

# 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 4, 2021



From last Sunday's sermon, based on **John 21:15-17**: "Jesus graciously extended forgiveness to Peter because He had not given up on Peter, because He still believed in Peter and guess what, Jesus offers forgiveness and restoration to us because He has not given up on us, because He still believes in us in spite of our failures, as numerous as they might be. Michael Jordan, who many believe to be the best basketball player of all time, missed more than nine-thousand shots in his NBA career; he lost almost three-hundred basketball games; on twenty-six occasions he took the potential game winning shot and missed. This basketball legend readily admits that he failed over and over and over again in his career, yet he credits his failures for his success. Michael Jordan's coaches believed in him, as did his teammates, and as important as that was in his sports career, it pales to knowing that Jesus believes in us; in fact, Jesus believes in us so much He died for us and rose again so that our sins can be forgiven and our relationship with God can be restored. The question for each of us is: 'Do we really believe the life-changing Good News that Jesus offers forgiveness and restoration to those who have failed Him?' If we do, then we can confidently march into our future."

I cannot help but wonder what it would look like here at First Cumberland if we all decided to show up on the same Sunday. Wait a minute, I know: It would look like *Easter Sunday*. We are not far from the end of the school year and the start of vacation season, so I want to remind us of the importance of gathering to worship the living Jesus. This is important, first and foremost, because God designed us to worship Him. You see, worship, along with prayer and Bible study, are as necessary to our spiritual health as eating a balanced diet is to our physical health. We can miss a meal or two now and then with no major side effects, but a prolonged time of not gathering to worship can leave us spiritually malnourished. The second reason we need to be faithful in gathering to worship the living Jesus is the spiritual momentum and excitement it creates amongst ourselves. As things are returning more and more to normal, God is working in our congregation to bring about the glorious future He has planned for us. This future is more easily realized when we are gathered together to worship and work. By the way, the modern English word "worship" comes from the old English word "workship".

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Special Guests

It was great having **Mason, Greyson, Lincoln**, and **Chris Atkins**, grandchildren of Susan Edwards; **Lori Ann Byford**, friend of Rebecca Wilkinson; **John** and **Aldris Kerr**, son and daughter-in-law of Jewell Kerr; **Pamella** and **Don Smiddy**, daughter and son-in-law of Sallie Cox; and **Emily**, foster child staying with Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, worshipping with us last Sunday.

### Paint Day

A special thank you to everyone who participated in last Saturday's **Paint Day**. **Lee Barron**, **Tom** and **Emily DeLozier**, **Doug** and **Mary Wegman**, and **Pastor Mike** and **Joanna Wilkinson** all turned out for the second **Paint Day** dedicated to six of our main floor restrooms. **Tom** and **Emily DeLozier** returned on Monday to finish up a few loose ends.

### West Knox FISH Food Pantry

The final statistics for our month of FISH are in. We spent \$3,904.42 for groceries from Second Harvest Food Bank and \$66.66 for paper bags from Sam's Club—totaling \$3,971.08. We, along with our partner church, Church of the Savior, filled 267 bags, and 318 bags were used. We served 703 people. These numbers are down from last year. The delivery teams all year have reported a reduction in demand. I want to thank all of you who have assisted in this ministry this year.—**Betty Hammill**

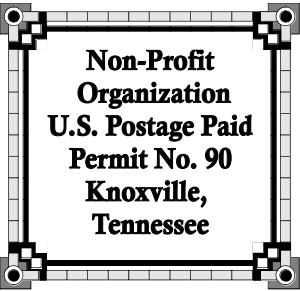
### Sunday School Update

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 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> – Josh Rech



Our Faithfulness for May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Worship Service	55
Offering	\$5,945.00
Music Fund	\$50.00

May 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<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

**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. ~ **Harry Sherrod** was injured in a home invasion last week; he is sore, but improving. ~ The day he came home from the hospital last week following spinal surgery, **Tom Witmer** was taken back to the Emergency Room and readmitted; multiple tests were run, but the doctors still do not know what the issue was. Nonetheless, his is much better and was scheduled to be transferred on Monday, May 3rd, to Westmoreland Health and Rehab for in-house physical therapy.

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.

Worship Service Videos

Typically, by Thursday morning of each week, a video of our previous Sunday's Worship Service will be posted on our website ([www.first-cumberland.org](http://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

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 unborn baby boy (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; 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); 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; Everett Wolfenbarger (friend of Rose Wilkinson)

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

*"I call upon you, O LORD; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice."* [Psalm 141:1-2, NRSV]