

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023**

PRELUDE/GATHERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN OUR MIDST
CALL TO WORSHIP
OPENING PRAYER
*HYMN OF PRAISE, 103 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-15 Marti Lane
PSALTER, 828 Psalm 105 April Butler
SECOND READING Romans 12:9-21 Donna Ratzlaff
*GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:21-28
*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

Buddy Butler

*HYMN STORY, 733, v. 1 & 4 *Marching to Zion* Dura Montgomery

SERMON "The Rule" Buddy Butler

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 884 A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church
We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON, 8

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***Offerings left on the communion rail will go to the
Pastor's Benevolence Fund to help people in our community.***

*HYMN OF INVITATION, 395 *Take Time to Be Holy*
*SENDING FORTH
*FOLLOWING CHRIST INTO THE WORLD, TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO OUR COMMUNITY
*POSTLUDE Charles Ferguson
*Congregation standing, as able

We are collecting the following **School Supplies for Copper Basin Elementary**: eraser tops, pencils (Ticonderoga preferred), wide ruled loose leaf paper, hand sanitizer, facial tissue, disinfectant wipes, new backpacks (not oversized). Please, no mechanical pencils.

The **Nominations and Leadership Development Committee** will meet on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 p.m. Members are Elaine Morgan, Shirley Starling, Joy Turner, Evelyn Stemmann, Cathy Turner, Marti Lane, Lisa Loudermilk, Garry Day, Buddy Butler. Charge Conference will be on September 24. **All Charge Conference forms are due in the church office by Monday, September 11, at noon.**

Our new District Superintendent, Sandra Johnson, will preach on **Homecoming**, September 24. Bring your favorite dish and join us after 11 a.m. Worship for a Fellowship Meal.



United
Women
in Faith

The UWF would like to invite everyone (gentlemen also!) to their September Potluck Meeting on Wednesday, September 6, at 5 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and join us for good food and fellowship. The Appalachian String Strummers (Charles Ferguson is a member) will provide our entertainment.

The **Community Meal** is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 145 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact volunteers at 423-241-2282.

All are invited to a **Classical Organ Concert with guest organist Andrew Atkinson** today at 3 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 7 Ewing Street, Blue Ridge. Free admission—retiring offering received. St. Luke's will hold their **Church Yard Sale** on September 8 and 9 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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.

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.

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

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: the family of Lester Ruark (father of Evelyn Stemmann), T.J. Thompson (recovering from knee surgery), 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), ^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.

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

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

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.

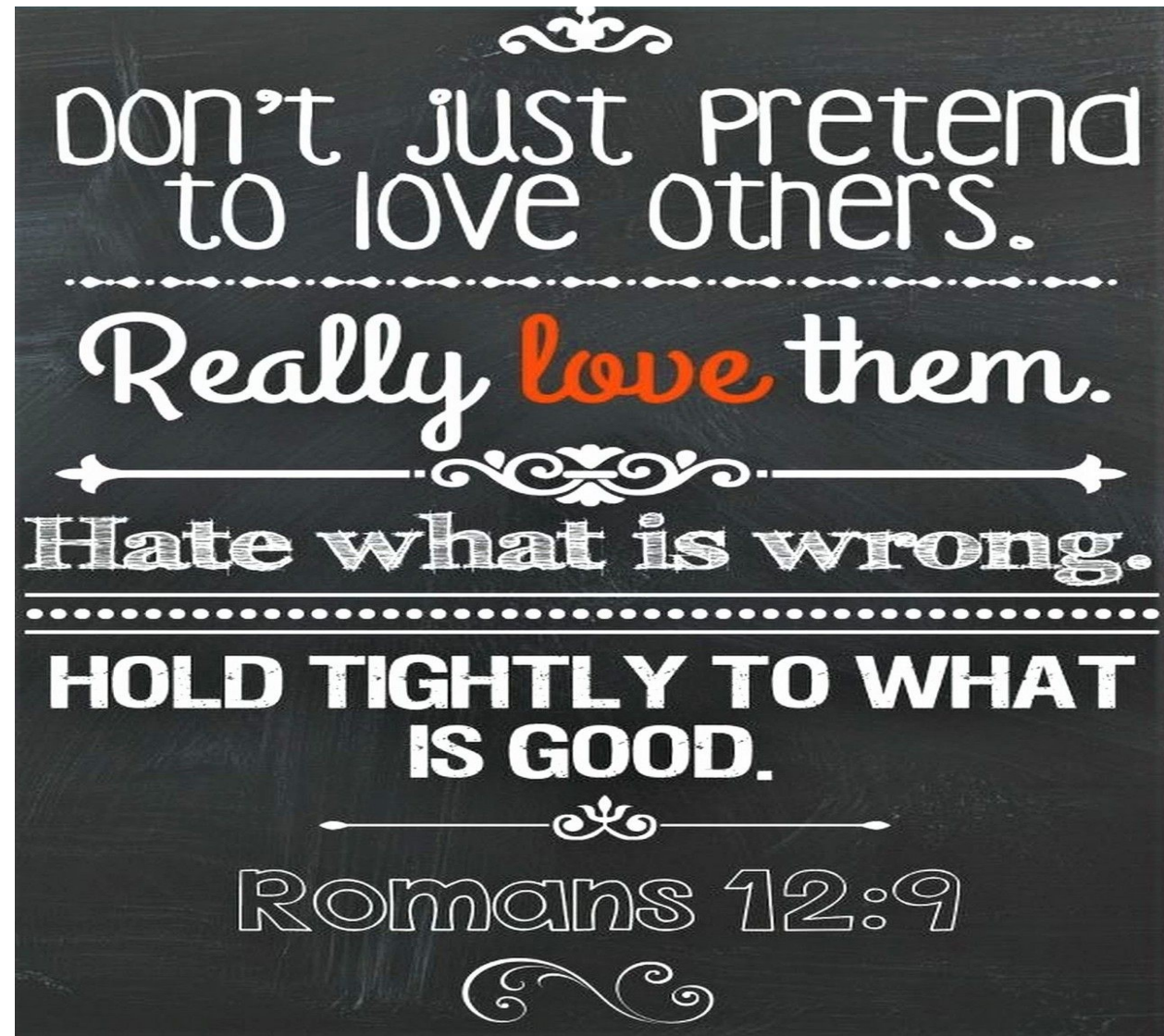
Calendar

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

Monday -
Church Office Closed for Labor Day
 4-5:30 pm Community Meal "To Go"
Tuesday
 6:30 pm Nominations Committee

Wednesday
 5:00 pm UWF Potluck (everyone is invited!)
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

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!