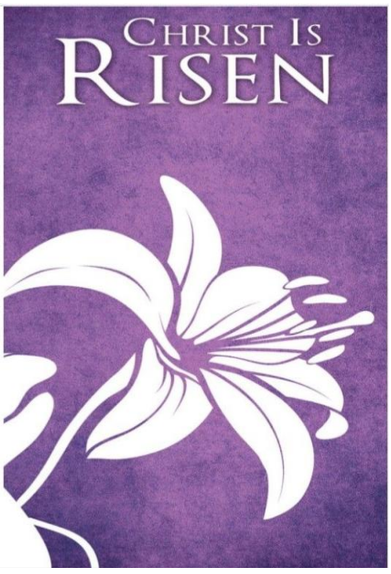
The Copperhill Courier

First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 538
Copperhill, TN 37317
April 2026

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held on April 3 at 6 p.m.

Please invite your friends and neighbors.



Easter Sunday is April 5th

Our Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. and includes Holy Communion.

A light breakfast will follow in Legacy Hall.

Join us at 11 a.m. for Easter Worship in the Sanctuary.

Please invite your friends and neighbors.

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

Finally, the lectionary points us toward the broader vision of resurrection in the book of Revelation. In passages such as Revelation 1:4–8 and 5:11–14, we are given a glimpse of the risen and reigning Christ, the one who is "the Alpha and the Omega." Here, resurrection is cosmic in scope. It is not only about individual transformation or even the life of the church; it is about the renewal of all creation. The Lamb who was slain is now on the throne, and all of heaven and earth join in worship. This vision reminds us that resurrection is both a present reality and a future promise. We live in the tension between what has already been accomplished in Christ and what is yet to be fully revealed. Our worship, our witness, and our hope are all shaped by this larger story.

Taken together, these readings invite us to see resurrection as the defining reality of the Christian life. It is personal, as Christ calls us by name. It is communal, as we are formed into a people of peace and purpose. It is transformative, as our lives are redirected and restored. It is missional, as we are sent into the world as witnesses. And it is cosmic, as we are drawn into God's plan to renew all things. Resurrection is not something we simply believe in; it is something we live into day by day.

As we move through this season of Easter, the question is not only, "Do we believe that Christ is risen?" but also, "How is his risen life shaping ours?" Are we allowing his voice to call us out of our grief and into new life? Are we receiving his peace in the midst of our fears? Are we being sent into the world as his witnesses? Are we open to the ways he is transforming and restoring us? The resurrection is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of a new one. It is a story that we are invited to live as the people of the risen Christ.

Pastor Buddy

April carries us from the shadow of the cross into the light of resurrection, and the lectionary readings for this season do not allow us to treat Easter as a single day or a passing celebration. Instead, they invite us into a way of life shaped by the risen Christ. If the cross reveals the depth of God's love poured out, the resurrection reveals the power of that love to transform everything from our fear, our grief, our community, and our future. Throughout April, the scriptures press us to see that resurrection is not only something that happened to Jesus, but something that now happens among us and within us as we are drawn into his life.

On Easter Sunday, the Gospel reading from John 20:1–18 places us in the garden with Mary Magdalene, standing before an empty tomb, weeping in confusion and loss. What is striking is that resurrection does not begin with clarity or certainty, but with grief. Mary does not recognize Jesus at first; she assumes he is the gardener. It is only when he calls her name that her eyes are opened. This moment tells us something essential about resurrection: it is deeply personal and relational. The risen Christ is not an abstract idea or a theological concept, but a living presence who calls us by name. Resurrection, then, is not simply about life after death—it is about the transformation of our present reality. It meets us in our grief, speaks into our confusion, and calls us into a new way of seeing. We do not move from grief to joy by our own effort; we are called into joy by the voice of the risen Christ.

The readings for the Sundays that follow continue to unfold what this resurrection life looks like in community. In John 20:19–31, we find the disciples locked behind closed doors, fearful and uncertain. Into that fear, Jesus appears and speaks peace. "Peace be with you," he says, not once but twice, and then breathes on them, giving them the Holy Spirit. Resurrection here is not simply about Jesus being alive again; it is about a new creation breaking into the present. The breath of Jesus echoes the breath of God in Genesis, suggesting that resurrection is the beginning of a renewed humanity. The disciples are not only comforted; they are sent. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Resurrection life is therefore missional. It moves us from fear to purpose, from isolation to participation in God's work in the world. Even Thomas, who struggles to believe, is not left out. His doubt becomes the doorway through which he encounters the risen Christ. This reminds us that resurrection faith is not the absence of doubt, but the willingness to encounter Christ honestly, even in our questions.

