

# 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 Prenshaw, Accompanist; and Jeannine Rickards, Office Manager

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 18, 2022



Congratulations to **Noah** and **Ethan McDonnell** upon receiving the *Sacrament of Baptism* last Sunday morning. Noah and Ethan are the young sons of Ray and Lauren McDonnell. The McDonnell Family has been worshipping with us for about two years now. They are longtime friends of the Roberts and Haddox families. Ray plays bass guitar in our band.

Also congratulations to **Phil Bridges**, **Danny Eblen**, and **Andy Holloway** on being elected and installed as the Elder Class of 2024 during last Sunday's annual Congregational Meeting. Phil and Danny have served on our Session in the past and thus were already ordained. This will be the first time Andy has served, so he was both ordained as an elder and installed as a member of our Session. Please keep these elders, as well as our other Session members, in your prayers. Our Session consists of nine elders and myself; I serve as Moderator and can only vote to either make or break a tie; thankfully, in more than thirty years of ministry, I have never voted. Our Session is made up of three elder classes, each serving a three-year term. The Class of 2023 is made up of **Crissy Collins**, **Dianne Pipkin**, and **Scott Roberts**; the Class of 2022 is made up of **James Paschke**, **Jewel Stallions**, and **Steve Summers**. I would be amiss if I did not thank the Elder Class of 2021 (**Ann Bachman**, **Hannah Haddox**, and **Betty Hammill**) for their faithful service over the last three years. In my tenure as pastor of First Cumberland, I have been blessed to serve with outstanding elder leadership.

I saw the following brief article on the Internet awhile back and I thought I would share it with you for your consideration: "As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matter so much. You can't have a community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians are not consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church."

The line, "We do life together.", takes me back to last Sunday's sermon, where I said: "The second component of spiritual maturity and health is to always stay closely connected in fellowship with other believers. We need to stay closely connected with other members of our congregation; we need to be friends with each other outside the confines of this church building. When the Apostle Paul wrote about the whole Body being ". . . joined and knit together by every ligament . . ." [**Ephesians 4:16**, NRSV], he was referring to relationships within the Church. To use the body analogy, relationships are the ligaments that connect us with other parts of the Body of Christ. These ligaments are the times we meet together to worship Christ and when we study God's Word together and when we gather together in our homes or in restaurants or elsewhere and when we serve together side by side."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## Special Guests

It was great having a large contingent of family and friends of the McDonnell Family worshipping with us last Sunday to witness the baptisms of Noah and Ethan. Unfortunately, as this newsletter goes to print, all the names of our guests are not known.

## Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship

The first official meeting of our new Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship met last Sunday evening at the home of Doug and Mary Wegman. In spite of the weather, twelve people attended and a great time was had by all. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., also 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 14<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup> – **Kayleigh Hawn**  
(mistakenly left off last week's list)



## Our Faithfulness for January 16<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School.....	24
Worship Service.....	63
Offering.....	\$2,990.00

## Calendar for January 18<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup>

- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. Friendship Club
- 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 Session Meeting

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

## Among Our People

**Diana Altom**, sister of Maxine Curtis, has been diagnosed with cancer. ~ **Maxine Curtis** had a kidney stone crushed on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>; she is doing well. ~ **Brittany Foust** has tested positive for covid; thankfully, she is asymptomatic. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still receiving treatments for multiple myeloma; he is doing okay. ~ **Matthew Rickards**, son of Jeannine Rickards, received a good result from the medical test he underwent this week. ~ The additional medical test for **Scott Roberts** has been postponed until April. ~ **Rebecca Wilkinson** is much improved and is now out of quarantine from covid.

## 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.

## Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will gather for a Dutch-treat dinner Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at **Parkside Grill** (338 North Peters Road), 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.

## Offering Envelopes

During the month of January, **Offering Envelopes for 2022** will be on the table in the Narthex to be picked up at your convenience.

## Session Meeting

Our **Session** will meet this coming Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the Keene Room, immediately following our Worship Service.



## Prayer List

### In the Hospital

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

### Prayer Concerns List

**Diana Altom**, sister of Maxine Curtis; 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); **Mike Fannin** (brother of Judy Gwilliams); Doris Farley (mother of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); **Brittany Foust**; 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); **Jeanette Lounds** (daughter 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); **Martha Jane Pope** (niece of Harry Sherrod); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); **Matthew Rickards** (son of Jeannine Rickards); Scott Roberts; Debbie Rushing (relative of Rose Wilkinson); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Don and **Pamella Smiddy** (son-in-law and 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); 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); **Rebecca Wilkinson**; Tom Witmer; **Mildred Zimmerman** (friend of Judy Gwilliams); persecuted Christians around the world; our local, state, and national political leaders; the racial strife in our nation and the need for justice; Unspoken Requests

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

*“Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord; hear my urgent cry.”* [Psalm 86:6, NLT]

## 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.

