

**2nd Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

PRELUDE/GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

Matt Scoggins

Buddy Butler

*HYMN OF PRAISE, 370

Victory in Jesus

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 888

From I Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things 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

Take My Yoke Upon You

Words by J. Paul Williams; Music by Douglas Nolan

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

Matt Scoggins

*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

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

Adam Turner

PSALTER, 753

Psalms 22:25-31

Joe Dusombre

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

Lynn Turner

*GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:31-38

*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

"Crosses"

Buddy Butler

*HYMN OF INVITATION, 528

Nearer, My God, to Thee

*SENDING FORTH

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

*POSTLUDE

Matt Scoggins

*Congregation standing, as able

Here's your chance to join a Bible study class. The Son Seekers have begun *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. She calls it a "Geography of Faith." It is a personal testimony—how one person seeks to discover the Lord's daily presence in both her spiritual and physical worlds. Paperback copies are available for \$9.50 and a Kindle version is available, if you prefer. Everyone is welcome. The Son Seekers meet in the Parlor from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

2023 **Contribution Statements** are available in the Narthex. Please pick yours up today.

We are conducting a survey concerning your opinion on changing the time of the worship service to 10:30 a.m. and changing the time of Sunday School to 9:30 a.m. because of the traffic backup and congestion due to the arrival of the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway tourist train at noon. The church service ending around 11:30 a.m. would greatly alleviate traffic problems for those who live in McCaysville, Mineral Bluff, and Blue Ridge. If you haven't had a chance to respond to the survey there are copies in the Narthex. Please pick one up, mark your choice, and place your completed survey in the Narthex basket.



United
Women
in Faith

Our March United Women in Faith meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6, at 11:30 a.m. in Legacy Hall. We will have a potluck lunch and our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program. We will be taking an offering for Climate Justice Work. You are invited to join the UWF's Reading Program. We have new 2024 books in our library. For more information on our reading program, talk with Flora Grindstaff. *** SAVE THE DATE...Plant Swap: Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.***

The UWF have their last few bags of pecans on sale at \$8 each: milk chocolate, glazed, and cinnamon glazed. Get yours today!

The Community Meal is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 182 free "to go" meals were served last week. If you would like to help, contact Community Meal volunteers at 423-241-2282.

Upper Rooms for March—April are available in the Narthex today.

Church Leadership
Pastor Gilbert "Buddy" Butler
Secretary Heidi Rule
Accompanist Matt Scoggins
Custodian Christine Dowlin

Ushers Shirley Starling, Charlie Stemmann,
 Joy Turner
A/V Techs Marti Lane, Randy Loudermilk
 Ann Rymer, Jeff Walker

Sunday Servants



Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Kathy Panchyshyn and family after the death of her mother, *+Travis Goss (Chatuge Hospital in Hiwassee), Marti Lane, Buddy Butler, April Butler, Oliver Butler, Janice Brooks, Janice Burger, Heather Turner, Erica Turner Putnam, Cathryn McCarter, Glenda Simonds, Billie Ash, Pam Wray (recovering from knee surgery), Abby Gamble, Lisa Loudermilk, Cathy Turner, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Ron Pace, Maria Ruark, Randy Loudermilk, Donna Ratzlaff, Juline and Denny Mixon, Kathy Panchyshyn, Jerry Panchyshyn, Elaine Minor, Jerrie Sue and Ed Massengale, Jeane Kalchik, Louise Arp, Barb Bender, Elaine Crowe

Homebound/Assisted Living: ^Shirley Sheffer, ^Tom Reed, ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health, Blue Ridge)

Others in our prayers: *the family of Ann Breedon, Barbara Collins, Janis Martin, Monica Ledford, Tamsy, Charlene (friends of Dura Montgomery), Weldon Self, Jr., Clifton Hicks (Donna Sexton's father), Nichole (niece of Buddy), Hannah Geren, first responders, armed forces members, the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and Gaza, victims of natural disasters worldwide

*new to concerns +Hospital or Rehab ^Assisted Living/Nursing Home ~ Hospice

If there is someone you would like to add to our Prayer Concerns list, please contact the church office.

