The Copperhill Courier

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

February 2025

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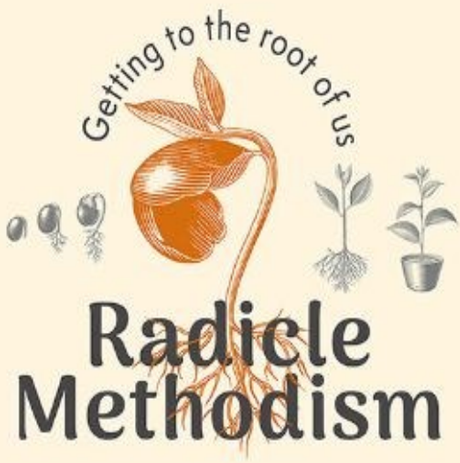
Join us in 2025 for a journey into the roots of United Methodism.

Radicle Methodism 2025 project, an inspiring journey into the roots of United Methodism, is designed to foster growth, connection, and reflection across our denomination. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will be part of each session.

Hosted by the
United Women in Faith



The Introductory Session will be February 12 at 10 a.m. (starting date changed due to adverse weather in January). You will receive directions to sign up online to access materials OR you can attend the sessions with the provided printed materials. The four sessions will be held at 10 a.m. on the following four Wednesdays: February 19, 26 and March 5, 12. Call the church office for questions or to sign up.

From the Pastor's Desk continued

In the midst of a sinful world, through the grace of God, we are brought to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. We become aware of the presence and life-giving power of God's Holy Spirit. We live in confident expectation of the ultimate fulfillment of God's purpose.

We are called together for worship and fellowship and for the upbuilding of the Christian community. We advocate and work for the unity of the Christian church. We call all persons into discipleship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

As servants of Christ we are sent into the world to engage in the struggle for justice and reconciliation. We seek to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

¶ 125. United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission. Integrally holding connectional unity and local freedom, we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social context while maintaining "a vital web of interactive relationships" (¶ 132). At the same time, we desire to affirm and celebrate our relationships, covenants, and partnership with autonomous, affiliated autonomous, affiliated united covenanting, and concordat churches (¶¶ 570-574) as well as other partners in the Wesleyan and ecumenical Christian families. Our worldwide connectional relationship is one of the ways we carry out our missional calling beyond national and regional boundaries. For our connectionalism to become a living practice, we need to carry the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church deep into the life and mission of our local congregations. Only when we commit ourselves to interdependent worldwide partnerships in prayer, mission, and worship can connectionalism as the Wesleyan ecclesial vision be fully embodied. Guided by the Holy Spirit, United Methodist churches throughout the world are called afresh into a covenant of mutual commitment based on shared mission, equity, and hospitality.

Pastor Buddy

Mission statement of The United Methodist Church

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016
The Churches: Book of Discipline, Section 1

¶ 120. The Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.

¶ 121. Rationale for Our Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world. The fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world is the vision Scripture holds before us. The United Methodist Church affirms that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Lord of all. As we make disciples, we respect persons of all religious faiths and we defend religious freedom for all persons. Jesus' words in Matthew provide the Church with our mission: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you" (28:19-20), and "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. . . . You must love your neighbor as you love yourself" (22:37, 39).

This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is expressed in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets. It is fully embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is experienced in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit.

John Wesley, Phillip Otterbein, Jacob Albright, and our other spiritual forebears understood this mission in this way. Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus' mandate to love God and to love our neighbor and to make disciples of all peoples.

¶ 122. The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission—We make disciples as we:

—proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;

—lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;

—nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;

—send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a

compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and

—continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

¶ 123. The Global Nature of Our Mission—The Church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the Spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy. Faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries in the Church be shaped by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

¶ 124. Our Mission in the World—God's self-revelation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ summons the Church to ministry in the world through witness by word and deed in light of the Church's mission. The visible church of Christ as a faithful community of persons affirms the worth of all humanity and the value of interrelationship in all of God's creation.

