



The Copperhill Courier

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

May 2024

Non-profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Copperhill, TN
Permit #40

Address changes requested

2024 Hands On Mission Project—Hiwassee District: Health Kits

The Hiwassee District Goal is 400 kits.

Pack these items in a 2-gallon Zip-Loc Bag:

- 1 hand towel
- 1 washcloth
- 2 toothbrushes
- 2 tubes toothpaste (6.4 oz. or less)
- 1 bottle shampoo (15 oz. or less)
- 1 bottle lotion (18 oz. or less)
- 1 bottle roll-on deodorant (4 oz. or less)
- 1 small spray perfume/cologne/body mist (4 oz. or less)

Pack these separately in sandwich size Zip-Loc bag—please do NOT put in larger 2-gallon bag:

- 1 tube antibacterial ointment (1 oz.)
- 1 bottle Tylenol/acetaminophen 500 mg (24 ct.)
- \$5 cash or check (written to First UMC) for shipping. FUMC will write one check for total.

Please note the requested sizes and make sure your purchase complies. International shipping regulations require weights to fall within certain ranges.

Please return completed kits to First UMC by Sunday, May 19. Thank you!

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

So, Paul sends him back to Philemon. What Paul wants is for Philemon to accept Onesimus and to see him as brother in Christ. This is unheard of, but it is the result of new life in Christ. The gospel demands this action be taken in light of this new relationship in Christ. As Paul says, "I could order to do the right thing, but instead I'm going to appeal to you on the basis of Love." Basically, Paul is telling Philemon to prove his faith true and mature. Because Paul sees something in Onesimus beyond the status of a runaway slave. He even cracks a lighthearted joke concerning what he sees in Onesimus when he says, "What was once useless has become useful." It is missed in our English bibles but in the Greek this is a pun on the name Onesimus which means useful.

At the end of the letter Paul writes to Philemon to "Refresh my heart in Christ." In other words, he is begging Philemon to let him know what becomes of Onesimus. Translators have weakened the Greek here to make for smooth reading. The literal translation would be something like, bring ease to my guts and soothe my anguish. And with this the letter ends. We too, like Paul, are begging to know the conclusion to this story. Was he executed, punished, accepted as a brother? We don't know or do we?

It is here we enter the world of Christian legend and educated speculation. Ignatius of Antioch was a major Christian leader in the generation after the Apostles as he had been a personal student of the Apostle John. For the crime of being a Christian, he was arrested and sent to Rome for execution. While on the way to Rome, he wrote seven letters of encouragement to the faithful. One of these letters was to the Ephesians which mentions Bishop Onesimus. A really big clue is Ignatius uses the same pun Paul did, "What was once useless has now become useful." Is it possible that a runaway slave became the bishop of one of the most popular churches in the ancient world? I like to think so and it certainly fits with how God works in people's lives to make something that was considered useless absolutely useful in his eyes.

Pastor Buddy

Weekly Events

Sunday School: Sundays at 10 a.m.
Son Seekers meet in the Parlor.
Current study is "An Altar in the World."

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: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

4 Lonney McDonald, Stephanie Silvani
9 Scott Montgomery, John Turner
11 Lance Luke
19 Shirley Starling
22 Brett McDonald
23 Jeff Walker
26 Bonnie McDonald
28 Christine Dowlin

Anniversaries

2 Dominic and Stephanie Silvani 17th
5 Ron and Neila Pace 50th
15 David and Joy Turner 53rd
30 Smokey and Janice Brooks 57th

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

Card of Thanks

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, and prayers during my recovery.

Cathryn McCarter

United Women in Faith News

In lieu of a May meeting the UWF will attend the Brasstown Ringer's Concert on Sunday, May 5. Please sign-up in the Narthex if you would like to carpool to this event.

The June meeting and potluck supper will be held on Wednesday, June 5, at 5:30 p.m.

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.



United
Women
in Faith

Salute to America Concert

Remembering our Veterans and First Responders
Sunday, May 26, 6 p.m. at the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center, 360 Rebels Circle, Blue Ridge.

