

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 8, 2023

PRELUDE/GATHERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charles Ferguson
Buddy Butler

MISSION MOMENT

Donna Ratzlaff

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. All pray in silence. 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, 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, forever. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Old Rugged Cross
Words and Music by George Bennard; Arranged by Patti Drennan

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 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Marti Lane

PSALTER, 750

Psalms 19

April Butler

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Donna Ratzlaff

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46

*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

Buddy Butler

*HYMN OF INVITATION, 367

He Touched Me

*SENDING FORTH

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

*POSTLUDE

Charles Ferguson

*Congregation standing, as able

We will celebrate UMF Sunday on October 15. Dura Montgomery will be bringing the message. Please join us for this special Sunday.



United
Women
in Faith

The UWF are taking orders for pecans. All varieties are \$11.00 a bag. Please place your pecan order on the form on the table in the Narthex by October 15.



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and gift suggestions lists are now available in the Narthex. Filled shoeboxes, along with \$10 each for shipping, will be due back at First UMC on Sunday, November 12.

A **GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays Seminar** will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Legacy Hall. Contact Lonney McDonald at 706-455-8249 for more information.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

All news and calendar items for the **November issue** of *The Copperhill Courier* are due in the church office by **October 19**.

The **Community Meal** is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 143 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact volunteers at 423-241-2282.

The **Friends of the Fannin County Public Library Book Sale** will be held in the Blue Ridge UMC Fellowship Hall (enter at rear of church) 235 Orvin Lance Drive, **October 13-15 - Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.; Sunday, 12—5 p.m.** Mountains of books (including collectible, rare, signed, local authors), DVDs, CDs, and Jigsaw puzzles will be available. This year we will have an Arts & Crafts Table & Bake Sale Table. There will be a Bag Sale and special sale on Sunday. Donations are welcome. Contact Heidi Rule at 706-455-7941.

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

Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Elaine Minor, *Jerry Panchyshyn, Tonya Callihan (recovering from knee surgery), Donna Ratzlaff, +T.J. Thompson (recovering from knee surgery), Sally Patterson, Ed Massengale, Cathryn McCarter, Jeane Kalchik, Louise Arp, Barb Bender

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

Others in our prayers: *Barbara Keppler (covid), Deanna Sharell (covid), *Melvin Wilcox, the family of Patricia Boggs Arnold, JoAnn Whitlow, stroke (niece of Loretta Loudermilk), the family of Judy Potter (friend of Neila Pace), Brenda Turner, surgery (sister in law of Joy Turner), Norma Bean, 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), Emily Martin Bryant (niece of Joy Turner), Kimberly Curcio (friend of Neila Pace), ^Tom Reed, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, Hannah Geren, first responders, armed forces members, the people of Ukraine, victims of natural disasters worldwide

*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

11 Heather Turner 13 David Turner

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

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box - **canned meat, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, breakfast cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, rice, soup, chili, macaroni and cheese, etc.**

Thanks to all who contribute - recipients are grateful.



Calendar

Today	Monday	Wednesday
10:00 am Sunday School	4-5:30 pm Community Meal "To Go"	6:00 pm Choir Practice
11:00 am Worship		
6:00 pm Life Group 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.



The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

Matthew 21:43, NRSV

Everyone Welcome!