

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Rural Life Sunday  
November 19, 2023**

PRELUDE/GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charles Ferguson

Buddy Butler

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, 131

*We Gather Together*

\*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 Father, 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 unfailing 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**

\*HYMN, 694

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

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, 797

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.**

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 76

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Joe Dusombre

April Butler

Dura Montgomery

SERMON

“Assumptions and Expectations”

Buddy Butler

\*HYMN OF INVITATION, 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

\*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 participated in Operation Christmas Child!** 27 children will have a happier Christmas because of your generosity. 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. 225 free “to go” meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact volunteers at 423-241-2282.

**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.

The United Women in Faith's December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a celebration of Christmas with lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Dellon Ash's restaurant—High Ridge Peddler, 5570 Old US 76, Blue Ridge. Dellon will prepare a Christmas plate for us for \$19.95. If you would like to carpool we can meet at the church around 11:00 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email or call Flora. Any questions, please call Flora Grindstaff at 706-632-5979.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Annual **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in their fellowship hall. Handcrafted gift items, baked goods, bread, cookies, holiday casseroles and soups (frozen and ready to cook). Silent Auction. Call Teresa at 404-375-6702 for more info.

**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, 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:** \*+Tom Posey (heart condition), 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**

24 Dellon Ash 25 Mary Mills

**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).

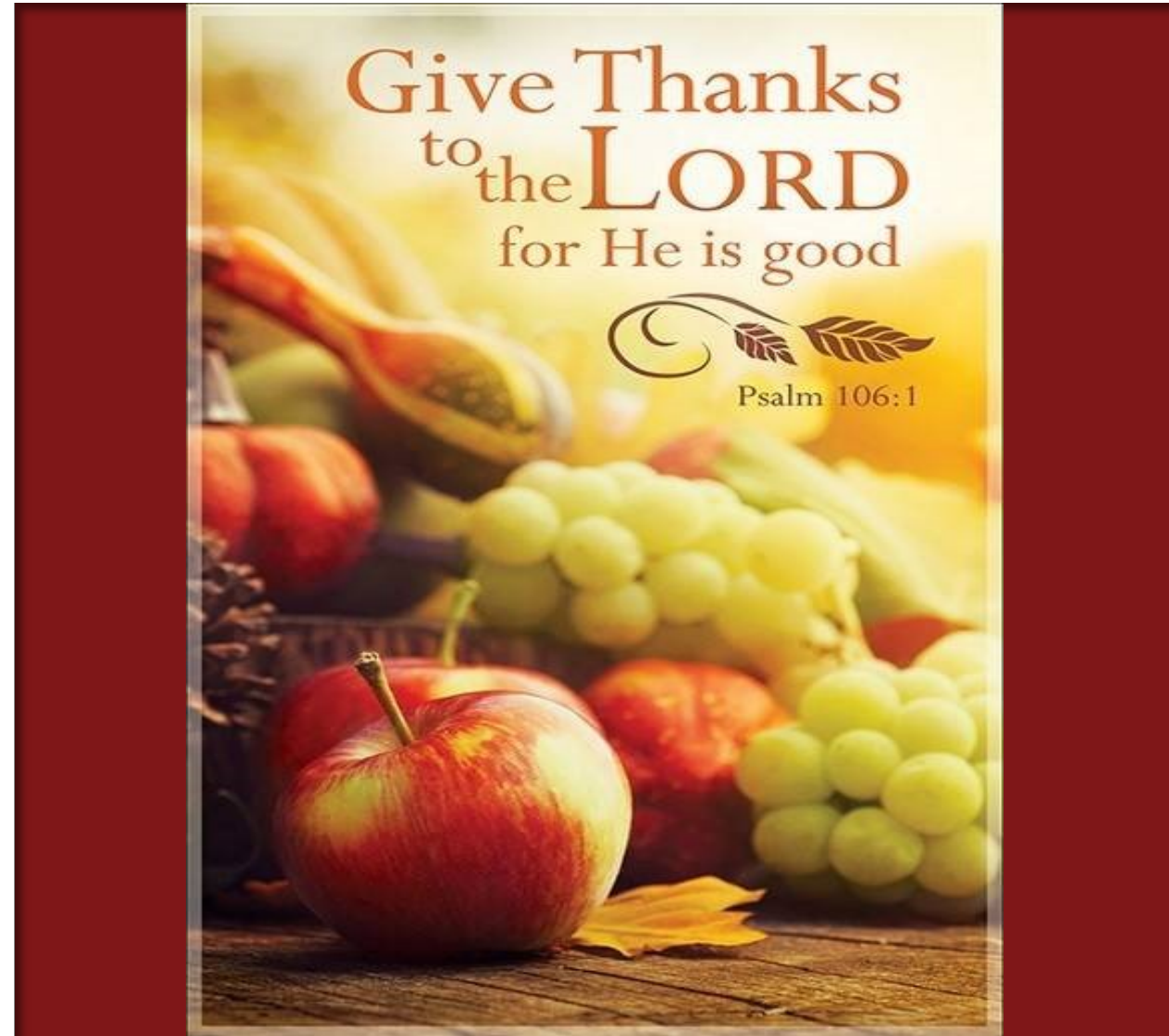
**Calendar**

**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 NO Choir Practice

**Thursday—Happy Thanksgiving!**  
 Church Office closed

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!*