

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 12, 2023**

PRELUDE/GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.** 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, 553

*And Are We Yet Alive*

\*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, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*The Mansions of the Lord*

*Lyrics by Randall Wallace; Music by Nick Glennie-Smith; Arranged by Benjamin Harlan and Ted Ricketts*

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.**

Charles Ferguson

Buddy Butler

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALTER, 799

SECOND READING

\*GOSPEL READING

\*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.**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Marti Lane

April Butler

Joy Turner

SERMON

"Igniting Our Faith"

Buddy Butler

\*HYMN OF INVITATION, 402

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

\*SENDING FORTH

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

\*POSTLUDE

Charles Ferguson

\*Congregation standing, as able



**Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child!** If you didn't bring your shoebox today you can still bring it to the church office tomorrow before 3 p.m. An anonymous donor has offered to pay shipping costs for any boxes where it has not been paid to encourage more boxes being filled. Samaritan's Purse hopes to ship 11 million Christmas shoeboxes all around the world this year.

The **Community Meal** is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 211 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact volunteers at 423-241-2282.

**Thanks to everyone who donated food for our Thanksgiving Mission Project.** Thanksgiving bags will be assembled today following worship. Anyone who would like to help fill bags is invited—please meet in Legacy Hall. Completed bags will be distributed to local recipients on Tuesday, November 14.

All news and calendar items for the **combined December/January issue** of *The Copperhill Courier* will be due in the church office by Thursday, November 16.

**NewsLetter DEADLINE**

**The church office will be closed** on Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving—open on Nov. 24.

**We will decorate for Advent** on Sunday, November 26. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. You're invited to stay after Worship and help beautify First UMC for Advent.

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

A **Worship Committee** meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, at 5 p.m.

The **Brasstown Ringers** will perform at Mine City Baptist Church on Saturday, December 2, at 4 p.m. as part of the Christmas Activities in Ducktown. Free admission—a love offering will be received.

On the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, we will receive the United Methodist Student's Day offering.

**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, Jeff Walker  
**Webmaster** Marti Lane

**Prayer Concerns**

**Our Congregation:** Maria Ruark, Randy Loudermilk, Donna Ratzlaff, Juline Mixon, Billie Ash (temporary address: c/o Laura Ash, 1600 North Oak Street, Unit 825, Arlington, VA 22209), Kathy Panchyshyn, Elaine Minor, Jerry Panchyshyn, Tonya Callihan (knee surgery), +T.J. Thompson (knee surgery), Sally Patterson, Ed Massengale, Cathryn McCarter, Jeane Kalchik, Louise Arp, Barb Bender, Elaine Crowe, Hannah Geren

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

**Others in our prayers:** \*the family of Ron Keeler (uncle of Ron Wray), \*Reverend Larry Russell, Steve Holcomb (friend of the McDonalds), the people of Israel, the Stamey family, Barbara Keppler (covid), Deanna Sharell (covid), JoAnn Whitlow, stroke (niece of Loretta Loudermilk), Brenda Turner, surgery (sister in law of Joy Turner), Norma Bean, 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), McKinley Majors (requested by Tonya Callihan), Emily Martin Bryant, Kimberly Curcio (friend of Neila Pace), ^Tom Reed, Kerry and Cindy Hicks, 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**

17 Angie Mitchell

**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, canned vegetables, etc.** *Thanks to all who contribute - the recipients are always grateful.*



**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).

**Calendar**

|                                    |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Today</b>                       | <b>Monday</b>                      | <b>Wednesday</b>       |
| 9:30 am Missions Members prep bags | 4-5:30 pm Community Meal "To Go"   | 6:00 pm Choir Practice |
| 10:00 am Sunday School             |                                    |                        |
| 11:00 am Worship                   | <b>Tuesday</b>                     |                        |
| 12:00 pm Fill Thanksgiving Bags    | 4-5:30 pm Thanksgiving Bag Pick-up |                        |
| 6:00 pm Life Group 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!*