

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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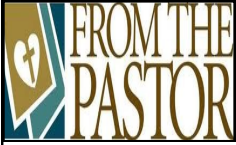
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 15, 2017



Last week, I shared the first of the five devotions that I wrote to appear on our denominational Ministry Council's website ([www.cpcmc.org/evotion/](http://www.cpcmc.org/evotion/)) the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. This week, I want to share the second eVotion; it is based on **Ezekiel 37:1-14**. "Perhaps the most familiar story recorded in the Book of Ezekiel is the one about the Valley of Dry Bones. As a child, I learned to sing the spiritual, "Dem Dry Bones". I thought it was amazing how "dem" bones connected to each other, but I missed the real point of the song—God is willing and able to restore our dry bones. The words God gave to Ezekiel and the song they inspired address the dry bones of slavery and oppression, but dry bones are not limited to these twin evils. Our dry bones could be shattered or abandoned hopes and dreams; they could be a broken relationship or the loss of a loved one to death; they could be a financial struggle or an issue at school; they could be an illness or aging; they could be emotional or spiritual in nature. Whatever our particular dry bones are, we can experience restoration through the power of God's Holy Spirit. The Lord says, ' . . . I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.' (Ezekiel 37:5). We might think that this promise is applicable to other people—that it does not apply to us because our dry bones are so dehydrated that not even God can restore them, but God asked Abraham, 'Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? . . .' (Genesis 18:14). Other translations use the word "hard" instead of "wonderful", asking 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' The answer is no; God is willing and able to restore our dry bones."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be this Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at the **LongHorn Steakhouse** (in the west side of the parking lot of West Town Mall), at 11:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

### FISH Food Pantry Campaign

Jesus tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We will be given an opportunity to be blessed this April, as it is our month to stock the **West Knox FISH Food Pantry**. Thanks to your generosity in the past, no additional funds are needed right now. We will be bagging April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> – at 9:30 a.m., at the Pantry site (Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Road)). Also, the groceries from Second Harvest Food bank will be delivered on Tuesday, March, 28<sup>th</sup> to the Pantry. We will need volunteers to help unload that day; time TBA. You can sign up to bag on the **FISH** bulletin board in the Narthex. Updates on the **FISH** operation will be in *The Cumberland* each week. Thank you for your support in helping to alleviate hunger in our community.

### Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at **Wright's Cafeteria** (5403 North Middlebrook Pike), at 6:30 p.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 us on these outings.

### Easter Celebrations

- ⇒ The Choirs of **Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church** and the **First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge** are joining together to present the **Easter** musical, "*Because He Lives*". The first presentation will be Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., at the Oak Ridge Church. The second presentation will be **Psalm Sunday**, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., here at First Cumberland. More details to come.
- ⇒ Our **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** will be Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Our **Community Good Friday Worship Service** will be Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon, at **Sacred Heart Cathedral**.
- ⇒ Our annual **Egg Hunt** will be Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.; lunch will be provided in our Gym.
- ⇒ Our **Easter SonRise Service** will be Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m., in our Chapel; breakfast in our Gym will follow. Breakfast will conclude in time for everyone to attend Sunday School.
- ⇒ Our **Easter Worship Service** will be at its regular time (10:45 a.m.); as part of this celebration of the Resurrection, our Choir will sing "*Hallelujah*", which is a rendition of the "*The Hallelujah Chorus*" from Handel's "*Messiah*".

### Youth News

- ⇒ This coming Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, our Youth Group will meet in the Gym for lunch following our Worship Service. After lunch, they will work on their archery skills. Parents please pick your Youth up at 2:30 p.m.
- ⇒ On Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, our Youth Group will help bag food at the **FISH Food Pantry** at 9:30 a.m., then they will return to our church to help set up for our **Egg Hunt**. Parents please drop your youth off at the pantry site by 9:00 a.m.; **Scott and Amanda Roberts** will transport them back to our church to help with the **Egg Hunt**.
- ⇒ On **Easter Sunday**, April 16<sup>th</sup>, our Youth will prepare and serve breakfast between our **Easter SonRise Service** and Sunday School. Encourage everyone to attend as this will be a fundraiser (donations requested) for our Youth Group! Parents please have your youth at the Kitchen off the Gym by 7:00 a.m.

*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.*

