

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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

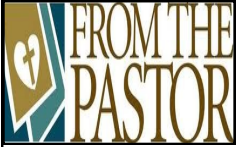
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

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

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 21, 2016



Joanna and I want to wish everyone who receives this newsletter a very merry **Christmas**! Our earnest prayer is that each of you truly experience all the joy, hope, peace, and love that the coming of the Lord brings to the lives of His followers. "**Joy to the World!**" is one of my favorite carols, and based on the way you sang this carol last Sunday during our Worship Service, it is one of yours

as well; as this much-loved carol states, May each of us prepare Christ room in but on every day of our lives. As you Sunday, and I hardly wait for us to gather newborn King; there is just something **Christmas Day**. Our Worship Service usual time; however, we will not have also look forward to seeing you on **Candlelight Communion Service**; this special service begins at 5:00 p.m. As Cumberland Presbyterians, we practice what is known as "open" *Communion*, which means that you do not have to be a member of First Cumberland, or any Cumberland Presbyterian congregation for that matter, to participate, so feel free to invite your family and friends to join us in this celebration.



"Let every heart prepare Him room,". our hearts, not just on **Christmas Day**, know, **Christmas Day** is this coming as a congregation to worship our special about gathering to worship of will begin at 10:45 a.m., which is our Sunday School on **Christmas Day**. I

**Christmas Eve** during our

**Christmas Eve** during our

On a personal note, Joanna and I want to thank you for each card and gift that we have received during this holiday season. We are truly blessed by God to be serving such a kind and generous congregation.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Holiday Ministry Opportunities

- \* 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. If you have not already done so, simply place your gifts on either of the "**Mitten Trees**" this coming Sunday.
- \* **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 food 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** will still be open this coming Sunday 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

- \* Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ **Christmas Eve** ~ **Candlelight Communion Service**, at 5:00 p.m.
- \* Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ **Christmas Day** ~ no Sunday School ~ **Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m.
- \* Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> ~ **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**.

### Stewardship Campaign Update


We have now received 35 *Estimated Giving Cards* for 2017 totaling \$159,600.00. Thank you for both your generosity and faithfulness.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*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 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**

22nd - Tammy Eblen  
23rd - Laura Paschke



Our Faithfulness Record for December 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday School.....	58
Worship Service.....	88
Offering.....	\$4,018.05
Memorial Fund.....	\$75.00
Disaster Relief Fund.....	\$50.00
Youth Fund.....	\$140.00
Music Fund.....	\$50.00

### Activities December 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice  
Saturday: **Christmas Eve**  
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion  
Sunday: **Christmas Day**  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

**Among Our People**

**Mason Atkins**, grandson of Susan Edwards, was born on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, not on December 9<sup>th</sup> as originally reported. ~ **Larry Fielder** had outpatient surgery on his knee last Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>; he is doing well. ~ **Jewell Kerr** continues to have a heart-rhythm issue. ~ Congratulations to **Kenan** and **Sarah Pipkin Saxton** on their marriage last Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. ~ It was great having **Sherie Shetterly** back worshipping with us last Sunday.

**Special Guests**


It was great having **Megan, Leah, and Lucas Bonfield**, family of Diane Pipkin; **Melanie Hester Kuhnhen**n, sister of Dianne Pipkin; and **Paul Pipkin** worshipping with us last Sunday.

**Denomination Day Celebration**

First Cumberland will host the *Presbytery of East Tennessee's 2017 Denomination Day Celebration* Sunday afternoon, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m. Following the celebration, a meal will be served in our Gym; donations for the meal accepted. This special musical Worship Service will feature a Presbyterial Choir, as well as various church choirs, and soloists. For those interested in joining the Presbyterial Choir, meet at the Talbot Cumberland Presbyterian Church for practice Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>; both practices will start at 3:00 p.m.

**Church's Website**

The church's website, [www.first-cumberland.org](http://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)



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); **LARRY FIELDER**; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; *Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program*, 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 Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at **The Lunch House** (3816 Holston Drive), 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.