The Copperhill Courier

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

April 2025

Non-profit
Organization
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Address changes requested

Attention all *Copperhill Courier* readers:

We are transitioning our newsletter to online only. This is the last bulk mailed issue. 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.

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 is appreciated. If you would like to remain on the **mailing list** or join the **email 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

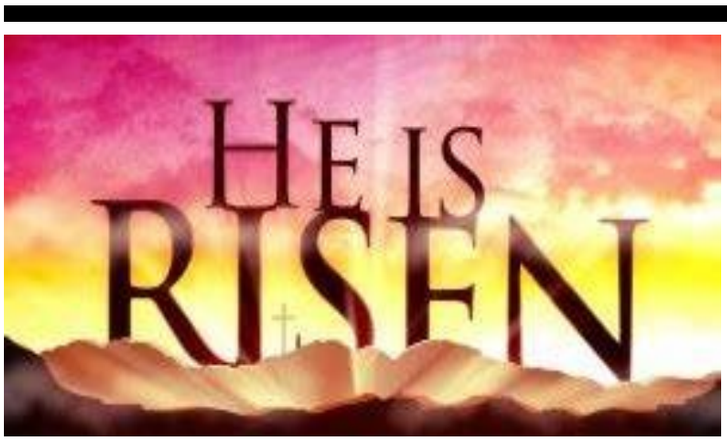
NEW 5-gallon bucket with lid will be provided.

Please shop for the following:

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 bucket contents 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.

Jesus Gives Shape and Form to Our Faith

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. 16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?" (Matthew 21:12-16)

The picture that many have when it comes to Jesus turning over tables can be interpreted as temple reform. It is said that the money changers made a mockery of God and temple practices by being on the grounds with their exorbitant fees. But when you look closer, the purpose of the temple is to provide a space where the people can offer their sacrifices to God. Someone had to provide the animals necessary for the sacrifices, and someone will have to provide the exchange of foreign money (that the pilgrims would have brought with them) into Jewish temple coins.

Some interpreters will say the temple had become commercialized and Jesus was cleansing it, reforming, and restoring the temple to its previous glory. This is a far cry from what Jesus says a few chapters later when saying of the temple, "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." Jesus is not there is restore and reform the temple, he is attacking the very premise of temple practice.

Matthew gives us a special reference to turning over the benches of those selling doves. Doves were used by women, the lepers, and the poor in temple sacrifices. These are the people who had been pushed to periphery of temple worship. There is a sense in which the Messiah upends the old order and old ways to make space for the rule and reign of Jesus which spread abroad the whole intent, the whole purpose, and the whole will of God. That's why in Matthew's gospel we have Jesus saying of the law, "you have heard it said…but I say to you." He is not doing away with the Law but fulfilling the law and the prophet's true purpose which are now embodied in Jesus Christ.

The key to interpretation comes in the words of Jesus which quote Isaiah 56:7, "These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples" And Jeremiah 7:11, "Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord." This is a contrast between purpose and reality. The purpose of the temple was for the people to draw near to God. It was a place that was to represent to the world the relationship that God had with Israel, and in turn, this relationship was to draw all peoples to God that they would be blessed because of this relationship between God and Israel.

It was to be a house of prayer that symbolized the union between God and his people and in this union the world would be blessed. But the people had turned into a den of robbers. A den is not a place where theft takes place but a space in which the thief runs to for safety and comfort. Jeremiah 7:8-10 shows us what this den looks like, "But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things?" Things haven't changed much since then as people still live like they want to while they ignore the ways of the Lord. They do so because they think they hold the ace in the hole called saved. And with this card they think that nothing will happen to them as long as they keep a tight hold on this idea even though they will have nothing to do with the ways of the Lord. Isaiah envisioned a holy highway (Isaiah 35:8) in which the people who walk on this highway will walk in the way of God's holiness. It is the highway of God and the highway leading to God. It is the road John the Baptist was charged with making straight, and it is the path which Jesus shows and asks us to follow him upon. As people of the United Methodist Church we walk upon this highway by doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God.

Tom Long says of this passage that the temple had become a place of privilege where the priests only let in people who were pure and up to code. Others like the blind and lame were left outside as the law had to be upheld in its rigid literalism. Jesus would divulge for us the true purpose of the law was for all people and not just the privileged. The old ways would have had the blind and the lame standing outside while the priests and privileged were inside experiencing the warmth of worship and community. But Jesus invites them into a new way of life as we see in vs 14, "The blind and lame came into the temple, and he healed them." Jesus upends the old ways and show us his way of life in the true purpose of the law, that all people, especially the most vulnerable among us, are invited into God's presence.

