

# The Smoky Mountain District



# Messenger

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## 10 Financial Resolutions for the New Year

Happy New Year! The Holston Foundation hopes your 2019 is off to a happy and healthy start. Whether you're someone who embraces resolutions or avoids them it's still a great time to take next steps for your financial well-being. Here are 10 tips for the New Year:

### 1. Inventory your assets and review your will and beneficiaries

Is your plan to give to the church, your family and friends up to date? Set a date today to discuss your plans with loved ones and the executor. The Holston Foundation can help you explore possibilities. Don't have a will? Make a plan to create one in the first few months of 2019.

### 2. Conduct an annual investment checkup

Are you on track to meet your long-term goals? Is the risk in your portfolio in line with your life stage? Have your needs changed? Are you saving enough? Just like an annual physical exam take time to plan for a financial checkup.

### 3. Conduct a generosity checkup

While you're thinking of checkups take this time to consider how you'd like to be generous in the new year. Is your giving to your local church where you want it to be? Take this time to consider other United Methodist ministries you might be able to support in 2019. The Holston Foundation can help facilitate gifts to your local church and/or the ministries that you care about.

### 4. Develop a budget and stick to it

Resolve to save more money and spend less this year. Bishop Richard Looney always reminds others that the more you save the more you can give.

### 5. Reduce your debt

Develop a plan that includes making extra payments toward loans, mortgage or credit card debit this year.

### 6. Increase your retirement plan savings

Did you get a raise? If you put any extra money (no matter how small) into your 401(k) or 403(b) retirement account it can make a big difference.

### 7. Identify new ways to save money

Have a brainstorming session with your family to identify ways you can work together to reduce spending this year. Do an inventory of subscriptions and memberships to make sure they're still in line with what you'd like to be spending. A fresh start for the new year!

### 8. Conduct an annual reviews of your service providers

The beginning of the year is a great time to compare rates for insurance, cell phone plans, TV, Internet and entertainment providers to make sure you're receiving the best rates possible. Call and ask for any new deals or discounts that might be available.

### 9. Start or build up your emergency fund

Have at least a 90-day emergency fund so you are prepared in the event of an unexpected expense or life event.

### 10. Check your credit report - Take the time to check your credit score this year.

Contact the [Holston Foundation](http://www.holston.org) to learn more about how you can meet your financial and generosity goals for the year.

**Praying**  
**"A Way Forward"**  
**Each and Every Day**  
**Please Remember to**  
**Pause and Pray for your**  
**Holston Delegation**  
**Between**  
**2:23-2:26 a.m. or p.m.**

(February 23-26-Dates of  
**Special Session Of**  
**The General Conference)**

**Job Opening:**

Sevierville First United Methodist Church seeks a Full Time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Potential candidates should be a committed Christian, enthusiastic, creative, and resourceful with the ability to relate well with youth and young adults. For more information please send your questions and resume to [pastor@1stmethodist.com](mailto:pastor@1stmethodist.com)

**Up-Coming Events**

**January**

- 10** Last Day to submit Tithe Payments to Conference
- 16-17** Year End Reports due-please bring into the office
- 21** District office closed for Martin Luther King holiday
- 25-27** Resurrection at LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge.

**February**

- 1-3** Divine Rhythm at Mills Auditorium, Gatlinburg
- 18-20** Ministers' Convocation in Pigeon Forge, TN
- 23-26** General Conference Special Session in St. Louis, MO

**March**

- 4-8** Appointment Cabinet (Appointment Making Week)

**Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2018 District Ministries (Maryville District)**

*(Thru December 20, 2018—100%)*

(\* Denotes 100% of 2018 District Ministries paid)

- |                         |                       |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| * Alcoa, First          | * Axley's Chapel      | * Bethel (Loudon)     |
| * Bethel (Seymour)      | * Binfield            | * Broadway            |
| * Burnett Memorial      | * Camp Ground         | * Carpenters          |
| * Cedar Bluff           | * Eden                | * Eleazer             |
| * Fairview              | * Fenders             | * Forkners Chapel     |
| * Fox                   | * Friendsville        | * Gatlinburg, First   |
| * Green Meadow          | * Immanuel            | * Logan's Chapel      |
| * Loudon                | * Luretta             | * Madisonville, First |
| * Maryville, First      | * Meadow              | * Middle Creek        |
| * Middlesettlements     | * Mountain View       | * Murphy's Chapel     |
| * New Hope              | * New Salem           | * Peck's Memorial     |
| * Philadelphia          | * Pigeon Forge, First | * Pleasant Hill (B)   |
| * Pleasant Hill (R)     | * Pleasant Hill (S)   | * Roberts             |
| * Sevierville, First    | * Seymour             | * Shults Grove        |
| * St. John              | * St. Mark's          | * Sweetwater, First   |
| * Tellico Plains, First | * Tuckaleechee        | * Union Grove (B)     |
| * Union Grove (S)       | * Vonore              | * Walden's Creek      |
| * Walland               | * Wears Valley        | * Webb's Creek        |
| * Wesley Chapel         | * Williamson Chapel   |                       |



## Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

Happy New Year! As we begin this brand-new year of 2019 full of possibilities, some of us will make New Year's resolutions, many of which may never come to pass. Instead of making a resolution this year, I've decided to focus on one word; let that word be the center of everything I do in the coming year. That word for me is hope. In Sarah Young's devotional book, *Jesus Calling*, she states, "The hope of heaven is meant to strengthen and encourage you, filling you with wondrous Joy. Many Christians have misunderstood this word hope, believing that it denotes wishful thinking. Nothing could be farther from the truth!" She further states, "The phrase hope of heaven highlights the benefits you can enjoy even while remaining on earth. This hope keeps you spiritually alive during dark times of adversity; it brightens your path and heightens your awareness of My Presence. My desire is that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 8:24-25 tells us: *For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see we wait for it with patience.* In this month of January, we cannot know what the year holds for us, but we are assured that hope will be with us through the good times and the dark times 2019 may bring us.

I am so excited and thankful to announce that the Maryville District United Methodist Women fulfilled our Pledge to Mission Giving in 2018! Congratulations and thank each of you for making that Pledge. It is through those Pledges that we can change and improve lives of women, children and youth around the world. We must begin immediately to work on our 2019 Pledge to Mission Giving. I encourage you to consider increasing your Pledge this year by 3 percent.

As of January 1, 2019, we have officially become the Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women. What a year of possibilities awaits us! The Leadership Team met on January 5, 2019, to plan the events for the year and are changing things up a bit. Typically, we have had our New Visions event in January, but this year we will push that out into the year. Our Day Apart will be a birthday celebration for the 150th year anniversary of the United Methodist Women. It will be held at Cokesbury United Methodist Church on March 23, 2019, with Charles Maynard speaking.

As we begin this new year with a newly named District, let us remember that we are still United Methodist Women, united with the purpose of making a difference in the lives of those who are marginalized. There is hope for each of us through Jesus. I pray that you will realize that hope each day of the new year. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13.

### 2019 Hands-On Mission Project- Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference

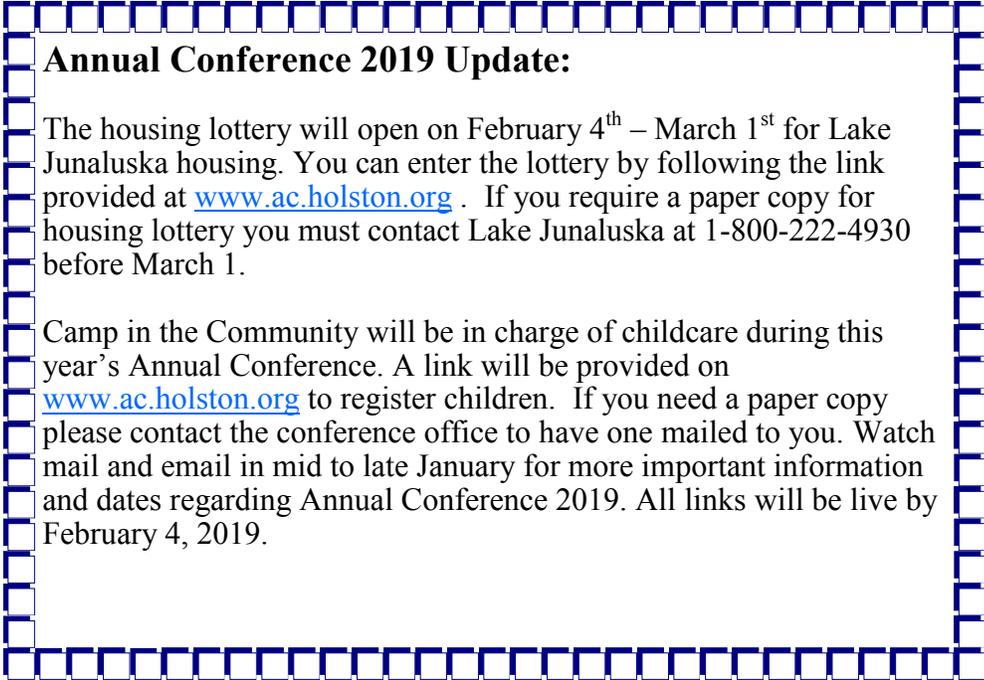
*Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure and check the dates and make sure they do not expire until 2020 in order to cover transport time and having a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.*

The Smoky Mountain District has been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets for the 2019 Holston Annual Conference Hand-On Mission Project. *Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. Each church is ask to bring ONE check for the total donation amount. Make checks out to Smoky Mountain District and put 2019 Hands-On in the memo line. \* Do not put money in the bucket!*

