

8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023

PRELUDE/GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN OUR MIDST

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 891

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful God, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of thy holy name. Amen. All pray in silence. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE, 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 887

Affirmation from Romans

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? **No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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, forever. Amen

HYMN STORY, 395

Take Time to Be Holy

Dura Montgomery

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

*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, 854

SECOND READING

*GOSPEL READING

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Dura Montgomery

April Butler

Joy 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.**

Charles Ferguson

Buddy Butler

SERMON

Buddy Butler

*HYMN OF INVITATION, 314

In the Garden

*SENDING FORTH

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

*POSTLUDE

*Congregation standing, as able



United
Women
in Faith

During the month of July the UWF are collecting items for the Open Arms for Children in Fannin County. Items needed are paper towels, toilet paper, outdoor games, MP3 players (without screens) and gift cards from hair and nail salons. Thank you to those who have already brought items.

The United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, August 2, for a potluck supper at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be a time for us to get to know each other better. Each person is asked to bring an example of a hobby or interest you have and share it with the group. If you have been thinking of joining UWF, this will be a great first meeting for you to attend. We would love to have you.

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m.

We will receive the Fifth Sunday Offering for **Holston Home for Children** on July 30.

Join the **Son Seekers** for *Getting Involved with God*, a study recommended by Pastor Buddy which offers some very helpful ways to rediscover the Old Testament. Author Ellen F. Davis: "This is a book about getting, and staying, involved with God—what it takes, what it costs, what it looks and feels like, why anyone would want to do it, anyway." Come and see what she means, and why it matters so much to New Testament people such as ourselves. We meet at 10 a.m. in the church parlor—all welcome.

If you can help a grandmother who will be taking care of a newborn baby boy—donations of diapers, baby supplies, etc., are desperately needed. Contact Elaine Minor at 561-795-0313 for info.

The Community Meal is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 138 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact Community Meal volunteers at 423-241-2282.

Do you use size p312 hearing aid batteries? We have some available FREE in the church office.

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 [fumcc-copperhill.org](https://secure.myvanco.com/YJXP/home).

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



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: Sally Patterson (recovering after surgery), Ed Massengale, Cathryn McCarter, Jeane Kalchik, Bill Simonds, Glenda Simonds, Louise Arp, Barb Bender

Homebound/Assisted Living: ^Shirley Sheffer (recovering from back surgery) new address is: 10914 Kingston Pike, Apt. 108, Knoxville, TN 37934, ^Elaine Crowe

Others in our prayers: *Lester Ruark (in hospital—father of Evelyn Stemmann), *Stewart Haslam (rare cancer), Peggy McGee (cancer patient), ^Don Loudermilk (brother in law of Loretta), Major Andy Lai (stationed in Taiwan, son-in-law of the Callihans), +Lee Womac (Copperhill Postmaster—motorcycle accident), McKinley Majors (requested by Tonya Callihan), Ann Record (multiple broken bones after car accident - good friend of Dura Montgomery), Emily Martin Bryant (niece of Joy Turner), Earthquake victims in Syria/Turkey, Kimberly Curcio (friend of Neila Pace), Bee Hicks, Junior Gwynn, ^Tom Reed, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, Hannah Geren, 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 Linda Haney, Dura Montgomery

If your birthday or anniversary has not appeared in our listings please call the church office.

Upper Rooms for July—August and some Daily Guidepost books are available in the Narthex.

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box - **canned meat, tuna, jelly, breakfast cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, rice, soup, chili, canned vegetables**, etc. (We have enough peanut butter and macaroni and cheese.) *Thanks to all who contribute - recipients are grateful.*



My daughter is starting a pollinator garden if you have any butterfly bush seedlings, or other flowering perennial plants to share. Thanks! She has a limited supply of fresh eggs, \$3 dozen or 2 for \$5.00. Contact Heidi at 706-455-7941.

Calendar	Today	Monday	Wednesday
	10:00 am Sunday School	4-5:30 pm Community Meal "To Go"	No Choir Practice in July
	11:00 am Worship	Tuesday	
	6:00 pm Life Group Meeting	6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	

Church: 423-496-4931 ♦ Parsonage: 423-761-6999 ♦ 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!