

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.
Sam Early - Passed away November 15th.
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. She will also have cataract surgery in both eyes.
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.
Betty Schow - Passed away Tuesday, December 3rd.
Thom Smith - Stage 3 multiple myeloma. He is undergoing chemo.

PRAYER CONCERNS - FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Caleb Boulware, 17-year-old relative of Mitzi Griffin, has bone and lung cancer. He is tolerating chemo treatments.
Frank Bullard, nephew of Becky Bullard, health issues.
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.

UPCOMING SERMONS

December 24
Christmas Eve Communion Service

December 29
First Sunday after Christmas
Children's Time: *Patricia Pace*
Solo: *It Is No Secret*—Robert Terrell
Sermon: *The Interregnum*—Rev. Harper
Scripture: *Luke 2:33-40*

January 5
Second Sunday after Christmas
Children's Time: *Amelia Shelton*
Sermon: *First Things First*
Scripture: *John 1:1-18*

Our Faithfulness

December 15th:	December 22nd:
Sunday School: N/A	Sunday School: 20
Worship: 108	Worship: 85
Offering: \$6,213.01	Offering: \$3,753.98

THE SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Glenn Clemons	Pam Leckey	Margaret Harper
Mitzi Griffin	Thom Smith	Theresa McKenrick
Jon Keck	Sidney Thurmer	Barry Shelton

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

«AddressBlock»



Merry Christmas

The Promoter

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
127 Lafayette Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4836
(865) 483-8433
www.1stpc.org
Rev. Dr. Larry Blakeburn, Pastor
December 23, 2024

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The Advent Season began on Sunday, December 1, and will end on Christmas Eve. There are four Sundays in Advent. The Christmas Season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. There are two Sundays in the Christmas Season this year. Are you familiar with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*? What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and a partridge in a pear tree have to do with Christmas? Let me share the following explanation with you.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that time wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
The five golden rings recalled the Torah (Law), the first 5 books of the Bible.
The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
The eight maids a-milking were the Beatitudes.
Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Spirit:
Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Thank You

TORCH

Thank you for being a TORCH Bearer and giving graciously to the “Roof Over Their Head” offering. Together, we raised **\$2,560** to help fight homelessness in Anderson County! To each and every person who donated— you can rest assured that a family is sleeping safely tonight because of *you*. **Thank you** all for your contributions to this amazing cause!

LOAVES AND FISHES

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “Loaves and Fishes” offering. We are pleased to announce that the total amount collected was **\$1,820!** Of these funds, 75% -*equaling* \$1,365— was given to the Guatemala Hot Lunch Program and 25% -*equaling* \$455— was given to Second Harvest of East Tennessee. Because of your offerings, many meals will be provided for those in need. **Thank you!**

GIFT TO THE KING

This year, the “Gift to the King” offering was sent to Nan Akou, in rural Haiti. They will use this contribution to help complete the construction of a Cumberland church building. Any additional funds will support medical and nutritional programs in the area. **Thank you** to everyone who gave to this cause—together we raised **\$1930!**

- *First Cumberland Presbyterian
Missions Ministry*

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

As we reflect on the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for each one of you. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our church community, your active participation in worship, and your dedication to serving others. This year has been a testament to our faith, unity, and love for one another. We have shared in uplifting worship experiences, enriched our spiritual journeys, and supported our local and global missions. Your willingness to lend a hand, share your talents, and open your hearts has made a significant impact in the lives of many. We are truly blessed to have such a vibrant congregation that embodies the spirit of Christ in all that we do. As we look ahead to the new year, let us carry forward the joy, hope, and service that has defined our time together. May God continue to bless each of you abundantly.

With heartfelt appreciation, FCPC Staff

BIRTHDAYS

12/27 Margaret Harper
12/29 Mason Williams
Margo DeMaster
01/02 Amanda Griffin-Weaver



ANNIVERSARIES

01/04 Bill & June Black



ALTAR FLOWERS

As we start the new year, we will need to replenish the altar flower fund. If anyone would like to contribute to this fund, please be sure to make checks payable to First Cumberland Presbyterian and put “altar flowers” in the memo line of your check, or include a note with your cash donation. We appreciate all contributions to our effort to keep the sanctuary adorned in fresh flowers for worship. *If you have any questions, please reach out to Becky Hughes.*

Thank you!

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.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - *Rev. Larry Blakeburn* Treasurer - *Blake Shelton*
Secretary - *Tracy Dunlap* Organist - *Barbara Spence*
Pianist - *Kim Keck* Interim Music Dir. - *Rev. Harper*
Facebook Administrator - *Harold Ketterer*
Youth Leaders - *Duncan & Amelia Shelton*

