The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

July 19, 2022

KOM THE As Joanna and I were running errands over the weekend, she saw a billboard advertising the lottery. The Mega Millions jackpot was something like \$450 million; today, it is \$530 million. When Joanna In saw that astronomical number, she said, "I need to win the lottery." My immediate response was, "You need to buy a ticket first." We do not typically buy lottery tickets and I am not encouraging anyone else to do so, but our conversation caused me to think about prayer. James 4:2 says, "... You do not have because you do not ask God." [NIV] We are probably more familiar with this verse from the King James Version, "... ye have not, because ye ask not." In context, this verse is not talking about material things such as Joanna winning the lottery or me finally purchasing the Jeep I have wanted since I was eighteen-years-old. Nor is this verse speaking of overcoming disease or some other calamity. Instead, the context of this often quoted verse is telling believers to quit competing with and even fighting others for the things of this world. If we have a real material need, then ask God to supply that need. God is always faithful to His children and has committed Himself to meet our physical needs. Notice that I said needs and not wants and desires. As much as I might still want one, I do not really need a Jeep; I have all the transportation resources I need. The desire for a Jeep is just a lingering teenage want. Have I ever asked God for a Jeep? Yes, fervently, but is has been years since I have done so. Why did God not give me a Jeep? First of all, because it was not a real need. When I asked my father to help me buy (co-sign for) the Jeep I had picked out, he said, "No." He then offered to help me buy my first new pickup truck, which he thought was much safer than a Jeep. Decades later, looking back at my teenage self, I would have put a lifter kit under the Jeep and big tires on it and probably turned it over in some mud pit; in other words, my dad was right. The second reason God did not give me a Jeep is because my motive was simply self-serving; in other words, I had no reason to buy a Jeep other than I just wanted it so I would be the coolest teenager I knew. James 4:3 says, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." [NIV] My life experience has taught me that God will assuredly take care of all my financial/material needs, but the Book of James teaches that if I pray seeking God's direction and peace, He will grant me those things in abundance. In a sense, prayer is the ticket that opens up God's lottery of spiritual blessings. I suggest that we all get a pocketful of tickets; they are free.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Session Meeting

Our **Session** will meet this coming Sunday, July 24th, in the Keene Room, immediately following our Worship Service.

Vacation Bible School

The tentative dates for this year's **Vacation Bible School** are Wednesday, August 3rd, through Saturday, August 6th, in the evenings. This will be a "family style" VBS instead of the traditional graded classes. More details coming next week.

Collection of School Supplies

We will be collecting **school supplies** again for the children in Appalachia through the month of August. There will be a box in the Narthex for these supplies. The supplies will be distributed though the **Coalition of Appalachian Ministry** (CAM). Thank you for assisting in this ministry.

Choir Notes

There will be no **Choir Practice** on Wednesday nights from now until after Labor Day. All choir members please note that this makes our Sunday morning **Choir Rehearsal**, at 10:30 a.m., all the more important. In addition, at a date yet to be determined, there will be a **Choir Minicamp** where several anthems will be rehearsed.

Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship

The next meeting of our **Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship** will be coming Sunday, July 24th, 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 (<u>www.first-cumberland.org</u>) 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

July 19th - 25th 19th - Richard Booher 25th - Amy Pipkin Huether



Sunday School	32
Worship Service	62
Offering	\$4,545.50
Music Fund	\$150.00
Building Reimbursement	\$335.00

Cal-

endar for July 19th - 25th

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. Friendship Club
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 noon Session Meeting
5:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study
(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Angela Bowen, daughter-in-law of Elaine Winter, re-

ceived a great report from her latest scan and her ongoing battle with cancer. PTL! ~ Maxine Curtis will meet with a surgeon on August 11th to schedule having a pacemaker implanted. ~ A special thank you to Tom DeLozier for leading our congregational singing in Karen Ware's absence. ~ John Givens, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing treatments for cancer; he is in the hospital in Johnson City and not doing very well. ~ Curt Hammill, son of Betty Hammill, has been diagnosed with COVID. ~ The surgery for Judy Powell, Jeannine Rickards' mother, went very well; she is now home recovering. ~ It was great having Jeannine Rickards back worshiping with us last Sunday; her house here in Knoxville in now under contract and she is back in town preparing to fully move to Alabama. ~ Pamella Smiddy is still battling shingles. ~ Rebecca Wilkinson continues to undergo the lingering effects

Friendship Club

hospital on Tuesday, July 19th.

of a concussion sustained in a recent auto accident. ~ Tom Witmer had surgery last Friday, July 15th, to remove a

tumor from his liver; he is doing well but still awaiting the

report from the biopsy; he hopes to be dismissed from the

The **Friendship Club** will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch this Wednesday, July 20th, at **Sami's Café** (9700 Kingston Pike, in Franklin Square), 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 Dutchtreat dinner Thursday, August 11th, at Longhom Steakhouse (7740 Kingston Pike, next to 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



Prayer List

In the Hospital

Tom Witmer @ Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center

Prayer Concerns List

William Barron (father of Lee Barron); Dick Booher; Jeff and Angela Bowen (son and daughter-in-law of Elaine Winter); Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Faye Bridges (mother of Phil Bridges); Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Lorianne Byford (friend of Rebecca Wilkinson); Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Maxine Curtis; Sarah Dameron (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jimmie Lynn DeLozier (mother of Tom DeLozier); Rue Dougherty; Scott Elick (husband of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); Mike Fannin (brother of Judy Gwilliams); Doris Farley (mother of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Judy Gammon; John and June Givens (parents of Crissy Collins); Steve Graham (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Curt Hammill (son of Betty Hammill); Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Kimberly Jones (friend of Amanda Roberts); Janet Kee (friend of Dianne Fielder); Bob Lawson (pastor-friend of Pastor Mike); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Judy Powell (mother of Jeanine Rickards); Maggie Rickards (daughter of Jeannine Rickards); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Mike Paul (son of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Patricia Rickert (friend of Dianne Fielder); Sarah Saxton and unborn baby; Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Pamella Smiddy; 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); Geri Vurganov (cousin of Rose Wilkinson); Lee Wells (mother of a co-worker of Susan Edwards); Rebecca Wilkinson; Rose Wilkinson; Andrea Wilson (daughter of Mildred Zimmerman Harry Sherrod); Tom Witmer; (friend of Judy Gwilliams); persecuted Christians around the world; our local, state, and national political leaders; the people of Ukraine; 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.