# The Copperhill Courier

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


## From the Pastor's Desk, continued

Perhaps that is a good theme for October. During the first two Sundays, different voices from within and around our congregation will lead us in worship. During the final two Sundays, Paul will invite us to think about a faith that becomes visible, a faith expressed through work, love, hope, gentleness, courage, and the sharing of our very lives. And Reformation Sunday will remind us that the church must continually allow the gospel to shape and reshape us. Through all of it, the question remains the same. What kind of people is Jesus Christ forming us to become?

My prayer is that we will increasingly become a people whose faith can be seen, whose love can be experienced, and whose hope can be shared. May our worship shape the way we live, and may the way we live point beyond ourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ. I look forward to worshiping with you throughout October and to seeing what God continues to do among us.

Pastor Buddy

## A Message from our Scenic South District Superintendent

Conditions in Sudan are drastic, and our brothers and sisters need us to be generous in helping them. Let's plan on gathering our **South Sudan Emergency Mission Offering** by December 15. The overall goal of Holston Conference is $250,000.00. I believe our part of that goal in Scenic South District should be $65,000.00.

**"$10 feeds someone for half a week."** How many people will you help feed?

Nathan Malone, District Superintendent

Shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex on October 4. Please bring filled shoebox and $10 for shipping back by November 15.

*You can make a difference in a child's life!*

Shoebox gift ideas: Fun "wow" item & toys: dolls, stuffed animals, shoes toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, soccer ball with pump. School supplies, personal care items: toothbrushes, socks, combs and hairbrushes, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, coloring books, solar calculators, sunglasses, hair accessories, flashlights (with batteries). Personalize with a note and photo, prayer for each child.

Do **not** include: soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, vitamins or medications, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans, scary or war-related items (toy guns).

October will be a little different for us at First United Methodist Church. During the first two Sundays of the month, I will not be preaching. On October 4, I will be attending the Leadership Institute Conference in Kansas City, and Garry Day will lead our worship service. The following Sunday, October 11, we will celebrate United Women in Faith Sunday. The women of the church will lead worship, and Carol Wade, a retired Presbyterian minister, will bring the message. I am grateful for those who are willing to step forward and lead our congregation during these Sundays.

There is actually something important in that. Sometimes we can unconsciously begin to think of worship as something that a few people provide while everyone else attends. But the church has never belonged to the pastor. Neither does its ministry belong only to those who stand behind the pulpit. The church belongs to Jesus Christ, and all of us have been given gifts and opportunities to participate in its ministry. These first two Sundays of October give us an opportunity to experience that in a very visible way.

I am especially looking forward to attending the Leadership Institute Conference. Whenever we attend conferences, workshops, or training events, there is always the temptation to come home with a notebook full of ideas that are quickly forgotten when ordinary life begins again. My hope is to approach this conference differently. I am not looking for a program that will solve every problem or a collection of ideas that we can simply copy from another church. Instead, I want to listen carefully for anything that might help us think more deeply about our calling as a congregation and about how we can faithfully form people as disciples of Jesus Christ in the community where God has placed us.

That question of faithfulness will also lead us into the second half of October. When I return to the pulpit on October 18, we will begin spending some time in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. We will begin with 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10. Paul writes to a relatively young Christian congregation, but what is remarkable is the way he speaks about their faith. He remembers their "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Their faith is not merely something they believe privately. It has become visible in the way they live.

Paul even tells them that they have become an example to other believers. The message of the gospel has gone out from them so powerfully that Paul says he hardly needs to say anything about them. Other people can already see what God is doing in their lives. That raises an important question for every congregation. What does our faith look like when it becomes visible? We certainly confess our faith when we gather for worship. We sing hymns, pray prayers, hear Scripture, receive Communion, baptize, and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. All of those things matter deeply. But what happens when worship ends? What does our faith look like on Monday morning? What does it look like in our homes, workplaces, friendships, disagreements, spending, serving, forgiving, and caring for our neighbors? Faith is not simply something we possess. Faith shapes the people we are becoming.

On October 25, we will continue with 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8. In that passage Paul reflects on his ministry among the Thessalonians. He reminds them that he did not come seeking praise, flattering people, or trying to gain something from them. Instead, Paul describes his ministry with surprisingly tender language. He says that he and his companions were "gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children." Then he says, "We were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves." That may be one of the finest descriptions of Christian ministry. We share not only the gospel, but ourselves. The Christian faith is handed from one generation to another through Scripture, preaching, teaching, worship, and the sacraments. But it is also handed on through our lives. Someone takes the time to teach a child. Someone visits a person who is lonely. Someone prepares a meal. Someone listens when another person is hurting. Someone quietly gives so that another person has what they need. Someone forgives. Someone welcomes. Someone prays. Someone lives the gospel closely enough to another person that the love of Christ becomes tangible.

October 25 will also be Reformation Sunday. On that day, we remember the movement of renewal in the church that we call the Protestant Reformation. It is easy to treat the Reformation simply as an event that happened more than five hundred years ago. But at its heart is a continuing reminder that the church must always return to the gospel and continually ask whether our life reflects the grace we proclaim. The church is always receiving the faith handed down to us, and every generation has the responsibility of living that faith faithfully in its own time.

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. in the Parlor. 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.

