events this year, including musical performances, children and youth activities, and experiences that we will share as an entire church. Take a few moments to look through this brochure for information on all that is happening. One thing I would like to emphasize - we will be sharing a church-wide Advent study called ***The Heart that Grew Three Sizes*** by Matt Rawle. This is a wonderful, creative study for all ages focused on the story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Everyone is invited to be a part and to be involved in all our Grinch themed activities. Our children's and youth ministries will participate, and if your class or small group would like to do so, please let the church office know and we will get you the materials you need!

If you are not involved in a Sunday school class or small group, or if your group would like to do something new for Advent, I will be leading us through the study on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. I hope you'll join us.

We pray that you and your family will be blessed this season. It is a wonderful time to reflect on all that has happened, but more importantly, this season gives us the chance to look forward in hope, knowing that Jesus is on the way. We hope to see you!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rob



Cookeville First United Methodist Church
165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

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Permit # 29

Change Service Requested

FUMC Kids' Advent

We invite all children Pre-K through 6th grade to join us in the Kids' Village for Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 am. During the five Sundays of Advent, starting November 28, we will be finding faith in the story of "The Grinch."

Kids Mission Day

Wednesday, December 1 6 p.m. Freeman Gym
Join us for an evening of service in the Freeman Gym to stuff stockings for HOPE Academy and to wrap gifts for the child we sponsored from Red Bird. It will be a special night to remember and to experience the joy of giving.

Hanging of the Greens Rehearsals

Wednesday, December 1 Sanctuary
All Children and Youth age 3 through 12th grade are invited and encouraged to participate in the Hanging of the Greens (K-12th grade at both services) on Sunday, December 5. Participants *must attend* the scheduled rehearsal *OR* contact Kathy Evans for an individual rehearsal. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Age 3 - Grade 6: Wednesday, December 1, 5 – 5:20 p.m. Sanctuary

Grade 7 - 12: Wednesday, December 1, 6:50 – 7:10 p.m. Sanctuary

The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 5 8:30 and 11 a.m. Services
The 48th annual Hanging of the Greens, an Advent service of symbolism and music, will be at both morning services on December 5. The service will include musical selections by the Children, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, and Gospel Ensemble. The children and youth of the church will participate in the decorating of the sanctuary with greenery, wreaths, poinsettias, and candles.

Children's Musical

Wednesday, December 8 6 p.m. Sanctuary
Choir Club members will present the musical *Room for Christmas* by Mark Burrows. Join us in the sanctuary to enjoy the children at Christmas time.

Toy Collection for Red Bird Mission

As part of the children's musical *Room for Christmas*, we are collecting new toys (\$15 max) for children up to age 12 from the Red Bird Mission area. Toys may be dropped off between November 21 and December 8 in baskets located in the lobbies of the Freeman building, Christian Life Center, and the sanctuary. The toys will be dedicated during the Children's Musical on December 8.

Parade Plus

Saturday, December 11 5-7 p.m. CLC
A warming experience including Hot Chocolate, warm cookies, and an Advent Surprise....the perfect combination for a cold night as you watch the Cookeville Christmas Parade from the perfect vantage point in the CLC.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 12 8:30 and 11 a.m. Services
The service of traditional Advent readings and seasonal music will be presented at both morning services on Sunday, December 12. The service will feature well-loved Christmas carols, instrumentalists, Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, Gospel Ensemble, and Youth Choir.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12 4 p.m. Youth Room
For grades 7-12! We will be playing Dirty Santa, so bring something you already own that you would like to gift away, or bring something under \$10. Also, be sure to bring a donation towards buying gifts for an Angel Tree Child.

God's Grace Food Pantry: Come Serve With Us

Tuesday, December 14 Parking Garage
10 a.m. - noon: Package potatoes, onions, and Christmas Goodies
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Set up and Distribution
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Load Cars and Manage Traffic
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Load Cars and Manage Traffic
Email: servant@cookevillefumc.org to sign up and help!

Breakfast With The Grinch

Saturday, December 18 8 - 10 a.m. Jeff Wall Hall
This year's Breakfast with Santa is going GREEN. Families are invited to join us for a morning with the fuzzy guy whose heart grew 3 sizes. The Youth will serve pancakes with sides and we will have crafts and photo opportunities with *The Grinch* himself!

The Longest Night

Sunday, December 19 6 p.m. Jenkins Chapel
A worship service for those living through loss this Advent Season.

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24 5 and 7 p.m. Sanctuary
Identical traditional Christmas Eve services in the sanctuary, with communion and candle light, will feature favorite carols and Christmas music and a sermon by Dr. Kevin Conrad. The candlelight service will close with the singing of *Silent Night*.