



The Smoky Mountain District Messenger

August
2022

Debbie Wallace-Padgett - Resident Bishop - Reverend Jason N. Gattis, Sr. - District Superintendent
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Fall Conference Season

We are fast approaching the time of year for charge conferences and district conference. Charge Conference information will be available to local churches this month, allowing plenty of time before the first scheduled charge conference on October 9th. We are already beginning work on District Conference currently scheduled for September 18th at 3:00 pm at Kodak United Methodist Church.

District Conference is when we approve next year's district budget, elect at-large members to Annual Conference, and approve the report from the nominations committee on members of district committees. Similar to a local church structure, there are a number of committees in place to accomplish various responsibilities of the district. Our district committees consist of:

- Committee on Nominations
- Board of Church Location and Building
- Board of Trustees
- District Board of Laity
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Superintendency
- District Congregational Development Strategy Committee
- District Committee on Ordained Ministry
- Latvia Partnership Team
- District Communication Advisory Council

The Committee on Nominations is always looking for new people to serve on district committees. If you would be interested in serving, send an email to cherylthompson@holston.org.

It is also time to begin turning in nominations for At-Large Members to Annual Conference. The Annual Conference Secretary determines the number of delegates from each district but, typically, the Smoky Mountain District has elected around thirty members. If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate someone, contact the district office.

Charge Conference and District Conference are rich historical processes of our Methodist heritage and play a key role in our connectional structure. I hope that you will make plans to join me at Kodak UMC for our District Conference and at your local church's scheduled Charge Conference this fall.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve as your District Superintendent and I give thanks for the work each of you do for God's Kingdom!

Grace & Peace,

Jason

Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

As COVID cases have continued to increase in the Southeast, we continue to exercise caution in planning our events. You will be notified with each event whether it will be virtual, in-person or mixed.


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| August 6 | Holston Conference United Women in Faith Social Action Event
(hybrid event) |
| August 27 | Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Social Action Event
"Random Acts of Flowers" |
| Fall 2020 | Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith New Visions Event |
| November 5 | Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith Annual Meeting |

Up-Coming Events

August

- 2 District Nominations Committee meeting at 7 p.m. at the District office
- 9 District Leadership Team meeting at 7 p.m. at the District office
- 11 Pastors' Summer Picnic at Oakland UMC, 237 Trigon Road, Greenback
- 15 Superintendency Committee meeting at 7 p.m. at the District office
- 23 DCOM lunch meeting in the Event Center at the District office starting at 11 a.m.
- 23 District Finance Committee meeting at 7 p.m. at the District office

September

- 5  Office closed
- 18 District Conference-Kodak UMC, 2923 Bryan Road, Kodak, 3 p.m.

Part Time Job

Colonial Heights UMC in South Knoxville is seeking a part time Music Director. Please submit a resume to office@colonialheightsumc.org

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2022 District Ministries (Thru July 27, 2022—58.31)
(* Denotes 100% of 2022 District Ministries Paid)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asbury * Burnett Memorial * Cedar Bluff * Eden * Friendsville * Immanuel Loudon Maryville, First * Middlesettlements * New Hope Peck's Memorial * Pleasant Hill (B) * Roberts Seymour St Mark (K) Sycamore Tree * Union Grove (B) * Waldens Creek * Williamson Chapel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Axley's Chapel * Camp Ground Cokesbury * Fenders * Green Meadow Kodak Luretta * Meadow * Mountain View * New Salem * Philadelphia Pleasant Hill (K) * Sand Branch * Shults Grove St. Mark's (B) * Trentville * Union Grove (S) * Walland * Zion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadway * Carpenters Ebenezer * Fox Hillcrest * Logan's Chapel * Martel * Middle Creek * Murphy's Chapel * Oakland Pigeon Forge, First * Pleasant Hill (S) Sevierville, First * St. John St. Paul Tuckaleechee * Vonore * Webb's Creek |
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From The Desk of Alex (Lay Ministries Coordinator)

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is hard to believe school is starting for youth. I am sending lots of prayers for a safe return to the classrooms and a successful year of academics and activities. Across the nation schools are feeling the crunch from a teacher shortage. Our hometowns are not immune. The last number listed was more than 2000 openings across Tennessee. Some parts of the state are offering reimbursed tuition.

