The Copperhill Courier

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

Missions Moment

Our church continues to be active in helping with food insecurity in our community. We have several members helping with Summer Meals, a program headed up again this year by Snack in a Backpack, based in Blue Ridge, GA. From our church, Joe & Kathy Dusombre, David Hungerford, Elaine Morgan, and Ann Rymer will join members of other local churches and clubs to help distribute food bags with meal items and snacks to local families in need. Bags will be packed in Blue Ridge and then distributed at the City Hall of Ducktown for those that have transportation. Joe & Kathy will deliver food bags to residents of eastern Polk County who need that service.

650 students at both Fannin County Schools and eastern Polk County schools receive a weekly bag during the school year. The goal of Summer Meals is to provide healthy and nutritious meals to families during the summer break. Parents registered for this summer program through forms distributed during the spring of the school year. Last summer, more than 100 volunteers served 370 children and their families providing more than 35,000 meals.

To serve the 8-week Summer Meal program where food is purchased through the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and with produce donated by Feed Fannin, it costs approximately $30/week per family. If you wish to donate to this program, there is a link to donate on the website <snackinabackpack.org> or checks may be mailed to the organization at P.O. Box 2123 in Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

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 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)

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

One of the recurring themes in Romans is that God is still at work within imperfect people and imperfect communities. That should give all of us hope. None of us arrive fully formed. We are all being shaped, challenged, corrected, forgiven, and renewed day by day. The Christian life is not about pretending we already have everything together. It is about trusting that the Spirit of God continues to work within us.

My prayer for this summer is that we would not simply stay busy, but that we would grow. That we would become more attentive to God's presence, more gracious toward one another, and more faithful in the way we live and love. Sometimes growth happens in dramatic moments, but often it happens quietly through worship, prayer, study, service, conversations, meals shared together, and ordinary acts of faithfulness.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to serve, support, encourage, and care for one another. I look forward to returning refreshed and ready for the summer ahead as we continue walking together in faith.

Pastor Buddy

June arrives with a different rhythm this year. Some months are full of activity and noise, while others invite us to step back, breathe deeply, and remember why we do what we do. This month feels like one of those moments of renewal.

Part of June will take me away from the church for Annual Conference and for a week of study and renewal at Duke Divinity School. Annual Conference is always a mixture of worship, business, reunion, challenge, and reflection. It reminds us that the church is larger than our local congregation and that we are connected to Christians serving in many different places and circumstances. At the same time, the week at Duke will be an opportunity to read, study, pray, and reconnect with some of the places and practices that helped shape my own calling to ministry. Even pastors need times of renewal.

One of the dangers in life is that we begin to live only from obligation and responsibility. We keep moving, keep working, keep reacting, but eventually our souls grow tired. Scripture shows us again and again that even Jesus stepped away from the crowds to pray, rest, and renew his communion with the Father. Rest is not laziness. Renewal is not selfishness. These are part of faithful living.

Summer often gives us opportunities for this kind of renewal. The pace changes. School schedules shift. Families travel. Vacations are taken. The evenings seem longer. In the middle of all that movement, perhaps June can become a season for us to reconnect with God in deeper ways. Maybe that means returning to prayer, reading scripture more intentionally, worshiping more faithfully, or simply learning to be still long enough to listen.

As I return later in the month, we will celebrate Father's Day together. Days like Father's Day can carry many emotions. For some, it is a joyful celebration filled with gratitude and memories. For others, it can bring grief, absence, complicated relationships, or reminders of loss. The church holds space for all of those experiences. We give thanks for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, mentors, and all those who have helped guide and nurture others with love, wisdom, sacrifice, and care.

The following week, we will also recognize our scholarship recipients. Few things give a church hope like seeing younger generations preparing for the future. Education is not simply about careers or success; it is also about forming character, wisdom, compassion, and purpose. As a congregation, we have the privilege of encouraging and supporting students as they continue their journey into adulthood. I hope you will join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and pray for God's guidance upon their lives.

Throughout the summer, our sermon focus will move through passages from Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans is one of the deepest and most powerful books in the New Testament. It wrestles with grace, sin, faith, hope, suffering, transformation, and what it means to live as the people of God in a divided and broken world. Romans reminds us that Christianity is not merely about ideas we believe, but about lives being transformed by the love and grace of God revealed in Christ.

