

The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

July 14, 2020



"I will believe it when I see it." Do you ever find yourself thinking this way? From time to time, I find myself expressing this very thought. It is easy for us, even as followers of the risen Jesus, to slip into the mindset of doubt and cynicism. We live in a broken and confused world; this was true before the coronavirus shook up the entire world. On an individual level, we have all probably gone through painful experiences that caused us to lose our trust in others. For this reason, faithfulness, one of the fruits of the Spirit, can be a challenging trait to possess. Faithfulness comes from a place of trust and loyalty. The familiar words of **Hebrews 11:1** tell us that ". . . faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." [NRSV]

As Christians, it is important for us to be faithful to God. It is one thing to simply believe in God, but another to be faithful to Him. When we are truly faithful to God, it shapes the way we live. As I preached about last Sunday, when we faithfully do justice, love kindness (mercy), and walk humbly before our God and others, we are living the abundant life of the Kingdom of God that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection ushered in. Faithfulness requires us to submit our ways to God; it comes from a place of realizing that we are in need of a Savior and that He is in control of our lives. **Proverbs 19:21** says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." [NIV] We are to be faithful to God, because He is faithful to us.

The story of Abraham and Sarah demonstrates the importance of faithfulness. Abraham and his wife Sarah struggled to trust God, but learned the value of faithfulness when they submitted to Him. Abraham and Sarah waited many years for God to fulfill His promise of giving them a son, but eventually growing tired of waiting, Sarah's lack of complete faith rose to the forefront and she demanded that Abraham sleep with Hagar, her personal maidservant; he did and Hagar gave birth to a son, Ishmael. Instead of bringing joy and contentment as Sarah had hoped, her plan brought pain and conflict to everyone involved. After the failure of their plan, Abraham and Sarah repented and put their complete faith in God and Sarah was then able to give birth to Isaac despite her being well past childbearing age. In the end, the story of Abraham and Sarah shows how, in spite of our lapses in faithfulness, God ultimately blesses those who are faithful and trust in His plans.

So, in the midst of all the chaos surrounding us right now, how do we grow in our faithfulness? We can grow in our faithfulness by obeying His commands to do justice, love kindness (mercy), and walk humbly before our God and others. My challenge to you is this: Think about the ways you show your faithfulness to God. Are there things that are getting in the way of your faithfulness? What areas of your life have you not given over to Him? Through spending time in prayer and His Word, ask God to make these things clear to you, so that He can grow you in your faithfulness, so that you can enjoy the abundant kingdom life that Jesus freely offers to all who will receive it.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Collection of School Supplies

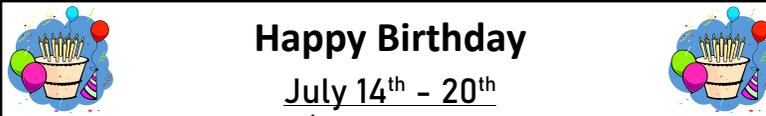
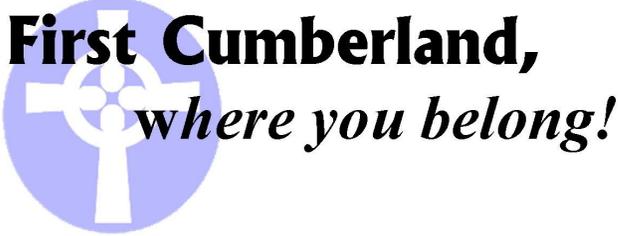
We will be **collecting school supplies** again this Summer for the children of Appalachia to be distributed through the **Coalition of Appalachian Ministry (CAM)**. The school supplies will be needed whether they are in school or at home. A box will be in the Narthex for these supplies. Thank you so much for your participation in this important ministry.

Quote of the Week

"If the Lord Jehovah makes us wait, let us do so with our whole hearts; for blessed are all they that wait for Him. He is worth waiting for. The waiting itself is beneficial to us: it tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission, and endears the blessing when it comes. The Lord's people have always been a waiting people."

