

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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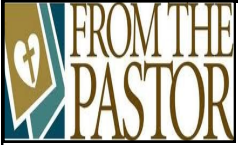
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"*Loving God, Loving People*"

December 7, 2016



I want to thank everyone who helped make our participation in this last weekend's third annual **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade** a successful outreach event. This year, in addition to our float full of church folk, we had a car with signs promoting our church entered in the parade. Plus, we had a booth in the shopping center parking lot where we gave away free coffee and hot chocolate, as well as informational brochures about our congregation.

This coming Sunday, our **Choir** will present its *Christmas music* during our morning Worship Service. *Christmas* is one of those times when people who do not normally attend church are often open to being invited; this is especially true when the invitation is to attend a musical presentation. With that in mind, I am asking each of us to invite our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and anyone else that comes to mind (cashiers when we shop, servers when we dine out, etc.) to join us this coming Sunday morning, at 10:45 a.m., for this special time of worship. Our **Choir** has worked hard to learn the music, and it will be an outstanding presentation in spite of my "singing", but that is not the primary reason I am asking you to invite folks to attend with you (do not miss the "attend with you" part). The prime reason I am making this request of each of us is so that as many people as possible can join in the anticipation of the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior—Jesus Christ.

Poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary for *Christmas Eve* and *Christmas Day* can 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.

Stewardship Campaign Update: To date, we have received 34 *Estimated Giving Cards for 2017*, totaling \$157,440.00. I understand this to be the highest our estimated giving has been in at least fifteen years.

In closing, I want to thank you for your prayers, thoughts, and concerns surrounding my recent outpatient surgery. I am still quite sore, but doing very well.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Holiday Ministry Opportunities

- * A big **thank you** to all who contributed items for the **Volunteer Ministry Center's Christmas Store**. The box, and it was a full one, was picked up on Monday, November 27th. They were very appreciative of our participation.
- * We have two "**Mitten Trees**" in the Narthex. Throughout the month of December, we will be collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for children in Appalachia to 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**" in the Library. 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 under the tree, by 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.

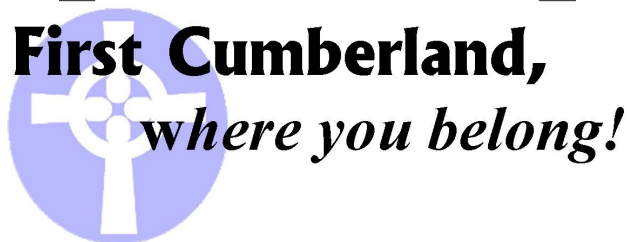
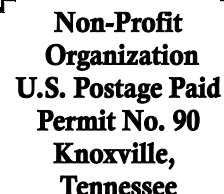
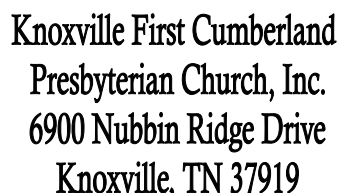
Upcoming Events

- * Saturday, December 10th ~ **Choir Practice**, at 10:30 a.m.
- * Sunday, December 11th ~ **Third Sunday of Advent** ~ Our **Choir** will present this year's *Christmas music* during our **Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m.
- * Tuesday, December 13th ~ **West Circle Meeting** and **Christmas Potluck Luncheon**, at 11:00 a.m.
- * 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**.

*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.*



Happy Birthday
December 7th-13th

12th ~ Allison Davis
13th ~ Susan Shelton

Our Faithfulness Record for December 4th

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	77
Offering.....	\$11,104.25
Building Reimbursement.....	\$144.90
Building Maintenance.....	\$4,207.00
Youth Fund.....	\$220.00
Music Fund.....	\$100.00

Activities December 7th-13th

Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday:	10:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday:	11:00 a.m.	West Circle Meeting and Lunch

(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Bonnie Bridges is still awaiting the results of a recent medical test she underwent. ~ It was great having **Judy Gammon** back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ **Wayne Haddox**, father of Ryan Haddox, will have a procedure to repair a second carotid artery on Wednesday, December 14th. ~ **Jewell Kerr** had another cardiac ablation last week; unfortunately, it was not successful. ~ **Kim Halbert** continues to recover from her recent outpatient procedure and is improving slowly. ~ It was great having **Danni, Erik, and Lien Robinson** (family of Jimmy and Maxine Curtis) back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ **Pastor Mike** continues to recover from his recent outpatient surgery and is doing well. ~ It was great having **Lois Witmer** back worship with us last Sunday.

Youth Christmas Party

On 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).

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ***Ladies' Ministry*** will meet on Tuesday, December 13th, which is a week later than normal, at 11:00 a.m. in the Keene Room. They will have a **Potluck Luncheon** after the meeting. All the ladies of the church are both encouraged and invited to attend.

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.



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 AN 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; Bill Gregory (friend of Greg Beeler); Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; ***Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program;*** 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 Wednesday, December 14th, at **Copper Celler 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.