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:

1 April Butler, Emily Hodskins
1 Shirley Russell
5 Sharon Luke
6 Ethan Butler
7 Ann Rymer
20 Lisa Loudermilk
23 Abby Butler
29 Glenda Simonds

Anniversaries:

2	Daniel and Haley Loudermilk	18th
11	Barry and Freda Abbott	26th
12	Jill and Brian Pierce	18th
14	Brett and Lonney McDonald	40th
15	Jerry and Kathy Panchyshyn	49th
18	Frank and Heidi Rule	43rd
19	T.J. and Kathy Thompson	54th

Your birthday or anniversary not listed?

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

You are invited to a baby shower!

June Events

UWF Potluck Lunch Meeting at noon on Wednesday, June 3.

The Church Office will be open 1 to 4 p.m. on June 11.

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.

A Baby Shower for Laura Day Ramsey will be held on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Our Faith Scholarship Recipients and Tommy Mitchell Memorial Scholarship Recipient will be recognized on Sunday, June 28.

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

Looking ahead to July

UWF Potluck Lunch Meeting at noon on Wednesday, July 1.

The Church Office will be open 1 to 4 p.m. on July 16.

Our **Potluck Fellowship Supper** will be held on Wednesday, July 22, at p.m. Bring your favorite dish and come enjoy good food and fellowship.

The **Church Council** will meet on at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28. All members are encouraged to attend.

Roof Repair Campaign

The flat part of our church roof has been cleaned, 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.

Contributed to date: $3,848.25

Our next **UWF Meeting** will be on Wednesday, June 3, at noon. All ladies are invited to attend.

United Women in Faith

We will have a potluck lunch followed by a business meeting and a short program. Please bring your ideas for future programs or guest speakers.

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
April 26	28	9	$2,272.75
May 3	39	6	$5,021.75
May 10	44	7	$2,132.75
May 17	33	7	$1,553.75
May 24	40	6	$3,808.75
			Total: $14,789.75
Average:	**37**	**7**	**$2,957.95**

Additional giving:

Local Missions:	$20.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund:	$210.00
Community Meal:	$10.00
Love Offering:	$405.00
Virtual buckets for Zimbabwe:	$85.00
Roof Repair Fund:	$1,802.75
Native American Ministries Sunday:	$50.00
Change for Children Offering:	$92.70
Holston Conference Mission Offering:	$100.00

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Shirley Starling, Charlie Stemmann, Joy Turner
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 Memory/In Honor Giving

General Fund in memory of:

Marsha McCarter	By:	Cathryn McCarter
Charles H. Arp, Sr.	By:	Louise Arp
Carl and Ruby Arp	By:	Louise Arp
Claude and Magalene Chastain	By:	Louise Arp
Ed Massengale	By:	Louise Arp
Ted Del Rio	By:	Louise Arp

General Fund in honor of:

United Women in Faith	By:	Louise Arp
Brett and Lonney McDonald	By:	Garry and Linda Day

Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Ann Record (surgery), Neila Pace, Barb Bender, Randy Loudermilk, 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: *Heath Buchanan (great nephew of Joy), *Martha (aunt of Buddy), *Josh Miller and his daughter Katelyn, *George Hood, *William and Laura May, *Katelyn Murdoch, *the family of Bill Dalton, *Suzy, *Henry, *Chloe Walker, *family of Garrett Segars (friend of Dylan), James Edward Abernathy, Ryan and Randy Panchyshyn, Peter, Elizabeth, Richard Rohler (brother of Ann Rymer), 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, Tom, Kiera and Madeline - daughters of Jennifer Gibson, Angela Santa Maria, Will Hoffman, Tim Garrett, 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, firefighters, armed forces members, world leaders, turmoil in the Middle East

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

Please contact the church office to add someone to our 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, canned vegetables. *Thanks to all who contribute—the families are always grateful.*

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!

Community Meal

The Community Meal is held on Mondays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Around 200 free 'to go" meals are served weekly. Designate donations to help pay for food and supplies "Community Meal" on memo line of check or envelope. The Community Meal does not currently need donations of plastic bags.