

# 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"

May 11, 2021



Though Mother's Day has passed, I want to share the tribute to mothers that I gave during last Sunday's Worship Service: "Mothers come in all forms: most are biological, but some are adoptive; some are step; some are foster; some are grandmothers who raised us; some are aunts and neighbors and church ladies who watched out for our well-being and loved and cared for us. All are worthy of honor because they loved us unconditionally, taught us invaluable life-lessons, corrected and disciplined us when we were wrong, worried about us, laughed and cried with us, and hugged us when we needed it most. Though there are sad exceptions, a mother's love is absolute, pure, and everlasting. Our mothers become the rock upon which we stand, the fortress that protects our family, and the strength we thought we did not have. Thank you ladies for being our mothers!"

I also want to share the three main points and the closing question and final remark from last Sunday's sermon based on **John 13:31-35**, which records Jesus telling His followers to love one another; this instruction is sometimes referred to as "The Eleventh Commandment". 1) "Mother's Day reminds us that a mother's love is generally the nearest thing to Christ's love that we have on this earth. This is because both a mother's love and Jesus' love involve making sacrifices." 2) "Both a mother's love and Jesus' love involve sharing." And 3) "Both a mother's love and Jesus' love involve serving." Now my closing question and final remark: "'Are we keeping 'The Eleventh Commandment'; that is, do we love one another enough to sacrifice, enough to share, enough to serve?' If you do, then our future as a congregation is extremely bright."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

## Special Guests

It was great having **Mindy Landry**, daughter of Jewell Kerr, and **Pamella** and **Don Smiddy**, daughter and son-in-law of Sallie Cox, worshipping with us last Sunday.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Lauren, Ray, and Noah McDonnell on the birth of **Ethan Thomas McDonnell** last Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Arriving three weeks early, Thomas was a blessed Mother's Day surprise. Both mother and baby are doing well and were expected to go home from the hospital on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Ethan weighed seven pounds and two ounces and was nineteen and a half inches long. The McDonnells have been active participants here at First Cumberland for more than a year.

## 2021 Denomination Day Celebration

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the **2021 Denomination Day Celebration** sponsored by the Presbytery of East Tennessee did not take place on the last Sunday in January as it normally does. Instead, the celebration honoring the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will take place Sunday afternoon, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Beaver Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Powell, at 3:30 p.m. This celebration will be an outdoor event with the theme being an old-fashion tent revival; period costumes are encouraged. There is very limited seating available under the pavilion, so you may wish to bring lawn chairs or blankets for sitting. There will be an offering taken for our denominational Historical Foundation. There will not be a meal offered due to the ongoing pandemic. Face masks are encouraged, but not required.

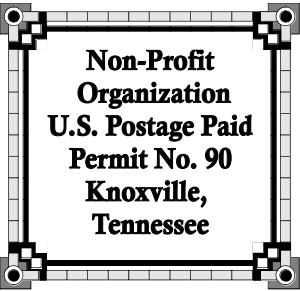
## Sunday School Update

All our Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. Note two things: 1) for the time being, at least, masks are required; and 2) two adult classes will meet in different, larger rooms than in the past. Betty's Hammill's class will meet in Room 26 (Steve Summers normal classroom) and Steve Summer's class will meet in our Chapel. Children and youth classes will meet in their normal rooms and our Nursery will be open during Sunday School. **The resuming of Sunday School, even under the remaining, though diminishing, threat of the coronavirus, provides an excellent opportunity for those who were not attending Sunday School before the pandemic struck to begin to do so.**

## Church Website

Our 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 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

May 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

We have no known birthdays this week.

Our Faithfulness for May 9<sup>th</sup>

Worship Service	62
Offering	\$3,320.40
Online Giving	\$100.00
Music Fund	\$150.00
Building Reimbursements	\$2,867.35
Coke Machine	\$44.00

May 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday:	11:00 a.m.	Lois Witmer Circle
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

**Sallie Cox** was scheduled for an MRI on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma and is doing okay. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to struggle with the lasting effects of a stroke. ~ Congratulations to **Taylor Rakes** upon his recent graduation from UT Law School. ~ It was great having both **Stephanie Sauls** and **Tara Shelley** back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ Congratulations to **Kari Summers** and **Andrew Vogel** on getting married last Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. ~ **Tom Witmer** is much improved and was scheduled to be released from the physical rehabilitation center on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will resume its monthly Dutch-treat dinner gatherings on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at **Pero's on the Hill** (7706 South Northshore Drive, in Rocky Hill), at 6:30 p.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend and feels safe in doing so; feel free to invite someone to join you. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. Most restaurants are still requiring masks to enter their facility.

Friendship Club

The **Friendship Club** will resume its monthly Dutch-treat lunch gatherings on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at **O' Charley's Restaurant & Bar** (8077 Kingston Pike, across from Downtown West), at 11:00 a.m. These social gatherings are for anyone who wishes to attend and feels safe in doing so; feel free to invite someone to join you. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. Most restaurants are still requiring masks to enter their facility.

Church Office

Office Manager **Jeannine Rickards** will not be working in the Church Office this coming Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, in order to spend time with her parents who will be visiting from out of town.



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); Cooper Browning (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Corey Burnette (friend of Amanda Roberts); Fred and Joan Cline; Sallie Cox; 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); 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 baby Ethan; 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; **Family of Maria Peach** (friend of Emily DeLozier); 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); David Rakes (father of Taylor Rakes); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); **Maggie Rickards** (daughter of Jeannine Rickards); 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); the racial strife in our nation and the need for 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; Everette Wolfenbarger (friend of Rose Wilkinson)

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

*“Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord; hear my urgent cry.”* [Psalm 86:6, NLT]

