

The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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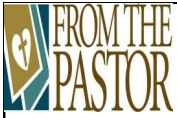
Website: www.first-cumberland.org ~ find us on Facebook and YouTube at Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Church Staff: Mike Wilkinson, Pastor; Sam & Karen Ware, Music Directors; Rebecca Preshaw, Worship Accompanist; Crissy Collins, Children's Ministry; and Miranda Scott, Office Manager

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 9, 2024



From last Sunday's sermon, "A Fresh S.T.A.R.T.", based on **Isaiah 43:18-19**: "God said do not dwell on the mistakes in our past because what is done is done and we cannot undo it, no matter how much we wish we might. Some people think that God is stuck on their past, that all He wants to do is remind them of the things that they have done wrong, but those folks are mistaken; God is more interested in your future than He is in your past because that is where you are going to spend the rest of your life. Instead of dwelling on the mistakes of our past, God wants us to focus on the new thing He wants to do in our lives right now." . . . "The setting for our Scripture for today is that Israel was being punished for their sins and rebellion against God. In spite of their behavior and punishment, God wanted to give hope and encouragement to His people. He wanted them to know that even though they were being punished, they were not being forsaken. God wanted to give them a fresh S.T.A.R.T. in life. The people Israel, no doubt, were discouraged because they thought that they had gone too far, that they had sinned and rebelled against God to the point that He would no longer be their God. They could remember some former deliverances and victories, but they could not see their future; that is why God said, "Look at the new thing I am going to do. . . ." [**Isaiah 43:19**, NRSV] Maybe you sometimes feel that you have made so many mistakes, that you have failed God so many times, that God does not want anything to do with you, but I want you to know that, in spite of your past, God loves you so much that He has new things planned for you!" . . . "God specializes in new beginnings; Jesus Christ has the power to do that; it is called being born again, the chance to S.T.A.R.T. over. No matter where you are in your life right now, you can have fresh S.T.A.R.T. if S.top making excuse, T.ake an inventory of your life, A.ct in faith, R.efocus your thoughts, and T.rust God to do a new thing in you."

Special Guests

It was great having **Carmen Clark**, niece of Miranda Scott; **James Kerr**, son of Jewell Kerr; **Adleigh Seaborn**, friend of Miranda Scott; and **Jackson Snodgrass** and **Gabrielle Thompson**, repeat visitors; all worshiping with us last Sunday morning.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **Lois Witmer Circle** of our women's ministry will meet a week later than normal in January. They will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. Please bring your lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain, and/or install the next class of elders to serve on our Session will be this coming Sunday, January 14th, immediately following our Worship Service. At that time our current Session will nominate **Ray McDonnell**, **Amanda Roberts**, and **Steve Summers** as the **Elder Class of 2026**. Additional nominations can be made from the floor, provided the nominee has agreed in advance to serve, is present, and meets the biblical and constitutional qualifications.

Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship

The next meeting of our **Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship** will be this coming Sunday, January 14th, at 5:00 p.m., at the home of **Ray** and **Lauren McDonnell**, (6318 Cates Road; Powell, TN 37849). Dinner and childcare will be provided. RSVP to Lauren at 865-223-3511.

Monthly Prayer Night

Our next monthly **Prayer Night** will be Tuesday, January 25th, at 6:30 p.m., in the Keene Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

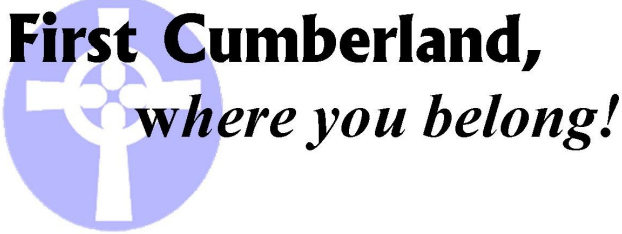
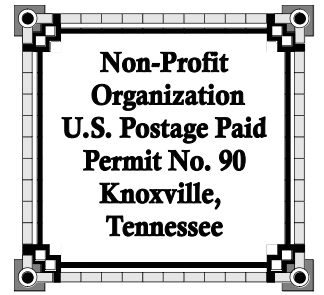
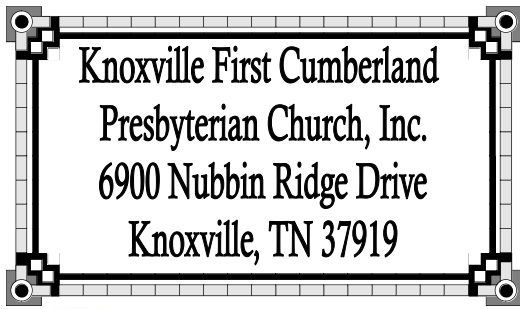
Church Website