Birthdays

25 John Brooks, Sheppie Dunn 28 Elaine Crowe 29 Ciera Butler, Brenda Chatham
 1 Amber Brooks, Jerrie Sue Massengale

Anniversaries

28 Lloyd and Elaine Minor 37th
 29 Lee and Ariana Morris 4th

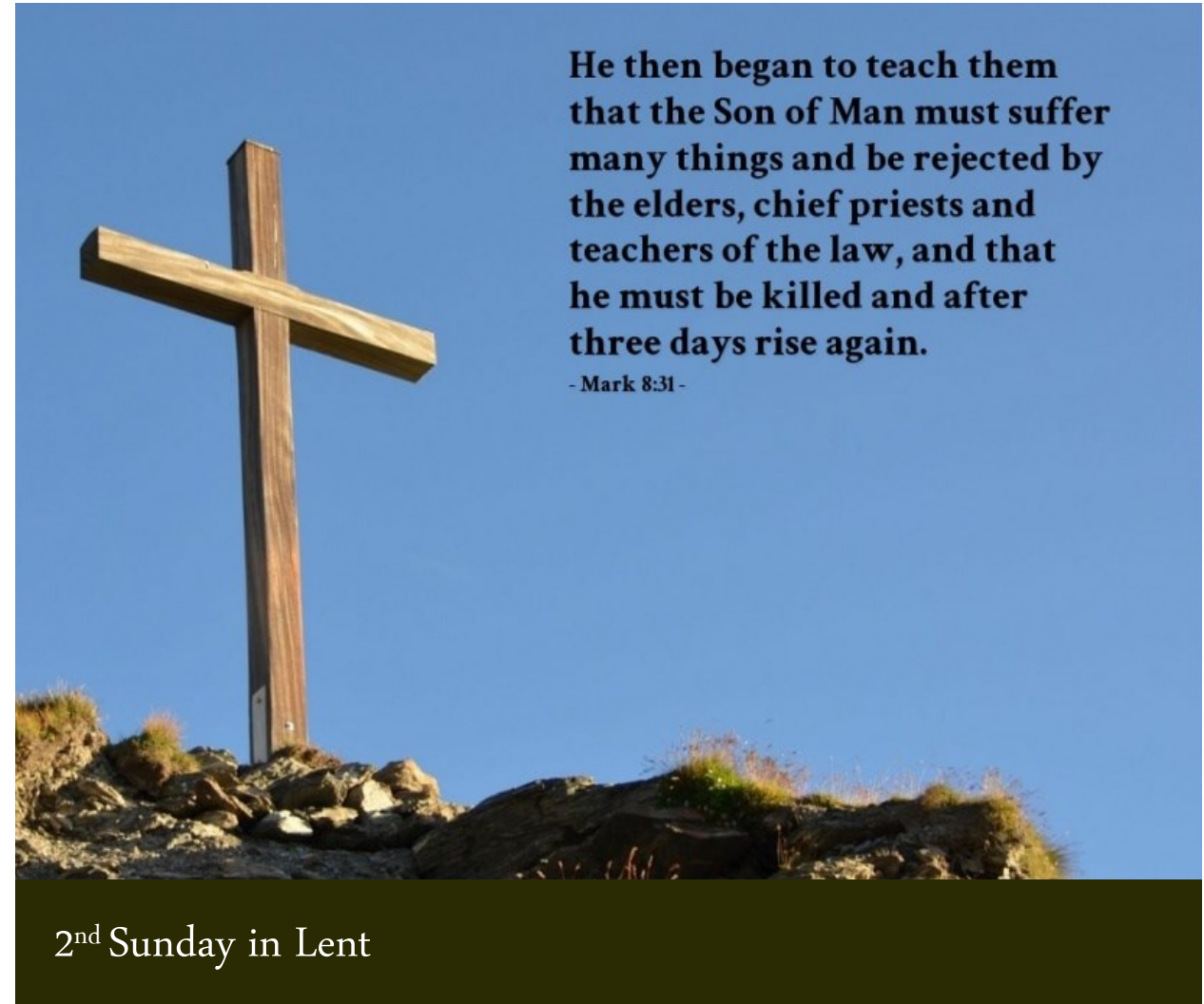
If your birthday or anniversary has not appeared in our listings please call the church office.

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.** *Thanks to all who contribute—the families are always grateful.*



Today	Monday	Wednesday
10:00 am Sunday School	4—5:30 pm Community Meal	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.



He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

- Mark 8:31 -

2nd Sunday in Lent

Everyone Welcome!