

The Cumberland

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"

December 1, 2020



Since last Sunday was the First Sunday of Advent, I thought I would share my opening comments from last Sunday's sermon: "Traditionally, most Americans wait until after Thanksgiving to begin getting ready for *Christmas*; O, we may have bought a gift or two throughout the year if we caught them on sale, but the heavy shopping generally begins on what we now call Black Friday. Though Christmas trees used to be put up on *Christmas Eve* and remain decorated until *Epiphany*, which is January 6th, for decades now, most Americans have put up their trees shortly after Thanksgiving and take them down by New Year's Day. Then came the great interruption we know as the coronavirus pandemic and many people, desperately seeking hope, began decorating for *Christmas* back in October and who knows when they will be taken down. One of the difficulties facing followers of Christ during this season is that we too can confuse shopping, decorating, and cooking with preparing for *Christmas*. To counter this difficulty, the *Season of Advent* calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Special Guests

It was great having **Mindy Landry**, daughter of Jewell Kerr, both worshiping with us again last Sunday.

Christmas Giving Opportunities

- ⇒ We are again doing an **Angel Tree** for 15 of the residents of Serene Manor Medical Center (nursing home). Though we offered these residents the opportunity to request three presents each (45 in total), each resident only requested two gifts (30 in total). The **Angel Tree** is in our Library; **only three angels remain**. Please remember to return the angel with the gift as that is our only way of identifying the present. Please return all gifts by Friday, December 20th, or earlier, if possible.
- ⇒ During *Advent*, we are doing the two **Mitten Trees** for the Coalition of Appalachian Ministries (CAM). The Mitten Trees will be in the Narthex. As always, we can hang mittens, gloves, scarves, toboggans, socks, etcetera on these trees. The **Mitten Trees** will be up through the month of December.
- ⇒ **FISH Hospitality Cards** will again be available to purchase in honor or memory of someone; see **Betty Hammill** for additional information.
- ⇒ Due to COVID-19, the **Volunteer Ministry Center** will not be doing their Holiday Store this year.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will once again decorate our Sanctuary with **poinsettias** for Christmas. They will be in our Sanctuary Sunday, December 13th; Sunday, December 20th; and Thursday, December 24th. As per our tradition, **poinsettias** can be purchased in honor or memory of someone. The cost this year is \$10.00 per plant. Order forms will be in our bulletins through Sunday, December 13th. Feel free to call the Church Office to place your order. A dedication list will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20th, and in the newsletter the following week.

Christmas Eve Worship Service


Our annual **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service** will begin at 5:00 p.m. The tentative plan is for this service to include the celebration of *Holy Communion* as has been our tradition. Sanitized and sealed communion kits have been ordered for this purpose; a final decision to whether or not we will observe *The Lord's Supper* will be made at the December 13th Session Meeting.

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.*

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



**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 90
Knoxville,
Tennessee**



First Church
where



December 1st - 7th



Sunday School	0
Worship Service	57
Offering	\$5,915.00
Poinsettias	\$110.00

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Mike Bachman continues to recover from knee surgery. ~ **Jim Gaston's** surgery to remove skin cancers was rescheduled to Tuesday, December 1st. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma (cancer in the bone marrow) and will soon have surgery to remove his gall bladder. ~ It was awesome having **Ruby Mae Haddox** attend our Worship Service for the very first time! ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to struggle in his recovery from a stroke. ~ **Alice Montgomery** did not return home as she expected; instead, she is at NHC Healthcare, Knoxville for rehab. ~ **Andrea Wilson**, daughter of Harry Sherrod, will soon be returning to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to participate in a clinical study. ~ **Elaine Winter** has both COVID-19 and pneumonia.

According to the Knox County Health Department, as of Sunday, November 29th, Knox County has had 18,353 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 593 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, 125 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to 163. Of the 18,353 confirmed cases, 17,124 of the patients have fully recovered. There are currently 2,132 active cases in Knox County, down from 2,332 last week. The 2,132 active cases reported include 1,066 probable cases, leaving 1,069 confirmed active cases. 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.

“Lord Jesus, I invite you to break into my life in a new way today!”

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 Concerns List

Mildred Acuff; Mike Bachman; Johnna Beckmann (friend of Harry Sherrod); Jack Blackburn (nephew of Phil Bridges); Pam Bogle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Becky Bonds (friend of Dianne Fielder); 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 Joar Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Rue Dougherty; Ely Driver (friend of Dianne Fielder); Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); Charles and Julia Ferillo (friends of Harry Sherrod); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Judy Gammon; Ed Gaston (son of Jin Gaston); Jin Gaston; John Givens (father of Crissy Collins); Kristi Hawn and unborn baby girl; Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); Wanda Holmes (friend of Harry Sherrod); Nancy Holstead (friend of Harry Sherrod); Whitley Johnson (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kimberly Jones (friend of Amanda Roberts); Joe and Van Kemp (relatives of Dianne Fielder); James Keever Family (friend of Harry Sherrod); 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; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Vickie Miller (friend of Emily DeLozier); Alice Montgomery; Mary Montgomery (cousin of Alice Montgomery); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Jackie Morris (cousin of Shelia Emory); Diane and Lucille Ogle (friends of Harry Sherrod); persecuted Christians around the world; Plan of Union between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; Homer Prince (husband of Betty Prince); Reed ??? (patient of Amanda Roberts); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Bryce Rhodenbaugh (grandson of a friend of Dianne Fielder); 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); Brian Springer (brother of a friend of Amanda Roberts); 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 justice; 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); **Elaine Winter**

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