

**Service of the Longest Night
December 21, 2021**

Prelude *Silent Night* Jerrie Sue Massengale
Arranged by Dan Coates

Words of Welcome Buddy Butler

*Hymn, 196 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Special Music *Do You See What I See?* Buddy and April Butler

Reading of God's Word Psalm 22; Matthew 11:28, 29

Sermon "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" Buddy Butler

Candle Lighting: Litany of Remembrance

One: We light this candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us this season which anticipates Christ.

May God's eternal love surround them. (in unison)

Hymn, 211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 1st verse only, no refrain

Two: We light this second candle to redeem the pain and loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, and the loss of health. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to You oh God. Asking that into our welcome hearts and open hands, you place the gift of peace.

Refresh, restore, renew us, Oh God, and lead us into Your future. (in unison)

Hymn, 211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 2nd verse only, no refrain

Three: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us, years of down times. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, and the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness. (in unison)

Hymn, 211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 3rd verse only, no refrain

Four: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in the Christmas story. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

Let us remember the one who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows. (in unison)

Hymn, 211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 4th verse and refrain

Personal Candle Lighting

Holy Communion

*Closing Hymn, 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Sending Forth

Postlude *Silent Night* Jerrie Sue Massengale

*Congregation standing, as able

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: *The family of Fay Norwood, Carolyn Weese, Hannah Geren (Covid), Beth Geren (Covid), Ed Massengale, Barb Bender, Dellon Ash

Homebound/Assisted Living: Emily Yaxley, ^Warrene Alexander

Others in our prayers: Richard Meyers (complications after lung surgery—brother of Elaine Minor), Roy and Joanne McKibben (Covid), Terry Scott (in ICU), Jerry Panchyshyn, Carrie Collis, 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 Welch, the family of 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.

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. The Community Meal phone number is 423-241-2282.

Calendar	Sunday	Monday	Thursday
	10:00 am Sunday School	4:00 pm Community Meal "To Go"	6:00 pm AA Meeting (Legacy Hall)
	11:00 am Worship	Wednesday	Friday
		6:00 pm Choir Practice	6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

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.



Everyone Welcome!