The Copperhill Courier

First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 538
Copperhill, TN 37317

June 2024

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Who are United Methodists? *Excerpts from article at umc.org*

The United Methodist Church is a global denomination that opens hearts, opens minds and opens doors through active engagement with our world. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A United Methodist is someone who joins in that mission by putting faith and love into action. We believe that God loves all people, and that we share in expressing that love. So the United Methodist tradition emphasizes God's grace and in serving others. We believe that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of God's love--showing us the fullness of God's care through Jesus' teachings, death and resurrection.

John Wesley started the Methodist movement in 18th century England. His teachings on practical divinity (living out our faith) and appeals to reason and experience form important aspects of United Methodist practice today.

What Do United Methodist Believe?

The United Methodist Church shares a great deal with other Christian denominations. We believe God's grace is open to all, and therefore practice "open Communion"--meaning that anyone may participate in receiving Communion. We believe salvation is an open gift from God, accepted by individuals according to their own free will. The United Methodist denomination is a "big tent" theologically, providing space for theological discourse and, at times, disagreement.

Like many other Christian groups, we affirm the beliefs expressed in the Apostles Creed. These include:

- The belief in one God, who is the Creator and sustainer of the universe.
- The belief in the Trinity, that there is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is fully human and fully divine.

What do United Methodists do?

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, taught that we pursue our faith in community and action with others. We practice a social holiness. We insist that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. The United Methodist Church has a long history of action and advocacy for social justice.

United Methodists are active in their communities and in the world through a variety of ways, including:

- Participating in local mission projects and service initiatives
- Supporting global mission efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other mission organizations
- Advocating for social justice and working to address issues such as poverty, hunger, and inequality
- Providing educational and vocational training opportunities
- Offering counseling, support groups, and other forms of pastoral care
- Creating and supporting community development programs

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

How will you live a life of faith that puts you in the world and yet be connected to the Lord? How will you develop an inward life that both comforts and is always challenging you to go deeper in the Lord's grace? How will you live an outward life of faith that not only serves your interest but looks to the needs of others? How will such a life challenge you as well as others to embrace God's justice and peace for the world? How will such a life of the inward and outward expressions of faith serve God's purpose and will in the world? It is not about being saved in the past tense while waiting for an eternal reward. The life of faith is centered on the promise of the abundant life that Jesus promised right now. It is up to us to figure out that life centered on Jesus is the abundant life. It is life lived as Jesus lived welling up to eternal life.

Pastor Buddy

Weekly Events

Sunday School: Sundays at 10 a.m.
Son Seekers meet in the Parlor.
Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m.
Life Group Meeting: Sundays at 6 p.m.
This is an exploration of the early Methodist class meetings. All are invited.
Community Meal: Mondays from 4-5:30 p.m. All are invited. "To Go" only meals available.
Choir Practice: None in June or July

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 April Butler, Emily Hodskins, Shirley Russell
5 Sharon Luke
6 Ethan Butler
7 Ann Rymer
20 Lisa Loudermilk
23 Abby Butler
25 Christian Geren
28 Sharon Dunton
29 Glenda Simonds

Anniversaries

2 Daniel and Haley Loudermilk 16th
9 Ed and Jerrie Sue Massengale 62nd
11 Barry and Freda Abbott 24th
11 Brian and Jill Pierce 16th
12 Dennis and Juline Mixon 59th
14 Brett and Lonney McDonald 38th
18 Frank and Heidi Rule 41st
19 T.J. and Kathy Thompson 52nd

Your birthday or anniversary not listed? Please contact the church office at 423-496-4931 or firstumc@etcmail.com.

United Women in Faith News

The June meeting and potluck supper will be held on Wednesday, June 5, at 5:00 p.m. Our program will be "A Visit to the Holy Land." Joe and Kathy Dusombre will share their slides of their trip to Israel. We look forward to this program and all are invited to join us.

For our July meeting we will attend the Blue Ridge Community Theater production of "The Sweet Delilah Swim Club." There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the July 14 show with a deadline of June 23 so we can get a group rate on the tickets. Everyone is invited!
We have new 2024 UWF Reading Program books in the church library. All members of the church are welcome to check out books. For more information, talk with Flora Grindstaff.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Turner Michael graduated from Fannin County High School. He will be attending Kennesaw State University.

Paul Walker graduated with a doctor of law (J.D.) from Georgia State University of Law and will be working for Gorby and Peters Law in Atlanta.

We will recognize our graduates and scholarship recipients during morning worship on June 23.

June Events

The Holston Conference is blessed with several fruitful, effective ministries that help our young people find their voices for faithful leadership, and this year's **annual conference missions offering** will support those ministries raising up and equipping young voices. The New Voices offering will benefit our five conference camps, our five campus ministries, and our two colleges/universities, allowing them new opportunities to equip young leaders as they have for many years. Please consider making a generous gift on June 2.