Continued on reverse

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: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

6 Barb Bender, Lexi Loudermilk
10 Carolyn Smith
12 Cathy Lange
13 Buddy Butler
14 Daniel Loudermilk, Lily Loudermilk
25 John Brooks, Sheppie Dunn
28 Elaine Crowe
29 Ciera Butler, Brenda Chatham

Anniversaries

28 Lloyd and Elaine Minor 38th
29 Leo and Ariana Morris 5th

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 UWF will have their February meeting around 11 a.m. following the Radicle Methodism Introductory Session on Wednesday, February 12. We will not have lunch but will have cookies and tea.

United Women in Faith

Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at 11 a.m. Ann Rymer will help us make Easter cards and cards for our homebound members. The meeting will follow the final session of our Radicle Methodism Study. Please bring a sack lunch. Tea and cookies will be available. All ladies of the church are invited!

Food for the Needy

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box - canned meat, tuna, flour, sugar, stove top stuffing mix, peanut butter, jelly, rice, soup, chili, macaroni and cheese, shelf stable milk, oatmeal, cereal, canned vegetables. *Thanks to all who contribute—the families are always grateful.*

St. Luke's Winter Concert Series

Ah Surely Celtic Trio
Saturday, February 15 at 4 p.m.
Reception to follow.
$10 donation requested.
St. Luke's Anglican, Blue Ridge.

February Events

Minister's Convocation: February 10—12, Pigeon Forge

Our **Radicle Methodism Study** begins on Wednesday, February 12, with an Introductory Session at 10 a.m. The study continues on Wednesdays through March 12. Everyone is invited. Call the church office with questions or to sign up.

The **United Women in Faith** will meet on Wednesday, February 12, at 11 a.m. (following the study). All ladies are invited to attend.

A **Mission Committee** meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 21 at noon to discuss helping with the summer Snack in a Backpack Program.

Upcoming in March

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** will be held on March 5, at 5 p.m.

A **S/PPR Meeting** will be held on Thursday, March 6, at 4 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 9. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8.

The **UMCOR Sunday** offering on March 23 underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

The **Church Council** meets on Tuesday, March 25, at 4 p.m.

On March 30 we will receive the **Fifth Sunday Offering for Holston Home For Children**.

Officers and Leaders for 2025

Church Council

Chair	Dura Montgomery
Secretary	Evelyn Stemmann
Lay Leader	Garry Day
Treasurer	Linda Day
Financial Secretary	To be elected
Annual Conference Delegate	Shirley Starling
Annual Conference Delegate (alt)	Dura Montgomery
Sunday School Superintendent	Randy Loudermilk
Membership Secretary	Cathryn McCarter
Trustees President	To be elected by Trustees
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair	Elaine Morgan
Memorials	Sheppie Dunn
Scholarship Chair	Linda Day
UWF Chair	Heidi Rule
At Large Members	Bill Simonds, Jeff Walker

2025	2026	2027
S/PPR		
Joy Turner	Flora Grindstaff	Joe Dusombre
Ron Singleton		Pam Wray
Elaine Morgan		
Trustees		
Randy Loudermilk	Brett McDonald	Ron Wray
Charlie Stemmann	Neila Pace	Heidi Rule
Sheppie Dunn	Jeff Walker	
Nominations Committee		
Marti Lane	Elaine Minor	Shirley Russell
Evelyn Stemmann	Elaine Morgan	Kathy Dusombre

Finance Committee
Pastor, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, Annual Conference Delegate, Church Council Chair, S/PPR Chair, Trustees Chair, Treasurer

We Remember Our Promise

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

2024	Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
November 24	35	8	$4,616.10
December 1	36	7	$3,673.00
December 8	38	5	$2,485.00
December 15	34	6	$3,688.58
December 22	49	6	$8,057.50
December 29	34	7	$2,658.00
Average:	**38**	**7**	**$4,196.36**

Weekly Budget Requirement:	**$3,859.85**
Budget/General Fund Requirement (YTD):	**$204,571.65**
Actual Budget/General Fund Received (YTD):	**$177,182.49**
Additional giving:	
Benevolence Fund: ($986 on Christmas Eve + other donations)	$1,261.50
Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering:	$190.00
Community Meal Donations:	$483.00
Staff Gift Donations:	$700.00
United Methodist Student Day Offering:	$157.00
Local Mission:	$60.00

