

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
February 26, 2023**

PRELUDE/GATHERING *Holy, Holy/We Meet You, O Christ* Marti Lane

ANNOUNCEMENTS Buddy Butler

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN OUR MIDST  
CALL TO WORSHIP Buddy Butler

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 893

Lord, we confess our day to day failure to be truly human. **Lord, we confess to you.**  
Lord, we confess that we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not fully understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves. **Lord, we confess to you.**  
Lord, we cut ourselves off from each other and we erect barriers of division. **Lord, we confess to you.**  
Lord, we confess that by silence and ill-considered word **we have built up walls of prejudice.**  
Lord, we confess that by selfishness and lack of sympathy **we have stifled generosity and left little time for others.**  
Holy Spirit, speak to us. Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, for we are very deaf. Come, fill this moment and free us from sin.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE, 454 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 883 A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada  
**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
THE LORD'S PRAYER, 895

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Power of the Cross*  
Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend; Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY *We Would See Jesus* Marti Lane

\*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  
PSALTER, 766  
SECOND READING  
\*GOSPEL READING

Genesis 2:15-17, 3: 1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5: 12-19  
Matthew 4: 1-11

Adam Turner  
April Butler  
Lynn Turner

\*GLORIA PATRI, 70 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

SERMON "Tempted" Buddy Butler

\*HYMN OF INVITATION, 140 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\*SENDING FORTH

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

\*POSTLUDE *Holy, Holy, reprise* Marti Lane

\*Congregation standing, as able

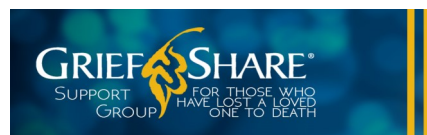
**Love and sympathy** is expressed to the family of Emily Yaxley who passed to the new life on Thursday. The family has requested memorials go to Pruitt Hospice. Condolence cards may be send to her son Fred Yaxley, 2511 Galloway Road, Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

Pastor Buddy will be attending the **Minister's Convocation** in Pigeon Forge February 27—March 1.

The **UMW** will meet on Wednesday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. This will be our Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program. All ladies are invited.



A **Finance Committee Meeting** will be held on Thursday, March 2, at 6 p.m.



A new 13-week session of GriefShare, a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close, will begin on Monday, March 13, 6-8 p.m. Call Lonney McDonald at 706-455-8249 for more information.

**UMCOR Sunday Offering:** Sunday, March 19. Your gift is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and feet of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today.

An **SPR Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at 6 p.m. The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to organize an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on April 9. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are able to help!

**Church Leadership**  
**Pastor** Gilbert "Buddy" Butler  
**Secretary** Heidi Rule  
**Custodian** Christine Dowlin

**Sunday Servants**  
**Ushers** Shirley Starling, Charlie Stemmann  
 Joy Turner  
**Sound Techs** Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer  
**Webmaster** Marti Lane

**Our Prayer Concerns**

**Our Congregation:** \*the family of Emily Yaxley, the family of Tom Canady, Cathryn McCarter, Sheppie Dunn, Jeane Kalchik, Hannah Geren, Bill Simonds, Glenda Simonds, Elaine Crowe, Louise Arp, Barb Bender  
**Homebound/Assisted Living:** Warrene Alexander

**Others in our prayers:** Kimberly Curcio- in ICU after fall (friend of Neila Pace), the family of Garry Collis (late brother of Larry Collis), Bee Hicks, 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.**

**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. 167 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 March—April are available in the Narthex today.



**Scan here to give:** when you scan this image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will connect you to the mobile version of the FUMCC web page—a quick and

**UMCOR responds to deadly earthquake in Turkey, Syria**

As the death tolls passes 19,000 and hundreds of thousands are left homeless across Syria and neighboring Turkey, UMCOR is working with partners in the region to provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals and basic first-aid kits. Advance #982450.

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
	10:00 am Sunday School	4-6 pm Community Meal "To Go"	6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
	11:00 am Worship	<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 pm AA Meeting
6:00 pm Life Group Meeting	10:30 am UWF Meeting (Parlor)	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.



*Everyone Welcome!*