Our Conference has been blessed with retired clergy and Elders. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. At some point, there might not be enough to assist when needed. That is why I am asking for your help. We are getting ready to start the fall session of Lay Ministries. We are doing a mix of in person and Zoom. I have the schedule listed below.

DISTRICT	CLASS	DATE	In Person / Zoom	INSTRUCTOR
Scenic South	BASIC Class	08/27/22	ZOOM	Becky Hall
Labor Day Week-end	No Classes Scheduled	09/03/22	XXXXX	XXXXX
Clinch Mountain	Worship Class	09/10/22	ZOOM	Rev. Caroline Hawthorne
New River	Transforming Evangelism	09/17/22	ZOOM	Rev. Jim Goddard
Smoky Mountain	Preaching	09/24/22	In Person	Rev. Nicki Fox
Smoky Mountain	Spiritual Gifts Class	09/24/22	In Person	Alex Wilson, CLM
Appalachian	Spiritual Gifts Class	10/01/22	ZOOM	Rev. Dr. Janet Sweet
XXXXX	No Classes Scheduled	10/08/22	XXXXX	XXXXX
XXXXX	No Classes Scheduled	10/15/22	XXXXX	XXXXX
Hiwassee	Basic Class	10/22/22	In Person	Rev. Skip White
Hiwassee	Prayer	10/22/22	In Person	Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger
Hiwassee	United Methodist Heritage	10/22/22	In Person	Rev. Hugh Kilgore
Tennessee Valley	Social Principles of the U.M.C.	10/29/22	In Person	Rev. Dennie Humphreys
Three Rivers	Prayer	11/05/22	In Person	Rev. Jane Taylor
Three Rivers	United Methodist Polity	11/05/22	In Person	TBD
Three Rivers	United Methodist Heritage	11/05/22	In Person	TBD

As always please be prayerful and on the lookout for individuals that would be good candidates. If you have questions, please let me know. I would like to see a couple of more go through this program. Blessings to all and I hope to see you at the picnic soon.
Your brother in Christ,

Your brother in Christ,
Alex Wilson, CLM
Pastor, Bethel (Seymour) U.M.C.
Smoky Mountain Lay Ministries Coordinator
865.805.5382

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Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President
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One of the many things I absolutely love about United Women in Faith is the emphasis on education. Just this year alone, we have learned more about Climate Change, the School to Prison Pipeline, Mission u challenged us to imagine *Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy*, the Program Resource emphasis is *Healing and Joy on Our Journey to God*, the Daily Prayer Guide is filled with positive ways that United Women in Faith are involved in their communities changing and improving the lives of those who live on the margins of society all over the world. In a world filled with so many troubles, it is imperative that we be the difference that is so needed.

On August 27, the Smoky Mountain Women in Faith will gather at Fairview UMC for the Social Action Event. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 10 a.m. Mick Reed, Director of Random Acts of Flowers will share how repurposing flowers improves the emotional health and well-being of individuals in healthcare facilities. We are asked to donate vases either glass or plastic, 4 - 10 inches. Lunch will be available afterward. Registration deadline is August 12, please plan to join us.

We will travel to Susannah's House in Knoxville, on September 10, for the New Visions Event. "Susannah's House is an Intensive Outpatient Recovery Program for mothers in recovery. We exist to serve the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of mothers and their children. Our mission is to provide a source of help and hope in a therapeutic, faith-based community for women and their children to break adverse cycles and rebuild their families." Permanent, affordable housing is under construction and we will be able to see the progress. More information will be forthcoming.

The Holston Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Enrichment Event will be held at MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport on September 23, with the Annual Meeting to follow on September 24. Deaconess Garlinda Burton and Rev. Asa Majors will be our speakers for the weekend. I hope you will be able to join us either in person or virtually. More information will be available soon.

As we learn and grow together, we will be able to live into our United Women in Faith theme which states from Romans 14:19 (NIRV), *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another*, Romans 14:19 (NIRV). May we bring hope and joy into our communities!

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