

# The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org) ~ find us on Facebook and YouTube at Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Church Staff: Mike Wilkinson, Pastor; Sam & Karen Ware, Music Directors; Rebecca Preshaw, Accompanist; and Jeannine Rickards, Office Manager

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 14, 2021



From last Sunday's sermon: "One of the things I love about *Christmas* is that, . . . it truly is a joyful season. All season long, we celebrate . . . We celebrate by getting together with family and friends to share a meal and exchange gifts. For most people, it is a joyful time of year, but I cannot help thinking that many people substitute their joy in the season for the true joy at the center of *Christmas*. The heart of *Christmas* is not trees, decorations, lights, parades, parties, and presents; the things most people seem to find joy in. There is nothing inherently wrong with any of these things, but we must not lose sight of the reality that the heart of *Christmas* is the astoundingly Good News that Jesus Christ was born as the Savior of this world."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

All **Angel Tree** gifts and corresponding angels need to be returned to the Library by this coming Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Everything will be taken to the nursing home the next day, Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The two trees in the narthex are our **Mitten Trees** for the Coalition of Appalachian Ministry (CAM). We are collecting mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks. We will be collecting through the month of December, and everything will be taken to the mission the first week of January, where they will be distributed to parts of Appalachia.

**Fish Hospitality** brochures are still available on the table in the Narthex. You can purchase Christmas cards for \$5.00 each and this will help provide food for hungry families in our community through this pantry. \$5.00 will feed a family of four for three days.

## Christmas Mailbox

The **Christmas Mailbox** will again be in the Narthex this coming Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have Christmas cards for those who regularly attend our worship services, you can drop them in the box and our ushers will distribute them.

## Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with **poinsettias** for Christmas. The cost per plant is \$10.00 and may be given in honor or memory of someone. If you have not yet done so, you may call the Church Office to place your order up until this Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Activities

This coming Sunday morning, December 19<sup>th</sup>, our Chancel Choir will present the Christmas musical, "**The Road to Bethlehem**". This is an excellent opportunity to invite someone to join you for our Worship Service.

Our annual **Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion** service will begin at 5:00 p.m. Since we practice "open" Communion, this too is an excellent opportunity for you to invite someone to join you.

## Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect, ordain, and/or install the next elder class to serve on our Session for the next three years will be Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. At that time, our Session will nominate **Phil Bridges, Danny Eblen,** and **Andy Holloway** to serve as the Elder Class of 2024. Additional nominations can be made from the floor providing the nominee has agreed in advance to serve if elected and meets both the biblical and constitutional qualifications.

## From Our Mailbox

Dear Friends,

**So sorry it has taken me so long to thank you for all the beautiful cards and most of all your prayers. It has been a long two months for me. I had a fractured right wrist (could not write). A head injury (brain bleed) and a large hematoma on my leg. It has gone down some but still being treated. I hope to be back at church soon.**

[She was here last Sunday.] **God bless each of you.**

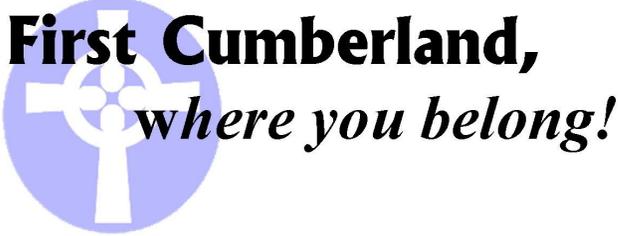
**My love to all,**

**Jin Gaston**

## Church Website

Our website ([www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)) includes a secure "Donate" tab. Donations can now be designated to one of four options: 1) Contribution (general church expenses); 2) Music; 3) Youth; or 4) Memorial. There is a small

*For the glory of God, Knoxville First Cumberland  
Church exists to **worship** Christ, **evangelize** the lost, **love** one  
another and our neighbor, and **learn** more about our God.*



