

The Smoky Mountain District



Messenger

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Jerry Seinfeld has made a career based on “nothing.” Absolutely “nothing.” His show is about “nothing.” His comedy is about “nothing.” His life is about “nothing.” There is no true plot or theme. His story is simply about a guy living life and the ins and outs that life presents. I think that’s why I like it so much. I, like millions of others, find humor in his air conditioning issue, George’s lost glasses fiasco, and Kramer’s hot tub in his apartment. It’s silly and it’s about the small things in life we refer to as “nothing,” but when all put together, turn into a big “something.” Called life.

In the beginning of the Bible we learn about the very beginning of everything. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.” There was “nothing!” And God wasn’t happy with “nothing,” so God created “something.” And what a wonderful “something” it is. A beauty we see unfold right before our eyes especially during this time of the year.

God created “something” out of “nothing.” I feel there is a lot to learn from that. It’s a lesson we should look at all the time. What are the “somethings” out there that we write off as “nothing”? Each year we want to do more to grow our church, grow our community, change our world. And the wonderful thing is that we always have a blank slate before us. Unlimited room for creative ideas on how to go about changing the world. There are so many wonderful “somethings” out there that can be the change and be the inspiration we need to do our part in changing the world.

In the book, *Fresh-Brewed Life*, the author writes:

“We have the opportunity to learn from life daily. But so many of us, myself included, miss its lessons and rewards because we aren’t paying attention. We barely notice the passages of time.”

To change the world, we have to be aware of the “somethings” around us. In the final episode of Seinfeld, Jerry and his friends go to jail because they did “nothing” with the opportunities presented in their lives. We can’t do the same. It’s up to us to do “something” and be “something” in this world.

Blessings,

Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News:
<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=e5309347048a162c0e0dc5b0b8532655>

Sexual Ethics Training

The Holston Annual Conference will be hosting a series of Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Seminars taught by United Methodist Pastor Dr. Karen McClintock. Dr. McClintock comes to us after conducting similar seminars in other annual conferences.

Please note the dates and locations below. You will receive 0.5 CEU's for attendance.

ATTENDANCE AT ONE OF THESE TRAININGS IS MANDATORY.

- Tuesday, April 30 - Ootlewah UMC**
9:30am-4:00pm
- Thursday, May 2 - First Farragut UMC**
9:30am-4:00pm
- Saturday, May 4 - Colonial Heights UMC (Kingsport)**
10:30am-5:00pm
- Monday, May 6 - State Street UMC (Bristol)**
9:30am-4:00pm
- Wednesday, May 8 - St. Paul UMC (Wytheville)**
9:30am-4:00pm

Online registration is available at:
<https://holston.org/events/2019/apr/30/sexual-ethics-and-boundaries-seminar/>

Friends of Latvia

The 2019 Friends of Latvia Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is only 3 months away! Friends of Latvia 2019 will be held April 26-28 at Mt. Lebanon UMC, home church of our long time Friends of Latvia member and supporter Mary Garber. The conference will begin at 8:30am on Friday, April 26, so travel on Thursday is recommended. Below is a link to the registration form. We hope many of you will be able to attend! The deadline to register is March 25, 2019.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/116B-wZANUg51vc_8X0Y3XwdBtk5Opn58/view?usp=sharing

Up-Coming Events

April

- 1** Deadline to order Print Copy of Annual Conference Book of Reports
- 11** Pastors' Meeting in the Conference Room (third floor) at the District office starting at 10:00 a.m.

