The Copperhill Courier

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

March 2025

Non-profit Organization
Postage Paid
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Address changes requested

Attention all *Copperhill Courier* readers:

We are transitioning our newsletter to online only. You can see the most recent and many past issues on our website: www.fumc-copperhill.org.

Printed copies will be available at the church. (You may receive one or two more mailed issues before we go completely online.)

If you don't have access to the internet you can still get a copy.

Copies will only be mailed by request and a donation for postage would be appreciated. If you would like to remain on the mailing list please call the church office at 423-496-4931 or email us at firstumc@etcmail.com.

2025 Hands-On Mission Project

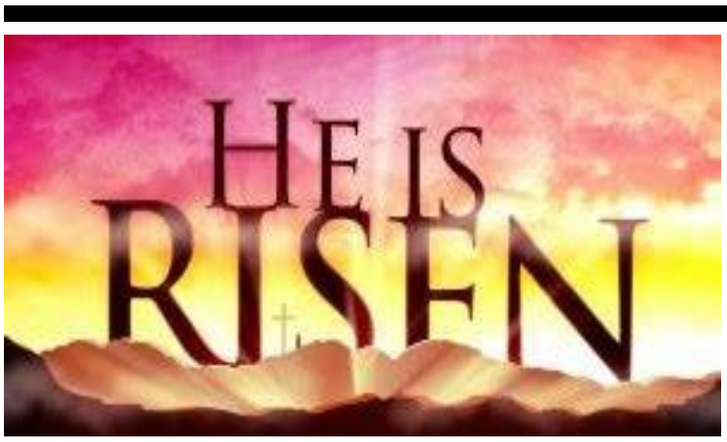
Hiwassee District Goal: 500 Food Buckets for Liberia

Pack in a NEW 5-gallon bucket with lid:

1 bag sugar (4-5 lb.)
1 bag dried beans (2 lb.)
1 oatmeal (18 oz. or less)
2 cans meat: ham (1 lb. can), spam or tuna (12 oz. can)
1 bag rice (2 lb.)
1 powdered/dried milk (no larger than 64 oz.)
1 cooking oil (48 oz. or less)

Please include $8.00 per bucket for shipping. Write check to First UMC. We will write one check for the total.

Completed buckets should be brought to First UMC by Sunday, May 18.



Easter Sunday Services
April 20

Sunrise Service: 7 a.m.
Breakfast following in Legacy Hall

Easter Worship: 11 a.m.

Please invite your friends and neighbors.

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

From Ask UMC

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Why give up things for Lent

By Rev. Joseph Yoo

Lent.

Ah. The time of year when we, Christians, conveniently rely on our faith to help us stick to our diets!

While that was typed tongue-in-cheek, I do think that we sometimes make too much light of the Lenten Season, *especially* when it comes to figuring out what we should give up. Some people treat the 40 days as a quick diet scheme: No carbs or no caffeine or no sugar or no chocolate— which is good and all. I don't want to be the Lenten Police and belittle what people are giving up. It's just that sometimes we say we're giving up those things without any rhyme, reason, purpose or intention.

I once had my youth group students write their names on the wall and what they were going to give up during Lent season to hold us accountable. It was then I realized I never really explained what the Lenten Season was about nor why we fast from things during this season.

The things my kids were giving up:

- "Doing homework. What's the point?"
- "Sweets and chocolate — Prom season is right around the corner."
- "Being nice to my siblings."

The responses on the wall taunted me every time I walked in that youth room.

We give up things during the Lent season to remind ourselves of the suffering and pain that we know Jesus will experience at the end of the season. We also give up things to be reminded of our dependence on God. Caffeine shouldn't be the thing that compels us to live. God's love and grace is what should compel us to live and love. Giving up coffee is not trivial at all. When that dull headache starts rolling in, we reflect on our mortality, our weakness, and our dependence on coffee (it's only 9am — how am I getting a caffeine headache already?) which should remind us of God's mercy and grace and presence.

Lent can also be understood as some sort of house cleaning. Just like how we may clean our house in preparation for a guest, we take time to examine our lives and in clean our hearts to prepare to encounter the Risen Christ at Easter. So we clean out the things that hinder our relationships with God and with others.

The main purpose of "giving up" things in Lent is to bring us closer to God; to prioritize God; to put God in the center of our minds and lives; to make God the focal point.

So if you're thinking about giving up chocolate — do it! But also ask yourself "how will that bring me closer to God?" One way it could bring you closer to God is that every time you start craving for chocolate, you take that as a cue to be in prayer; to confess your weakness, to confess your need for God's grace, to be reminded that God is with you and that God has always been with you.

May this Lenten season bring you ever so closer to God.

