The Copperhill Courier

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

From the Pastor's Desk, continued

Finally, on November 29, we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. As one Christian year ends, another begins, and we find ourselves once again waiting for the coming of Christ. Advent reminds us that waiting is not the same as doing nothing. Christian waiting is active. We prepare our hearts, examine our lives, renew our commitments, and look for the ways God is already at work among us. We begin Advent remembering that Christ has come, trusting that Christ is present with us, and anticipating the fulfillment of God's promises.

As we move through November, I invite you to consider a simple question: How is the hope we profess shaping the life we live? Does our hope make us more compassionate? Does it strengthen our willingness to serve? Does it encourage us to remain faithful when circumstances become difficult? Does it help us recognize God's presence in the ordinary moments of life? Our hope in Christ is not merely a promise about the future. It is a gift that transforms our present. May this November be a season of remembrance, gratitude, faithfulness, and renewed hope. And may we continue to encourage one another as we seek to live as the people God has called us to be.

Pastor Buddy

Holston Stands Together: South Sudan Relief

For more than two decades, Holston Conference has shared a missional partnership with United Methodist pastors, churches, and communities in South Sudan. We have worshiped together. Prayed together. Served together. Shared meals and stories together. Over those 20 years, this partnership has become much more than a mission project. **They are family.** Today, members of that family are facing an urgent crisis. War, drought, and famine have created tremendous hardship across the region. Crops have been devastated. Food has become increasingly scarce. And pastors continue faithfully serving their churches and communities while also struggling to provide basic necessities for their own families. Holston Conference currently supports **18 churches in South Sudan**. Through **Holston Stands Together: South Sudan Relief**, we are coming alongside the pastors of these churches and their families to provide food, health care, and immediate relief during this crisis. **"$10 feeds someone for half a week."** How many people will you help feed?

Our Goal: Immediate Relief and Sustaining Support
Our first goal was to raise **$50,000 for immediate assistance**. These funds allowed relief efforts to begin as quickly as possible, helping provide food, health care, and other urgent support for pastors and their families.
Our larger goal is to raise **$250,000 by January 15** to provide a more sustained safety net for the pastors of our 18 partner churches and their families throughout 2027.

Scenic South District Goal (as part of the larger goal) is $65,000 by January 15.

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, toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, soccer ball with pump. Personal care items: toothbrushes, washcloths, combs and hairbrushes. School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, chalk, markers, notebooks, coloring books, solar calculators. Other items: T-shirts, shoes, socks, sunglasses, hair accessories, cups, bowls, small water bottles, flashlights (with batteries).
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).

November is a month of transitions. The days grow shorter, the temperatures begin to fall, and the trees that were so full of color just a few weeks ago begin to lose their leaves. We watch the world around us prepare for winter, knowing that another season is coming to an end. Yet, even as the landscape changes, we know that winter will not have the final word. Spring will come again, bringing with it the renewal of life.

The Christian calendar follows a similar pattern during November. We begin the month remembering those who have gone before us in faith. We spend time reflecting on the promises of God, the hope of resurrection, and the call to remain faithful. We celebrate Christ the King Sunday, bringing another Christian year to a close. Then, on the final Sunday of November, we begin a new Christian year with the First Sunday of Advent. Through all these celebrations and observances, one theme connects them: We are called to live as people of hope. But what does that mean? What does it look like to live with hope when the world around us seems so uncertain? How does our hope in Jesus Christ shape the way we approach the ordinary circumstances of life? These are questions worth considering as we journey through November together.

On November 1, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a day when we remember and give thanks for those who have completed their earthly journey and now rest in the presence of God. For many of us, this day brings a mixture of gratitude and grief. We remember those whose lives have shaped our own, those who taught us about faith, demonstrated the love of Christ, and encouraged us along the way. We remember their laughter, their wisdom, their kindness, and perhaps even some of their imperfections. All Saints Sunday reminds us that the Christian faith is never simply an individual journey. We belong to a great community of believers stretching across generations. The faith we practice today has been handed down through the lives and witness of countless people who came before us.

Yet, remembering the saints is about more than looking backward. Their lives invite us to consider the legacy of faith we are creating for those who will come after us. Just as we have received the gift of faith through the witness of others, we are called to share that gift through the way we live. Our Scripture that morning, 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13, reminds us of the importance of being a faithful witness. Paul recalls how he and his companions lived among the Thessalonians, working diligently and conducting themselves in a manner worthy of God. Their proclamation of the gospel was accompanied by lives that demonstrated its transforming power. Our witness is not limited to the words we speak. It is also revealed in how we treat one another, how we respond to difficulties, and how we demonstrate the love of Christ in our daily lives.

On November 8, we will turn to 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, where Paul addresses the grief experienced by believers who have lost loved ones. Paul does not tell them that they should not grieve. Instead, he reminds them that their grief is held within the greater promise of resurrection. There is something deeply comforting about this distinction. Christian hope does not require us to deny our sorrow or pretend that everything is fine. We can acknowledge the pain of loss while trusting that God's promises extend beyond the limits of our present understanding. The resurrection of Jesus Christ assures us that death does not have the final word. Our hope rests not in our ability to understand everything that happens, but in the faithfulness of the God who raised Jesus from the dead.