—Charles Spurgeon

*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

July 14th - 20th
 14th - **Carol Long**
 19th - **Dick Booher**

Our Faithfulness for July 12th

Sunday School.....	0
Worship Service.....	55
Offering.....	\$9,270.00

Activities for 14th - 20th

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 All other church activities for the week
 have been canceled until further notice.

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

John Givens, father of Crissy Collins, is undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma (cancer in the bone marrow). ~ **Hannah Kerr**, granddaughter of Jewell Kerr, has tested positive for COVID-19; she is doing much better. ~ **Steve McCurry** continues to recover from his stroke, but is still having considerable trouble with his vision; he is currently undergoing vision therapy. ~ **Andrea Wilson**, daughter of Harry Sherrod, is at MB Anderson Cancer Center, in Houston, Texas, for diagnosis.

Knox County COVID-19 Update

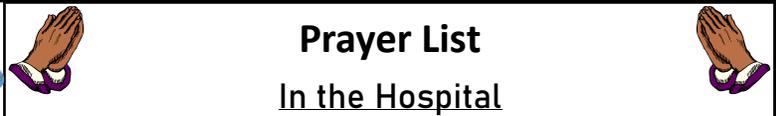
According to WATE 6, as of Sunday, July 12th, Knox County has had 1,586 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 99 of which have required hospitalization at some point during their illness. Throughout the county, 40 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and the total number of deaths has now increased to ten. Of the 1,586 confirmed cases, 862 of the patients have fully recovered (72 hours symptom-free). This means that there are currently 714 active cases in Knox County, up from 425 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.

A Thought to Ponder

Since we are currently living in a time of great uneasiness and unrest, think about this: Our faith in God is not a mystical feeling that merely makes us feel better in difficult times; rather, true faith is an unshakeable conviction to trust God even when the road ahead seems uncertain and turbulent.

Worship Service Videos

By Wednesday evening of each week, a video of our previous Sunday's Worship Service will be posted on both our website (www.first-cumberland.org) and on YouTube (Open the YouTube app on your device and search for Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.).



Prayer List

In the Hospital

No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.

Prayer Concerns List

MariKate Abuhelweh and unborn baby girl (daughter and granddaughter of Tom and Donna Walker); Kathy Aceti (daughter of Betty Hammill); Mildred Acuff; Ashley Atkins and unborn baby boy (daughter-in-law and grandson of Susan Edwards); 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); Fred and Joan Cline; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Pat Cureton (cousin of Jin Gaston); Maxine Curtis; Rue Dougherty; Michelle Evatt (church janitor); Mason Fannin (great-nephew of Judy Gwilliams); Grace Flory (mother-in-law of Tom Witmer); Brittany Foust; Judy Gammon; Jin Gaston; Laura Gaston (daughter-in-law of Jin Gaston); John Givens (father of Crissy Collins); Hannah Haddox and unborn baby girl; Alexa Hodge (mother of Gabriella Hodge); Rodney Holloman (friend of Pastor Mike); Jane Hubbard (friend of Pastor Mike); mother of Peyton Hubbard (friend of Amanda Roberts); Van Kemp (relative of Dianne Fielder); Hannah Kerr (granddaughter of Jewell Kerr); Ashleigh Lane (co-worker Susan Edwards); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Sue Anne Lewis (friend of Jewel Stallions); Barbara and Gene McCammon; Steve McCurry; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Shelly Minton (wife of a coworker of Amanda Roberts); 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; Homer and Betty Prince (friends of Rose Wilkinson); David Rech (father of Justin Rech); Christopher Reed (great-nephew of Jin Gaston); Bryce Rhodenbaugh (grandson of a friend of Diane Fielder); Lori Roark (sister of Kim McCurry); Paula Rogers (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Michael Schwartz (friend of Susan Edwards); Carol Seeman; John Smith (coworker of Scott Roberts); Terrie Smith (friend of Debbie Neal); John and Donna Snoderly (brother and 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); 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.