United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, June 5, at 5 p.m. for a potluck meal and meeting.

On Thursday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to around noon we will be assembling our new Church Directory. If you can volunteer to help, please call the church office. Church Directories will be distributed beginning on Sunday, June 16.

Annual Conference will be held June 9—10. Pastor Buddy and our representative, Shirley Starling, will be attending. Elaine Morgan will be attending as a member at large.

Happy Father's Day—June 16.

We will recognize our **Graduates and Scholarship recipients** on Sunday, June 23, during the morning worship service.

We will have a **Potluck Fellowship Dinner** on Wednesday, June 26, at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and come and enjoy good food and fellowship!

Holston Home for Children
Fifth Sunday Offering —June 30.

Upcoming in July

Happy 4th of July! The Church Office will be closed.

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m.

We will have our **Annual Church Picnic** on Friday, July 26, at 6 p.m. The Mission Committee will host a "back to school bash" and will be inviting local families to attend. There will be games and prizes for the children. The picnic will be held in the pavilion at McCaysville City Park. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert and come and enjoy good food and fellowship!

Summer Concert Series at St. Luke's

North Georgia Symphony String Quartet
Sunday, June 9, at 4 p.m. Reception to follow.

Ah Surely (Celtic Ensemble) Sunday, July 21, 5 p.m.

Alpharetta Symphony Wind Quintet Sunday, August 11, 5 p.m.

Free admission—a love offering will be received.

St. Luke's Episcopal (Anglican) Church
7 Ewing Street, Blue Ridge, GA , 706-632-8245

Church Website: fumc-copperhill.org.

If you have an idea of something to add (or update), please email it to firstumc@etcmail.com or call 423-496-4931.

The website is especially important to persons visiting the area AND for local folks who find they need help.

We Remember Our Promise

To participate in our church's ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness…

	Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
April 28	55	10	$3,597.00
May 5	35	5	$3,508.50
May 12	50	8	$3,618.77
May 19	38	9	$2,396.00
Average:	**45**	**8**	**$3,280.07**

Weekly Budget Requirement:	**$3,859.85**
Budget Requirement (YTD):	**$81,056.45**
Actual Budget Received (YTD):	**$64,384.15**

Additional giving:

Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$45.00
Local Mission Fund:	$10.00

A Grant of $1,500.00 for the Pastor's Benevolence Fund was given by Tri-State EMC Operation Round-up.

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Shirley Starling, Charlie Stemmann, Joy Turner
Audio/Visual Technicians: Marti Lane, Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer, Jeff Walker

Did you know you can Donate Online?

Scan this QR code to link directly to the church's website to donate. You can also donate securely online on the church webpage: fumc-copperhill.org.

Our Vanco giving page can also be accessed at: https://secure.myvanco.com/YJXP/home

First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 538 • 146 Scenic Drive
Copperhill, TN 37317

Email: firstumc@etcmail.com
Visit us on the web at www.fumc-copperhill.org
Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist Church-Copperhill
Office Hours: 9 a. m.—3 p. m. Monday, Thursday & Friday

Church Office: 423-496-4931
Parsonage: 423-761-6999
Pastor's Cell: 423-429-3820

Sermon by phone: 423-226-6437

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

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of:
Marsha McCarter By: Cathryn McCarter

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *the Butler Family on the passing of Buddy's aunt Rose, Janice Burger, Lynn Lee, Alex Loudermilk, Sheppie Dunn, Jennifer Clamon, Lily Loudermilk, +Garry Day (Erlanger Hospital), Bonnie McDonald, Travis Goss, Donna Ratzlaff, Heather Turner, Erica Turner Putnam, Cathryn McCarter, Glenda Simonds, Billi Ash, Abby Gamble, Elaine Crowe, Lisa Loudermilk, Cathy Turner, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Ron Pace, Maria Ruark, Randy Loudermilk, Juline and Denny Mixon, Kathy and Jerry Panchyshyn, Elaine Minor, Jerrie Sue and Ed Massengale, Louise Arp, Barb Bender

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

Others in our prayers: *Bud Butler (father of Buddy), *John Stambaugh, *Gretchen and *Cassandra (family of Dura Montgomery), *Connie Harper Malton, *Barb Bender's daughter Jody, *Brenda Hamby (cancer), Norma Bean, Ben Key, Charlotte Sisson, the Springer family, ~Susan Butler and family, the family of Roger Queen, Stephen Lebo (auto accident—brother of April Butler), Barbara Collins, Janis Martin, Monica Ledford, Tamsy and Charlene (friends of Dura Montgomery), Weldon Self, Jr., Nichole (niece of Buddy), Lee Womack, 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*

Please call the church office to add someone to the Prayer Concerns.

