

**PRAYER CONCERNS - MEMBERS**

**Bill and June Black** - are coming home on Tuesday, Feb. 4th!

**Colby Bolen** - Health issues.

**Bud Brown** - recovering from knee replacement surgery.

**Jackie Early** - fell and broke a rib.

**Geneva Empfield** - fell and broke her femur, she is in room 109 at the Courtyards.

**Thomas Qualls** - Saw a neurosurgeon Jan 16th for evaluation of cervical surgery.

**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**

**Jennifer Boneta**, friend of Kay Terrell, unable to take chemotherapy due to health issues.

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

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

**Ford Deese**, is in remission!

**Alethea Earl**, Thomas Quall's sister, being treated for leg pain, improving.

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

**James Jones**, friend of Mary Rhodes, health issues.

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

**Sue Ellen Mosler**, sister of Mary Rhodes, health issues.

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

**Pete Ruyf**, recovering from knee replacement surgery.

**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 Amy Courtney, passed away January 26th.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

«AddressBlock»



**The Promoter**

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Rev. Dr. Larry Blakeburn, Pastor

**February 3, 2025**

**THE BIRTH OF A DENOMINATION**

The Cumberland Presbyterian denomination celebrates its 215<sup>th</sup> birthday Tuesday. Our denomination had its beginning in a log cabin in Dickson County, Tennessee on **February 4, 1810**. It was an outgrowth of the Great Revival of 1800 – one of the most powerful revivals that this country has ever witnessed. The founders of the church were three Presbyterian ministers, Finis Ewing, Samuel King, and Samuel McAdow, who rejected the doctrine of predestination as taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith. The reasoning of McAdow, Ewing, and King was that this doctrine did not have a solid basis in Scripture. They adopted a **“whosoever will”** doctrine based on John 3:16. “For God so loved **the world** that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.” This is “the gospel in miniature.” It’s the true testimony of Cumberland Presbyterians from the beginning.

**A “Brief Statement”** was published setting forth the points where Cumberland Presbyterians dissented from the Westminster Confession of Faith. They are as follows:

1. That there are no eternal reprobates.
2. That Christ died not for a part only, but for all mankind.
3. That all infants dying in infancy are saved through Christ and the sanctification of the Spirit.
4. That the Spirit of God operates on the world ... in such a manner as to leave all men inexcusable.

**Our Vision of Ministry:**

Biblically-based and Christ-centered

born out of a specific sense of mission,

the Cumberland Presbyterian Church strives to be true to its heritage:

to be open to God’s reforming spirit,

to work cooperatively with the larger Body of Christ,

and to nurture the connectional bonds that make us one.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ in witness and service to the world and, above all, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church lives out the love of God to the glory of Jesus Christ.



**UPCOMING SERMONS**

**February 9**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Children’s Time: *Amelia Shelton*

Sermon: *Myths about Marriage*

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13*

**February 16th**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Children’s Time: *Patricia Pace*

Sermon: *Rev. Harper*

**Our Faithfulness**

**January 26th:**

Sunday School: 25

Worship: 85

Offering: \$5,275.00

**February 2nd:**

Sunday School: 26

Worship: 78

Offering: \$5,320.00

**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 McKenrick

Barry Shelton

## VALENTINE'S DAY: THE LOVE OF GOD

By Allison Richmond

We often think of Valentine's Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God's unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine's Day can be a bitter reminder of their singleness and desire for a relationship. Luckily, God doesn't leave anyone, single or in a relationship, out of His unending love and grace.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

God is love itself. We wouldn't have any conception of "love" at all if it weren't for God, the definition of love.

God further defines love in the classic 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that reads, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

God describes love in this way, and then tells us that He is love. This further emphasizes that God himself is all of these things.

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God's love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

We often read this 1 Corinthians passage near Valentine's Day or at weddings to remind us what love should look like, but God is the perfect demonstration of it.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

He gave up His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

The theologian C.S. Lewis once said, "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less."

God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth, He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine's Day, remember to set your sights not on earthly relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

We love because  
H E  
F I R S T  
loved us.

### BIRTHDAYS

2/3 Bill Black  
2/10 Janis Poulin  
Lilli Huskey  
2/16 Susan Holsopple



### WORD BIBLE STUDY GROUP

*The Word Bible Study Group* is studying the Book of Genesis. "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."

They meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Bible Discussion classroom.

Sunday, February 9: *God Establishes Joseph in Egypt* (Genesis 37-41)

Sunday, February 16: *Joseph and His Family Are Reunited* (Genesis 42:1-47:26)

### 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.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor– Rev. Larry Blakeburn  
Secretary– Tracy Dunlap  
Organist– Barbara Spence

Treasurer– Blake Shelton  
Interim Music Dir.– Rev. Harper  
Pianist– Kim Keck

Facebook Administrator– Harold Ketterer  
Youth Leaders– Duncan & Amelia Shelton