Canned Ham (2-lb total)	1 bag dried beans (2lb)
1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct. or less)	1 Bag Rice (2 lb)
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)	1 box, butter flavor grits
1 box quick/instant oats (18 oz. or less)	1 Corn meal (4-5 lb)
1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)	

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC, 2508 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, TN 37803: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
*(do not deliver early)*

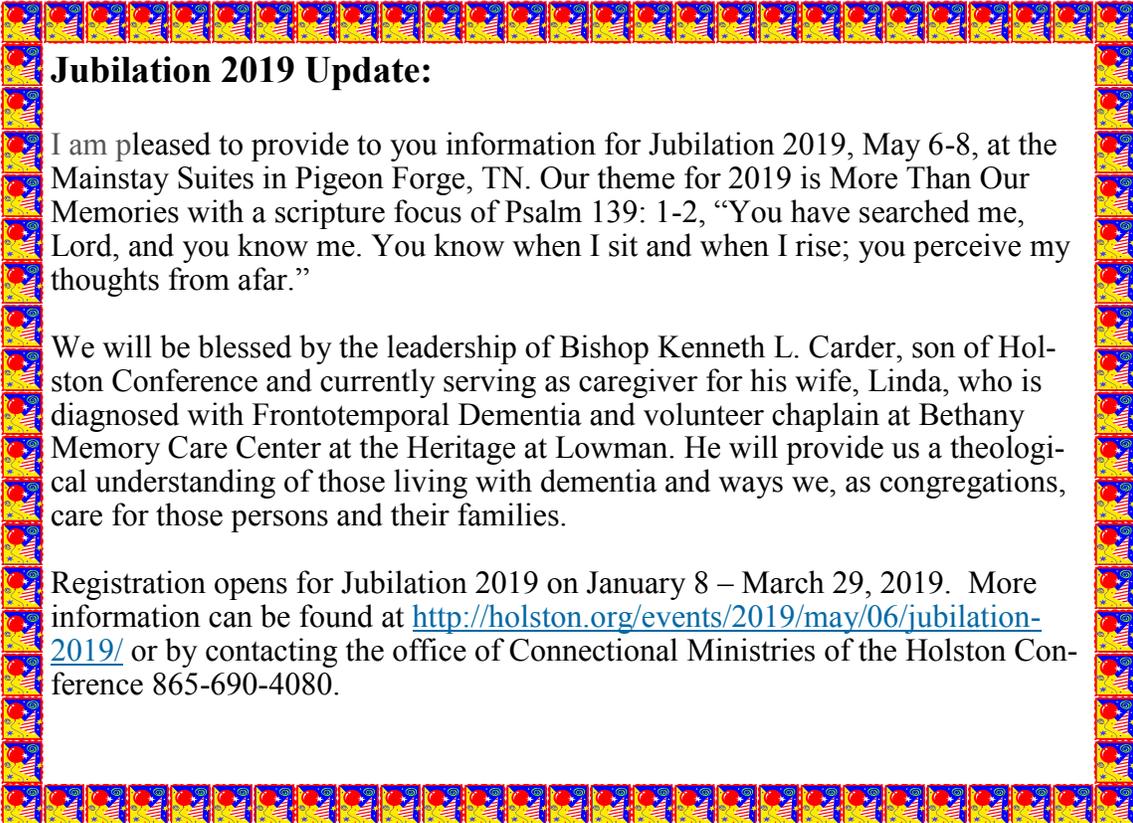




### **Annual Conference 2019 Update:**

The housing lottery will open on February 4<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> for Lake Junaluska housing. You can enter the lottery by following the link provided at [www.ac.holston.org](http://www.ac.holston.org) . If you require a paper copy for housing lottery you must contact Lake Junaluska at 1-800-222-4930 before March 1.

Camp in the Community will be in charge of childcare during this year's Annual Conference. A link will be provided on [www.ac.holston.org](http://www.ac.holston.org) to register children. If you need a paper copy please contact the conference office to have one mailed to you. Watch mail and email in mid to late January for more important information and dates regarding Annual Conference 2019. All links will be live by February 4, 2019.



### **Jubilation 2019 Update:**

I am pleased to provide to you information for Jubilation 2019, May 6-8, at the Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN. Our theme for 2019 is More Than Our Memories with a scripture focus of Psalm 139: 1-2, “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.”

We will be blessed by the leadership of Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, son of Holston Conference and currently serving as caregiver for his wife, Linda, who is diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia and volunteer chaplain at Bethany Memory Care Center at the Heritage at Lowman. He will provide us a theological understanding of those living with dementia and ways we, as congregations, care for those persons and their families.

Registration opens for Jubilation 2019 on January 8 – March 29, 2019. More information can be found at <http://holston.org/events/2019/may/06/jubilation-2019/> or by contacting the office of Connectional Ministries of the Holston Conference 865-690-4080.