<div style="text-align: center;">  <h3>Happy Birthday</h3> <p><b>December 14<sup>th</sup>– 20<sup>th</sup></b>              14<sup>th</sup> – <b>Justin Rech</b>              18<sup>th</sup> – <b>Tara Shelley</b>              19<sup>th</sup> – <b>Kevin Pipkin</b></p> <p><b>Our Faithfulness for December 12<sup>th</sup></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Sunday School.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">34</td></tr> <tr><td>Worship Service.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">79</td></tr> <tr><td>Offering.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$3,250.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Online Giving.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$742.45</td></tr> <tr><td>Building Reimbursement.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$10,090.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Coke Machine.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$140.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Poinsettias.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$270.00</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Calendar for December 14<sup>th</sup>– 20<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. Friendship Club                                6:30 p.m. Choir Practice              Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice              Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School                        10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                        10:45 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p><b>(See our website for complete calendar listings)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Among Our People</b></p> <p>It was great having so many family members of <b>Sallie Cox</b> worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ It was also great having <b>Jin Gaston</b> back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ <b>John Givens</b>, father of Crissy Collins, is still receiving treatments for multiple myeloma; he is doing okay. ~ <b>Scott Roberts</b> underwent medical tests last week and is still awaiting the results. ~ <b>Tom Witmer</b> is much improved was scheduled to return home on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friendship Club</b></p> <p>The <b>Friendship Club</b> will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at <b>O’Charley’s Restaurant &amp; Bar</b> (8077 Kingston Pike, across from Downtown West), at 11:00 a.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend; feel free to invite someone to join you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friendship Club, P.M. Edition</b></p> <p>The <b>Friendship Club, P.M. Edition</b> will gather for a Dutch-treat dinner Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at <b>Longhorn Steakhouse</b> (West Town Mall), at 6:30 p.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend; feel free to invite someone to join you. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Offering Envelopes</b></p> <p><b>Offering Envelopes for 2022</b> are on the table in the Narthex to be picked up at your convenience.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank You</b></p> <p>A huge thank you to the <b>Scouts</b> for raking the leaves and picking up fallen limbs on our front lawn last Sunday afternoon. It looks great!</p> </div>	Sunday School.....	34	Worship Service.....	79	Offering.....	\$3,250.00	Online Giving.....	\$742.45	Building Reimbursement.....	\$10,090.00	Coke Machine.....	\$140.15	Poinsettias.....	\$270.00	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h3>Prayer List</h3> <p><b>In the Hospital</b></p> <p>No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.</p> <p><b>Prayer Concerns List</b></p> <p><b>Chris</b> and <b>Ashley Atkins</b> (son and daughter-in-law of Susan Edwards); <b>William Barron</b> (father of Lee Barron); <b>Pam Bogle</b> (friend of Amanda Roberts); <b>Becky Bonds</b> (friend of Dianne Fielder); <b>Dick Booher</b>; <b>Eleanor Bradshaw</b> (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); <b>Cooper Browning</b> (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); <b>Corey Burnette</b> (friend of Amanda Roberts); <b>Fred and Joan Cline</b>; <b>Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries</b>; <b>Sallie Cox</b>; <b>Jimmie Lynn DeLozier</b> (mother of Tom DeLozier); <b>Rue Dougherty</b>; <b>Ely Driver</b> (friend of Dianne Fielder); <b>Susan Edwards</b>; <b>Doris Farley</b> (mother of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); <b>Dianne Fielder</b>; <b>Grace Flory</b> (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); <b>Judy Gammon</b>; <b>Jin Gaston</b>; <b>John Givens</b> (father of Crissy Collins); <b>Laura Haines</b> (niece of Geneva and Jim Searcy); <b>Helen Hayes</b> (cousin of Jin Gaston); <b>Rodney Holloman</b> (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); <b>Whitley Johnson</b> (friend of Amanda Roberts); <b>Kimberly Jones</b> (friend of Amanda Roberts); <b>Joe and Van Kemp</b> (relatives of Dianne Fielder); <b>Andrea Knight</b> (friend of Dianne Fielder); <b>Bob Lawson</b> (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); <b>Barbara and Gene McCammon</b>; <b>Steve McCurry</b>; <b>Ruth McNabb</b> (mother of Tammy Eblen); <b>Amy Beth Davidson Morgan</b>; <b>Jackie Morris</b> (cousin of Shelia Emory); <b>persecuted Christians around the world</b>; <b>our local, state, and national political leaders</b>; <b>Christopher Reed</b> (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); <b>Lori Roark</b> (sister of Kim McCurry); <b>Janet Roberts</b> and her son (coworker of Amanda Roberts); <b>Scott Roberts</b>; <b>Debbie Rushing</b> (relative of Rose Wilkinson); <b>Michael Schwartz</b> (friend of Susan Edwards); <b>Donna Snoderly</b> (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); <b>John Snoderly, Jr.</b> (nephew of Betty Hammill); <b>Sydney Snoderly</b> (great-niece of Betty Hammill); <b>Donna Stallions</b> (sister-in-law of Jewel Stallions); <b>Millard and Janet Summers</b> (parents of Steve Summers); <b>Margie Thompson</b> (sister-in-law of Shelia Emory); <b>Lee Wells</b> (mother of a co-worker of Susan Edwards); <b>Andrea Wilson</b> (daughter of Harry Sherrod); <b>Tom Witmer</b>; <b>Kinsley</b> (the young daughter of a friend of Amanda Roberts’ coworker); <b>the racial strife in our nation and the need for justice</b>; <b>those affected by coronavirus</b>; <b>those affected by the recent tornados</b>; <b>Unspoken Requests</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please keep the Church Office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns List.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord; hear my urgent cry.”</i> [Psalm 86:6, NLT]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021 Contributions</b></p> <p>For your donation to the church to qualify as on deduction on your 2021 tax return, it must be received by Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. The Church Office will be closed on New Year’s Eve, Friday December 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> </div>
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