

# 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 11, 2022



Already this Winter, Knoxville has had two snowfalls. Fortunately, both produced minor accumulation and neither interfered with scheduled church activities. Nonetheless, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of our **Inclement Weather Policy**. Several years ago, our Session decided that for all weekday activities, such as Choir Practice or one of the Friendship Club meals, if Knox County Schools cancel, all our church activities are canceled as well. For our Sunday services, if snow is on the ground, even if the roads are apparently clear, Sunday School is canceled. Road conditions will determine if our Worship Service is canceled or not; an email will be sent out notifying you either way. Because road conditions vary across the tri-county area we serve, if the decision is made to hold our Worship Service in spite of the snow, please use your best judgment as to whether to travel to the church or not. Your safety and the safety of your family should always take precedence over attending the service. My prayer is that, like last year, there will be no need to implement our **Inclement Weather Policy**, so this reminder falls into the "better safe than sorry" category.

From last Sunday's sermon, "**We Have a Great Future!**", based on **Jeremiah 29:11**, "*For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, says the LORD, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*" [AMP]: "We will never properly understand **Jeremiah 29:11** if we think that this promise is a divine rabbit's foot to protect us from pain or to keep us from suffering. This promise was not a "Get Out of Jail Free" card for the Jews in Babylonian captivity nor is it one for us in our everyday lives; it is, however, the assurance that our every affliction is timed and measured. This promise is God's way of saying that He loves us even though we have blown it badly; furthermore, God has great plans for us in the future. I can imagine someone thinking, 'But what about when we sin? Does God still love us then?' Great question! All of us sin and we typically sin much more than we are aware of. **Jeremiah 29:11** helps us understand that when we sin, God does not think evil toward us because that goes against His nature and the one thing God cannot do is violate His character. **Romans 5:8** reminds us that God loves us even though we sin, as the Apostle Paul wrote: ". . . God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." [NRSV] Even when we suffer because of our sin, God intends to bring us to repentance and healing. God still loves us when we sin, that is what grace is all about. Grace that only works when we are good is no grace at all."

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 coming 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 this coming 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.

## Quote of the Week

"I have been asked hundreds of times in my life why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and he is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering."—**Billy Graham**

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> – Leigh Ann Summers

16<sup>th</sup> – Betty Hammill



## Our Faithfulness for January 9<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School	30
Worship Service	61
Offering	\$3,195.00
Online Giving	\$450.00
Music Fund	\$150.00
Building Reimbursements	\$800.00

## Calendar for January 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

- Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. Lois Witmer Circle
- Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
- Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Friendship Club, P.M. Edition
- 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

**Maxine Curtis** is scheduled to have a kidney stone crushed on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. ~ It was great having **Sallie Cox** back in the Choir last Sunday! ~ **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** is doing well following her battle 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 now home from the hospital.

## 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.

## 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

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



## Prayer List

### In the Hospital

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

### 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 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); 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.**

*"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.

