The Copperhill Courier

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

July-August 2024

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

Address changes requested

The total number of mission kits collected for the annual Hands-on Mission Project was announced during the Missions Celebration June 10 at Holston Annual Conference in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

LIBERIA
Clinch Mountain: Food Buckets
Goal: 400/ Actual: **380**
Hiwassee: Health Kits
Goal: 400/ Actual: **261**
Mountain View: Food Buckets
Goal: 400/ Actual:--- **186**
Three Rivers: School Kits
Goal: 400/ Actual:--- **694**
Scenic South: Food Buckets
Goal: 400/ Actual:--- **712**

On June 10 at Holston Annual Conference, Nancy Chinzvede, director of Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe, expresses gratitude to Holston churches for sending mission supplies.

ZIMBABWE
Appalachian: School Kits
Goal: 400/ Actual: **525**
New River: Health Kits
Goal: 400/ Actual:- **427**
Smoky Mountain: Food Buckets
Goal: 400/ Actual: **776**
Tennessee Valley: Food Buckets
Goal: 300/ Actual:--- **948**

Total number of kits: 4,909!

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

Bread is one of our greatest needs. It comes to us as a gift from God's Earth. It is God's blessing upon us and God's compassion for us that daily bread is provided. The sign of God's kingdom coming upon this Earth as it is in Heaven is bread for the hungry, a feast for the poor and the forgotten.

Many people think that God can be found on some mountain top, or we must go on some long journey. The truth is God is found in the breaking of the bread. The two disciples on their way to Emmaus did not realize the man they were traveling with was Jesus until they recognized him when he broke the bread. If we want to see God, then we should gather together and break the bread in Jesus' name. In the bread of his presence, he has chosen to meet us. In this bread, he takes the broken pieces that are many and binds them together as his body.

This bread may look like the bread we have for supper every night. How can this bread be holy? That's the point of using ordinary bread. When you eat the bread on Sunday, it should cause you to eat bread differently the rest of the week knowing that such daily bread is a gift of sustenance and presence.

Knowing that such a prayer is at extreme odds with our culture and with the way we think and eat bread, do we have the faith and courage to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread?"

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 July

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

7 Jennifer Clamon
13 Kelsey Limburg
21 Donna Ratzlaff
22 Janice Brooks
28 Linda Haney, Dura Montgomery
30 Quinn Loudermilk

July Anniversaries

7 Buddy and April Butler 30th
17 Ron and Shirley Singleton 31st
17 Ron and Pam Wray 53rd

August Birthdays

2 Colin Rymer
4 William Luke
5 Loretta Loudermilk
12 Lynn Turner
16 Oliver Butler
17 Rick Callihan
20 Turner Michael
22 Chris Limburg
28 Gretchen Soto

August Anniversaries

6 John and Mary Mills 41st

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

United Women in Faith News

For our July meeting we will attend the Blue Ridge Community Theater production of "The Sweet Delilah Swim Club" on July 14. Contact the church office for ticket information. Everyone is invited!

We will be starting a Beth Moore Bible Study on Wednesday, August 7, at 5:00 p.m. This will be our August United Women in Faith meeting. We will have a salad supper with everyone bringing a favorite salad. After the first evening session of our Bible Study we will continue the study on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for the next few weeks. We welcome anyone interested to join us.

We have new 2024 UWF Reading Program books in the church library. All members of the church are welcome to check out books. Contact Flora Grindstaff for more information.

United Women in Faith

July Events

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!

August Events

United Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, August 7, at 5 p.m. for a potluck meal and a Beth Moore Bible Study.

Come join us for good food and fellowship on Wednesday, August 28, at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to our Potluck Supper.

Diaper Drive

We are having a **"Diaper Drive"** to collect diapers (any size) for the Fannin Foster Families organization to distribute to foster families with babies and toddlers. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex through July 21.

Back-to-School Supply Drive

Our annual **School Supply Drive** will be held July 1—21. Here's a list of needed items. Please place your donations in the designated box in the Narthex.

Backpacks, new and not over-sized
Wide-ruled notebook paper (loose leaf)
Small three-ring binder
Pencils*
Eraser tops
Box of Tissues
Disinfecting Wipes / Hand sanitizer

*No mechanical pencils, please. Ticonderoga pencils last the longest and are preferred by teachers.

Thank you!