The lectionary also draws us into the life of the early church through readings from Acts, where we see resurrection lived out in concrete ways. In Acts 5:27–32, the apostles stand before authorities and boldly proclaim, "We must obey God rather than human beings." Their courage is not rooted in personal strength but in the reality of the resurrection. They have seen the risen Lord, and that changes what they fear and whom they serve. Resurrection reorders our loyalties. It frees us from being controlled by the powers of this world because we now belong to a different kingdom. This is not a call to defiance for its own sake, but to faithful witness. The resurrection gives the apostles a clarity of purpose: they are witnesses to what God has done in Jesus, and that witness shapes how they live, speak, and suffer.

In Acts 9:1–6, 7–20, we encounter the dramatic conversion of Saul, who becomes Paul. Here, resurrection is not only something proclaimed, but also something that interrupts and transforms life. Saul is on his way to persecute the church when he is confronted by the risen Christ. "Why do you persecute me?" Jesus asks, identifying himself with his people. This moment reveals that resurrection binds Christ and his church together in a profound unity. To encounter the risen Christ is to be redirected, to have one's entire life reshaped. Saul moves from being an enemy of the gospel to its most passionate advocate. Resurrection, then, is not merely comforting; it is disruptive. It calls us to repentance, to a reorientation of our lives around the living Christ.

The Gospel readings continue this theme of transformation. In John 21:1–19, the disciples return to fishing, perhaps unsure of what comes next. It is in the ordinary rhythm of their work that Jesus meets them once again, providing a miraculous catch of fish and sharing a meal with them. Resurrection does not pull us out of the world but meets us within it. The risen Christ is present in the ordinary places of our lives from our work, our relationships, and our daily routines. Around the charcoal fire, Jesus restores Peter, who had denied him three times. "Do you love me?" Jesus asks, three times, inviting Peter into a renewed relationship and a renewed calling. Resurrection is not only about forgiveness; it is about restoration and commissioning. Peter is not defined by his failure but by the grace that meets him in it. "Feed my sheep," Jesus says, calling him into a life of care and leadership.

continued on reverse...

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 4-5:30 p.m.
All are invited. "To Go" only meals available.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

12 Steven and Emily Hodskins 12th
17 Todd and Beth Geren 17th
26 Bill and Flora Grindstaff 57th

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

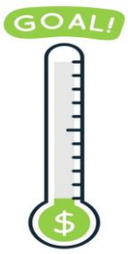
Upcoming Events

United Women in Faith

Our next **United Women in Faith** meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, May 6. Please bring your favorite dish for our Potluck Lunch. All ladies are cordially invited!

Roof Repair Campaign

The flat part of our church roof has a leak and is also deteriorating. It must be cleaned, repaired, and resealed at a cost of $10,000.00. Our 2026 budget for capital expenditures has been depleted already by the installation of a new Heating and Air Conditioning Unit and water heater for our parsonage to replace items that were no longer working.

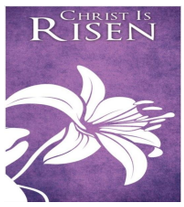


If you can make a donation toward our roof repair above and beyond what you already contribute for our budget it would be greatly appreciated.

April Events

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held on April 3, at 6 p.m.

Easter is April 5th.



Our **Sunrise Service** will be held at 7 a.m. and will include Holy Communion.
A light breakfast will follow in Legacy Hall.
Easter Worship is at 11 a.m.

Our April **Fellowship Supper** will be held on Wednesday, April 22, at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish – come enjoy good food and fellowship.

Looking ahead to May

SPPR Meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20.

The **Church Council** meets on Tuesday, May 26, at 4:30 p.m.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of **Memorial Day**.

Our May **Fellowship Supper** will be held on Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish - come enjoy good food and fellowship.

Hands-On Mission Project for 2026

Our Scenic South District will be collecting Food Buckets for Liberia. The District goal is 600 kits.
Please include $5 per kit for shipping. First UMC will write one check for total number of kits.

