

The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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

Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

June 2, 2020



We will resume our worship services this coming Sunday, June 7th, at 10:45 a.m. (Insert an "Amen!", "Hallelujah!", or "Praise the Lord!" here.) As I have written several times over the last few months, if your discretion results in you staying home on June 7th or even a few more Sundays after that, please do so guilt free. If you have a fever or any symptom of COVID 19, the flu, or even a cold, please stay at home until you have been symptom free for at least 72 hours. We will be recording all our future live worship services in their entirety and later in the week, hopefully, by Wednesdays, they will be posted on the church's website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. The plan is to continue this even after the pandemic has passed.

For those who chose to attend, the church building will be cleaned and disinfected when we arrive on Sunday mornings. Feel free to wear masks and/or gloves while on the church grounds, including in the Sanctuary. Hand sanitizer will be available at all four entrances to the Sanctuary. With everyone's health and safety in mind, our Session approved the following temporary changes to our worship services:

- 1) We will need to spread out in the Sanctuary and maintain Social Distancing guidelines (i.e., do not sit within six feet of a nonfamily member). To aide in this, every other pew will be blocked off with ribbon; this means that you may not be able to sit in your preferred seat either because it is blocked off or because someone else is sitting in it; either way, remember to be gracious.
- 2) Our ushers will not function as greeters when you enter the front doors of the church, so bulletins and children's bulletins will be distributed in advance throughout the pews. In addition, bulletins will not be available in the back hallway as they have been in the past.
- 3) We will not provide childcare because it would be impossible to maintain Social Distancing guidelines in the Nursery.
- 4) We will continue to have a "Children's Message", but our children will remain in their seats with their family.
- 5) We will not sign and pass the Friendship Registers.
- 6) We will not have an official "Greeting" time as is our tradition; instead, upon arriving and leaving, greet each other with a "holy wave" instead of our customary handshakes and hugs.
- 7) Our ushers will not pass the offering plates; however, we will continue to have an "Invitation to Give Generously", "Offertory", singing of the "Doxology", and a "Prayer of Dedication" for the offerings received via mail. This means that we will need to continue to faithfully mail in our tithes and offerings. For those who are uncomfortable mailing in your offering, you may place your gift in either of the offering plates located under the two flower stands on the altar; please do so either before or after the service while maintaining Social Distancing guidelines. Before long, we hope to have a "Donate" button on our website.
- 8) We will not have a full Choir, but congregational singing will continue.
- 9) We will not be celebrating Communion for the time being.
- 10) Joanna and I will not be standing at the doors between the Sanctuary and Narthex to greet you following our worship services as we normally do; hopefully, this will help prevent congestion as we leave. If you need to talk to me, I will gladly schedule a time to meet, either in person or via telephone, at your convenience.

Remember, all ten of these changes are temporary and hopefully, short-term. As I noted in previous newsletters, because we were unable to gather to worship on *Easter Sunday*, the focus of our Worship Service on June 7th will be the resurrection of Jesus. With that in mind, I encourage you to take the time this week to read **John 20:1-18**.

Though we are resuming our worship services, we will not resume Sunday School or other church-sponsored activities until further notice because we cannot maintain the Social Distancing guidelines in our classrooms. I am thinking that at the earliest it will be the first Sunday in July when these activities resume, but when school starts back this Fall is a possibility; our Session has not yet established a timetable for safely restarting these activities. Obviously, I will inform you once a decision is made, but I remind you that guidelines established by the City of Knoxville will shape that decision.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Joanna and I traveled to Alabama to visit our oldest daughter's family. While there, we had the opportunity to visit their church, which had resumed worship services the week before. We saw taped off pews and Social Distancing guidelines carried out; we saw a praise team leading worship instead of a choir; and we saw an excited preacher who was thrilled to be back in the pulpit. If you are present at First Cumberland this Sunday, you too will see an excited preacher, but I promised not to make the same mistake my counterpart in Alabama made: I will not treat you like a "captive audience" and attempt to preach three months of sermons in one worship service. I say that to say, if I am still preaching at three o'clock, feel free to leave.

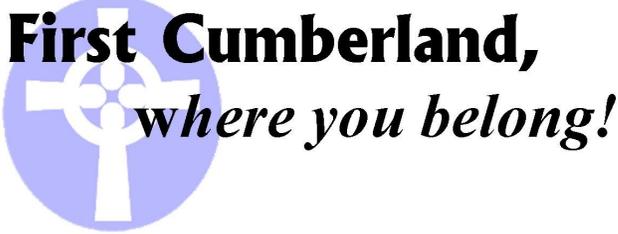
Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

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.

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Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

Non-Profit
Organization
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Permit No. 90
Knoxville,
Tennessee



Happy Birthday

June 2nd - 8th
4th - Joanna Wilkinson
8th - Kristi Hawn

Our Faithfulness for May 31st

Sunday School.....	0
Worship Service.....	0
Offering.....	\$2,650.00

Activities for June 2nd - 8th
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
All other church activities for the week
have been canceled.
(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People
Kathy Aceti, daughter of Betty Hammill, had outpatient surgery last week and is doing well. ~ **Laura Gaston**, daughter-in-law of Jin Gaston, is still awaiting the results of a recent CT scan. ~ **Janice Haley**, niece of Rose Wilkinson, had surgery last week and is doing well. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to recover from his recent stroke, but is still having considerable trouble with his vision; he is now undergoing vision therapy.

Knox County COVID-19 Update
According to WATE 6, as of Sunday, May 31st, Knox County has had 403 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 43 of which have require hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, two patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the number of deaths remains at five. Of the 403 confirmed cases, 334 of the patients have fully recovered (72 hours symptom-free). This means that there are currently 64 active cases in Knox County, down from 27 last week.



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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); **Kathy Aceti** (daughter of Betty Hammill); Mildred Acuff; Ashley Atkins and unborn baby boy (daughter-in-law and grandson of Susan Edwards); Pam Bogle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Dick Booher; Eleanor Bradshaw (sister-in-law of Dianne Fielder); Richard Bridges (cousin of Phil Bridges); Shelley Bridges and her sister Brenda (friends of Elaine Winter); Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Pat Cureton (cousin of Jin Gaston); Maxine Curtis; Mary Dixon (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Rue Dougherty; Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Charles Fraley (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Judy Gammon; Jin Gaston; Laura Gaston (daughter-in-law of Jin Gaston); Hannah Haddox and unborn baby; Janice Haley (niece of Rose Wilkinson); Alexa Hodge (mother of Gabriella Hodge); Gabriella Hodge (god-daughter of Scott and Amanda Roberts); 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); Ashleigh Lane (co-worker Susan Edwards); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Sue Anne Lewis (friend of Jewel Stallions); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Shelly Minton (wife of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); Alice Montgomery; Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Pam and Bob Ogden (friends of Fred and Joan Cline); Sara 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; Homer and Betty Prince (friends of Rose Wilkinson); David Rech (father of Justin Rech); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Carol Seeman; John Smith (coworker of Scott Roberts); John and Donna Snoderly (brother and 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); Margie Thompson (sister-in-law of Shelia Emory); **those affected by coronavirus**; 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; **Everette Wolfenbarger** (friend of Rose Wilkinson)

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

“O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.” [Psalm 54:2, ESV]