

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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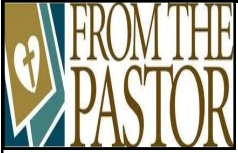
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 14, 2016



Though it is not proper etiquette for me to brag on a group of which I am apart, I cannot help but boast just a little bit about our **Choir's** presentation of *"The Music of Christmas"* last Sunday morning. Once again I want to remind us of how truly blessed by God we are to have so many musically gifted people among our Church Family. Like someone trying to "herd a group of cats", very talkative "cats", I should add, **Sam and Karen Ware**—our music/worship leaders—faithfully push/pull/tug/drive/herd us to present the best possible music that both honors God and edifies this congregation. I want to thank everyone who invited and encouraged others to join us in celebrating through music the birth of our Lord and Savior—Jesus Christ. Last Sunday was truly a great day to be in the house of the Lord!

Although they already adorn our Sanctuary, **poinsettias** can still be purchased in honor or memory of someone. The cost this year is \$8.00 per plant. To place your order, either fill out an *Order Form* this coming Sunday or call the Church Office. The list of who the **poinsettias** were purchased in honor or memory of will be included in the bulletin on *Christmas Day*.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Holiday Ministry Opportunities

- * We have two "**Mitten Trees**" in the Narthex. Throughout the month of December, we are collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and toboggans for children in Appalachia that will be distributed through the **Coalition for Appalachian Ministry (CAM)**, located in Townsend. Simply place your gifts on either of the "**Mitten Trees**".
- * We also have an "**Angel Tree**" this year. All 36 "angel" requests, representing 12 residents of **Serene Manor Nursing Home**, have been taken; thank you! Please return your unwrapped gifts, with the angel attached to it, and put them in the Library by this coming Sunday, December 18th.
- * **Christmas Gift Cards** are a wonderful way to honor family and friends and also to help feed hungry families in the Knoxville-area. The **FISH Hospitality Pantries** are walk-in pantries in the northern, eastern, and southern parts of Knox County. Order blanks and two sample cards are in the Narthex on the table. A family of four can be fed for three days with just a \$5.00 gift.

Christmas Post Office

Our **Youth's** annual *Christmas Post Office* is now open to distribute *Christmas cards* to fellow church-attenders. This is a **Youth fundraiser**, so if possible, please make a donation when you deposit your cards in the box in the Narthex.

Upcoming Events

- * Wednesday, December 14th ~ **Friendship Club** gathers at **Copper Cellar West**, at 11:00 a.m.
- * Sunday, December 18th ~ **Youth Christmas Party**, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- * Saturday, December 24th ~ **Christmas Eve ~ Candlelight Communion Service**, at 5:00 p.m.
- * Sunday, December 25th ~ **Christmas Day** ~ no Sunday School ~ **Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m.
- * Sunday, January 8th ~ **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain, and/or install the ***Elder Class of 2018*** at the close of our **Worship Service**, approximately 12:00 noon; at that time, our ***Session*** will nominate **Phil Bridges**, **Chrissy Collins**, and **Dianne Pipkin** to serve as the next ***Elder Class***; additional nominations can be made from the floor providing the nominee meets the biblical and constitutional qualifications to serve as an Elder and is present at our **Congregational Meeting** to accept the nomination.

Disaster Relief Fund

Our denominational **Missions Ministry Team** has established a **Disaster Relief Fund** to help in the recovery efforts following the recent wildfires and tornados that have devastated so many people in East Tennessee. The New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Whitwell, TN (north of Chattanooga) suffered significant damage from one of the tornados. If you would like to contribute to this relief effort, simply make your check out to the church and write on the memo line "**Disaster Relief Fund**" and the Church Office will forward it to our **Missions Ministry Team**.


Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the **Family of Steve Kusenda**, brother-in-law of Margaret Migas, who passed away November 29th; to the **Family of Bill Gregory**, cousin of Greg Beeler, who passed away December 7th; and to the **Family of Bobbie Himes**, the sister of Jin Gaston, who passed away December 11th. Please remember both of these families in your prayers.

*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 14th-20th

14th ~ Justin Rech
18th ~ Tara Shelley
19th ~ Kevin Pipkin



Our Faithfulness Record for December 11 th	
Sunday School.....	53
Worship Service.....	95
Offering.....	\$4,277.75
Building Reimbursement.....	\$944.90
Disaster Relief Fund.....	\$25.00
Youth Fund.....	\$32.00
Music Fund.....	\$50.00

Activities December 14 th -20 th	
Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.	Friendship Club
6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
12:30 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

Among Our People

Welcome to the world **Mason Carter Atkins**, grandson of Susan Edwards; he was born on Thursday, December 9th. ~ **Bonnie Bridges** received a good report from a recent medical test. ~ **Jack Gaston** had an echocardiogram on Monday, December 12th. ~ **Wayne Haddox**, father of Ryan Haddox, will have a procedure to repair a carotid artery on Wednesday, December 14th. ~ It was great having **Kim Halbert** back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ **Jewell Kerr** continues to have a heart-rhythm issue.

Special Guests


It was great having **Jackie Ault**, friend of Susan Edwards and Elaine Stapleton; **Faye Bridges**, mother of Phil Bridges; **Jane Craddock**, mother of Scott Roberts; **Matt Horner**; **Donna Johnson**, friend of Susan Edwards and Elaine Stapleton; **Lesa Medley**, daughter of Mary Helen Daniel; **Don and Joyce McConnell**; **Paul Pipkin**; **Michael Sanders**, brother of Scott Roberts; **Rebecca and Carl Ware**, daughter and father of Sam Ware; and **Luci and Codee Weaver**, daughter and son of Elaine Stapleton, worshipping with us last Sunday.

Youth Christmas Party

This coming Sunday afternoon, December 18th, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., our **Youth** will have a **Christmas Party** (lunch and a movie) here at the church. All attendees are asked to bring one wrapped gift (cost: \$5.00 or less).

Church's Website

The church's website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four [Worship Services](#).




Prayer List

In the Hospital

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

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)



those effected by the recent fires and tornados, Mildred Acuff; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**, Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; **FAMILY OF BILL GREGORY** (cousin of Greg Beeler); Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); **FAMILY OF BOBBIE HIMES** (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; **Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program**; **FAMILY OF STEVE KUSENDA** (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (son of Cliff Parrott); *persecuted Christians around the world*; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Gladys Stone; Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codee Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Lois Witmer; Theola York (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards)

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

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be this Wednesday, December 14th, at **Copper Cellar West** (7316 Kingston Pike), at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, January 12th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), at 6:30 p.m. (This is the second Thursday of the month instead of the typical first Thursday.) A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.