"Thank you to all who stepped up in December with your generous contributions to First UMC to help with the Lord's work. We were able to pay all of our bills, payroll and payroll tax liabilities and district and conference askings at year end. Please continue to be generous as we start a new year of worship and service. We continue to need your generosity to satisfy our budgetary needs, feed our neighbors at the community meal, assist those in need with daily living expenses through the Pastor's Benevolence fund and provide scholarships to local deserving students." -The Finance Committee

2025	Worship	Sunday School	General Fund
January 5	34	7	$3,185.00
January 12	Church cancelled due to snow		$ 905.00
January 19	25	4	$4,929.08
		Total:	$9,019.08
Average:	**20**	**4**	**$3,006.36**

Additional giving:

Operation Round-Up Grant for Benevolence Fund: $1,500.00

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Shirley Starling, Charles Stemmann, Joy Turner

Audio Visual Technicians: Marti Lane, Randy Loudermilk, Ann Rymer, Jeff Walker

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
Matt Scoggins, Accompanist
Heidi Rule, Secretary
Christine Dowlin, Custodian

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

In Loving Memory…

Weldon H. Self Jr.
October 24, 1947 - January 14, 2025

In Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of: John Mills
By: Shirley Russell, Janice Burger, Barry and Freda Abbott,

General Fund in memory of:

Jimmy Hendrix's son	By: Shirley Russell
Joe McCarter	By: Cathryn McCarter
James Dickey	By: Neila and Ron Pace
Brian Bowling	By: Neila and Ron Pace
Brian Bowling	By: Jeff and Jennifer Walker
Jean Callihan	By: Jeff and Jennifer Walker
Jean Callihan	By: Brett and Lonney McDonald
Weldon Self, Jr.	By: Brett and Lonney McDonald

Community Meal Fund in honor of: Sheppie Dunn, Evelyn Stemmann, Joy Turner, Fran Carter By: Linda and Garry Day

General Fund in honor of: Laura Day, Paul Walker, Turner Michael, McCay Turner, Lyndsay Turner, Ariana Morris
By: Neila and Ron Pace

General Fund in honor of: Rene and Teresa Bidez
By: Jeff and Jennifer Walker

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Daniel Loudermilk (surgery), Maria Ruark, Bill and Glenda Simonds, Stephanie Silvani, Sally Patterson, Mary Mills, Ariana Morris, Louise Arp, Donna Ratzlaff, Janice Burger, Alex Loudermilk, Sheppie Dunn, Lily Loudermilk, Garry Day, Heather Turner, Erica Turner Putnam, Elaine Crowe, Lisa Loudermilk, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Ron and Neila Pace, Juline and Denny Mixon, Kathy and Jerry Panchyshyn, Elaine Minor, Barb Bender

Homebound/Assisted Living: ^Tom Reed, ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health), ^Cathy Turner (Pruitt Health), ^Jennifer Clamon (Sonshine Manor), ^Barbara Collins, Margaret Self, Don Loudermilk,

Others in our prayers: *the family of Mary Jones (stepmom of April Butler, *+Tim and +Jennifer Higdon (home destroyed and injured in fire) *the family of Travis Huffman, *the family of Mary Hopkins, *the family of Weldon Self Jr., *Jodi and *John (daughter and son-in-law of Barb Bender), *Kerry Hicks (friend of the Abbotts), *Ben Hutto (nephew of the Wrays), *the family of Brian Bowling, *Sandra Williams (sister-in-law of Joy Turner), *the family of Jean Callihan, *Phil Young (pancreatitis), Jerry Williams (Shirley's husband), +Mackenzie Ray, Ed and Jerrie Sue Massengale, Hannah Geren, victims of natural disasters, first responders, armed forces members

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

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

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

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!*

Video and/or audio of our services will be available online and Sermon by Phone by Monday afternoon.