

**4th Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022**

PRELUDE/GATHERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN OUR MIDST

Jerrie Sue Massengale
Buddy Butler

A TIME OF CENTERING *Gesù bambino—The Infant Jesus* Jerrie Sue Massengale

CALL TO WORSHIP
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 892
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Buddy Butler

SPECIAL MUSIC, VERSE 1-4 *Candles of Advent* Choir
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Charlie and Evelyn Stemmann

OPENING PRAYER
*HYMN OF PRAISE, 203 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 887 Affirmation from Romans
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER, 895

HYMN, 249 *There's a Song in the Air*

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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16 Marti Lane
PSALTER, 801 Psalm 80 Ben Sexton
SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7 Donna Ratzlaff
*GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

*GLORIA PATRI, 70
ANTHEM *He Is Here* Choir

SERMON "Courage to Dream" Buddy Butler

*HYMN OF INVITATION, 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

*SENDING FORTH
*FOLLOWING CHRIST INTO THE WORLD, TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO OUR COMMUNITY
*POSTLUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, reprise* Jerrie Sue Massengale
*Congregation standing, as able

Christmas Food Bags Project

Thanks to everyone who donated to help provide a Christmas meal for the needy in our community, The Christmas Food Bags will be assembled after church today and given to their recipients at the Community Meal tomorrow. You are invited to stay and help the Mission Group complete this project.

We thank each of you for your loving care for "the least of these."

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Life Care residents. The gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas. Some pecans are still available—they have been reduced to \$10 per bag. Thank you to all that have purchased pecans.



United
Women
in Faith

You can "mail" your **Christmas Cards** to fellow church members in the boxes in the Narthex. **Please check your box for cards on Sundays.** (This is intended only for cards to regular attendees—not to out-of-town members or others. Cards will not be mailed via USPS.)



*Saturday, December 24 at 5 p.m.
Holy Communion will be observed.*

The Church Office will be closed December 23 to December 29. Bulletin deadline is **tomorrow at noon** for the December 24 and 25 bulletins. The office will be open on Friday, December 30 - 10 a.m. deadline for the January 1 bulletin.

Choir Practice will not be held the rest of December—it will resume on January 4.

If you would like to make a donation for **Christmas Gifts** for our church staff, please place it in the designated box in the Narthex today.
Please put "Staff Gift" on memo line of check.

The SPR Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at 6 p.m. We will discuss staff and Pastoral appointment. If you have input, please let a committee member know. Committee members are: Louise Arp, John Mills, Ron Singleton, Elaine Morgan and Joy Turner.

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
Sound Techs Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer
Webmaster Marti Lane

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: Jeanne Kalchik, Hannah Geren, Bill Simonds, Glenda Simonds, +Elaine Crowe, Louise Arp, Sheppie Dunn, Barb Bender

Homebound/Assisted Living: Emily Yaxley, ^Warrene Alexander

Others in our prayers: Bee Hicks (home from hospital), Byron Sexton (brother of Ben), Junior Gwynn (home from hospital after long stay—friend of the Massengales), Bill Luke (father of Lance Luke), Jennifer Robertson (sister of Sharon Luke), Jackie Flowers (attacked by dog), Ben Key (lung cancer), Judy Jones, ALS (friend of Cathy Turner), Samuel Jones –unit back in the US (nephew of Jerrie Sue Massengale), Jeff and Danielle Jones (parents of Samuel), Tom Reed, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, first responders, armed forces members, the people of Ukraine
We will begin a new prayer list in January—please call the church office if you would like someone to remain on list.

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

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

Cards for Elaine Crowe may be mailed to her home address: 440 Hamby Road, Murphy, NC 28906. Her mail is being picked up and delivered to her at rehab.

Birthdays

18 Ron Singleton 23 Warrene Alexander

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. 192 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact Community Meal volunteers at 423-241-2282.

Calendar	Today	Monday	Thursday
	10:00 am Sunday School	4-6 pm Community Meal "To Go"	6:00 pm AA Meeting
	11:00 am Worship	Wednesday	Saturday
6:00 pm Life Group Meeting	NO Choir Practice	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	

Church: 423-496-4931 ♦ Parsonage: 423-548-6348 ♦ Pastor's Cell: 423-429-3820
 Email: firstumc@etcmail.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.

