

Cumberland *connection*

APRIL 13, 2025



Today's Order of Worship

- Welcome - Ben Eldridge
- Opening Prayer - David Stewart
- Singing - Josh Harris (Song Leader)
- Communion:
 - Presiding - Rod McAninch
 - Serving - Jack Dick, Josh Goforth, Cory Johnson, Jason Johnson
- Singing
- Scripture Reading - Don Moss
- Message - "WE > ME" - Alan Blackwell
- Invitation Song
- Offering / Announcements - Ben Eldridge
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Robin Vinovich

Church Events

- Apr 13th - Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 13th - Fellowship Meal to honor the Cherry family
- Apr 14th - Alzheimer's Support Group
- Children's Church & Nursery Available - Each Sunday ages 3 - 5th grade have a time together to learn immediately following Communion. Also, during our entire worship time we have a staffed nursery available for the younger kids.
- Wednesday - Mid-Week Bible Study - Adults - Study of Genesis - Classes for other ages also available.

Scripture - Psalm 133

- ¹ How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
- ² It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down the collar of his robe.
- ³ It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Prayer Requests

MEMBERS:

- Bill Bryan - Temporal Arthritis & Health Issues
- Gracie Fortenberry - Health Issues
- Junior Fortenberry - Spiritual Healing / Growth
- Phyllis Hogston - Health Issues
- Pauline Kahlert - Leukemia Treatments
- Charles Kahlert - Colon Cancer
- Loretta Morgan - Health Issues
- June Osborne - Health Issues
- Fonda VanHook - Health Issues

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

- Della Asher - Losing Sight (mother of Wally Asher)
- Donny Ayers - Health Issues
- Braxton Ballou - Kidney Issues from infection (grandson of Ben & Ruby Eldridge)
- Johnny Bradford - Colon Cancer (brother of Kim Asher)
- Helen Colwell - Health Issues (cousin of Pauline Kahlert)
- Chris & Colton Green - Father and son who are friends of the Leung family. Chris has lung cancer and Colton is struggling with mental issues.
- Jesse Hammock - Health and Spiritual Healing (brother-in-law of Scott Francis)
- Lena Miniard - Health Issues (cousin of Pauline Kahlert)
- Brittany Moss - Physical & Spiritual Healing
- Harbor Moss - Health Issues
- Rhonda Saylor - Cancer (mother of Justin Napier)
- Kelsey Sullivan - (daughter of Margaret Sullivan)
- Ronnie Wilson - Health Issues - (uncle of Donna Kislan)

"Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is making to you today.

1 Kings 8:28



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wednesday 4/16

Robin Vinovich

Saturday 4/19

Jason Johnson

Sunday 4/20

Mitch and Madonna Compton

Tuesday 4/22

Betty Monk

Tuesday 4/29

Josh Harris

Preacher's Pen

"until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

- Ephesians 4:13.

This past Wednesday evening during our Mid-Week gathering we took some time to talk specifically about numerical growth here at Cumberland. We did so recognizing that we have experienced quality spiritual growth in many members over the past couple of years, but seem to be lacking in numerical growth at this time.

This discussion was driven primarily by the responses to our building campaign survey cards that so many of you filled out. Thank you so much for your input as it is always helpful to know where others stand on such issues.

I shared with the congregation that the overwhelming majority (just over 75%) focused on two primary areas where they felt attention was most needed.

First and foremost was to fix any flooding issues in the basement immediately. GREAT NEWS! We believe these issues have been corrected and certainly over the past couple of weeks since the repairs were done they have received a good period of testing.

Second was the need to grow numerically. While it is great that we doubled in average attendance the first couple of years I was here, I had to honestly say I didn't feel like I had been helping us grow these past couple of years.

To try to promote and direct our discussion we focused on two main questions:

1. What are the greatest factors inhibiting our growth?
2. What can we do to better promote growth?

In answering these questions we had what I felt was a very open and honest discussion based in love and grace.

While we don't have room here to share everything said, some highlights of what was inhibiting growth were:

- People who just want to be entertained
- A lack of commitment from members
- A lack of evangelistic resources (new people to talk to about Jesus)
- Feeling "brow-beaten" by the preacher

While I want to be clear that my preaching style is probably not going to greatly change as there are always areas we need to grow as disciples, let me ask your forgiveness if I have made anyone here ever feel "brow-beaten."

That most certainly has never been my intent and I would be happy to discuss this situation in person with anyone that does feel that way.



The answer to the second question didn't get much discussion as we began to run short on time. However, we did discuss the need to have more activities/events to draw people to our congregation, and the need to get word of those events out into our community better.

We closed our time with what I will call a triple challenge for the congregation. Events are great, but they alone will not grow a congregation. I want us to try and think outside of the norms and do something out of our comfort zone.

When I arrived here at Cumberland, and I suppose for many years before that, there was a "mantra" or mission statement if you will that was three part. We would 1. Grow in Faith, 2. Share our Hope, and 3. Serve in Love. To that end let me lovingly challenge each of us with the following triple challenge over the next 30 days and beyond.

1. **Grow in Faith:** Write something different that you find to be a positive attribute about Cumberland each day for the next 30 days. Then pray each day specifically thanking God for that specific attribute He has given us here at Cumberland.
2. **Share Our Hope:** Over the next 30 days search the scriptures each day specifically to seek what God's will is for His Church. Then, pray that God's will reigns supreme in your heart. Finally, each week find someone to pray with specifically asking for God's will to be done here at Cumberland.
3. **Serve in Love:** Find someone who has been at Cumberland as long as you have, but that you do not interact with on a regular basis, and ask them to have a meal or coffee with you. Then focus on accepting people who come into Cumberland before they accept us.

That last part was a challenge not to just welcome people when they visit, but to accept them by making them a part of your group. Ask them to your small group, your lunch, your house, whatever would make you feel accepted if you were visiting.

Our logo changed to the tree of life, but the core principles never did. The new logo was the idea of being rooted in Christ Jesus. If we as the branches are attached to Him as the vine then we will by nature be growing in our faith, sharing our hope, and serving in love. If all of us are doing those things together I have trouble seeing how other people would not want to be a part of that.

“WE > ME” - John 17

[illegible]

cumberlandcoc.org

Sunday—Bible Study ----- 9:30 a.m.
Sunday—Worship ----- 10:30 a.m.
LifeGroups ----- Various Times

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