

# The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org) ~ find us on Facebook at Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Church Staff: Mike Wilkinson, Pastor; Sam & Karen Ware, Music Directors; and Jeannine Rickards, Office Manager

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 16, 2021



At our last Session Meeting, approval was given for our Choir to sing on ***Easter Sunday***. Last Sunday morning, before our Worship Service, our Choir gathered and practiced for the first time in a year; in spite of wearing masks while we sang, it was a wonderful time for all present. I point this out because while our Choir does not have the time to prepare a traditional cantata/musical for ***Easter***, we will be presenting several pieces of special music that morning. This extra music, coupled with the celebration of *Holy Communion* and the possible observance of the *Sacrament of Baptism* on that day, has resulted in the necessity of beginning our Worship Service a little earlier than usual: **On Easter Sunday, our Worship Service will begin at 10:30 a.m.**, instead of the normal 10:45 a.m. We **will not** have our traditional **SonRise Service** in our Chapel at 8:00 a.m., nor the Continental Breakfast that normally takes place between the early service and Sunday School.

As the threat of COVID-19 continues to lessen and several members of our Church Family have already received one of the available vaccines and more receiving their vaccination each week, our Session is considering when to resume our Sunday School program. To this end, our adult teachers are currently gathering input from their class members as to their comfort level for them and their children/grandchildren returning to Sunday School. At our next Session Meeting (Sunday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup>), we will consider all this information and make a decision.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## Special Guests

It was great having **Cecilia Foust**, sister of Brittany Foust (Cecelia has been here the last two Sundays but was inadvertently left out of last week's newsletter); **Curt Hammill**, son of Betty Hammill; **Christina, Waylon, Ethan, Amelia**, and **Riley Hinkle**, daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson; and **Mindy Landry**, daughter of Jewell Kerr; all worshipping with us last Sunday.

## Easter Lilies

We will once again be decorating our Sanctuary with **lilies** on ***Easter Sunday***. The cost will be \$10.00 per lily and as always, they can be given in honor or memory of someone. Order forms will be in the bulletins for the next two Sundays. You can also either email or call the Church Office to place your order.

## Holy Week Activities

**Palm/Passion Sunday** - March 28<sup>th</sup> - 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service

**Maundy Thursday** - April 1<sup>st</sup> - 6:30 p.m. - Worship Service with Communion

**Good Friday** - April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12:00 noon - Community Good Friday Service at Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Egg Hunt** - April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon - outdoor only

**Easter Sunday** - April 4<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service with Communion - note that this service will start fifteen (15) minutes earlier than usual

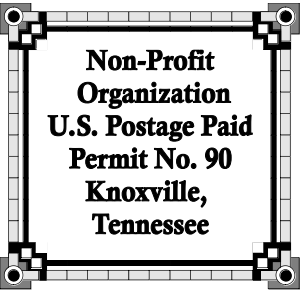
## Egg Hunt

This year's **Egg Hunt** will be on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. This will be an outdoor only event; in case of inclement weather, the hunt will be canceled. No indoor activities or luncheon will be part of this year's event; however, we will play outdoor games and have a prepackaged snack bag for each child. Masks will be required for all adults and children over the age of twelve. Each household in the congregation is asked to donate a few dozen candy-filled eggs (prepackaged, individually-wrapped candy only) between now and Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>; **a collection box is in the Church Office**. Egg-hiders will wear plastic gloves when "hiding" the eggs.

## Church Website

Our website ([www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)) includes a secure "Donate" tab. Donations can be designated 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**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup> — 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
19<sup>th</sup> – **MariKate Abuhelweh**  
21<sup>st</sup> – **Judy Gammon**  
21<sup>st</sup> – **Dianne Pipkin**  
22<sup>nd</sup> – **Amy Pritchard**



**Our Faithfulness for March 14<sup>th</sup>**

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Worship Service        | 63         |
| Offering               | \$4,760.00 |
| Music Fund             | \$150.00   |
| Building Reimbursement | \$144.95   |
| Memorial Fund          | \$250.00   |
| Lilies                 | \$150.00   |

**March 16<sup>th</sup> — 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

**Among Our People**

**John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to struggle in his recovery from a stroke. ~ **Tom Witmer** is awaiting the results of his recent CT Scan and x-rays; he should learn the results when he sees the doctor on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Knox County COVID-19 Update**

According to the Knox County Health Department, as of Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, Knox County has had 40,691 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1,289 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. There are currently 1,048 probable and confirmed cases. Throughout the county, 31 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to 594. Though the pandemic is not over, the trend in recent weeks continues to be encouraging. 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.

**West Knoxville FISH Food Pantry**

As usual, April is our month to stock the **West Knoxville FISH Food Pantry**. Because of your previous generosity, we will not be raising any funds to purchase food this year; however, your help is still needed. On Tuesday morning, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Second Harvest Food Bank will deliver the food we have bought, sometime between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.; we will need help unloading this truck. Then we will be bagging groceries on Saturday mornings, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. Masks are required. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board near the Narthex. For additional information, contact **Betty Hammill**.

**Worship Service Videos**

Typically, by Thursday morning of each week, a video of our previous Sunday's Worship Service will be posted on our website ([www.first-cumberland.org](http://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**

Pam Bogle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Becky Bonds (friend of Dianne Fielder); Dick Booher; Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Phil and Bonnie Bridges; Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Corey Burnette (friend of Amanda Roberts); Larry Burns (friend of Tom DeLozier); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Rue Dougherty; Ely Driver (friend of Dianne Fielder); Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); Charles Farley (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Judy Gammon; Ed Gaston (son of Jin Gaston); John Givens (father of Crissy Collins); Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); Melodie Johnson (friend of Emily DeLozier); 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); Ashleigh Lane (co-worker Susan Edwards); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Lauren McDonnell and unborn baby boy; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Vickie Miller (friend of Emily DeLozier); Alice Montgomery; Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); persecuted Christians around the world; Plan of Union between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; Anna Faye Presley (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Homer Prince (husband of Betty Prince); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Carol Seeman; 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); Mary Jo Turner (friend of Pastor Mike); the racial strife in our nation and the need for social justice; those affected by coronavirus; Unspoken Requests; Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Lee Wells (mother of a co-worker 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.

*“Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;  
answer me in your righteousness.”*

[Psalm 143:1, NRSV]

