

The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

September 1, 2020



As part of last Sunday's sermon, "Who Does Our Lives Say Jesus Is?", I asked a series of self-examination questions. This list of questions was too long for even the most ardent note-taker to record them all, so I will repeat the list here: "What does the call to follow Jesus look like for us in this moment? What does it mean to follow Jesus when someone is hungry? What does it mean to follow Jesus when someone is thirsty? What does it mean to follow Jesus when someone needs clothing or is in prison or sick? What does it mean to follow Jesus during the COVID-19 Pandemic? What does it mean to follow Jesus during this time of racial and social unrest? What does it mean to follow Jesus when so many are unemployed? Who do we say Jesus is when a loved one dies, the doctor gives news we did not want to hear, or our life seems to be falling apart? Who do we say Jesus is when we are faced with decisions that have no easy answers, when the storms of life seek to overwhelm us, when faithfulness means risking it all and taking a stand against a louder and seemingly more powerful adversary? What does it mean to say that Jesus is our personal Lord and Savior?" As I said Sunday, "None of the questions are easy to answer, but they are vital to our understanding of who Jesus truly is. . . . As Jesus asks, ". . . 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' [Matthew 16:13, NRSV] remember some will answer, "He was a good teacher." Others will say, "He was a rabbi." and some will even respond, "He was delusional, out of his mind." After hearing these responses, Jesus will look us in the eye and with the greatest of love ask, ". . . 'But who do you say I am?'" [Matthew 16:15, NRSV] This probing question cannot be answered by mere words; instead, it can only be fully answered by the lives we live."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Special Guests

It was great having **John** and **Aldris Kerr**, son and daughter-in-law of Jewel Kerr, worshiping with us last Sunday.

School Supplies

Thank you for all the many contributions of school supplies collected this Summer. They will be taken up to the **Coalition of Appalachian Ministry (CAM)** Craft Cabin on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

Due to COVID-19, our ladies' ministry is making adjustments their annual bake/craft sale they normally have the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year, it will be a **Craft Sale** only. Instead of being held in our Library, the craft items will be on display on tables in the Narthex. Dianne Pipkin will be making facemasks, Christmas and others, to be sold. They hope to have many other craft items to sell, so ladies and gentlemen start planning what you can do to contribute to this **Craft Sale**. One more change; instead of being held the Sunday before Thanksgiving; the sale will take place three weeks earlier than usual on Sunday, November 1st.

Entrance Protocol

For the foreseeable future, **the only door that will be propped open at the church for everyone's entrance on Sunday mornings will be a single door under the portico.** You may leave the building through any door you choose. Remember, an ample supply of hand sanitizer is available at all entrances to our Sanctuary. Facemasks are also available in the back hallway if you forget to bring one.

Church Website

One of the new things on our updated website (www.first-cumberland.org) that may be useful to us during the ongoing pandemic is a secure "Donate" tab. Once you hit the word "Donate", a green button marked "Give" will appear; it is not necessary to log in or sign up to make a one-time gift; however, if you wish to use this donation method often, you may wish to sign in and create an account for future use. At this time, you can designate your donation to one of three options: 1) Contribution (general church expenses); 2) Music; or 3) Youth. 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 Presbyterian 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

September 1st - 7th

5th – **Hannah Haddox**

5th – **Julie Rech**



Our Faithfulness for August 30th

Sunday School.....	0
Worship Service.....	58
Offering.....	\$4,025.00
Online Giving.....	\$339.55
Music Fund.....	\$150.00

Activities for September 1st - 7th

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Monday: Church Office will be closed for Labor Day.

All other church activities for the week have been canceled until further notice.

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Mike Bachman continues to recover from recent surgery on both knees; he is doing well. ~ It was great have **Brittany Foust** back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma (cancer in the bone marrow). ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to recover from his stroke; he is struggling ~ **Josh Rech** was in a one-car accident last week; thankfully, he was not injured.

Knox County COVID-19 Update

According to the Knox County Health Department, as of Sunday, August 30th, Knox County has had 6,486 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 264 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, 45 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to 57. Of the 6,486 confirmed cases, 4,448 of the patients have fully recovered. There are currently 2,211 active cases in Knox County, up from 2,165 last week. As always, this information is given to help you best determine whether it is best for you to venture out to church or elsewhere or to stay at home.

A Thought to Ponder

“Did you ever stop to think that God is going to be as pleased to have you in heaven as you are to be there?” — **A.W. Tozer**

“Trees fall with spectacular crashes. But planting is silent and growth is invisible.” — **Richard Powers**

Worship Service Videos

Typically, by Wednesday evening of each week, a video of our previous Sunday’s Worship Service will be posted on our website (www.first-cumberland.org), on Facebook, and on YouTube.



Prayer List

In the Hospital

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

Prayer Concerns List

MariKate Abuhelweh and unborn baby girl (daughter and granddaughter of Tom and Donna Walker); Mildred Acuff; Ashley Atkins and unborn baby boy (daughter-in-law and grandson of Susan Edwards); Mike Bachman; Pam Bogle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Dick Booher; Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Richard Bridges and Family (cousin of Phil Bridges); Shelley Bridges and her sister Brenda (friends of Elaine Winter); Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Corey Burnette (friend of Amanda Roberts); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Maxine Curtis; Rue Dougherty; Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); Charles and Peggy Farley (friends of Rose Wilkinson); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Judy Gammon; Ed Gaston (son of Jin Gaston); Jin Gaston; John Givens (father of Crissy Collins); Hannah Haddox and unborn baby girl; Kristi Hawn and unborn baby girl; Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); Jane Hubbard (friend of Pastor Mike); mother of Peyton Hubbard (friend of Amanda Roberts); Van Kemp (relative of Dianne Fielder); Betty Kennedy (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Ashleigh Lane (co-worker Susan Edwards); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); **Holly Lochbaum** (friend of Emily DeLozier); Jeanette and Morgan Lounds (daughter and granddaughter of Harry Sherrod); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Vickie Miller (friend of Emily DeLozier); Shelly Minton (wife of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); Alice Montgomery; Mary Montgomery (cousin of Alice Montgomery); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Pam and Bob Ogden (friends of Fred and Joan Cline); Sarah Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); persecuted Christians around the world; Plan of Union between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; Jim Place (friend of Jewel Stallions); Pete Preston (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Homer and Betty Prince (friends of Rose Wilkinson); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Bryce Rhodenbaugh (grandson of a friend of Diane Fielder); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Carol Seeman; Terrie Smith (friend of Debbie Neal); 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); those affected by coronavirus; **those affected by Hurricane Laura**; the racial strife in our nation and the need for justice; Unspoken Requests; Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Andrea Wilson (daughter of Harry Sherrod); Tom Witmer

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