**AA Meeting:** Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. (Legacy Hall)

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Birthdays:*

3 Elaine Minor
4 Cathryn McCarter
8 Randy Loudermilk
11 Heather Turner
13 David Turner
16 Kenny Cook
21 Lyndsay Turner, McCay Turner
23 Neila Pace
25 Brittany Knight
29 Blake Callihan, Beth Geren
30 Dylan Brooks

*Anniversaries:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Alex and Lisa Loudermilk | 26th |
| 17 | Garry and Linda Day | 45th |
| 20 | Dellon and Billie Ash | 46th |

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

United Women in Faith

UWF Sunday will be held on October 11. Reverend Carol Wade, retired Presbyterian minister, will be our guest speaker.

For our November 4th meeting we will take a tour of Family Connections in Blue Ridge. We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. to carpool to Blue Ridge.

Our **Annual Pecan Sale** has begun – please place your order on the form in the Narthex or call the church office. Seven varieties are available for pre-order through October 25 at $14 each bag.
16 oz. varieties: fancy mammoth halves, fancy medium pieces, fancy small pieces.
10 oz. varieties: dark or milk chocolate covered, chocolate pecan clusters, cinnamon glazed pecans.

## Looking ahead to October

We will receive the **World Communion Sunday Offering** on October 4. Your gifts support scholarships, grants, and programs that help prepare the next generation of church leaders. Garry Day will be our guest speaker.

**UWF Sunday** will be held on October 11. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Carol Wade, retired Presbyterian minister.

The Church Office will be closed on October 15 and 16. All items for the October 18 bulletin are due in the church office by 11 a.m. on Monday, October 12.

Our **Annual Charge Conference** will be held on Sunday, October 18, immediately following our worship service.

Our final **Potluck Fellowship Supper** of 2026 will be held on Wednesday, October 28, at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite dish and come enjoy good food and fellowship.

## Looking ahead to November

We will observe All Saints Sunday on November 1. Daylight Savings Time ends so set your clocks back one hour Oct. 31.

The UWF will take a field trip to Family Connections in Blue Ridge to tour their facility on Wednesday, November 4. We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. to carpool. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Legacy Hall is reserved on November 7 and 14 for private events.

A **Church Council Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 4:30 p.m. (Held a week earlier due to Thanksgiving.)

The Church Office will be closed on November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving. All items for the bulletin are due in the church office on Monday, November 23, at 10 a.m.

## Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

October 9-11: Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Members Only Preview on Thursday, October 8, 4-6 p.m. Blue Ridge Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 235 Orvin Lance Drive. 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 information.
*Volunteers are needed to help set up the sale on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 3-6 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 7, beginning at 9 a.m.*

## 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.

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| August 30 | 30 | 6 | $ 2,153.75 |
| September 6 | 40 | 6 | $ 4,109.75 |
| September 13 | 32 | 6 | $ 2,197.75 |
| September 20 | 32 | 5 | $12,527.75 |
| | | Total: | $20,989.00 |
| **Average:** | **34** | **6** | **$ 5,247.25** |

**The capital expenditures (roof repair, etc.) fund has been sufficiently replenished. Please direct all "above and beyond giving" to our budget. Thank you for your generosity.**

***Additional giving:***

| | |
|---|---|
| Local Missions: | $10.00 |
| Pastor's Benevolence Fund: | $25.00 |
| Community Meal: | $10.00 |
| Holston Home for Children 5th Sunday Offering: | $225.00 |
| Roof Repair Fund: | $315.00 |

## 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**
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**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**
**Matt Scoggins, Accompanist**
**Kaylee Workman, 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:
Cathy Turner By: T.J. and Kathy Thompson

General Fund in Memory of:
Carl "Sonny" Panter, Jr. By: Cathryn McCarter

## *Prayer Concerns*

***Our Congregation:*** *Evelyn Stemmann (fracture), *Teresa Smith, Janis Martin, Christine Dowlin, Elaine Minor, Kathy Panchyshyn, Lisa Loudermilk, Ann Record, Neila Pace, Barb Bender, Randy Loudermilk, Loretta Loudermilk, 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, ^Jennifer Clamon (Sonshine Manor in Blairsville), ^T.J. Thompson (Pruitt Health), ^Barbara Collins, Margaret Self, ^Don Loudermilk

***Others in our prayers***: *Lily Butler, *the family of Florence, *Bud Butler (heart problems, father of Buddy), *C.J., Colleen Daily, *Sara (niece of Kathy P.), *Michael (brother in law of Kathy P. ), Annette Loudermilk, (sister in law of Loretta), Laura (lupus), Michael Rheaume, bladder cancer (brother in law of Kathy P.), Simon Grant (on transplant list), Jody Muchnok (daughter of Barb B.), Elizabeth, cancer (cousin of Buddy), Tom Rodman (grandfather of Dylan), Bily Timmons, ~George Hood, Van Williams, Melissa Pittman, Jerry Pack, Jason, Susie Skelton (bone marrow transplant), Katelyn Murdoch, Henry, Chloe Walker, James Edward Abernathy, Ryan and Randy Panchyshyn, Peter, Elizabeth, Sandra (sister-in-law of Joy T.), Lacy, Frankie Robbins, Gabriel Putnam (great grandson of Joy Turner), Linda Reeves (friend of Shirley S.), Barbara (sister of Lisa L.), 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.**

## Candy Collection

Individually wrapped candy donations are needed to give out at our church table during the Copperhill/McCaysville Halloween Safe Zone. Please bring these by Sunday, October 25.

## Food Donations

Please donate nonperishable food items in the Narthex box – canned meat, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, rice, soup, chili, pasta, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables.

## Snack in a Backpack

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

## Diaper Drive

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