The following Sunday, November 15, we will continue with 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11. Here, Paul encourages the church to remain awake, alert, and faithful as they await the fulfillment of God's promises. It is interesting that Paul does not encourage the Thessalonians to spend their time trying to determine exactly when Christ will return. Instead, he calls them to live faithfully in the present. They are to encourage one another, build one another up, and live as children of the light. This is an important lesson for us. Sometimes we become so concerned about what tomorrow might bring that we neglect the opportunities God places before us today. We cannot control everything that happens in the future, but we can choose how we respond to God's call in the present. We can love our neighbors, offer encouragement to someone who is struggling, extend forgiveness, practice generosity, and seek reconciliation. We can participate in the work God is already doing in our community.

On November 22, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday, which also falls on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. These two observances offer a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the source of our gratitude. Christ the King Sunday reminds us that our ultimate allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ. The kingdoms and powers of this world come and go, but the reign of Christ is established through a love that serves, sacrifices, forgives, and restores. In a world where power is so often measured by wealth, influence, and control, Jesus reveals a different understanding of what it means to reign. His kingdom is characterized by mercy, justice, peace, and love. As we prepare to gather around our Thanksgiving tables, perhaps we might consider not only the blessings we have received but also how those blessings might be shared. Gratitude is more than recognizing what we have been given. It is allowing thankfulness to shape the way we live.

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:
5 Leland Rymer
16 Billie Ash
17 Laura Ash, Crystal Ash, Angela Mitchell
24 Dellon Ash
25 Mary Mills
28 Freda Abbott
30 Garry Day, Maria Ruark

Anniversaries: none in November

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

United Women in Faith

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4. We will be touring Family Connections in Blue Ridge and learning about their mission. Please meet at First UMC at 2 p.m. for a very brief business meeting and sign-up for our December project. We will carpool to Blue Ridge.

Thank you to everyone who ordered pecans in our annual fundraiser.

A trip to see a play at the Blue Ridge Community Theater is planned for December 13. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" – the musical.

We will have a lunch meeting on December 2 at the home of Cathryn McCarter.

Online Worship Opportunities

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!*

November Events

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 on Wednesday, November 4. We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. for a brief meeting and to carpool.

The **SPPR Committee** will meet on Nov. 8 after worship.

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.)

We will decorate the church for Advent following worship on Christ the King Sunday, November 22. Everyone is invited to stay and help.

The Church Office will be closed on November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving. All items for the Nov. 29 bulletin are due in the church office on Monday, November 23, at 10 a.m.

Holston Home for Children **5th Sunday Offering** will be received on November 29. This is also the first Sunday in Advent.

Looking ahead to December

Our **Christmas Eve Service** will be held at 5 p.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for carols, communion, and candlelight.

The Church Office will be closed on December 24, 25, 28 and January 1. All bulletin items for Christmas Eve and December 27 are due in the office by Monday, December 21 at 10 a.m. Bulletin items for January 3 are due in the office by 10 a.m. on December 31.

Legacy Hall is reserved on December 25 for a private event.

Missions Moment

The Missions Committee met and decided to continue with helping food insecurity in our community. We will again assist this year with the White Christmas at Copper Basin Elementary School. Canned goods or monetary donations will be collected at the church until December 13. We will pack bags after worship on December 13 and will include a gift certificate so that those families can pick up a meat and dessert at our local IGA.

In our ongoing assistance with the Snack in a Backpack program, we are continuing to collect raisins (in the snack box size that comes six to a pack). Also, crackers with cheese filling are also being collected. Applesauce in the little multi packs is not needed. Those are difficult to pack in the student bags that go home with them. Additionally, the Snack in a Backpack program orders items like that (which pack easier) from the Chattanooga Food Bank. Thanks to our church for the role you play in helping with hunger.

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 27-Homecoming	63	Not held	$2,158.75
October 4	36	5	$3,957.75
October 11	31	6	$1,660.75
October 18	30	4	$1,662.75
October 25	31	5	$5,242.75
		Total:	$14,682,75
Average:	**38**	**5**	**$2,936.55**

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:	$250.00
South Sudan Offering:	$230.00
Roof Repair Fund:	$200.00
World Communion Sunday Offering:	$152.00

Members in Service to FUMC

Ushers: Adam 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

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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

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:
Carl and Anna Panter By: Cathryn McCarter

Prayer Concerns

Our Congregation: *Ciera Butler, Evelyn Stemmann, Teresa Smith, Christine Dowlin, Elaine Minor, Kathy Panchyshyn, Lisa Loudermilk, Ann Record, Neila Pace, Barb Bender, Randy Loudermilk, Loretta Loudermilk, Smokey & Janice Brooks, Jerry Panchyshyn, Donna Ratzlaff, Sheppie Dunn, Maria Ruark,Bill & Glenda Simonds, Mary Mills, Hope and Aiyana Loudermilk, Ron and Shirley Singleton, Janis Martin

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: *Marvin Turner, brother-in-law of Joy, *Drew Martin, *Irene Green, *Charles Nicholson, *Bob Swan, *hurricane victims, *Emily Heckman, *Nathan Bennett, Lily Butler, Bud Butler (heart problems, father of Buddy), C.J. Scoggins, 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 Brewer, 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, 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, Middle East turmoil

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

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

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.

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. Donations are used to prepare food boxes for those in need.

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.