Summer Concert Series at St. Luke's

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
May 26	38	7	$1,490.00
June 2	33	8	$4,827.50
June 9	37	6	$2,554.77
June 16	34	8	$3,131.50
Average:	**36**	**7**	**$3,000.94**

Weekly Budget Requirement: **$3,859.85**
Budget Requirement (YTD): **$96,495.85**
Actual Budget Received (YTD): **$76,397.92**

Additional giving:

Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$20.00
Local Mission Fund:	$10.00
Peace With Justice Sunday Offering:	$60.00
Community Meal (by Buck Bald Brewing customers):	$280.00
Annual Conference Offering—New Voices:	$45.00
Annual Conference Offering—Change for Children:	$27.36

Members in Service to FUMC

July Ushers: Bill Simonds, Adam Turner

August Ushers: Smokey Brooks, Shirley Russell

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:

Mildred Queen, Rich Queen	By: Cathryn McCarter
Ruth Ann Brooks	By: Cathryn McCarter
Beulah P. Godfrey	By: Margaret Fisher
Shirley Sheffer	By: Ed and Suzanne Lowe
Jimmy Russell	By: Shirley Russell

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Arianna Verbeten, +Louise Arp (rehab in Hiwassee), Donna Ratzlaff (recovering from surgery), Janice Burger, Lynn Lee, Jennifer Clamon, Alex Loudermilk, Sheppie Dunn, Lily Loudermilk, Garry Day (at home), Bonnie McDonald, Travis Goss, Heather Turner, Erica Turner Putnam, Cathryn McCarter, Glenda Simonds, Pamela Gamble, Elaine Crowe, Lisa Loudermilk, Cathy Turner, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Ron Pace, Maria Ruark, Juline and Denny Mixon, Kathy and Jerry Panchyshyn, Elaine Minor, Barb Bender

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

***Others in our prayers*:** *family of James Kaylor, *Roy Goss (friend of Pamela Gamble), *Don Loudermilk (brother in law of Loretta), *Caitlynn (three year old in Florida with brain tumors), *Bud Butler–recovering from surgery (father of Buddy), *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, Stephen Lebo (brother of April Butler), Barbara Collins, Janis Martin, Monica Ledford, Tamsy and Charlene (friends of Dura Montgomery), Weldon Self, Jr., Nichole (niece of Buddy), Ed and Jerrie Sue Massengale, 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 contact the church office to add someone to our Prayer Concerns list.

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.

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

The Bread of Heaven

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). This statement as part of daily prayer is proof that Jesus considered faith to be deeply rooted in our daily lives. It was not to be a faith in the clouds but faith on the ground. It is a bold faith that prays for bread. Bread is needed daily so that we can survive but our culture has a different view of food. It is not a gift given from the hand of God; it is a product to be consumed at our convenience.

The way our culture views food is the way many view life in the United States. Food is a product we possess based on what is given to us or based on our ability to earn. Either way, it is mine and not yours. We have restaurants that wait on us and serve us our daily bread. 56% of Americans say they eat out 2 to 3 times a week, and for this daily bread, restaurant workers are some of the most poorly paid people in the country. People who prepare your daily bread, something so valuable that we put in our bodies for survival, are making minimum wage. Some of the restaurants I have been to, the staff could not afford to eat in such places. On special occasions, April and I enjoy going to the Melting Pot and to a movie afterwards. The last time we did this in Knoxville, our route took us by the local homeless shelter after we had eaten such a fine and expensive meal. All I could think of was, "Give us this day, our daily bread."

As we pray this part of the prayer, we have to realize that food is not a possession of mine and not yours. It is a gift given from the hand of God. All food, our daily bread, comes from God's Earth. If God did not make it so, then no food would come from the Earth. The Lord is the provider of our daily bread. He is also the one who wants to bless us and desires for us to have such daily bread. He is the one who has compassion for the poor and hungry, commanding his disciples to feed them. As disciples, we throw up our hands in protest that we cannot feed all these people. Jesus simply gives thanks to God for what he does have and shares the bread and fish. Do you remember the story? How much was left over? If we constantly focus of how much we don't have, how will we ever give thanks to God for what we do have?

When we pray for daily bread, we have to have faith for our daily bread. As the Israelites wandered around the wilderness, it was God who provided bread from heaven. They could only pick up bread for a day, and on the sixth day they could pick up enough to get them through the Sabbath. For those who picked up too much, the bread would rot by the next day. They had to have faith that God would provide their daily bread. In our country we have people who hoard up and stockpile food in fear. Do we actually have faith to look beyond our fear and pray for our daily bread? As with many of God's blessings, we pervert such a blessing by our own selfishness. Basil the Great points out this perversion in one of his sermons,

The bread that is spoiling in your house belongs to the hungry. The shoes that are mildewing under your bed belong to those who have none. The clothes stored away in your trunk belong to those who are naked. The money that depreciates in your treasury belongs to the poor!

For the church, this is what it looks like to hoard up our daily bread. This is the excess that rots and spoils because we have collected more than our fair share of the gifts God has given. Jesus looked out at the hungry crowd and told his disciples (us) to feed them. What are we doing with the gifts God has given to us?

It is here we should notice that our daily bread is not my daily bread. Bread is a communal effort that involves many people to get such bread from God's Earth to our tables. When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," it is a statement that we are taking responsibility for our neighbors need. Our daily bread is a communal prayer in which we who pray such a prayer realize we are connected and dependent upon God and each other. As a community, it is our bread to eat and to share that all may have enough.

Continued on reverse