

**Christmas/Epiphany Sunday
January 1, 2023**

Prelude	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i>	Ethan Butler
Lighting of the Candles		
Christmas Story	Luke 2:1-20	Buddy Butler
The Christmas Candle		
Opening Prayer		
*Carol, 238	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	
Christmas Story	Matthew 2:1-2	April Butler
*Carol, 245, v.1, 5	<i>The First Noel</i>	
Christmas Story	Matthew 2:3-8	Linda Day
*Carol, 234, v. 1, 2	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	
Christmas Story	Matthew 2:9-12	Garry Day
Special Music	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Lily Loudermilk
Sermon	"The Gifts of Christmas"	Buddy Butler
Prayer of Confession		

We confess our sin today, O God of care, in the name of Jesus. May the holy child from heaven connect us with one another and with you, the Lord of divine grace. May this divine grace be like an umbilical cord that connects a mother to her child. We confess on this Christmas Day that we have not regarded our call to ministry or our witness. We rather have forgotten our covenant and now ask for the ultimate gift—that gift of forgiveness. Set us on the brilliant path toward you so that we may grow into the royal people you created us to become. We pray this in the name of a baby who also happens to connect us to the God-head: Creator, Savior, and Mighty Counselor. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Holy God, as we petition you saying, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive our trespassers," so too remind us that you say once and say often: "Your sins are forgiven." Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ		
Offering	<i>Rose of Bethlehem</i>	Jerrie Sue Massengale
*Doxology, 95		
Special Music	<i>Christmas Grace</i>	Choir
The Great Thanksgiving		
Holy Communion		
<i>(Offerings on the communion rail will go to the Copper Basin Crisis Center to help people in our community.)</i>		
*Carol, 246	<i>Joy to the World</i>	
*Christmas Blessing		Buddy Butler
*Postlude		Jerrie Sue Massengale
*Congregation standing, as able		

Remaining pecans have been reduced to \$10 per bag. Thanks for your support!
The UWF will not meet on January 4.



Please check "your" box in the Narthex for Christmas Cards!



Thanks to the very generous donations of food and cash from Farner Presbyterian, The Ridge, and First United Methodist of Copperhill, we were able to provide a Christmas Food Bag to 29 families in the Copper Basin area. These families included 75 adults and 40 children, for a total of 115 individuals who will for sure have a good Christmas meal. To God be the Glory!



The Church Staff would like to express their gratitude for the Christmas bonuses. Thank you so much!

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.

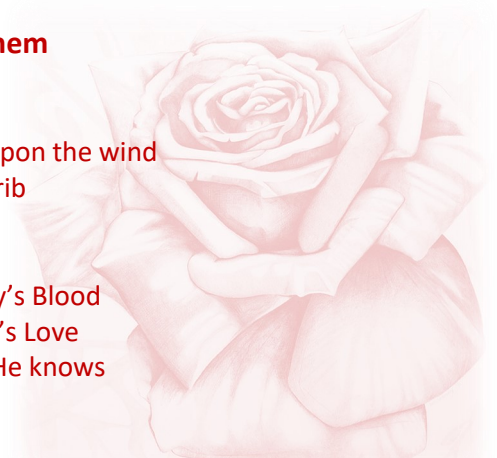
United Methodist Special Sunday Offering: Human Relations Day—January 15.

This offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy In the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

It's time for our **Annual Financial Audit**. All groups having checking accounts are asked to provide their 2022 bank statements and checkbooks to Sheppie Dunn by Sunday, January 29.

Rose of Bethlehem

There's a Rose in Bethlehem with a beauty quite divine
Perfect in this world of sin on this silent holy night
There's a Fragrance much like hope that It sends upon the wind
Reaching out to ev'ry soul from a lowly manger's crib
O Rose of Bethlehem how lovely pure and sweet
Born to glorify the Father born to wear the thorns for me
There's a Rose in Bethlehem colored red like Mercy's Blood
'Tis the Flower of our faith, 'tis the Blossom of God's Love
Though Its Bloom is fresh with youth surely what will be He knows
For a tear of morning dew is rolling down the Rose



Words & Music by Lowell Alexander

Arranged by Larry Shackley

Church Leadership

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

Sunday Servants

Ushers Elaine Morgan, Ron Singleton
 Bill Simonds
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), Tom Reed, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, first responders, armed forces members, the people of Ukraine

*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

25 Tonya Callihan 28 Shirley 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 to 6 p.m. 99 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact Community meal volunteers at 423-241-2282.

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

Our **Fifth Sunday Offering for Holston Home for Children** will be received on Jan. 29.

All news and calendar items for February issue of *The Copperhill Courier* are due in the church office by **Thursday, January 19.**

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

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	
	6:00 pm Life Group Meeting	6:00 pm Choir Practice	

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.