Our church website (www.first-cumberland.org) includes a secure "Donate" tab. Donations can 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.

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the **Family of Millard Summers**, father of Steve Summers, who passed away last Sunday evening, January 7th. At this time, funeral arrangements are incomplete; the Church Office will send our an email once details are finalized. Please keep the Summers' family in your prayers during this difficult time.

*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.*



Happy Birthday

January 9th-15th

14th – Kayleigh Hawn
14th – Leigh Ann Summers



Our Faithfulness for January 7th

Sunday School	38
Worship Service	60
Offering	\$14,540.00
Music Fund	\$50.00
Children/Youth Fund	\$50.00
FISH Food Pantry	\$1,500.00

Calendar for January 9th-15th

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	Congregational Meeting

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

After a brief setback, **David Aiken** is again doing well following knee replacement surgery; he is still receiving outpatient physical therapy. ~ **Danny Eblen** had surgery on Monday, January 8th; as of the writing this newsletter, he is still in surgery.

Friendship Club

The **Friendship Club** will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch on Wednesday, January 17th, at **Aubrey's Papermill** (6005 Brookvale Lane), at 11:00 a.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend; feel free to invite someone to join you. A sign-up sheet in on the bulletin board next to the Church Office.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will gather for a Dutch-treat dinner Thursday evening, February 8th, at **Copper Cellar West** (7316 Kingston Pike), at 6:30 p.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend; feel free to invite someone to join you. A sign-up sheet in on the bulletin board next to the Church Office.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are on the table in the Narthex for you to pickup at your convenience.

Thank You

A special thank you to one of our sister congregations, **Marietta Cumberland Presbyterian Church**, for their generous gift of \$1,500.00 to help us fund our annual contribution to the **FISH Food Pantry**.

**God is good, all the time!
All the time, God is good!**



Prayer List

In the Hospital

No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.

Prayer Concerns List

David Aiken; Deliahla Bailey (infant granddaughter of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); Dick Booher; Angela Bowen (daughter-in-law of Elaine Winter); Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Faye Bridges (mother of Phil Bridges); Wanda and Troy Cox (sister and brother-in-law of Danny Eblen); Jimmie Lynn DeLozier (mother of Tom DeLozier); Jim Dyer; Danny Eblen; Harrison Evans (grandson of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); LaRue Everette (friend of Dianne Fielder); Mike Fannin (brother of Judy Gwilliams); Doris Farley (mother of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Judy Gammon; Bernard and Carol Grubbs (friends of Rose Wilkinson); Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Rodney Holloman (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Colin Jones (son of a friend of Amanda Roberts); Mary Kemp (friend of Dianne Fielder); Andrea Knight (friend of Dianne Fielder); Bob Lawson (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Suzanne Lenhart (friend of Dianne Fielder); Hayden Long (son of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Sarah Pass (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Maggie Rickards (daughter of Jeannine Rickards); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Scott Roberts; Nellie Romines (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Miranda Scott; Macey Sheppard (friend of Elaine Winter); Dottie Small (daughter 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); Janet Summers (mother of Steve Summers); **Family of Millard Summers** (father of Steve Summers); Shannon Thackston (sister of Steve Summers); Margie Thompson (sister-in-law of Shelia Emory); Susan Watson; Andrea Wilson (daughter of Harry Sherrod); **Richard Wines** (brother-in-law of Bonnie Bridges); Tom Witmer; Nancy Worley (mother of Rebecca Prenshaw); Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries around the globe; persecuted Christians around the world; our local, state, and national political leaders; the people of Israel and Ukraine; Unspoken Requests

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

*“I call upon you, O LORD;
come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.”*
[Psalm 141:1-2, 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.