19&22 Good Friday - District Office closed

21 *Easter*

29 Wesley Woods Golf Tournament



May

6-8 Jubilation in Pigeon Forge, TN

12 *Mother's Day*

14 Pastors' Spring Luncheon - Event Center at the District office

27 Memorial Day-District office closed

June

5 Hands-on-Missions Food Buckets deliver to Fairview UMC between 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

9-12 Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC

13 District office closed

16



19 Moving Day for Transitioning Pastors

24-28 Junior and Senior High Assembly at Emory & Henry College

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

(Thru March 26, 2019—25%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2019 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (K) | * Bethel (L) |
| Broadway | * Burnett Memorial | Carpenters |
| * Cedar Bluff | Cokesbury | * Eden |
| Ebenezer | * Fox | * Friendsville |
| 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 | Pleasant Hill (K) |
| * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Pleasant Hill (S) | * Roberts |
| * Sand Branch | Sevierville, First | Seymour |
| * Shults Grove | St. John | St. Mark's (B) |
| St. Paul | * Trentville | Tuckaleechee |
| * Union Grove (B) | * Vonore | Walland |
| * Wears Valley | * Webb's Creek | * Williamson Chapel |

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

It took me by surprise. I really hadn't given it much thought in quite a while, yet there it was. I found myself one afternoon thinking about all the things that were going on in our church, our country, our world and there it was playing over and over in my mind – the hymn *Because He Lives*. Hymns have a way of doing that, don't they? Suddenly, out of nowhere, there they are. I had a time in my life where that hymn was the rock I stood on; it got me through the moments, days and months. During that time, I figured if Jesus could go through everything he went through to get to the cross, I could certainly make it through whatever might be happening to me. That was many years ago, but here I was troubled; and that was the hymn that brought me hope and comfort. The refrain is *Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives*. Those are powerful words for me and bring everything into perspective. No matter what, God's got this and I certainly do not need to fear or worry, just simply keep on keeping on, one moment, one day, one month at a time. As Psalm 46:1-3 states, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." Because he lives, I can face tomorrow and the day after and the day after.

Our New Vision's event was unfortunately canceled due to flooding. We were all so disappointed. Dana Stevens, our Education and Interpretation Coordinator had an amazing program planned. The Leadership Team met after Day Apart to discuss plans to reschedule the event and we will let you know when plans are finalized.

This is a very special year for United Methodist Women all over the world as we celebrate our 150th anniversary. The Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women celebrated this by having a birthday party for our Day Apart at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, North Campus on March 23, 2019. This was the exact day of the 150th anniversary. We were blessed to have as our guest speaker, Rev. Charles Maynard, who is a wonderful supporter of United Methodist Women.

Tara Barnes, editor of Response Magazine shared the following in the March/April 2019 issue.

"This month United Methodist Women turns 150 years old, celebrating a century and a half of faith-driven women organized for mission and all the lives changed for the better because these women listened to and answered God's call. You are a part of this ongoing legacy. The scope of the impact of this organization is immeasurable. Working on the magazine makes this apparent to me every day— from hearing from women across the world supported by your Mission Giving to reading about your work in your local neighborhoods. And we've been at it for 150 years. Our longevity is amazing, and it's worth celebrating."

We stand strong today as United Methodist Women have for 150 years. We have much to do. Things are not always easy, but *because he lives, we can face tomorrow!*

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.**

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.

Smoky Mtn. Ministers

Just a note of thanks to all that are current with minister's dues!

Barbara Clark	Betty Furches	Susan Groseclose
Ginger Isom	Charles Ledger	David Lord
Charles Maynard	Curtis McKee	Mickey Rainwater
Laura Rasor	Rex Rogers	Al Shaver
Magan Stubblefield	Ken Tucker	Charles Wedner
Kristie Banes	Amy Cook	Timothy Hankins
Jeff Lambert	Anna Lee	Catherine Nance
Ann Robins	Danny Treadway	Robert Haskins

You may send dues to: Ken Tucker - 3357 Line Springs Rd. - Sevierville, Tennessee 37862
Blessings
Ken

What's Happening in "The Woods"!

16th Annual Golf Tournament Monday, April 29, 2019

Egwani Farms Golf Course

To register or for more information visit our website at www.campwesleywoods.com/golf-tournament.



Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

One-week sessions are running for all ages June 2nd – July 19th. To register visit our website at www.campwesleywoods.com/summer-camp. If you would like someone to speak

to your church concerning Camp Wesley Woods please call (865) 448-2246.

