

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 26, 2023

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

Charles Ferguson  
Buddy Butler

CALL TO WORSHIP

Buddy Butler

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 892

**Our heavenly Father, who by thy love hast made us, and through thy love hast kept us, and in thy love wouldst make us perfect: We humbly confess that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy life is within our souls, but our selfishness hath hindered thee. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted thy Spirit. We have neglected thine inspirations. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in thy Spirit direct what we shall be; that thou mayest come into the full glory of thy creation, in us and in all the people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** *All pray in silence.* The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If any one sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE, 298

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 886 The World Methodist Social Affirmation

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom; in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory be to God on high; and on earth, be peace.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.

**Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. 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

*Lenten Meditation*

By Jay Althouse

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

Charles Ferguson

\*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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Joy Turner

PSALTER, 848

Psalms 130

April Butler

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

Linda Day

\*GOSPEL READING

John 11: 1-45

\*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

"Unbinding"

Buddy Butler

\*HYMN OF INVITATION, 526 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

\*SENDING FORTH

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

\*POSTLUDE

Charles Ferguson

\*Congregation standing, as able



A new 13-week session of GriefShare, a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close, continues on Mondays, 6-8 p.m. through June 5. Call Lonney McDonald at 706-455-8249 for more information.

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to fill and hide eggs for an Easter Egg Hunt after worship on April 9. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are able to help! (Eggs and candy have already been donated.)

Palm Sunday is April 2. Holy Communion will be observed.



Our Good Friday Service will be held on April 7, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services on April 9: Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. with Holy Communion. Breakfast in Legacy Hall will follow the service. Easter Worship will be at 11 a.m. An Easter Egg Hunt will be held after the 11 a.m. service. Please invite your friends and neighbors to these special services.

**United Women in Faith** will meet on Wednesday, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. Members may share about a book from the Reading Program list.



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

**Sunday Servants**  
**Ushers** Bill Simonds, Adam Turner  
**Sound Techs** Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer  
**Webmaster** Marti Lane

**Our Prayer Concerns**

**Our Congregation:** John and Mary Mills, Ed Massengale, Cathryn McCarter, Sheppie Dunn, Jeane Kalchik, Hannah Geren, Bill Simonds, Glenda Simonds, Elaine Crowe, Louise Arp, Barb Bender

**Homebound/Assisted Living:** Warren Alexander

**Others in our prayers:** Marilyn Day and Jim Moyer (Garry Day's mother and her husband), Earthquake victims in Syria/Turkey, Kimberly Curcio (friend of Neila Pace), Bee Hicks, Junior Gwynn (having rehab on hands), ^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.**

**Birthdays**

28 Hunter Pierce 29 Ellijah Knight

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

**Church Secretary's Office Hours** in April will be Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Usual hours will resume in May.



**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 easy way to access it. You can also donate securely online at [fumc-copperhill.org](http://fumc-copperhill.org).

Our Vanco giving page can also be accessed at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJXP/home>

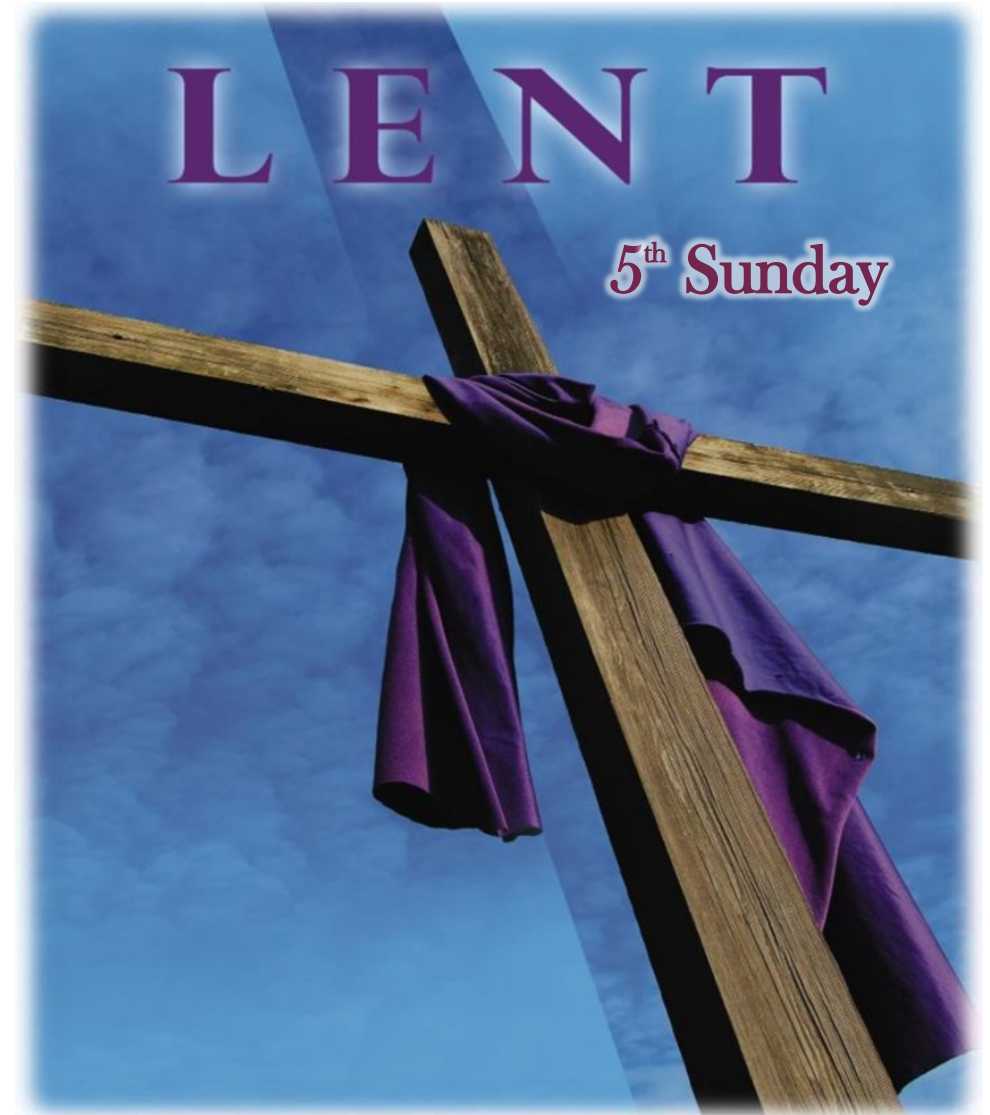
**Calendar**

**Today**  
 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship  
 6:00 pm Life Group Meeting

**Monday**  
 4-6 pm Community Meal "To Go"  
 6-8 pm GriefShare Meeting  
**Tuesday**  
 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

**Wednesday**  
 6:00 pm Choir Practice  
**Thursday**  
 6:00 pm AA Meeting

Church: 423-496-4931 ♦ Parsonage: 423-761-6999 ♦ Pastor's Cell: 423-429-3820  
 Email: [firstumc@etcmail.com](mailto:firstumc@etcmail.com) ♦ Website: [fumc-copperhill.org](http://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!*