FOOD BUCKET SHOPPING LIST
Pack in a NEW 5-gallon bucket with lid:
2 bags of sugar (4 - 5 lb.)
2 bags of rice (2 lb.) or 1 bag (4 lbs.)
1 bag dried beans (2 lb.)
1 oatmeal (18 oz. or less)
1 cooking oil (48 oz. or less)

Kits for Ishe Anesu - District goal is $2,500.00.
This year you can also sponsor kits for children at Ishe Anesu in Zimbabwe. The items for the food, school, and health supplies kits will be purchased in Zimbabwe at wholesale prices with monetary donations made by Holston Conference members. If you would like to help with this project, please donate $5 or more. Mark your check or envelope "Zimbabwe" and the church will write a check for the total contributed. Thank you.

Deadline for food buckets and/or donations to purchase kits for Zimbabwe is Sunday, May 3.

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 (usually by Monday afternoon), we'll also post the link on our Facebook page @ **First United Methodist Church-Copperhill.**
Please like and share so others see our posts!

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 1	32	9	$5,870.00
March 8	37	5	$4,146.00
March 15	29	4	$2,263.50
March 22	31	8	$2,503.83
Average:	**32**	**7**	**$3,695.83**

Additional giving:

Local Missions:	$10.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$90.00
Community Meal:	$20.00
UMCOR Sunday Offering:	$428.00
Scholarship Fund:	$25.69
Holston Home for Children:	$50.00
Love Offering:	$450.00

Operation Round-Up Grant
received for Pastor's Benevolence Fund: $1,500.00

Members in Service to FUMC

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: 1-423-226-6437

Gilbert "Buddy" Butler, Pastor
Heidi Rule, Secretary
Bethany Allison, Choir Director
Matt Scoggins, Accompanist
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

Diane Emily Pellington
September 27, 1951 – February 25, 2026

In Memory/In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of:
Ed Massengale By: David and Joy Turner

General Fund in memory of: Ron Pace
By: Garry and Linda Day, Brett and Lonney McDonald, Elaine Morgan, Ron and Shirley Singleton

General Fund in honor of:
Randy Loudermilk By: Garry and Linda Day

Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *the family of Ron Pace, *Barb Bender (wrist), *the family of Diane Pellington, Randy Loudermilk, Marti Lane, Loretta Loudermilk, Evelyn Stemmann, Smokey and Janice Brooks, Jerry Panchyshyn, Donna Ratzlaff, Sheppie Dunn, Maria Ruark, Bill and Glenda Simonds, Mary Mills, Hope and Aiyana Loudermilk, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Neila Pace
Homebound/Assisted Living: Louise Arp, ^Cathy Turner (Pruitt Health), ^Jennifer Clamon (Sonshine Manor in Blairsville), ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health), ^Barbara Collins, Margaret Self, Don Loudermilk
Others in our prayers: *Gabriel Putnam (great grandson of Joy Turner), *Linda Reeves (friend of Shirley S.), *Barbara (sister of Lisa Loudermilk), *Buggs Arp (father of Freda A.) *the family of Ed Massengale, *Jake Mayfield. *Christina Stemmann, *James Wood, *turmoil in the Middle East, Tom, Kiera (high risk pregnancy) and Madeline -daughters of Jennifer Gibson, Angela Santa Maria, Will Hoffman, Tim Garrett (knee surgery), Charles Nicholson, Norma Bean, Rush Phillips (brother of Flora), Gina (burned in fire), Kimberly Curcio (paraplegic), Dennis Wray, Gary Hooper (brother-in-law of Pam Wray), Mackenzie Ray, Hannah Geren, Jerrie Sue Massengale, victims of natural disasters, first responders, armed forces members, world leaders

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

Please contact the church office to add someone to our Prayer Concerns list.

Love Offering

The home of Randy Loudermilk is undergoing extensive repairs because it is not livable for someone in his immune compromised condition. It needs mold abatement, a new heating and air conditioning system, and many other repairs. If you would like to help his family with this effort, please mark your check or envelope "Loudermilk love offering."

Diaper Drive

Unscented diapers (size 3) and unscented wipes to help a Foster Family with two babies are needed on an ongoing basis and can be placed in the box in the Narthex. Your gifts are appreciated!

Snack in a Backpack

Small boxes of raisins, packs of individual applesauce and packs of cheese crackers are needed by Snack in a Backpack – there's a box in the Narthex for donations.