

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023**

PRELUDE/GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 890

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.** *Alpraysilence.* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE, 451

*Be Thou My Vision*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 885

A Modern Affirmation

*Pastor:* Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare. *Pastor and People:* **We believe in God the Faither, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailling grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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**

CHOIR ANTHEM,

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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

Exodus 12:1-14

Linda Day

PSALTER, 861

Psalm 148

April Butler

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

Garry Day

\*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

\*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

"Open Doors and Saved Seats"

Buddy Butler

\*HYMN OF INVITATION, 557

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

\*SENDING FORTH

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

\*POSTLUDE

Charles Ferguson

\*Congregation standing, as able

Thank you for supporting the **School Supplies Collection for Copper Basin Elementary!**

**Our Charge Conference will be on September 24. All completed Charge Conference forms are due in the church office by tomorrow at noon.**



Our new District Superintendent, Reverend Sandra Johnson, will preach at our **134<sup>th</sup> Homecoming** on September 24. Bring your favorite dish and join us after Worship for our Fellowship Meal.

The **Community Meal** is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 140 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact volunteers at 423-241-2282.

**District Day with the Bishop:** On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett will be with us in the Hiwassee District. At 7:00 pm Bishop Wallace-Padgett will lead us in worship at Keith Memorial, 600 W Madison Ave, Athens, TN.

**Hiwassee District Conference:** Sunday, October 1, 3 p.m. at Keith Memorial UMC, Athens, TN. Voting members are: Clergy, Chair of Church Council, Lay Leader, Presidents of UMM and UWF, Annual Conference Lay Members, Finance Chair/Treasurer, Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Chair.

**NewsLetter  
DEADLINE**

All news and calendar items for the **October issue** of *The Copperhill Courier* are due in the church office by **September 18.**

**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://fumcc-copperhill.org).

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**  
Elaine Morgan, Ron Singleton  
**Ushers** Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer  
**Sound Techs** Marti Lane  
**Webmaster**



### Our Prayer Concerns

**Our Congregation:** T.J. Thompson (recovering from knee surgery), Sally Patterson,, Ed Massengale, Cathryn McCarter, Jeane Kalchik, Bill Simonds, Glenda Simonds, Louise Arp, Barb Bender

**Homebound/Assisted Living:** ^Shirley Sheffer (cancer diagnosis), ^Elaine Crowe

**Others in our prayers:** Richard Wagner (heart surgery), Tiffany Deaver, Stewart Haslam (rare cancer), ^Don Loudermilk (brother in law of Loretta), Major Andy Lai (stationed in Taiwan, son-in-law of Rick and Tonya Callihan), +Lee Womac (Copperhill Postmaster—motorcycle accident), McKinley Majors (requested by Tonya Callihan), Ann Record (recovering from car accident), 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

16 Juline Mixon

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

**Upper Rooms** for September-October are available in the Narthex today.

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box - **canned meat, tuna, jelly, breakfast cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, rice, soup, chili**, etc. (We have enough peanut butter, canned vegetables, 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. Contact Heidi at 706-455-7941.

### Calendar

#### Today

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

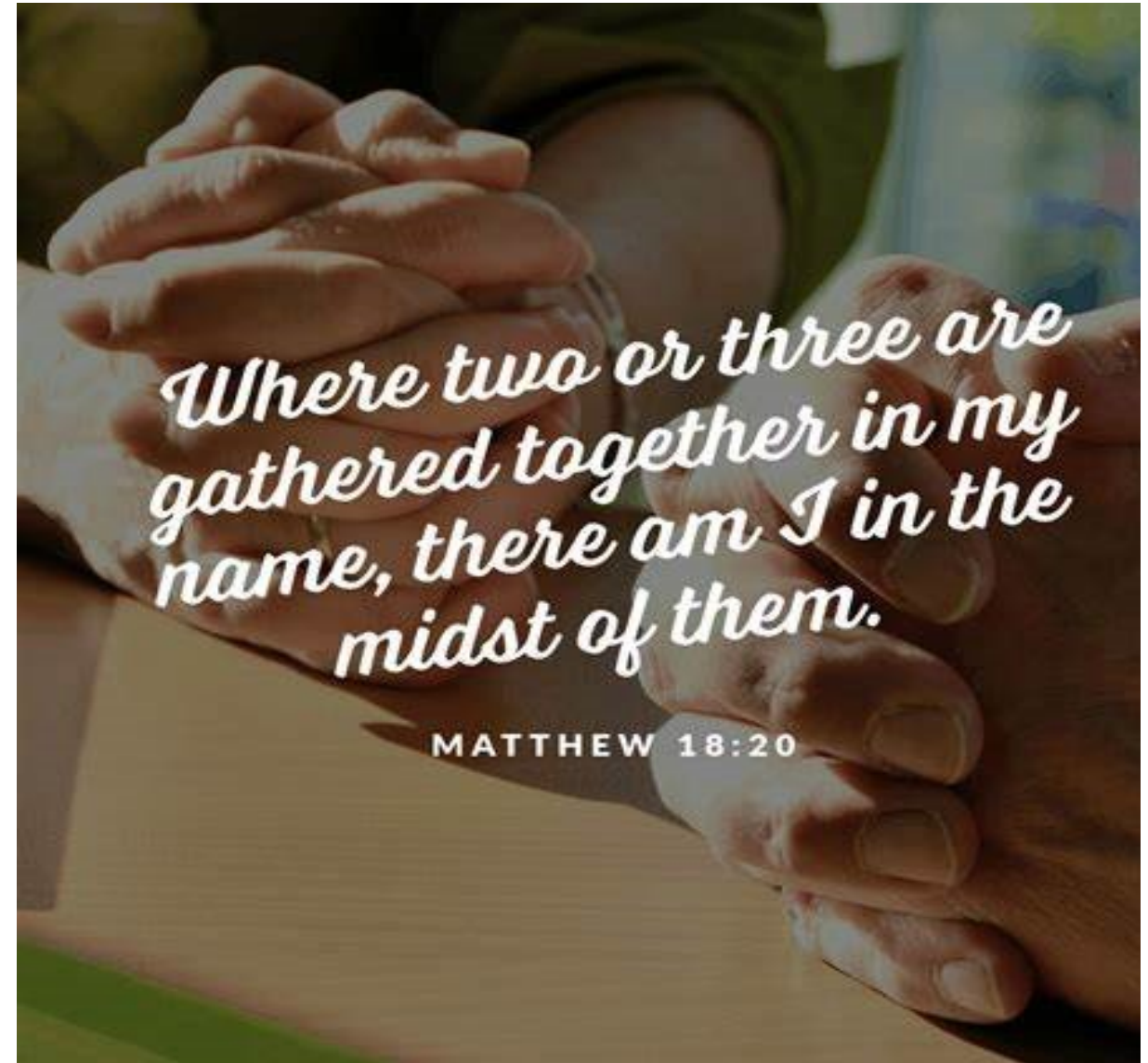
#### Monday

4-5:30 pm Community Meal "To Go"

#### Wednesday

6:00 pm Choir Practice

**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!*