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: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Amber Brooks
5 Andrew Arp
7 Grace Walker
8 Martha Stiles, Jennifer Walker
10 Laura Day, Joy Turner
12 Kathy Dusombre
18 Barry Abbott
19 Wayne "Smokey" Brooks
25 Emily Bryant
28 Hunter Pierce, Ron Wray
29 Ellijah Knight

Anniversaries

18 Adam and Lynn Turner 25th

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

United Women in Faith News

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 third session of our Radicle Methodism Study. Please bring a sack lunch. Tea and cookies will be available. All ladies of the church are invited!

United Women in Faith

Our Garden Party and Plant Swap will be held on Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. All ladies of the church (and friends) are invited to come and join us. Please bring your plants to swap; or just join us and take some new plants home with you.

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

Georgia Festival Ensemble
David Scott, director; Tiffany Uzoije, soloist
Randy Romig, organ; Cathy Adams, piano
Saturday, March 15 at 4 p.m.
Reception to follow. $10 donation requested.
St. Luke's Anglican: details at StLukesblueridge.org

March Events

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** will be held on March 5, at 5 p.m. Invite someone to attend!

A **SPPR 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**.

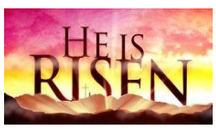
Upcoming in April

UWF Garden Party and Plant Swap: Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.

April 13, 11 a.m.

Good Friday Service, April 18, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services—April 20



Sunrise Service: 7 a.m.
Breakfast following in Legacy Hall
Easter Worship: 11 a.m.
Please invite your friends and neighbors.

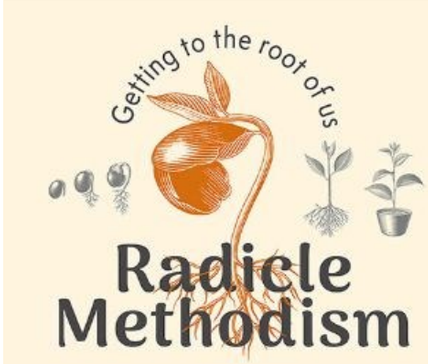
Missions Committee Report

The Missions Committee voted to help address food insecurity in our area. We are going to be working the Fannin County Snack in a Backpack program since they also serve surrounding areas around Fannin County, GA. They have a summer program established for Fannin County Schools, but they need a group from the Copper Basin to help with a summer program at Copper Basin Elementary School (CBES). This organization has been delivering weekly meals to CBES since the start of this school year when they took over the project which was started by a teacher several years ago.

Debbie Beck, the director for Snack in a Backpack came to speak at a meeting hosted by our Missions Committee. Representatives from area churches, a local book club, and Jake Reuse, vice-mayor of Copperhill were present. She explained the need to have meals delivered in the summer months because it is difficult for most families to get to a pick-up point due to work, lack of transportation, etc.

Volunteers will be needed to help deliver bags of food to CBES children in need. This project will run from the first of June through the third week in July. Bags will be assembled in Blue Ridge and delivered to a drop off point in Copperhill. Then volunteers, in groups of two, will deliver these bags to families. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ann Rymer.

Radicle Methodism 2025 Study



This study is an inspiring journey into the roots of United Methodism designed to foster growth, connection, and reflection across our denomination. The sessions continue at 10 a.m. on March 5, 12, and 19. Everyone is invited to attend. Cookies, tea, and fellowship will be part of each session.

Hosted by the UWF

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
January 26	45	10	$3,916.43
February 2	39	8	$4,063.55
February 9	46	10	$3,399.83
February 16	31	5	$3,483.25
February 23	43	7	$3,637.35
Total:			$18,500.41
Average:	**41**	**8**	**$3,700.08**

Additional giving:

Community Meal:	$20.00
Missions:	$360.00
Snack in a Back Pack:	$47.00
Change for Children-Annual Conference Offering:	$47.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$120.00
Human Relations Sunday Offering:	$50.00

From the Finance Committee

"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 begin 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."

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

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Bill Simonds, Adam 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
Bethany Allison, Choir Director
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 Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of: Weldon Self Jr.
By: Bill and Flora Grindstaff, Sheppie Dunn, Cathryn McCarter

General Fund in memory of:

Brian Bowling	By: Cathryn McCarter
John Mills	By: Cathryn McCarter
John Mills	By: Sheppie Dunn
Mary Louise Landrum	By: Sheppie Dunn

General Fund in honor of:

Flora Grindstaff	By: Cathryn McCarter

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Ann Record, Daniel Loudermilk (surgery), Barb Bender, 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

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: *Norma Bean, *the family of Don Campbell, *the family of Sue Campbell, *David and *Cynthia McKown, *Dennis Wray (surgery), *the family of Jimmy Louis Panter, *the family of Owen Nicholson, *Betty Wynn (car accident), *the family of Kerry Hicks, *Garry Cheyne (surgery), *the Berry family, *Ava Smith, *plane crash victims, the family of Mary Jones (stepmom of April Butler), +Tim and +Jennifer Higdon (home destroyed and both injured in fire), the family of Weldon Self Jr., Jodi and John (daughter and son-in-law of Barb Bender), Ben Hutto (nephew of the Wrays), 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.

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

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.