

# 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"

December 15, 2020



For many of us, *Christmas* preparations are steeped in tradition. We put the tree in the same place we did last year. We follow baking recipes handed down from our grandmothers. We find those ornaments the kids made when they were in preschool. We go to the same parties, sing the same carols, and even have a favorite *Christmas Eve* service to attend. We like the routine of *Christmas*. This year, however, things are different. Due to coronavirus restrictions, nothing feels routine. Perhaps this year more than any other in our lifetimes, the *Season of Advent*, which is fast coming to an end, is an invitation to something new. We are waiting for Christ's birth; we are waiting for His imminent return; and we are waiting for the world to be transformed from brokenness to wholeness. I pray that each of us are waiting for and anticipating our lives be transformed, not just the world. Over the remaining days of *Advent*, hear the invitation to a new and deeper relationship with God, to the world yet to come, to the world as it should be; to our lives as they should be. You are invited!

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Special Guests

It was great having **Gene Landry**, son-in-law of Jewell Kerr, and two first-time visitors worshipping with us last Sunday.

### Baby Shower

All the ladies of the church are invited to a baby shower honoring **Kristi Hawn and baby girl!** Now this shower will not be like our normal showers—no games, no partying, no laughing. But we can still shower Kristi with our love and prayers and, of course, gifts! Please bring your gift to the Keene Room before church on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and pick up a treat to go. Kristi is registered at Babylist.com.

### Christmas Giving Opportunities

- ⇒ Thank you for your generous support of the **Angel Tree!** This year's tree benefited 15 of the residents of Serene Manor Medical Center (a nursing home for the indigent in downtown Knoxville). The gifts are scheduled to be delivered on Thursday of this week.
- ⇒ We are again doing two **Mitten Trees** for the Coalition of Appalachian Ministries (CAM). The **Mitten Trees** are 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** are available to purchase in honor or memory of someone. Help to feed the hungry in our community; buy a \$5.00 card and feed a family of four for three days. Order blanks are available on the table in the Narthex. See **Betty Hammill** for additional information.

### Youth Christmas Mailbox

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will **NOT** be doing the **Youth Christmas Mailbox** this year.

### Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our annual **Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service** will begin at 5:00 p.m. **Registration Forms** will be in this coming Sunday's (December 20<sup>th</sup>) bulletins; you can also call the Church Office by Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your name will be posted on your assigned seat. A sealed bag containing a sanitized communion kit, a candle, a candleholder, and a plastic cup to use as a candle snuffer will be provided for everyone who registers. You will be asked to partake in *Communion* with your mask on. These precautions are being instituted for everyone's protection. If anyone is uncomfortable partaking in *Communion* under their mask, they may take the communion kit home with them and partake of the elements there since they will already be consecrated. Thank you for your understanding!

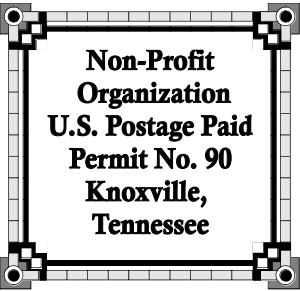
### Congregational Meeting

Our *Session* has set Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, as the date for our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain, and/or install new elders; this meeting will take place at the close of our Worship Service. During this meeting, our *Session* will nominate **Crissy Collins**, **Dianne Pipkin**, and **Scott Roberts** as the *Elder Class of 2023*. Additional nominations can be from the floor provided the nominee meets the biblical and constitutional qualifications of an elder and the nominee is present to accept the nomination.

### Church Website

Our website ([www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)) includes a secure "Donate" tab. Donations can be designated 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**  
**December 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>**  
14<sup>th</sup> – **Justin Rech**  
18<sup>th</sup> – **Tara Shelley**  
19<sup>th</sup> – **Kevin Pipkin**



**Our Faithfulness for December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Worship Service	52
Offering	\$4,880.40
Building Reimbursement	\$7,034.95
Poinsettias	\$180.00

**December 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Sunday: 10:45 a.m.      Worship Service  
(See our website for complete calendar listings)

**Among Our People**

**Mike Bachman** continues to recover from knee surgery. ~ **Fred Cline** has pneumonia. ~ **Jin Gaston** had a skin cancer removed last Friday; she is doing well. ~ **John Givens**, father of Crissy Collins, is still undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to struggle in his recovery from a stroke. ~ **Ray McDonnell** is awaiting COVID-19 test results. ~ **Alice Montgomery** remains at NHC Healthcare, Knoxville for rehab. ~ **Erin Pipkin**, daughter-in-law of Dianne Pipkin, had back surgery last week; she is doing well. ~ It was great having **Tom Walker** back worshiping with us last Sunday after a long absence. ~ **Elaine Winter** is much improved. ~ **Tom Witmer** fell recently and injured his leg. ~ Congratulations to **Kari Summers and Family** on the opening of Whimsy Cookie.

**Knox County COVOD-19 Update**

According to the Knox County Health Department, as of Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Knox County has had 23,247 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 661 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, 143 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to 213. Of the 23,247 confirmed cases, 21,093 of the patients have fully recovered. There are currently 3,400 active cases in Knox County, up sharply from 1,984 last week. The 3,400 active cases reported include 1,459 probable cases, leaving 1,941 confirmed actives 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.

**Church Office**

Our Office Manager, **Jeannine Rickards**, is on vacation this week.

**Classical Conversations**

The national organization for one of the homeschools that meets at our church has once again given us \$500.00 through their church giving program.

**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](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**

Mildred Acuff; Chris Atkins (son of Susan Edwards); Mike Bachman; Johnna Beckmann (friend of Harry Sherrod); 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 Joan 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); **Gene Goins** (neighbor of Elaine Winter); Betty Hammill; Kristi Hawn and unborn baby girl; Helen Hayes (cousin of Jin Gaston); Alexis Hodge (birth-mother of Gabriella Roberts); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); Wanda Holmes (friend of Harry Sherrod); Nancy Holstead (friend of Harry Sherrod); **Melodie Johnson** (friend of Emily DeLozier); 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; Ray and 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; **Erin Pipkin** (daughter-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Plan of Union between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America; Homer Prince (husband of Betty Prince); 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; **Tracey Siler** (friend of Emily DeLozier); 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); **Tom Witmer**



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