

**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021**

PRELUDE/GATHERING

Jerrie Sue Massengale

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN OUR MIDST

A TIME OF CENTERING

Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus)

Jerrie Sue Massengale

*HYMN, 2090 VERSE 1-3

Light the Advent Candle

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE, 229

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-17

SERMON

“Christmas Fruit”

Buddy Butler

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 885

A Modern Affirmation

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*DOXOLOGY, 95 **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CANTATA

WHAT *Christmas* REALLY MEANS

Created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith, Arranged and Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin

It's Christmas

Emmanuel Shall Come

Joy Turner, Narrator

O Holy Night!

Jesus, Born on This Day

April Butler, Soloist

What Child Is This?

Silent Night

What Christmas Really Means with Birthday of a King

It's Christmas (Finale)

*SENDING FORTH

*FOLLOWING CHRIST INTO THE WORLD, TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO OUR COMMUNITY

*POSTLUDE

Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus)

Jerrie Sue Massengale

*Congregation standing, as able

~~~~

**Love and sympathy** is expressed to Catherine Lange upon the recent passing of her sister, who had been under hospice care. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The Son Seekers Sunday School class are studying ***Awaiting the Already*** by Magrey R. deVega during Advent and YOU are invited!!! We have some print copies on hand for \$4.75 - or you can get it as a Kindle book for just under \$10. We anticipate many blessings from this study.



The United Methodist Women would like to thank all those who have already purchased pecans. Still available are caramel pecan clusters, milk (4 left) and dark chocolate pecans as well as medium pieces, and small pieces of plain pecans at \$11.00 each. The small pieces are delayed but should be available soon. The halves and cinnamon have sold out!

Copies of our updated church directory are in the Narthex to assist in sending out Christmas cards.

**Upper Rooms** for January-February are available in the Narthex today.

The church office will be closed December 24—31. **The deadline for December 24, 26, and January 2 bulletin information is 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 23.** Normal office hours resume on January 3.

Lissa Robertson Knight will present a **candlelight piano concert** entitled “In the Mood” today at 7 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Blue Ridge. She will perform pieces from Chopin, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov and Shostakovich. There will also be a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long. Admission is free but a love offering will be received. Everyone is invited!

A **Christmas benefit concert** will be held on Saturday, December 18, at 6 p.m. at the old Epworth School’s auditorium, at 125 Schoolhouse Road, Epworth, to raise money for the campus’ restoration and maintenance. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door.

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box - peanut butter, **jelly, breakfast cereal, oatmeal, canned meat, tuna**, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, **rice, soup, chili**, canned vegetables, etc. *Thanks to all who contribute - the families are always grateful.*





**Church Leadership**

**Pastor** Gilbert "Buddy" Butler  
**Choir Director** Ben Sexton  
**Accompanist** Jerrie Sue Massengale  
**Secretary** Heidi Rule  
**Custodian** Christine Dowlin

**Sunday Servants**

**Ushers** Smokey Brooks Larry Collis  
 Shirley Russell\*  
 \*Team captain  
**Sound Techs** Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer  
**Webmaster** Marti Lane

**Our Prayer Concerns**

**Our Congregation:** Carolyn Weese, Hannah Geren (Covid), Beth Geren (Covid), Ed Massengale, Barb Bender, Dellon Ash

**Homebound/Assisted Living:** Fay Norwood, Emily Yaxley, ^+Warrene Alexander

**Others in our prayers:** Roy and Joanne McKibben (Covid), Terry Scott (in ICU), The family of Courtney Kendall Turner (friend of Janis Martin), The family of Rev. Carl Ware, Jr., Jerry Panchyshyn, Carrie Collis (Covid and pneumonia), Weldon Self, Jr., Katrina Griggs (Covid—daughter of Alan Abernathy), Cheryl Tipton, Mary Louise Landrum, Sandra Williams (sister-in-law of Joy Turner), Bill Grindstaff, Maria Ruark (mother of Evelyn Stemmann), Lacey Burnette and family, Sandy Graham, Judy Potter (cancer treatments), Phoebe Ann Smith (therapy after car accident), Bob and Sherry Welch, Wilma Sexton (mother of Ben Sexton), Marti Lane's cousin Bill Rider (in remission), David Queen (brain tumor), Jessie Lebo (grandmother of April Butler), Ricky Callihan, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, first responders, our armed forces

\*new to concerns +Hospital ^Assisted Living/Nursing Home ~ Hospice

**If you would like to add someone to our Prayer Concerns, please call the church office.**

**Birthdays**

16 Alex Loudermilk 17 Carolyn Weese 18 Ron Singleton

**If your birthday or anniversary has not appeared in our listings please call the church office.**

The Community Meal is held on Mondays, 4—6 p.m. Meals are "to go" only. There is no charge for meals but donations are accepted and appreciated. The UMM are cooking tomorrow so we want to invite our men to come and help. If you would like to help, please contact Sheppie Dunn or Evelyn Stemmann. 131 meals were served on Monday. The Community Meal phone number is 423-241-2282.

**Calendar**

|                        |                                |                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b>           | <b>Monday</b>                  | <b>Thursday</b>                  |
| 10:00 am Sunday School | 4:00 pm Community Meal "To Go" | 6:00 pm AA Meeting (Legacy Hall) |
| 11:00 am Worship       | <b>Wednesday</b>               |                                  |
|                        | 11:00 am Advent Bible Study    |                                  |
|                        | 6:00 pm Choir Practice         |                                  |

**Church: 423-496-4931 ♦ Parsonage: 423-548-6348 ♦ Pastor's Cell: 423-429-3820**  
**Email: firstumc@etcm.com ♦ Website: fumc-copperhill.org**  
**Facebook: First United Methodist Church-Copperhill**  
**Secretary's Office Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

