



The Smoky Mountain District

Messenger

April
2021

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Journeys

This picture has been beside my bathroom sink for almost 25 years. It was taken by my father-in-law when Amy and I were in college and visiting with her family in Chattanooga. I don't remember why we were visiting or where the picture takes place. I don't remember what we were doing. It was simply an average day and my father-in-law just happened to have his camera and decided to take a picture.



If you look closely you will see that there is no wedding band on my finger, no engagement ring on Amy's finger, and certainly no children running around behind us. We were in the very early stages of our journey that, unbeknownst to us, would take us to where we are today.

I look at that picture every morning and evening while brushing my teeth for two minutes with a soft bristled tooth brush, as recommended by the American Dental Association. For four minutes each day, I reflect on who we were, where we have been, and where I hope we will go. On some days my time of reflecting brings a smile to my

face, other days tears to my eyes. Some days bring a chuckle, other days a burning rage. But what this picture does mostly is keep me grounded to who I am and the things that are important to me. All thanks to the click of a shutter on an average day.

Over the past few weeks we all have been on a familiar forty day journey, an annual journey we embark on together as Christians. Holy Week is the crescendo of Lent that, in itself, is an emotional journey. The week starts with joyful celebrations represented by Palm Sunday but quickly moves to a tearful betrayal on Maundy Thursday. A climactic fortissimo of anger and rage take place on Good Friday leaving all with a sense of hopelessness and fear.

But the week is not over yet. In fact, far from it! Lying dormant under the hopelessness and fear is a twist like no other that takes the entire world by surprise in the early hours of a very average morning. Life's greatest moments happen on the most average of days. And on this day, after the world thought it had seen it all, the greatest moment in history made his reappearance.

I don't have a picture to look at of that moment, only an image in my mind of what it might have looked like. Thankfully, it is all I need.

Upcoming Smoky Mountain District UMW events as well as Holston Conference UMW events. We are currently planning to have virtual events through July; however, this could change depending on the COVID vaccine schedule.

April 10, Saturday, DISTRICT Day Apart, Virtual

April 23-24, Fri-Sat, CONFERENCE RISE, Pigeon Forge

July 23-24, Fri-Sat, CONFERENCE Mission u, Virtual

August 7, Saturday, CONFERENCE Social Action Workshop, TBD

August 21, 2021, Saturday, DISTRICT Social Action, Virtual

September 18-19, Sat-Sun, CONFERENCE Spiritual Enrichment

CONFERENCE Annual Meeting

CONFERENCE Officer Training for Districts

November 6, Saturday, DISTRICT Annual Meeting,

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2021 District Ministries

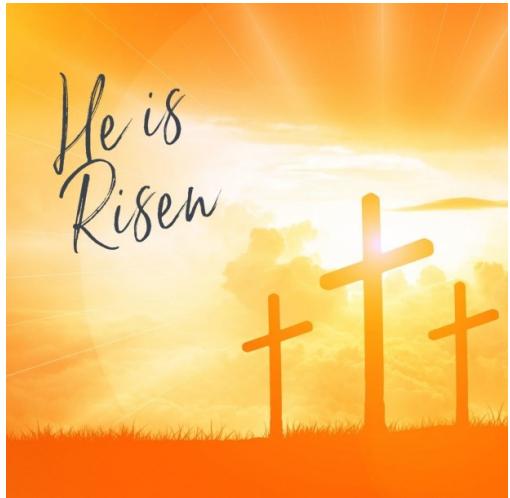
(Thru March 29, 2021—25%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2021 District Ministries paid)

* Axley's Chapel
Broadway
* Carpenters
Ebenezer
* Fox
Hillcrest
* Logan's Chapel
* Meadow
* New Salem
Pigeon Forge, First
* Sand Branch
* Shults Grove
St. Paul
Tuckaleechee
* Walland
* Zion

* Bethel (Seymour)
* Burnett Memorial
* Cedar Bluff
* Eden
* Friendsville
Immanuel
Loudon
* Mountain View
Peck's Memorial
Pleasant Hill (K)
Sevierville, First
St. Mark (K)
Trentville
* Union Grove (S)
* Wears Valley

Binfield
* Camp Ground
Cokesbury
Fairview
Green Meadow
Kodak
* Luretta Martel
* Murphy's Chapel
* Philadelphia
* Roberts
Seymour
St. Mark's (B)
Trinity
* Vonore
* Webb's Creek



2021 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 2022 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 2021 Holston Annual Conference Hands-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 2021 Hands-On in the memo line. * Do not put money in the bucket!

1-Bag Corn Meal (4-5 lb.)

1-bag grits, butter flavor

1-bag rice (2 lb.)

1 bag dried beans (2 lb.)

1-powdered milk (10 oz. or less)

1 box quick/instant oats (18 oz. or less)

1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)

1 box Splenda/sucralose (50 ct. or less) Canned Ham (2 lb. total)

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC, 2508 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, TN 37803:

Please deliver your buckets to Fairview UMC, Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(Do not deliver early)

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

Spring has finally arrived! The whole world is being transformed as flowers begin to bloom and the Winter brown colors change to a burst of bright greens. This makes me think about my own transformation. As Dean of Mission u, I have been studying the Mission u handbook. It states, “The continual changes in our world challenge us to think critically, to be open to new learning and new ways to engage in mission. That is why education is key to our mission witness. As we learn together, we can deepen our spiritual growth and our understanding of how God is presently at work in the world. The 2004 Education for Mission Policy Statement, *God’s Call to Mission*, asserts, God calls us to be in mission, to take the risks necessary to break the barriers of prejudice, isolation, and distrust which keep people from sharing in the good news that God loves every person. God calls us to love God, to be in relationship with God, to love each other and to be in relationship with others as an expression of that love. God invites us to be in mission and we respond to God’s call through study, service, and advocacy. Through studying together, we learn about ourselves and each other; we discover the meaning of God’s Word; we realize the needs in God’s broken world; and we respond, putting our learning into action to bring God’s kingdom on earth. This is learning together for the transformation of the world.”

Day Apart will be held via Zoom on April 17. Mitzi Sadler-Thorne will be our guest speaker and will speak on her experiences as a Deaconess. Our hands-on mission will be monetary donations for Shades of Grace in Kingsport, TN, and Proverbs 3:27 Mission Center at Hunt Memorial UMC in Bristol, TN. Both of these ministries provide assistance for the homeless and those who find themselves in need of food, blankets, showers, shelter and more.

Mission U will be held via Zoom on July 23 – 24, 2021. Our studies will be: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, edited by Erin James-Brown; *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique Morris; *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church’s Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship* by Darryl W. Stephens and *Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence: A Curriculum for Youth Leaders* by Jay Godfrey. Please join us as we learn together and grow spiritually so that we may put our learning into action to transform the world – faith, hope and love in action.

Let us join together to live out the United Methodist Women’s theme, *One Body, One Spirit!*