Card of Thanks

We are so appreciative of all the cards, messages, and well wishes. Garry is improving every day and is so encouraged by the love coming from everyone.
Linda Day

Online Worship Opportunities

You may access Sermon by Phone at 423-226-6437 to hear the current service, plus several previous ones. Check out the page titled **Sunday Worship Highlights** on our website, fumc-copperhill.org. All recordings can be found on: **www.buzzsprout.com/197301.**
Our services are also now on Stitcher, www.stitcher.com/s?fid=5604 64&refid=stpr
As each becomes available, we'll also post the link on our Facebook page @ **First United Methodist Church-Copperhill**
Please like and share so others see our posts!
Audio of our services will be available online and Sermon by Phone by Monday afternoon.

Memorial Bricks

Bricks may be ordered to memorialize or honor a friend or loved one. Profits from this sale will be used for many local mission projects. Each brick costs $50.00 and entitles you to your choice of three lines of engraving with up to 20 characters per line. Please use the worksheet below to send in your brick order. Please note that spaces and periods each count as a character, only one character can appear in each box, and a box must be left empty between words.

Your Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____
Bricks Ordered: _____ Total enclosed: _____
Mail to: First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 538, Copperhill, TN 37317

Patterns of Life

In a time and culture where faith is relegated to what happens only at church, how can Christians live out their faith in the everyday journey? As a pastor, I have heard many people's opinions on this matter. I have been told that worship is useless and a waste of time. One person said, "Worship is only good for moral teaching." And yet another person said, "Worship is the key to life." People have many opinions on church and worship, but the elephant in the room is how do you embrace and express your faith, shaped and formed in worship, through your daily life?

This has been a struggle throughout the history of the church. For the first three hundred years or so, there were hot spots of persecution, and at times, there was empire wide persecution. The attitude and the policy of the Roman Empire was one of apathy. They did not care as long as no one reported Christian activity. If someone reported a Christian, they were brought before the authorities and given a chance to renounce their faith. If they cursed Christ and worshipped Caesar, then they were set free. If they refused, then they were put to death for their obstinacy. It was not a matter of religious belief, but a matter of keeping a very diverse empire unified. The way the Romans enforced this unity and kept the peace was to have people burn incense before an image of Caesar while proclaiming Caesar is Lord.

It is no accident that the first Christian creed was Jesus is Lord. You would think that Christians would preserve their lives by renouncing Christ and Christianity all together. The truth is the exact opposite. The Church grew during times of persecution. Many Christians would live their faith out in the open, not fearing persecution but embracing the chance to prove their faith. Many believed persecution was an opportunity to see if their faith was true and real. They considered it a blessing to be chosen for such a test. Much of this belief can be traced back to the book of Acts and the story of the persecution of Stephen (Acts 6:8-8:1). Stephen did not run from the threat but stood his ground while living out and proclaiming his faith. The Bible says he was filled with the Holy Spirit as he looked up and saw Jesus at the right hand of the Father. This was the hope and faith of the martyrs. If they were chosen for persecution, it was ultimately the eternal reward of being with Jesus.

But things have a way of changing and change they did. Christianity was made legal and protected under the edict of Constantine in 313 AD. From here, the church grew in status, power, and wealth. Many saw the church's newfound status as a threat to the faith of the church. It was believed the church was too close to the culture and was being swallowed up by the desires of the world. Some Christians began to separate themselves from the world completely and lived in isolation in the desert. This would be the foundation of the later monastic communities.

There has always been this push and pull inside the church to either live our faith outward in the surrounding culture or live an inward life away from the surrounding culture. In John 17 Jesus prayed for his disciples to be sent into the world. From this understanding, Christians have lived under the mantra, "To be in the world, but not of the world." We are to live by faith and serve the purpose of Christ for the world he is trying to reach through you.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, embraced and developed a Christian life of devotion and accountability based on an inward and an outward form of faith. Methodists practiced the inward life through such things as prayer, study of scripture, fasting, worship, and other spiritual disciplines. The outward life of a Methodist is a discipline of corporate worship, service, giving, and witness. We could say this is the sacramental life of living out our baptism in the world through constant communion with Christ. The ministry of the Spirit is both attentive to the inward and the outward expressions of our faith. It is a model we learn from Jesus himself who would regularly go to a quiet and private place for prayer before ministering to the needs of the people. It was the perfect balance between the inward and outward life of faith. Jesus was in the world but was connected to God through the inward life. And through the inward life, Jesus was able to express the love of God in the outward ministry to the people. This is the pattern Jesus used for his ministry and life of faith. This should be our pattern of ministry as we seek to live a life of faith patterned after Jesus himself.

Continued on reverse