

# The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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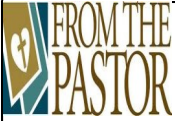
Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org) ~ find us on Facebook and YouTube at Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 4, 2022



On the first day of the new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!", but as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to hear what God told Joshua more than thirty-four hundred years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the Promised Land, he had reason to be afraid of what the future held. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people he was leading would soon be facing. Joshua needed God's encouragement. At the dawn of a new year of uncertainties, we too need God's encouragement. Even in a non-pandemic era, a new year brings many troubling questions: Will our health holdup? Will our marriage last? Will we be able to hang onto our jobs? Will we get into the right school? Will we live to see the end of 2022? Will the economy improve? Will there be another terrorist attack or some natural disaster that directly affects us or our loved ones? In the midst of the current pandemic, new questions arise: Will we get covid and if so, we will survive? Will we have to wear masks forever? Will the supply chain issues improve? Will inflation reduce or eliminate our retirement accounts? In the midst of all these questions, the Creator of the universe comes to us and says, ". . . ***Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***" [Joshua 1:9, NRSV] As the people of God, we need to understand that what happens in this coming year is not left to random fate; God is in charge and He promises to stay close to us—" . . . ***the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***" Many centuries later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when He said, ". . . ***I am with you always, . . .***" [Matthew 28:20, NRSV] The promises of God are why we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

Before 2021 gets lost in our "rearview mirror", I want to again express my deep gratitude for the financial generosity of this congregation. Though all the data has not yet been calculated (We have not yet received the church's December's bank statement and therefore cannot officially close out the year.), I can say in complete confidence that we will conclude the 2021 financial year in the black. This is significant for three major reasons: 1) God has again proved Himself to be generous; 2) as a congregation, we have again shown ourselves to be faithful; and 3) the 2021 budget was the largest in my tenure here. I said to both our *Stewardship and Finance Committee* and our *Session* during the budgeting process my first year here and every year thereafter that God has committed Himself to supply everything we need to accomplish what He desires us to achieve. This requires us to submit our will to God's will and then watch God work in our lives. What is true in our financial life is also true in our whole life. To God be the glory—great things He hath done!" [To God Be the Glory]

Lastly, I will not be in the office this Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Joanna and I will be in Alabama celebrating one of our grandson's seventh birthday. We will travel down on Thursday evening and return Saturday night. We will be in church Sunday morning and hope to see you there, as well.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## 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 the close of our Worship Service. 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.

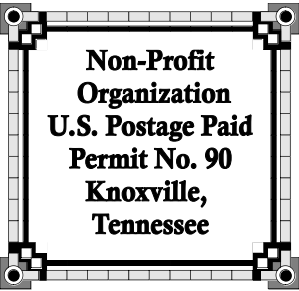
## Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship

All adults in the 25-50ish age range are invited to help launch a new small group focused on Bible study and fellowship. The initial meeting will be Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., at the home of Doug and Mary Wegman, 9016 Candlewood Drive. Dinner and childcare will be provided. RSVP to Mary at 865-363-6815.

## Church Website

Our church 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 transaction fee (2.9% plus \$0.30) for all online donations; the giver has the option of covering that fee when making a gift to the church.

*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.*



First Cumberland,  
where you belong!



Happy Birthday

January 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> – David Collins  
8<sup>th</sup> – Brittany Foust



Our Faithfulness for January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday School	29
Worship Service	66
Offering	\$3,279.00
2021 Yearend Giving	\$3,300.00

Calendar for January 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday:	11:00 a.m.	Lois Witmer Circle
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 noon	Missions/Outreach Committee

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

**Maxine Curtis** is still being treated for a kidney stone; if she has not passed the stone by Tuesday of this week, hopefully, the doctor will crushed it. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still receiving treatments for multiple myeloma; he is doing okay. Crissy goes to Johnson City weekly to help with her dad’s care. ~ **Amanda Roberts** has been diagnosed with covid. ~ **Scott Roberts** is still awaiting the results of recent medical tests; in spite of the delay, he will be having additional medical tests. ~ **Rose Wilkinson** is still battling bronchitis. ~ **Tom Witmer** is in the hospital with both covid and pneumonia.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will gather for a Dutch-treat dinner Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at **Longhorn Steakhouse** (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.

Friendship Club

The **Friendship Club** will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at **Casa Don Gallo** (7741 South Northshore Drive, in Rocky Hill), at 11:00 a.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.

Offering Envelopes

**Offering Envelopes for 2022** are on the table in the Narthex to be picked up at your convenience.

Missions and Outreach Committee

Our **Missions and Outreach Committee** will meet this coming Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our Worship Service. The meeting will be in the Keene Room.



Prayer List

In the Hospital

**Tom Witmer @ UT Medical Center**



Prayer Concerns List

William Barron (father of Lee Barron); Pam Bogle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Becky Bonds (friend of Dianne Fielder); Dick Booher; Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Corey Burnette (friend of Amanda Roberts); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Maxine Curtis; Jimmie Lynn DeLozier (mother of Tom DeLozier); Rue Dougherty; Ely Driver (friend of Dianne Fielder); Doris Farley (mother of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jin Gaston; John and June Givens (father of Crissy Collins); Laura Haines (niece of Geneva and Jim Searcy); Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Whitley Johnson (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kimberly Jones (friend of Amanda Roberts); Joe and Van Kemp (relatives of Dianne Fielder); Andrea Knight (friend of Dianne Fielder); Bob Lawson (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); **Jeremiah Lounds** (son-in-law of Harry Sherrod); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Scott and **Amanda Roberts**; Debbie Rushing (relative of Rose Wilkinson); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); **Don Smiddy** (sone-in-law of Sallie Cox); Donna Snoderly (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Donna Stallions (sister-in-law of Jewel Stallions); Millard and Janet Summers (parents of Steve Summers); Margie Thompson (sister-in-law of Shelia Emory); Lee Wells (mother of a co-worker of Susan Edwards); Andrea Wilson (daughter of Harry Sherrod); Rose Wilkinson; Tom Witmer; persecuted Christians around the world; our local, state, and national political leaders; the racial strife in our nation and the need for justice; those affected by coronavirus; Unspoken Requests

Please keep the Church Office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns List.

“For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.  
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.  
In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
for you will answer me.”  
[Psalm 86:5-7, NRSV]

Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.  
Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.