The Copperhill Courier

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

Mission Offering 2026

Holston Conference Mission Offering: Loving Boldly Together
We will receive this offering on Sunday, May 24.

Donations will be shared between Ripples of Faith: Kenya Mission Project, led by Reverend Robert Kariuki Nyaga and the 2026 Miracle Offering, which will help create an Endowment for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. In Kenya, lives are being transformed as local leaders are equipped, communities are served, and the church continues to grow through faithful, grassroots mission. At the same time, the Miracle Offering will invest in future pastors and leaders around the world, providing access to theological education where it is needed. Together these efforts allow us to join what God is doing, both in meeting needs today and raising up leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for your generosity and your willingness to be part of something bigger, supporting both mission in Kenya and investing in education for future clergy around the world.

Change for Children Offering

Every Coin Counts: Loving Boldly Together

For over 25 years, Change for Children has turned pocket change into opportunities for children and families. Join us in continuing this tradition and help make a difference in the lives of children. Your coins and gifts fund the next round of Change for Children grants. This year a total of $41,400.00 was awarded to 20 different ministries across the conference. The goal is to collect at least $200 per congregation with the hopes that the amount of grants awarded may be doubled. **Every coin counts. Every gift matters.** Thank you for helping make this goal a reality.

Change or bills placed in the Narthex receptacle May 3 through May 24 will go toward this offering.

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

Some need Easter because their hearts are wounded. Some need Pentecost because their hearts have grown passive. Most of us need both. We need the risen Christ to heal us. We need the Holy Spirit to move us. We need forgiveness for the past. We need courage for the future. We need comfort in sorrow. We need fire for mission.

As we move toward Pentecost, this is a wonderful time for prayer. Ask God: What in me still needs resurrection? What in me needs to be awakened by the Spirit? Where have I settled for survival when God is calling me to service? Where has fear silenced my witness? Where has routine replaced expectancy?

It is also a season for congregational prayer. Ask: How is God calling our church to speak hope in our community's language? Who around us is lonely, hungry, burdened, overlooked, or spiritually weary? What gifts has the Spirit already given us that we have neglected or underestimated?

The good news is that Pentecost does not depend on human perfection. The disciples were not ready by ordinary standards. They were not polished, powerful, or strategically prepared. They were simply available. And that was enough for God to begin. It still is.

So as Eastertide draws to a close, do not think the celebration is ending. It is maturing. The joy of Easter becomes the calling of Pentecost. The peace of Easter becomes the courage of Pentecost. The wonder of the empty tomb becomes the witness of an open church.

Christ is risen, and because Christ is risen, the Spirit is coming afresh. May we not merely admire resurrection from a distance. May we receive the Spirit with open hearts. May our homes, our congregation, and our community become places where grace is spoken clearly, love burns brightly, and hope is made visible. Alleluia leads to Amen. Easter leads to Pentecost. And the church is still being born.

Pastor Buddy

Alleluia has echoed through the sanctuary. Lilies have bloomed and faded. The great shout of Easter morning still lingers in our hearts that Christ is risen. Yet the church calendar does not stop at Easter Sunday. Easter is not a single day but a season of fifty days of joy, renewal, and discovery. And as those fifty days draw to a close, the church begins to turn its eyes toward the celebration of Pentecost.

Many Christians know Christmas and Easter well, but fewer understand the beautiful movement from Eastertide to Pentecost. Yet this transition is a rich, spiritual journey in the life of the church. It teaches us that resurrection is not merely an event to admire in the past. Resurrection is a life to be entered into, a hope to be embodied, and a power to be shared with the world.

During Eastertide, the church lives in the wonder of the risen Christ. The Gospel readings often tell of Jesus appearing to frightened disciples, walking with confused travelers, calling Mary by name, breaking bread, and restoring Peter after failure. Again and again, the risen Jesus meets people where they are with their fear, grief, doubt, and disappointment. And with our lives in His hand, Jesus transforms them with peace and purpose.

Easter faith is not shallow optimism or pretending everything is fine. The disciples were not triumphant heroes on Easter evening. They were behind locked doors. Thomas doubted. Peter carried shame. Mary wept outside a tomb. Yet Christ came to them anyway. He still does.

Perhaps many of us live somewhere in that same Easter season of the soul. We believe, but we still wrestle with fear. We trust, but we still carry grief. We confess Christ is risen, yet some parts of our lives still feel closed off and uncertain. Eastertide reminds us that resurrection often unfolds gradually. Christ patiently keeps appearing, speaking peace, and calling us forward.

But then something changes as Pentecost approaches. The readings near the end of Eastertide often include Jesus' promises about the Holy Spirit. He tells the disciples he will not leave them orphaned. He promises an Advocate, Comforter, Counselor which is God's own Spirit to dwell within them. He prepares them for a new chapter. His physical appearances will cease, but his presence will not end. In fact, it will deepen and expand.

It is tempting to cling to Easter as a memory as we recall the flowers, the sunrise, the joyful hymns, the crowded sanctuary. But the risen Christ does not call us merely to relive a moment. He leads us toward mission. He leads us toward Spirit-filled life. He leads us toward Pentecost which is sometimes called the birthday of the church, but it is more than an anniversary. It is the moment when frightened followers become courageous witnesses. It is when private faith becomes public testimony. It is when scattered individuals become a community empowered for the sake of the world.