Featuring The Tri-State Community Band, Singers of North Georgia, and guest soloists.

Free admission—donations appreciated.

May Events

A 13-week session of GriefShare, a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close, is being held on Mondays, 6-8 p.m. (no meeting on May 27). Please call Lonney McDonald at 706-455-8249 for more information or if you would like to volunteer to be the coordinator.



The **Missions Team** will meet on Wednesday, May 8, at 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in Missions is invited to attend.

Happy Mother's Day—May 12

We will have a **Potluck Fellowship Dinner** on Wednesday, May 22, at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and come and enjoy good food and fellowship! The Annual Church Picnic date has been changed to July 26. The Mission Committee will host a "back to school bash." Watch your newsletter and bulletin for more details.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

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

Brasstown Ringers Handbell Concert

The Brasstown Ringers present "That's Entertainment—Pop Music on Handbells" and they will perform on May 5, at 5 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Blue Ridge. A reception will follow the program. Admission is free but a love offering will be received to help the group with expenses. All are invited.



Friends of the Library Book Sale

May 24-26 at Blue Ridge Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 235 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge.

Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mountains of used books, rare and collectible books, DVDs, CDs, jigsaw puzzles, etc. will be for sale! Special bag sale on regular books and 50% off sale on collectible and rare books on Sunday. Parking available at rear and front of church. Entrance at rear. Call Heidi Rule at 706-455-7941 for donations or more info. Donations of jigsaw puzzles are especially needed.

Upcoming in June

United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, June 5, at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck meal and meeting.

The **Son Seekers Sunday School** class leadership is shared and we mutually decide what to study. In June we will begin the next UMC Adult Bible Studies quarterly. The subject is "Finding Balance." The class is open to any and all who would like to be part of a Sunday Bible study class. We meet in the church parlor 10 - 10:45 a.m.

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!

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
March 24	48	8	\$3,876.10
March 31	75	5	\$3,412.50
April 7	31	3	\$5,385.00
April 14	41	8	\$3,539.77
April 21	45	9	\$1,816.10
Average:	48	7	\$3,605.89

Weekly Budget Requirement:	\$3,859.85
Budget Requirement (YTD):	\$65,617.05
Actual Budget Received (YTD):	\$51,263.88

Additional giving:

Pastor’s Benevolence Fund:	\$560.00
Local Mission Fund:	\$10.00
Holston Home for Children:	\$185.00
Native American Ministries Sunday Offering:	\$145.00
Community Meal:	\$50.00

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Elaine Morgan, Ron Singleton
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 for Jesus Christ
 for the transformation of the world.*

In Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of:
 Shirley Sheffer By: Cathryn McCarter
 Shirley Sheffer By: Ron and Neila Pace
 Tessie Zovistoski By: Ron and Neila Pace

Holston Home for Children in memory of:
 Shirley Sheffer By: David and Joy Turner

General Fund in honor of:
 Janice Burger By: Ron and Neila Pace
 Cathryn McCarter By: Ron and Neila Pace
 Garry and Linda Day By: Janice Burger

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: +*Jennifer Clamon, *Lynn Lee, *Smokey Brooks and family after the death of his sister and nephew, *Alex Loudermilk, Lily Loudermilk, +Garry Day (Erlanger Hospital), Bonnie McDonald, Travis Goss, Donna Ratzlaff, Janice Brooks, Janice Burger, Heather Turner, Erica Turner Putnam, Cathryn McCarter, Glenda Simonds, Billi Ash, Abby Gamble, 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, Elaine Crowe
Homebound/Assisted Living: ^Tom Reed, ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health, Blue Ridge)

Others in our prayers: *David Anderson and family after the death of his father, *the Griggs family, *the family of Shawn Ades (Heather, Jack, Cash, Katie), *the Holsonback family, *Norma Bean, *Mildred Queen, *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 Gerren, 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.

