Walking with the Saints, Trusting the Promise, and Preparing for Christ's Coming

November is a month of remembering, giving thanks, and preparing our hearts for what comes next. The leaves change and fall, the daylight shortens, and the world outside becomes quieter. In the rhythm of the church year, this month is much the same. November begins with All Saints Sunday It is a day to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and leads us to the last Sunday of the Christian year, Christ the King Sunday, before we begin Advent and the journey to Bethlehem. In this month we are reminded that time moves, seasons shift, and God's promises endure through it all.

This year our November worship will follow the lectionary gospel readings from Luke and, as we enter Advent, prophetic readings from Isaiah. Each week lifts up a different dimension of our faith (memory, resurrection, endurance, hope) and invites us to see our lives not simply as isolated moments, but as part of God's ongoing story of redemption.

November 2 – All Saints Sunday
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:20–31

All Saints Sunday is one of the most meaningful days of our worship life. It is a holy day, not haunted by fear but filled with remembrance and hope. On this day, we light candles and speak aloud the names of those in our church family who have died in the past year. We do this not to dwell on loss, but to proclaim that death does not have the final word. Christ does.

The gospel reading for this day comes from the Sermon on the Plain, where Jesus blesses the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the excluded. These blessings remind us that God's kingdom does not work according to the world's priorities. Those who seem forgotten are remembered. Those who suffer are cherished. Those who grieve are held.

This is what it means to belong to the communion of saints. Our identity is not limited to our earthly lifespan. We are part of something larger, a community that stretches across time, culture, and geography. Through the years these dear saints have shaped our faith, taught us how to love, and helped build the life we now live together as a church. Their witness calls us forward.

All Saints is not about nostalgia; it is about inheritance. We inherit a calling before us to continue Christ's work of mercy, justice, and love in this world.

November 9 – God of the Living
Gospel Reading: Luke 20:27–38

On this Sunday, Jesus is confronted by religious leaders who attempt to trap him with a complicated question about marriage, death, and the resurrection. Their question is abstract and technical, but Jesus' answer is profoundly hopeful. God is "not the God of the dead but of the living, for to him all are alive."

This passage assures us that resurrection is not merely a belief about what happens when we die. It is a truth that shapes how we live now. The God who raised Jesus is the God who brings life out of places we have given up on. Resurrection hope is not optimism. It is not pretending everything is fine. It is the confidence that God continues to work life in us and through us, even in our most difficult seasons.

This week will connect closely to the griefs and challenges many of us carry. And it will remind us that faith is trust in the God who brings life even when we cannot see how.

November 16 – Endurance with Hope
Gospel Reading: Luke 21:5–19

This is one of those passages in Scripture that can unsettle us. Jesus speaks of wars, false prophets, destruction, and suffering. Yet in the middle of it, he says, "Do not be terrified" and "By your endurance you will gain your souls." Discipleship is not a life of ease. It is a life of faithfulness. Following Christ will sometimes put us at odds with the values, priorities, and expectations of the world around us. Yet Jesus does not leave us without guidance. He promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us, giving us words to speak and strength to continue.

This Sunday will speak to anyone who feels weary. To those who are discouraged by the state of the world. To those who wonder sometimes whether faithfulness matters. Jesus tells us it does. Our perseverance is not wasted. God is present in our endurance.

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday & Thanksgiving
Gospel Reading: Luke 23:33–43

The final Sunday of the Christian year brings us to the cross. Christ the King Sunday does not present Jesus as a worldly conqueror, crowned with gold and surrounded by power. Instead, it reveals Christ as the king who wears a crown of thorns. The One who reigns from the cross is the One who refuses to rule through violence, fear, or domination. His kingdom is built on mercy.

In this passage, a criminal crucified beside Jesus says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus replies, "Today you will be with me in paradise." In other words, you are not forgotten, you are not beyond mercy, and you are not alone.

This Sunday also prepares our hearts for Thanksgiving. Gratitude does not mean everything in life is easy. Gratitude means we are learning to see the grace that sustains us, even when life is hard. We give thanks because Christ's kingdom is not a distant dream. It is already among us, growing wherever compassion, forgiveness, and love are practiced.

Continued on reverse

The Copperhill Courier

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

November 2025

Address changes requested

Shopping List for Copper Basin Elementary School (CBES) & Community Meal White Christmas Food Bags- 2025

Items needed for food bags:

- **Canned green beans**
- **Canned corn or cream corn**
- **Canned fruit (fruit cocktail or other)**
- **Whole or jellied cranberry sauce**
- **Stuffing Mix**
- **Instant Mashed potatoes**
- **Packages of gravy mix**
- **Box of instant oatmeal**
- **Large jar of spaghetti sauce**
- **Box of pasta**
- **Large can chicken breast meat**
- **Large can of chicken noodle soup**

Please bring canned or dried goods to the church through Sunday, Dec. 7. Cash donations are also accepted and will go towards IGA gift certificates so families can buy a meat and/or dessert. Please make your checks payable to the church and write "Missions Christmas" in the memo line.

