

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"

May 25, 2021



Congratulations to **Ruby Mae Haddox**, seven-month-old daughter of Ryan and Hannah Haddox, upon receiving the *Sacrament of Baptism* last Sunday. As I said during the baptismal ceremony: "Regardless of the age of the recipient, baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ." "We do not believe that baptism mystically imparts salvation upon the recipient. We do believe, however, that baptism is an acknowledgement of God's grace at work in the life of this child through the care of her parents and extended family, and under the nurture of this community of faith. Baptism points forward to her personal response to that grace when she exercises conscious saving faith in Jesus Christ."

Mask Policy Update: At its meeting last Sunday night, our Session voted to follow the latest Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and the current recommendations of the Knox County Health Department's recommendations regarding masks. **This means that if you are an adult and have been fully vaccinated—had the necessary shot(s) more than two weeks ago—you are free to not wear a mask while at the church. Children are also free not to wear a mask.** This applies to our worship services and Sunday School when it resumes on June 6th; it also applies to Choir Practice and anytime you happened to drop by the church for any reason. Obviously, if you are more comfortable wearing a mask while at church, you are free to do so. Though I have been fully vaccinated for several weeks now, for the time being, at least, I will be wearing my mask when I step to the altar during the Hymn of Invitation in order not to discourage anyone from coming to the altar to talk and/or pray. When we resumed our worship services back in June of 2020, our Session strongly encouraged the wearing of masks, but did not make wearing them a requirement to attend. Over this past year, you have faithfully heeded this suggestion; thank you!

Beginning on *Palm Sunday*, our Session approved our Choir resuming singing while wearing masks. A couple of weeks ago, our Choir began singing without wearing masks without the approval of the majority of our Session. The decision was made spontaneously one morning during Choir Practice without consulting all the members of our Session (four of the nine elders currently on our Session are choir members). This showed poor leadership on my part, so I want to both publically apologize to the Session members who were not present that morning as well as apologize to each of you for what may appear to some as a double standard.

On a related note, our Session also decided to leave the ribbons up marking off some pews in order to help maintain social distancing. While this might not be absolutely necessary, it is an easy precaution to continue. This policy will be reconsidered in our July Session Meeting.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Special Guests

It was great having **Zachary Ball**, nephew of Ryan Haddox; **Wayne and Belinda Haddox**, parents of Ryan Haddox; **Darrell and Judy Powell**, parents of Jeannine Rickards; and **Shalynn Simmons**, sister of Ryan Haddox; all worshipping with us last Sunday.

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 6th, 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.

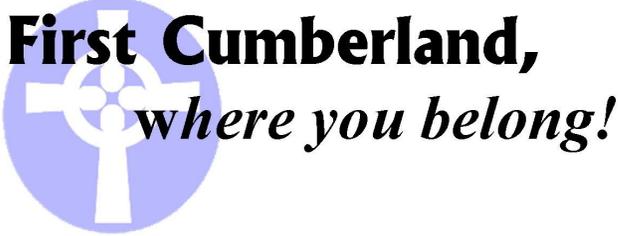
Sunday School Update

All our Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, June 6th, at 9:30 a.m. Our 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. Our 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) 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.*



Happy Birthday

May 25th – 31st
30th – Scott Roberts



Our Faithfulness for May 23rd

Worship Service	67
Offering	\$4,115.00
Music Fund	\$150.00
Building Reimbursements	\$4,920.00

May 25th – 31st

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 Monday: Memorial Day ~ Church Office closed
 (See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Ann Bachman is still in Florida visiting her family. ~ **Bonnie Bridges** has returned home from visiting her niece in Vancouver, Washington. ~ **Sallie Cox** had corrective surgery last week for a torn meniscus in her knee; she is doing well and is undergoing outpatient physical therapy. ~ **Chris** and **Justin Curtis** will graduate from West High School on June 2nd; congratulations guys! ~ **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. ~ On June 1st, **Alice Montgomery** will be moving to The Courtyards Senior Living; her mailing address will be 801 East Inskip Drive; Knoxville, TN 37912; Room 101. ~ In spite of having a kidney stone last week, **Justin Rech** had knee surgery; he is doing well. ~ **Tom Witmer** spent a few days in the hospital last week; the doctors are trying to regulate his blood pressure.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will resume its monthly Dutch-treat dinner gatherings on Thursday, June 3rd, 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. Some 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 16th, 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. Some restaurants are still requiring masks to enter their facility.

Church Office Closed

Our Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 31st, in recognition of Memorial Day.



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); Joan Broughton (aunt of Kim Halbert); 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; **Sara Paul** (friend of Rose Wilkinson); 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); Justin Rech; 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



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]