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=560464&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



Resurrection Life

During this season of Eastertide, our worship services have been focusing on the readings from the book of Acts. These readings replace the Old Testament readings as they help focus on the Resurrection of Christ being applied to the Church. It seems that the celebration of Easter has been turned into a funeral service where we look to the end to see any real benefit from Christ's Resurrection. However, the Resurrection is the turning point where everything changes. Jesus destroyed the stone of death, and ascended to the right hand of the father where he is free to abide in the life of the church through his Holy Spirit. His work did not stop but continues to this day through the people who are willing to see his healing, wholeness, and salvation spread throughout this world as his kingdom is still breaking through. And one day it will be fully present upon this earth as it is in heaven.

The Resurrection is not just about the future but more importantly has to do with life happening right now. Before the Resurrection the disciples did not exactly have it all together. It is one of the ways we determine the authenticity of the gospels. Legend tells us the gospels were stories collected from the gospels from those closest to Jesus. People who tell their own stories usually paint themselves in the best possible light. This did not happen with the disciples in the gospels. They were constantly questioning Jesus about possibilities, bickering among themselves, and were not able to understand much of what Jesus was trying to teach them. Judas betrayed him, Peter denied him, and they all abandoned him.

After the Resurrection, things began to change. Jesus appeared to them and taught them about continuing his mission. Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father which should not be seen as a place in time, but as an omnipresent reality as God is everywhere all the time. And the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples 50 days after the Resurrection at the day of Pentecost. All of this comes together in a spectacular transformation in the disciples as the book of Acts helps us to see. Armed with the gospel and filled the Holy Spirit, they continued the mission of Jesus Christ by bringing healing, wholeness, and salvation into people's lives. They had become the embodiment of Jesus Christ upon the earth. As Jesus told them, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8, NIV).

This work did not end with the disciples. That's what I love about the book of Acts. It has no conclusion that neatly wraps everything up in a neat little bow. The book ends with Paul preaching. It ends in this way because the story is still being written. It is being written in people like yourself who follow Jesus. The disciples worked hard to bring teachings of Jesus and power of God into the lives of people who were desperate and hungry for the Lord. Oppressed people on the margins were being brought into the family. They were being brought to the very center as they were told they were people of great value because of who they were as people. The Law has been fulfilled in Jesus and is summed up in Jesus as love of God and love of neighbor. John, in his first letter, makes it clear that love of God is only possible when we love our neighbors. And what is love if not acceptance. It is God telling us I accept you, and church in turn telling the people they are accepted. The truth of God's love was and is still breaking through. The church, empowered by Spirit, embodies the life of Resurrection as our lives are now centered on Jesus. The stone of death is destroyed. Christ is risen!

A Story In Time

I have always enjoyed history, and I have really enjoyed church history. The Church has been around for a couple thousand years. There have been many good things in that as well as unspeakable acts done in the name of God. This history has affected and informed our beliefs whether we know it or not. Knowing this history allows us to see the work of the Holy Spirit in the church across time. It allows us to hold up the good things and to remember God was working then as God is working now. It also allows us to remember the bad things in the hope that such acts will never be repeated.

This story in time I set before you today comes from the Bible as well as the transition between the original apostles and the next generation of church leaders. Philemon is one of Paul's shortest and most personal letters. Philemon was a wealthy Roman citizen in the city of Colossae. It is believed that he was converted to Christianity in Ephesus by Paul and offered the use of a room in his house for the church in Colossae. However, the purpose of Paul's letter concerns Onesimus, one of Philemon's slaves who had run away. Onesimus somehow ended up in the service of Paul while Paul was in prison. Apparently, Onesimus was a great help to Paul.

We do not know why Onesimus had run away, but we do know that Paul is sending him back to Philemon. When we think of Slavery, we think of slavery in the Southern States that was based on race and was forever. It was very different in Roman times as there were several reason people could become slave such as prisoners of war or a person becoming a slave to settle a debt. Also, slavery then was only for a certain amount of time.