Dates to remember:

- **Sunday, Dec. 7 – last day to bring food bag items to the church**
- **Monday, Dec. 8 – Deadline for Community Meal participants to sign up for Christmas meal bag.**
- **Monday, Dec. 15 – delivery of food bags to CBES**
- **Monday, Dec. 22 – food bags distributed to Community Meal participants**

Thank you for your generosity!

-The Missions Committee

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 2:1–5

Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian year. We light the first candle and turn our hearts toward the coming of Christ—both the child in Bethlehem and the promised future when God will make all things new.

The Advent readings this year come from Isaiah, who offers soaring visions of hope. On the first Sunday, Isaiah speaks of a day when swords will be beaten into plowshares and nations will learn war no more. This is not a sentimental dream. It is a promise rooted in the character of God.

During Advent, we learn to wait, not passively, but expectantly. We wait with hope. We wait with trust. We wait with imagination. The saints we remembered at the start of the month teach us how to wait. The God of the living sustains us as we wait. And the crucified and risen King is the One for whom we wait.

A Season of Meaning and Hope

November reminds us that we are part of a story that is older and larger than we are. We remember the saints who have helped shape our faith. We cling to the God who brings life from death. We persevere with courage. We give thanks for Christ's mercy. And as Advent begins, we prepare our hearts again to receive the One who comes to save. May this season draw us closer to God and to one another. May we find strength in our memory, hope in our waiting, and joy in our journey toward the Christ who comes to us.

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

5 Leland Rymer
16 Billie Ash
17 Laura Ash, Crystal Ash
17 Angela Mitchell
20 Kathy Clark
24 Dellon Ash
25 Mary Mills
28 Freda Abbott

Anniversaries: No anniversaries in November

Your birthday or anniversary not listed?

Please contact the church office at 423-496-4931 or firstumc@etcmail.com.

St. Luke's Christmas Concerts

Saturday, December 20, 6 p.m.
Sunday, December 21, 3 p.m.

Tickets are $10 and must be purchased in advance. Watch the bulletin for details.

Diaper Drive

We are now collecting diapers (sizes 2 & 3) and unscented wipes to benefit a Foster Family with two babies. Any brand is OK except Luvs (due to perfume sensitivity).

Note of Thanks

Thank you all for the generous gift of diapers and wipes. It has been a huge help to us, as many of you know how many diapers and wipes a baby needs every day and multiply that by two! We're so incredibly grateful for your support and kindness!

-Emily and Michael

United Women in Faith News

The UWF will meet for a business meeting on Wednesday, November 5, at 10 a.m. Our program will be a slideshow presentation by Heidi Rule on her recent trip to London. All are invited to attend.

Our next outing will be a trip on December 14 to Blue Ridge Community Theater to see a play: *Christmas at Pemberley*. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

United Women in Faith

November Events

Saturday, November 8, 1-3 p.m. in Legacy Hall.
Laura is registered at Williams Sonoma and Amazon.

All news and calendar items for the combined December/January newsletter are due in the church office by Friday, November 14.

We will decorate First UMC for Advent on Sunday, November 23. Everyone is invited to stay after worship and help make our church beautiful.

A Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25, at 4:30 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving! The Church Office will be closed on November 27.

Fifth Sunday Offering for Holston Home will be received on November 30.

Officers and Leaders for 2026

Church Council

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

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

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

Online Worship Opportunities

You may access **Sermon** by Phone at 1-423-226-6437. Check out the page titled **Sunday Worship Highlights** on our website, fumc-copperhill.org.
All recordings can be found on buzzsprout.com/197301 and on Spotify https://open.spotify.com/show/3dxrFeeZSteYC0GRYTbJdz?si=4183b072c5e94dd5.

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.

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
September 28	48	4	$2,981.00
October 5	40	6	$2,867.00
October 12	37	7	$7,254.00
October 19	37	7	$2,015.65
October 26	38	5	$3,261.00
			Total: $18,378.65
Average:	**40**	**6**	**$3,675.73**

Additional giving:

Missions:	$10.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$244.00
Community Meal:	$20.00
World Communion Sunday:	$149.00
Scholarship Fund:	$200.00
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Shipping:	$30.00

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

Food Drive

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

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…

Dennis Mixon
January 1, 1945 — October 19, 2025

In Memory / In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of: Janice Burger
By: Mary Nell Pittman

General Fund in honor of: Cathryn McCarter
By: Vicki Dillard, Shirley Russell

Scholarship Fund in honor of: Cathryn McCarter
By: Leland and Ann Rymer, Joe and Kathy Dusombre

General Fund in honor of: Cathy Turner
By: Shirley Russell

A New Vision for The United Methodist Church

Stepping in faith into a new season of ministry.

A collaborative effort of the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops, this new vision statement is the result of a multi-year process of discernment to capture these kernels of truth rooted in scripture and lead the United Methodist Church forward into a hope-filled future:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and **lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

Share the ways your local church is living into the Vision by posting on social media and adding **#LoveServeLeadUMC**. Search the hashtag to be inspired by others' stories!

Memorial Bricks

Bricks may be ordered to memorialize or honor a friend or loved one. Each brick costs a minimum of $75.00 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