

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: FirstCPC@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net ~ (865) 588-8581

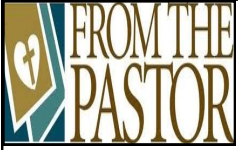
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 15, 2017



Last Sunday I began a three-part sermon series about hope. The title of the series is "*A Time for Hope!*", and the first message was "*Persistent Prayer Provides Hope*" based on **Luke 18:1-8**. The next two messages are "*Connecting with Community Provides Hope*" based on **First Thessalonians 2:17-19**, and "*God's Word Provides Hope*" based on **Romans 15:4**. I encourage you to read these texts ahead of time so that we will be prepared to hear what God has to say to us about something we all need—hope.

For what are you hoping? A better paying job? A future mate? Perfect children? A winning lottery ticket? We often use the word "hope" when referring to pipe dreams, wishful thinking, fantasies, and the like, but many people do not grasp what real hope is. The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines hope as "a wish or desire supported by some confidence of its fulfillment". In introducing this series, I defined hope as "the confident assurance that God will do what God said He would do." As followers of the risen Jesus, hope is grounded in our faith in God and His promises. No matter what we have done or what we are going through, hope is available to us because of three unchangeable truths found in Scripture. First, God is a God of second chances, forgiveness, and redemption. It is never too late to seek God's grace and mercy because He is always willing to treat us with compassion. **Psalm 103:10-13** tell us that God "... *has not punished us as our sins should be punished; he has not repaid us for the evil we have done. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who respect him. He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west.*" [NCV] Secondly, God has the power to make all things new—even you and me. God offers us a new beginning every day. **Lamentations 3:22-25** tell us that "*The LORD's love never ends; his mercies never stop. They are new every morning; LORD, your loyalty is great. I say to myself, 'The LORD is mine, so I hope in him.' The LORD is good to those who hope in him, to those who seek him.*" [NCV] And thirdly, God never withholds what is good from us, so we can have the hope that He will provide what we need and sustain us through every trial. **Psalm 34:10** tells us that "... *those who look to the LORD will have every good thing.*" [NCV] This is not a promise to provide us with health, wealth and prosperity, but it is a promise that assures us that God always has our best interest in mind so we can trust that He will bring about what He has promised and that His plan will ultimately satisfy our every righteous and just desire. In summary, our trust in God and His promises is the foundation of our hope. Satan wants to keep us in bondage to fear and dread, which lead to discouragement, despair, and depression, but "... *the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" [Romans 15:13, NCV] May the hope of the Lord be with you!

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be this Wednesday, February 15th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), at 11:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

Youth News

Our **Youth** are going **roller skating** on Sunday February 26th. Please drop your youth off at **Skatetown** (5713 North Broadway) at 2:00 p.m. Directions are on the rink's website, skatetownknox.com. Please pickup your youth at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$8.00 per person, this includes skate rental. Please **RSVP** to **Amands** or **Scott Roberts**.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, March 2nd, at **Aubrey's Restaurant, Papermill** (6005 Brookvale Lane), 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.

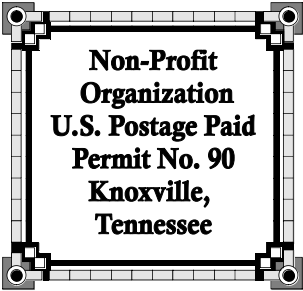
Denominational News

- ⇒ The Cumberland Presbyterian Church recently established another presbytery in Colombia, South America. **Emaus Presbytery** joins Andes Presbytery and Caca Valley Presbytery, giving our denomination three presbyteries in Colombia.
- ⇒ Save the Date: "The family of the late **Barb Lancaster** invites you to attend as our guests a dinner in her memory in support of **Christian Education for Children** set for Monday, April 17, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Vera Low Center for Student Enrichment (on the campus of Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee). More information to follow in March."

Church's Website

The church's website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four **Worship Services**.

*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



February 15th-21st

- 18th — Mindy Landry
- 19th — Chris Curtis
- 19th — Justin Curtis
- 19th — Daniel Saults

Our Faithfulness Record for February 12th

Sunday School	45
Worship Service	69
Offering	\$4,847.75
Building Reimbursement	\$1,055.00
Memorial Fund	\$25.00

Activities for February 15th-21st

- 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
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Mike Bachman is now out of the hospital and doing well following heart bypass surgery; it was great having him back worshiping with us last Sunday ~ **Kathy Byers**, daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker, is home and continues to do well following hip replacement surgery. ~ **Maxine Curtis** is still receiving outpatient physical rehab; she has been released to resume driving. ~ **Mary Hellen Daniel** is now home from the hospital; she will receive home healthcare for a couple of weeks. ~ **Tom Parrott**, son of Clift Parrott, had a stroke last week; he is now home and improving; Cliff has gone to Atlanta this week to check on him. ~ **Dianne Pipkin** had outpatient surgery on her thumb on Friday, February 10th; she is doing well. ~ **Marilyn Ritchey**, daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey, has completed radiation treatments for cancer and received a great report: no chemotherapy treatments necessary. ~ Congratulations to **Danni Robinson**, granddaughter of Jimmy and Maxine Curtis; she is expecting her second child. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, is still receiving in-home physical rehab for her recent fall; her Lymphoma is progressing, so she will soon begin chemotherapy treatments. ~ **Tom Witmer** had outpatient surgery on his sinus cavity on Friday, February 10th and oral surgery on Monday, February 13th; he is doing well from both surgeries.

Special Guests

It was great having **Gina Jenkins**; **Dannie, Erik**, and **Lien Robinson**, granddaughter and family of Jimmy and Maxine Curtis; and **Harriot Thompson**, friend of Allen and Sallie Cox, worshiping with us last Sunday.



Prayer Concern List
In the Hospital



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

Prayer Concerns

SEVERAL IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY WHO ARE BATTLING WINTER ILLNESSES; THE MANY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN AREA SCHOOL SYSTEMS WHO ARE BATTLING WINTER ILLNESSES; Mildred Acuff; Mike Bachman; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Kathy Byers (daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker); Charlotte Byrd; *Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries*; Maxine Curtis; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); James Fritz (school bus driver of Jonathon Spencer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Mark Hester; Betty and Bud Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Betty Kennedy (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Jewell Kerr; *our Kids Hope USA ministry*; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Alexi Lewallen (granddaughter of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; **TOM PARROT** (son of Cliff Parrott); Sara Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); *persecuted Christians around the world*; Dianne Pipkin; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marilyn Ritchey (daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey); Andy Rufo (nephew of Alice Montgomery); 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); Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); 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); **THE FAMILY OF WANDA WILKINSON** (aunt of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Bob Witmer (uncle of Tom Witmer); Lois and Tom Witmer

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

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the **Family of Wanda Wilkinson**, aunt of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, who passed way on Wednesday, February 8th. Please keep this family in your prayers.