

The Smoky Mountain District



Messenger

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Happy September!

With the start of September we enter charge conference season. In this month's newsletter are the dates and locations for this year's charge conferences. We will be gathering together in our missional hubs and celebrating the work we have done this past year fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. At the charge conferences each local church will have three to five minutes to share some highlights over the past year which can be done by the pastor, church leader, or both. I look forward to hearing about the ministry taking place in your local church and community!

There are a couple of other items you will find in the following pages that I want to point out:

September 22 – District Conference held at Cokesbury UMC. We will gather at one of our churches that has come to the Smoky Mountain District after the conference redistricting initiative. The District Conference is our annual meeting where we approve next year's budget and district leadership nominations.

November 3 – Festival of Gifts and Talents held at Alcoa, First UMC. Youth groups from across the district will come together to compete for the opportunity to represent the Smoky Mountain District at Resurrection 2020 through a live performance.

I pray you have a joy filled September as we welcome the Fall season. I appreciate all you do for the Smoky Mountain District, your local church, and our surrounding communities.

Grace & Peace,
Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News:
<https://www.robly.com/archive?id=f832fabe69fdde040e236a7f09bb4aa5>

Latvia District Partnership


The Maryville District continues in partnership with the United Methodist Churches in Latvia. The goal this year is to raise funds for pastoral support, Wesley Camp Scholarships, and Hope House. Speakers are available to talk to local churches or small groups in those churches. A video and brochure are available to introduce or reacquaint our local churches with the work in Latvia.

Richard Rudisell, Chair Latvia Team



Up-Coming Events

September

- 2 District office closed - 
- 17 Clergy Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Event Center at the District office. Stewardship and Generosity emphasis
- 22 District Conference at 3 p.m. at Cokesbury UMC (Gathering Place)
- 29 First Charge Conference with the Sevier Missional Hub Group at Sevierville, First UMC at 3 p.m. (See Charge Conference Schedule on page 4)

October

- 20 Charge Conference with the Knox-South Missional Hub Group at Colonial Heights UMC at 3 p.m.
- 27 Charge Conference with the Loudon/Roane Missional Hub Group at Loudon UMC at 3 p.m.

November

- 3 Charge Conference with the Knox-East Missional Hub Group at Sand Branch UMC at 3 p.m.
- 10 Charge Conference with the Blount-East Missional Hub Group at Broadway UMC at 3 p.m.
- 17 Charge Conference with the Blount-West Missional Hub Group at Sycamore Tree UMC at 3 p.m.
- 24 Charge Conference with the Knox-West Missional Hub Group at St. Mark (K) UMC at 3 p.m.
- 27-29 District office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2019 District Ministries

(Thru August 28, 2019—66.64%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2019 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| * Asbury | * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (K) |
| * Bethel (L) | Broadway | * Burnett Memorial |
| * Camp Ground | Carpenters | * Cedar Bluff |
| Cokesbury | Ebenezer | * Eden |
| * Fox | * Friendsville | * Gatlinburg, First |
| Hillcrest | * Immanuel | Kodak |
| * Logan's Chapel | Loudon | Luretta |
| * Martel | Maryville, First | * Meadow |
| * Middle Creek | * Middlesettlements | * Mountain View |
| * Murphy's Chapel | * New Hope | * New Salem |
| Peck's Memorial | * Philadelphia | Pigeon Forge, First |
| * Piney Grove | * Pleasant Hill (B) | Pleasant Hill (K) |
| * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Pleasant Hill (S) | * Roberts |
| * Sand Branch | Sevierville, First | Seymour |
| * Shults Grove | * St. John | St. Mark's (B) |
| St. Mark (K) | * Trentville | Tuckaleechee |
| * Union Grove (B) | * Vonore | * Walden's Creek |
| * Walland | * Wears Valley | * Webb's Creek |
| * Williamson Chapel | * Zion | |



Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

It had been a particularly stressful week as the last-minute details had to be done and everything that could go wrong went wrong. Have you ever had one of those weeks? I was beginning to wonder whether my willingness to say “yes” was the best decision. In the midst of all the responsibilities, we found ourselves at the Barter Theater in Abingdon, VA. We had come to see the *Church Basement Ladies*. I have to admit that, at first, I had a feeling of guilt as I took precious time to attend the play, but finally decided that since I was there, I might as well enjoy it. “Here in the basement kitchen of East Cornucopia Lutheran Church, we honor the ladies who have followed a long tradition of feeding the bodies and spirits of their congregation. They laugh and cry, sing and shout, celebrate the good times and help each other through the bad. They are the glue that holds their community together.” The play could have described any church, even yours. In a hilarious way, they tackled things like traditions, relationships and change. I laughed so much that I hurt. I could see myself in each of the characters and reflected on life’s experiences and how we see with different eyes as we grow “wiser” with age. I thought about the little things that I once thought were such big things. I was reminded that relationships are the glue that holds the community together. In all my busyness, I had taken a moment to stop, listen and ponder. In those moments I found peace, restored energy and the ability to press on knowing *I could do all things through Christ who strengthens me*.

The Holston Conference United Methodist Women Social Action Day was held on August 10, 2019, at Gray UMC in Gray, TN. Our topics were School to Prison Pipeline and Elder Abuse.

The Holston Conference United Methodist Women combined Annual Meeting and Spiritual Enrichment Event was held on September 14 – 15, 2019, at MeadowView Conference Resort and Conference Center in Kingsport, TN. Newly retired Rev. Sandra Johnson was our speaker. The Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women donated school supplies for the Hands-on-Mission project, Willow, Alaska. Thank you for your generosity!

Remember, when life gets crazy, take time to laugh or cry and remember we are in this life together for a reason; together we not only will make it but will make a difference along the way!

SEJ Clergywomen’s Conference

SEJ Clergywomen’s Conference
November 18-21, 2019
<https://www.unchartedconference2019.com/>
Hyatt Regency Hotel
225 E Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, Florida





2019 Charge Conference Schedule

Sunday, September 29, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Sevierville, First UMC

Fairgarden Circuit; Gatlinburg, First/Huskey's Grove;
Middle Creek; Pigeon Forge, First;
Pittman Center Circuit; Sevierville Circuit;
Sevierville, First; Sevierville Parish; Wears Valley

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Colonial Heights UMC

Bethel (Seymour); Colonial Heights; Hillcrest;
Mountain View; New Salem; Seymour

Sunday, October 27, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Loudon UMC

Axley's Chapel; Bethel/Vonore; Loudon; Martel; Meadow;
New Hope; Oakland; Philadelphia;
Pleasant Hill (Roane); Trinity-Lenoir City

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Sand Branch

Asbury; Bethel (East Knox); Beulah/French Broad;
Kodak; Piney Grove; Pleasant Hill (Knox);
Sand Branch; St. Paul (East); Trentville

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Broadway UMC

Alcoa, First; Broadway; Camp Ground;
Logan's Chapel; Maryville, First;
Peck's Memorial; Pleasant Hill (Blount);
St. John; Tuckaleechee; Walland

Sunday, November 17, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at Sycamore Tree

Binfield; Carpenters; Fairview; Friendsville;
Green Meadow; Immanuel;
Middlesettlements; St. Mark's (Blount); Sycamore Tree;
Union Grove (Blount); Williamson Chapel

Sunday, November 24, 2019, 3:00 p.m. at St. Mark(Knox)

Cokesbury; Ebenezer; St. Mark (Knox); Zion