This text is normally read on Holy Monday of Holy Week. It is the last week of Lent that we begin to understand that Jesus comes into our life and our world not to reinforce what is there, but to make fundamental changes that reshape our view of faith, reshape our worldview, and reshape our purpose in the world. How is Jesus reshaping your understanding, your faith, and your life?

Pastor Buddy

Weekly Events

Sunday School: Sundays at 10 a.m.
Son Seekers meet in the Parlor

Choir Practice: Sundays at 10 a.m.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

6 Charles Henry Arp, Jr.
8 Linda Day, Flora Grindstaff, Elaine Morgan
12 Elyanna Vazquez
13 Ariana Morris
23 Sally Patterson, Clayton Turner
25 Paul Walker
29 Heidi Rule, Dominic Silvani
30 Todd Geren, Evelyn Stemmann, Pam Wray

Anniversaries

12 Steven and Emily Hodskins 11th
17 Todd and Beth Geren 21st
26 Bill and Flora Grindstaff 56th

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 **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. We will have snacks and a time of fellowship. Please bring your plants to swap; or just join us and take some new plants home with you.

We will meet on Wednesday, May 7, at 10 a.m. After our business meeting we will be preparing pots of flowers to deliver to our homebound members.

Our June meeting will be on June 4 at 11 a.m. Bring your favorite dish for a potluck lunch. A representative from First Fruits will attend to share details of their food ministry with us. All ladies are invited to join us.

The UWF will not meet in July.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

May 23-25: Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Blue Ridge Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,
235 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge.

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 if you have donations or for more info. Donations of jigsaw puzzles are especially needed.

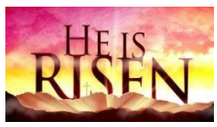
April Events

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.

Upcoming in May

SPPR Meeting: Thursday, May 1, at 4 p.m.

UWF Meeting: Wednesday, May 7, at 10 a.m.

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Brasstown Ringers Spring Concerts

Concerts will be held at Sharp Memorial UMC, Young Harris, GA, on Sunday, May 4, at 5 p.m. and First UMC, Franklin, NC, on Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m.
Admission is free but a love offering will be received. All are invited to attend.

Upcoming in June

UWF Meeting: June 4, at 11 a.m. Potluck lunch and speaker.

Church Picnic: Date to be announced. The picnic pavilion at Horseshoe Bend is being rebuilt so the Church Picnic will be held when the new pavilion is finished. Watch your bulletin for updates.

We will receive the **Fifth Sunday Offering** for Holston Home for Children on Sunday, June 29.

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.

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.

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 2	40	7	$3,693.50
March 9	37	7	$2,837.25
March 16	34	8	$2,686.83
Total:			$9,217.58
Average:	**37**	**7**	**$3,072.25**

Additional giving:

Community Meal:	$60.00
Missions:	$10.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$127.00
UMCOR Sunday Offering (early donation):	$25.00

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. 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: Smokey Brooks, Shirley Russell

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 Loving Memory…

Sheila Yvonne York
December 30, 1968—February 27, 2025

In Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of:
Sheila York By: Cathryn McCarter

Our Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *The family of Sheila York, *Ann Record, Barb Bender, Maria Ruark, Bill and Glenda Simonds, Stephanie Silvani, Sally Patterson, Mary Mills, Ariana Morris, Louise Arp, Donna Ratzlaff, Janice Burger, Sheppie Dunn, Lily Loudermilk, 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

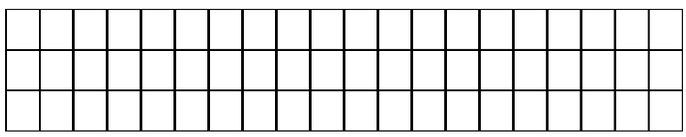
Homebound/Assisted Living: ^Tom Reed, ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health), ^Cathy Turner (Pruitt Health), ^Jennifer Clamon (Sonshine Manor), ^Barbara Collins, Margaret Self, Don Loudermilk,

Others in our prayers: *Layne McKown (brother of Linda Day), *Chad (brother of April Butler), *Kenneth Gilliland (father's passing), *Hope Loudermilk, *Ryan Panchyshyn, *Annette Loudermilk (aunt of Randy), *Pamela Gamble (foot injury), *Micheline Bennett, *Brenda Turner (sister of David Turner), *Phil Young, pancreatic cancer (grandson of Ann Record), Norma Bean, Dennis Wray (radiation and chemo), the family of Jimmy Louis Panter, the family of Owen Nicholson, Betty Gwynn (car accident), Garry Cheyne (surgery), the Berry family, Ava Smith, plane crash victims, Tim and Jennifer Higdon (home destroyed and both injured in fire), 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), 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 contact 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.