In Acts 2, the disciples are gathered together, likely still uncertain what comes next. Then the sound of rushing wind fills the house. Tongues as of fire rest upon them. They speak in languages they did not know. People from many nations hear the good news in their own tongue. Barriers begin to fall. The gospel becomes audible across divisions of culture and language.

Notice what the Spirit does. The Spirit does not simply give the disciples a warm feeling. The Spirit sends them outward. The Spirit creates understanding. The Spirit forms community. The Spirit turns timid hearts into bold witnesses. Many churches know how to celebrate Easter attendance, but struggle with Easter discipleship. We rejoice on Resurrection Sunday, but then wonder what comes next. Pentecost answers that question. What comes next is not a return to business as usual. What comes next is empowerment, calling, and mission. The transition from Eastertide to Pentecost asks every congregation: Will we remain in the upper room of memory, or will we step into the streets of witness? Will we speak only to those who already understand us, or will we learn to communicate grace in the language of our neighbors? Will we keep faith private and comfortable, or will we allow the Spirit to make us courageous and generous?

This transition also speaks personally. Many believers long for peace, and rightly so. Easter gives peace: "Peace be with you." But Pentecost gives power. Not worldly power rooted in domination, but holy power rooted in love, truth, endurance, compassion, and witness.

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:

4 Lonney McDonald, Stephanie Silvani
9 Scott Montgomery, John Turner
11 Lance Luke
18 Ann Record
19 Shirley Starling
22 Brett McDonald
23 Jeff Walker
26 Bonnie Graves
28 Christine Dowlin

Anniversaries:

2 Dominic and Stephanie Silvani 19th
15 David and Joy Turner 55th
30 Smokey and Janice Brooks 59th

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

United Women in Faith

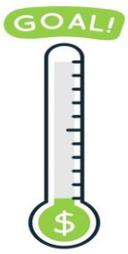
Our next **UWF Meeting** will be on Wednesday, May 6, at noon. All ladies are invited to attend.

Please bring a sack lunch. After our business meeting Ann Rymer will lead us in a craft project.

Please bring your "Thanks" offering (the coins we have been collecting) to this meeting.

Roof Repair Campaign

The flat part of our church roof has been cleaned, the leak repaired, and the roof 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.

May Events

UWF Meeting at noon on Wednesday, May 6.

Happy Mother's Day! Sunday, May 10.

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

We will receive the **Holston Conference Missions Offering** on Pentecost Sunday, May 24.

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

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

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

Holston Annual Conference will be held May 31-June 3. Pastor Buddy and Shirley Starling will be attending.

We will receive the **Fifth Sunday Offering** for Holston Home for Children on May 31.

The **Peace with Justice Sunday Offering** will also be received on May 31.

Brasstown Ringers Concert

The **Brasstown Ringers** invite everyone to their final Spring Concert on May 3, at 5 p.m. at New Life Church in Hayesville, NC. The theme is *Places Everyone!* And will feature local choirs and musicians. Free admission - donations will benefit selected charities. For more information, contact Linda Sterrett at lkmsterrett@gmail.com

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

May 22-24: Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Members Only Preview on Thursday, May 21, 4-6 p.m. Blue Ridge Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 235 Orvin Lance Dr. 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 info.

Looking ahead to June

UWF Potluck Lunch Meeting at noon on Wednesday, June 6.

Happy Father's Day! Sunday June 21

Our **Potluck Fellowship Supper** will be held on Wednesday, June 24, at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish.

We will receive the **United Methodist Student Day Offering** on Sunday, June 28.

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 29	37	4	$1,662.75
April 5	61	NA	$6,325.75
April 12	42	6	$2,437.75
April 19	30	6	$2,395.75
			Total: $12,822.00
Average:	**43**	**5**	**$3,205.50**

Additional giving:

Local Missions:	$30.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$130.00
Community Meal:	$25.00
Love Offering:	$2,775.00
Holston Home for Children:	$245.00
Roof Repair Fund:	$1,395.50
Hands-On Mission for Zimbabwe:	$100.00

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Elaine Morgan, Ron Singleton
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

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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 Memory/In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of: Ed Massengale
By: Garry and Linda Day, Elaine Morgan, Sheppie Dunn

General Fund in memory of: Ron Pace
By: David and Joy Turner, Barb Bender, Richard and Dale Wagner, Sheppie Dunn

Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Neila Pace, Barb Bender (wrist), 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
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: *James Edward Abernathy, *Ryan and Randy Panchyshyn, *Peter, *Elizabeth, Richard Rohler (brother of Ann Rymer), *Lee Carney family, *Sandra (sister-in-law of Joy Turner), *Lacy, *Frankie Robbins, Gabriel Putnam (great grandson of Joy Turner), Linda Reeves (friend of Shirley S.), Barbara (sister of Lisa L.), Buggs Arp (father of Freda A.), 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 (burns), 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.

Food Donations

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

Love Offering

The home of Randy Loudermilk has been undergoing extensive repairs including installation of a new HVAC system. If you would like to help, 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.