

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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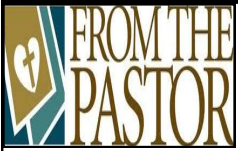
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 8, 2017



Last Sunday was yet another great day to be in the House of the Lord here at First Cumberland as we worshiped the risen Jesus and celebrated both **Denomination Day** and **Scout Sunday**. Several people have told me that it was the best **Scout Sunday** they could remember. With that in mind, I would like to thank all the scouts (Crew, Boy and Cub) and their leaders who participated in the service either through presenting special music (organ and violin), offering a prayer, serving as a greeter or an usher, or sharing some information about the scout groups that we sponsor here at First Cumberland. The number of scouts and their family members who attended the Worship Service are too many for me to list individually in this newsletter, but the presence of each and every one of them was greatly appreciated. I also want to thank you, as a congregation, for your gracious reception of our guests; as always, you showed yourselves to be a friendly and loving congregation.

Since last Sunday was also **Denomination Day**, I want to share a little of our history with you: The birth of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was spawned by the Great Revival of 1800, also called the Second Great Awakening, that swept across what was then the western frontier of the United States. The word *Cumberland* in our denomination's name comes from the Cumberland River valley where our church was founded. Our denomination was initially made up of the expelled members of the Presbyterian Church. On February 4, 1810, in the log cabin home of the Rev. Samuel McAdow, he, the Rev. Finis Ewing, and the Rev. Samuel King reorganized Cumberland Presbytery that the Kentucky Synod of the Presbyterian Church had dissolved over doctrinal and educational disagreements. With this reorganization came the prayerful hope of once again being recognized by the Presbyterian Church as a legitimate presbytery; this recognition did not occur. After rapid growth, Cumberland Presbytery became Cumberland Synod in 1813 and the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination was birthed in 1829 when the first General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was established. The new denomination arose and grew to minister to the spiritual needs of people living on the American frontier who turned from the Doctrine of Predestination and embraced the "Whosoever Will" gospel of the new church.

A replica of the Rev. Samuel McAdow's cabin now stands where our denomination was founded, and a sandstone chapel commemorating the event has been erected nearby; these two buildings are two of the main attractions in the surrounding Montgomery Bell State Park (near Dickson, Tennessee).

What is now known as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America—a primarily African-American denomination—split from the primarily white Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1874. The new denomination was mostly made up of freed slaves and was originally called the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church; it was later known as the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church before assuming its current name. Though currently two distinct denominations, we have always shared a *Confession of Faith* and have cooperated in many common ministries. A reunion attempt failed to win approval in the late 1980s. The two sister-denominations are currently working on a Plan for Union that holds great promise; please keep this effort in your prayers.

By 1900, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was the third largest Presbyterian body in the United States and was rapidly growing, having expanded westward all the way to California and Oregon. After making revisions to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* in 1903, the Presbyterian Church (USA) proposed reunification with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Following the votes of their respective presbyteries, both denominational General Assemblies ratified the vote in favor of the reunion in their 1906 meetings, resulting in about two-thirds of our membership leaving the denomination; the remaining third refused to join the merger and continued ministering as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

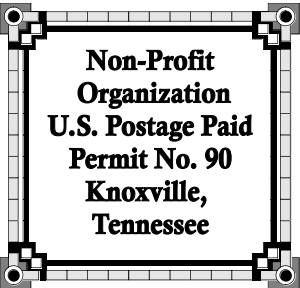
There is yet a third Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. If my memory serves me correctly, sometime in the mid-1960s, a small group known as the Upper Cumberland Presbyterian Church broke away from our denomination. Their primary disagreement was over the use of Bible translations; they objected to any translation other than the *King James Version* being used in corporate worship.

As with any church holding to a presbyterian polity, individual congregations are represented by elders (who form a Session to govern the local church) at Presbytery meetings. Presbyteries are generally geographical in their makeup. Presbyteries, in turn, send delegates to Synods and commissioners to General Assembly. Our General Assembly charges various boards and agencies with the day-to-day operation of the denomination. Cumberland Presbyterian congregations and missions may be found throughout the United States, as well as in several foreign countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea, and several closed countries), but are primarily located in the American South and border states, with strong concentrations in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, southern Illinois, Arkansas, and Texas.


As I said in last Sunday's sermon, the Introduction to our *Confession of Faith* begins with these words: "'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). This is 'the gospel in miniature.' It is true testimony to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world. It has been the testimony of Cumberland Presbyterians from the outset of their origin."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,
Pastor Mike

*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 8th-14th

9th — Stephanie Sauls

10th — Lindsay Bridges Rakes



Our Faithfulness Record for February 5 th	
Sunday School.....	49
Worship Service.....	118
Offering.....	\$8,792.25
Youth Fund.....	\$100.75
Music Fund.....	\$50.00
Memorial Fund.....	\$25.00

Activities for February 8th-14th

Wednesday: 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 had heart bypass surgery on Friday, February 3rd; he is still in the hospital and doing well. ~ **Dick Booher** went to the Emergency Room on Friday, February 3rd, with intestinal issues; he is home and improving. ~ **Kathy Byers**, daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker, is home and doing well following hip replacement surgery. ~ **Maxine Curtis** is still receiving outpatient physical rehab. ~ **Mary Helen Daniel** is in the hospital with blood pressure issues. ~ **Dianne Pipkin** will have outpatient surgery on her thumb Friday, February 10th. ~ **Marilyn Ritchey**, daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey, is undergoing radiation treatments for cancer. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, is still receiving in-home physical rehab. ~ **Tom Witmer** had an Evaluation System for Sacral Neuromodulation implanted on Thursday, February 2nd; the test has been completed and the implant was removed on Monday, February 6th; outpatient surgery will soon be scheduled.

Special Guests


It was great having **John** and **June Givens**, parents of Crissy Collins; **Jerry Thomas**; and **Barbara Weaver** worshipping with us last Sunday.

Update on the File Cabinets

Two file cabinets have been donated and money for a third one has been donated to help us store choir music.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, March 3rd, at **Aubrey’s Restaurant, Papermill** (6005 Brokevale 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.




Prayer Concern List

In the Hospital

Mike Bachman @ Parkwest Medical Center

Mary Helen Daniel @ Parkwest Medical Center

Prayer Concerns



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); 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; 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); 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.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, February 15th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), 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.

Church’s Website

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