

The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

Address: 6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive; Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ Phone: (865) 588-8581 ~ Email: FirstCPC@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net

Website: 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"

September 22, 2020



From last Sunday's sermon: "William Carey was a missionary from Britain who spent forty-one years in India in the late 1700s and early 1800s. During that time, he came up with what is known as the "Rope Holder" philosophy for evangelism. In those days, India had an epidemic of blindness; some cases were treatable by then modern Western medicine and procedures and others were not. In one of the treatable cases, an elderly Indian man had severe cataracts, which were removed, almost miraculously it seemed in those days, through surgery. After his recovery, the man returned to his village in a remote section of India. Two weeks later, the staff at the medical clinic heard a knock on the door and when they opened the door, they discovered twenty blind men, standing in line, all holding onto a rope. They had walked from a remote village so that they too could have their sight restored and at the front of the rope was the formerly blind man leading the way."

"You may have never thought about it this way before, but our salvation was made possible because someone extended a rope to us and led us to Jesus; that is, someone shined the Light of Christ into our darkness. Do you remember who it was that extended the rope to you? It may have been a parent or a grandparent; it could have been a pastor or a Sunday School teacher; it might have been a friend or a new acquaintance. I do not know who it was for you, but for me a Vacation Bible School teacher held the rope and I am eternally grateful she did. Is anyone grateful that you held the rope for them? I pray that more than one person is grateful you held the rope, but no matter how many people we have held the rope for in the past, our call is to hold the rope for others in the future, beginning this very day; our responsibility is to catch the vision and shine the Light of Christ into the lives of others, for without us having a vision, people will perish. 'If people can't see what God is doing they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.' [Proverbs 29:18, MSG]"

The Financial Report for August is now complete and once again your generosity has resulted in our income exceeding our expenses. As more and more church related activities resume, expenses have returned to a more normal level and still your generosity continues to exceed our needs. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Our Office Manager, Jeannine Rickards, remains self-quarantined this week. She will again be working remotely most of the week and will make needed trips to the church when no one else is here.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Special Guests

It was great having **Mike and Brittany Bertsch**, pastor and first lady of the Donelson Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Gallatin, TN); **Georgia Moore**, sister of Jewel Kerr; **Pamella and Don Smiddy**, daughter and son-in-law of Sallie Cox, and **Lisa Worley**, friend of Harry Sherrod; all worshiping with us last Sunday.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

Due to COVID-19, our ladies' ministry is making adjustments to 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. Facemasks, dishrags, Christmas items, and other craft items will be sold; so 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.

Church Website

Our website (www.first-cumberland.org) now includes 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 22nd - 28th
25th - Brack Emory



Our Faithfulness for September 20th

Sunday School	0
Worship Service	54
Offering	\$4,090.40
Online Giving	\$23.97
Building Reimbursement	\$5,694.95
Music Fund	\$50.00
Bible Project Book	\$20.00

Activities for September 22nd - 28th

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

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

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Bashar Abuhelweh, son-in-law of Tom and Donna Walker, has been diagnosed with COVID-19. ~ **Mike Bachman** continues to recover from recent surgery on both knees; he is doing well. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma (cancer in the bone marrow). ~ **Carson Hammill**, grandson of Betty Hammill, has been diagnosed with COVID-19. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to recover from his stroke; he is struggling ~ **Maggie Rickards**, daughter of Jeannine Rickards, is symptom free of COVID-19 and has returned to work. ~ **Matthew Rickards**, son of Jeannine Rickards, has been diagnosed with COVID-19; though she tested negative, Jeannine remains self-quarantined.

Knox County COVID-19 Update

According to the Knox County Health Department, as of Sunday, September 20th, Knox County has had 9,123 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 336 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, 30 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to 73. Of the 9,123 confirmed cases, 7,612 of the patients have fully recovered. There are currently 1,812 active cases in Knox County, down from 1,863 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.

Session

Our **Session** will meet in person this coming Sunday evening, September 27th, at 6:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary.

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

Bashar Abuhelweh (son-in-law of Tom and Donna Walker); MariKate Abuhelweh and unborn baby girl (daughter and granddaughter of Tom and Donna Walker); Mildred Acuff; Mike Bachman; **Johnna Beckmann** (friend of Harry Sherrod); 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); **Ann Caudill** (friend of Harry Sherrod); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Maxine Curtis; Rue Dougherty; Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); 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; Carson Hammill (grandson of Betty Hammill); Kristi Hawn and unborn baby girl; Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); **Wanda Holmes** (friend of Harry Sherrod); 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); 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); 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); Homer and Betty Prince (friends of Rose Wilkinson); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Bryce Rhodenbaugh (grandson of a friend of Diane Fielder); **Matthew Rickards** (son of Jeannine Rickards); 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; 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.