

**PRAYER CONCERNS - MEMBERS**

*Bill and June Black* - Bill received a liver transplant December 5th and is recovering at their apartment in AZ.

*Colby Bolen* - is out of the hospital with a heart monitor.

*Geneva Empfield* - fell and broke her femur, is in NHC.

*Mitzi Griffin* - broke her right elbow.

*Dotty Herron* - Has been diagnosed with Hyper Parathyroid Disease.

*Thomas Qualls* - Had cataract surgery December 13th and saw a neurosurgeon on the 16th.

*Tina Sansom* - Had surgery Dec. 18th and is recovering at home.

*Thom Smith* - Stage 3 multiple myeloma. He is undergoing chemo.

**PRAYER CONCERNS - FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

*Caleb Boulware*, 17 yr old relative of Mitzi Griffin, bone and lung cancer.

*Frank Bullard*, nephew of Becky Bullard, health issues.

*Ford Deese*, will have an MRI every 3 months.

*Alethea Earl*, Thomas Quall's sister, severe pain in her remaining leg.

*Gary Hagenauer*, the son of Richard & Emily Hagenauer, stage 4 lung cancer.

*Ed LaPan*, Nephew of Betty Hitchcock, passed away December 17th.

*Creta Ross*, sister of Carolyn Qualls, diagnosed with A-fib, congestive heart failure, a clot in the heart, and infection in the aortic valve.

*Dick Schreiber*, Brother of Meg Schreiber, serious health issues.

*Suzette Stiles*, Ollie Nolan's niece, dealing with several health issues.

*Bonnie Wills*, great aunt of Alexandra Courtney, has lung cancer.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Cumberland  
Presbyterian Church  
127 Lafayette Drive  
P.O. Box 4836  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4836



**The Promoter**

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4836  
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www.1stpc.org  
Rev. Dr. Larry Blakeburn, Pastor  
**January 6, 2025**

**THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY**

The Christian Year doesn't begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It begins with the **season of Advent**, a four-week period of preparation for Christ's birth. Advent is followed by the **Christmas season**, which begins on Christmas Day and lasts for twelve days. The liturgical color for the Christmas season is white for joy and purity.

The **Season of Epiphany** begins on January 6 (Epiphany Day), and lasts for six Sundays and the beginning of the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. With the exception of the Easter season, the Epiphany of our Lord is the oldest festival of the church year.

The word **Epiphany** means to *show*. *Manifestation* is another word used to describe the meaning of Epiphany. It's the manifestation of the glory of God in sending Christ into the world. Epiphany has also been called *Theophany*, meaning the appearance of God. In the Western Church, Epiphany became associated with the coming of the Wise Men (Magi). They were ancient astrologers who were regarded as the wise men of their time. Since the Wise Men (Magi) were not Jews, the importance of the message of Epiphany deals with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It's profound that those who saw the Christ child were poor shepherds and respected wise men. Jews and Gentiles. The gospel is meant for rich and poor alike, the educated and uneducated. In other words, Jesus Christ was sent for the entire world! Therefore, the season has become a time for emphasis on the missionary task of the church. The color for the Epiphany season is green for new life.

**UPCOMING SERMONS**

**January 12**

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

Children's Time: *Duncan Shelton*

Sermon: *Dealing with Regret*

Scripture: *Luke 15:11-24*

**January 19**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Children's Time: *Pastor*

Sermon: *The Weeds in Our Wheat Field*

Scripture: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39*

**Our Faithfulness**

**December 29th:**

Sunday School: 19

Worship: 81

Offering: \$4,888.00

**January 5th:**

Sunday School: 13

Worship: 44

Offering: \$1,915.00

**THE SESSION**

**Class of 2025**

Glenn Clemons

Mitzi Griffin

Jon Keck

**Class of 2026**

Pam Leckey

Thom Smith

Sidney Thurmer

**Class of 2027**

Margaret Harper

Theresa McKerrick

Barry Shelton

«AddressBlock»

Dear Members of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church,

I am writing to let you know that my mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Schow, passed away peacefully at her home in Knoxville on Tuesday, December 3rd. I visited her at Thanksgiving and the week before and she was in good spirits and enjoyed our visit. She was 93 and lived a long and fulfilling life. My father, O.E. Schow, passed away in 2012 so it is comforting to think of them together again.

Our family wants to thank all of you especially the women of the church for your faithfulness and kindness to my mother while she was homebound. Every holiday (and more often) you sent cards and every week she received your newsletter and study sheets. Every Christmas without fail you sent gifts of candy, socks, and toiletries which were greatly appreciated. One year you sent a fleecy blanket with a stag and doe pictured. She named the deer "Jessie" and "Myrtle" (after her grandparents), and she used that blanket every single day. When we would cover her back up with this blanket we always said, "Here are Jessie and Myrtle" and we would laugh together. I will keep this blanket always because of the lovely memories it holds for me.

My mother and father loved your little church and the years they worshipped there with you. We are also very appreciative of your prayers, especially from Margaret Schreiber. She was so loyal and faithful, and Mom really enjoyed her communications.

God bless you and thank you again for all your love and support.

Yours,

*Susan Schow*  
66 Roberts Hill Road  
Topsham, Maine 04086

### ADULT CHOIR

I have heard from many of you how much you enjoyed the choir's music during the holidays. Now I would like for you to consider joining us. There are really only two requirements. One, be at least 14 years old, and two, be able to "carry a tune." It isn't necessary to read music, although that is a help. If you enjoy singing, if only in the shower, we would like you to join us. We will begin practicing again on January 12th after worship. I hope to see you there!

*Carlton Harper, Interim Choir Director*

### BIRTHDAYS

01/09 Gerald Poulin  
01/11 Emily Hagenauer  
01/14 Mary Rhodes  
01/17 Barry Shelton  
01/19 Barbara Spence



### INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

We have four ways of notifying our members and friends about cancellations due to weather conditions.

**Email:** An email message will be sent notifying everyone on the congregational email list of any changes in church activities.

**Phone Call:** We will activate a phone chain and attempt to call everyone listed.

**Answering Machine:** Call the church office and you will hear a recorded message concerning cancellations.

**Church Sign:** The electronic sign will display a message regarding cancellations.

### WORD BIBLE STUDY GROUP

*The Word Bible Study Group* started a study of the Book of Genesis in December. "Genesis is the Book of beginnings. In this book we find the beginnings of the material universe, human life, human sin, divine judgment on human sin, covenant promises, and the Israelite tribes... Genesis provides a foundation for a great deal of what we can know about life and our Lord."

Sunday, January 12: *God Destroys the Cities of the Plain* (Genesis 18:16-20:18)

Sunday, January 19: *God Fulfills His Promise to Abraham* (Genesis 21:1-25:18)

### JOURNEY STUDY GROUP

*The Journey Study Group* is exploring "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer. "Packer helps you know more about God and know God more through a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Engaging, practical, and thought-provoking, it will enliven your faith and fill you with wonder and joy."

This class meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.

### YOUTH CHOIR

We are starting a youth choir for all kids in the church. We will practice during Children's Chapel after they have their lesson. It is our hope that the children will sing in church one Sunday a month. Please encourage your children to participate!

*Theresa McKenrick and Margaret Harper* will be leading the choir, please contact them for more information.