

The Smoky Mountain District



Messenger

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This month will be our first clergy meeting under our newly formed Smoky Mountain District. Since many have inquired, our district includes 72 churches being served by 77 pastors. While we have an increase in our number of churches and pastors our geographical map has decreased. As the Maryville district we had a span of 91 miles that stretched from Ironsburg UMC to Fox UMC. As the Smoky Mountain District we now have a span of 80 miles stretching from New Hope UMC to Fox UMC. Yes, information useful only on Jeopardy but interesting to point out.

Our clergy meetings this year will focus on practical information useful in the local church setting. Much of it will revolve around business information that can be helpful for a pastor. First and foremost, we serve God's church but being a church includes operational aspects to the likes of a business. Proper management involves the ability to deal with conflict, manage time, monitor basic financials, hire and fire (paid AND volunteers), communicate, and celebrate. As pastors, we can't be experts in those areas but we can have some basic understanding that can help point us in the right direction.

This month we will start off with how to effectively communicate in today's world. Mark Wilson of ChurchCMO will be with us to talk about how best to manage communications through such things as mass email, social media, texting, and other forms necessary to reach all demographics. I believe it will be something you won't want to miss.

One more thing, each of our clergy meetings will provide you with CEU credit. I hope that our meetings along with participation at convocation will provide you with the required annual CEU requirement thus freeing up time and money you would have had to spend at a conference or weekend event.

I look forward to these times we will have together and the information that will be shared.

Grace & Peace,

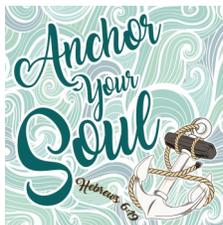
Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News
<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=1f4ee147f8d92c093d507613fdc4f04c>

Jubilation 2018

This is the link <http://holston.org/events/2018/apr/30/jubilation-2018/> that will give you the information concerning registration for Jubilation 2018, April 30-May 2, in Pigeon Forge.



Annual Conference 2018

Annual Conference 2018 mailing is going to be delayed for a couple of weeks with the change in District information having to be entered into our database a little different this year. Lake Junaluska is also in the process of updating their reservation system. This will delay the notification of those who will be offered Lake Junaluska managed property housing. With all these changes we decided to delay the opening of the reservation lottery until February 1 – 28th. Lake Junaluska is on target to notify all those chosen for housing on or before March 14, 2018. We will have a AC.Holston.org again this year, but at this time that is not up and running, but should be up before the 15th of January the projected date of the mailing of AC 2018 information.

I'M SORRY!



So Sorry for missing Green Meadow UMC from last month's newsletter that they also paid 100% of their 2017 District Askings

Up-Coming Events

March

- 2-3 Camp Wesley Woods Confirmation Camp
- 6 Pastors' meeting at 10:00 a.m., in the Event Center at the District office



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12-16 Appointment Cabinet (Appointment Making Week)

25-31 Holy Week

29-April 2 District office closed

April

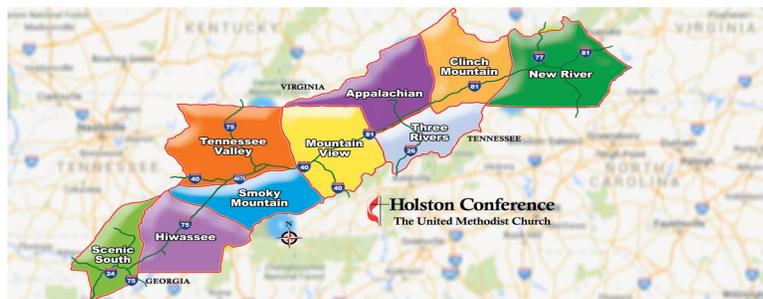


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2 Deadline to order print copy of AC Book of Reports

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

30-May 2 Jubilation in Pigeon Forge, TN



Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2018 District Ministries

(Thru February 27, 2018—16.67%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2018 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Alcoa, First | * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (L) |
| * Bethel (Seymour) | Binfield | Broadway |
| * Burnett Memorial | Carpenters | * Cedar Bluff |
| * Eden | Fairview | * Fenders |
| * Fox | Friendsville | * Logan's Chapel |
| Loudon | Luretta | Madisonville, First |
| Maryville, First | * Meadow | * Middle Creek |
| * Mountain View | * Murphy's Chapel | * New Hope |
| * New Salem | Peck's Memorial | Pigeon Forge, First |
| * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Roberts | Seymour |
| * Shults Grove | St. Mark's | * Tellico Plains, First |
| Tuckaleechee | * Union Grove (B) | * Union Grove (S) |
| * Vonore | * Williamson Chapel | |

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

Spring is absolutely my favorite season. I love all the seasons and their vast differences, but Spring is my favorite. You see I'm a gardening type person. I spend all Winter thinking about what I can plant and how soon I can plant it. I can hardly contain myself as I walk through my garden on a Winter day and see the tiny beginnings of a perennial. It is fascinating to me that God who is the true Master Gardener, could create so many species of plants and how they know when to start growing. I encourage you to notice as the Earth brings forth life and the landscape is transformed into beautiful greens and brilliant colors. What a miracle!

On February 10, 2018, presidents and treasurers met at Peck's Memorial UMC for training. We learned from Marsheine McClurg, Program Advisory Group, about the UMW Legacy Fund which is an investment in the life-changing programs and services of UMW of tomorrow. Kay Phillips, SEJ Treasurer, shared with us about the structure of UMW and how local units are the foundation of the organization. Lisa Black, Holston Conference Vice President, helped us to learn about the restructuring of the districts within the Holston Conference and what that will mean to us as United Methodist Women. Presidents and treasurers learned about their respective duties.

March 23, 2018, has been designated as our annual Day of Giving for The Legacy Fund Endowment. On that date, United Methodist Women will celebrate our 149th anniversary. UMW has evolved into the largest women's faith-based service and advocacy organization, underwriting programs that provide life-changing opportunities for women, children and youth. The Legacy Fund is a forward-looking permanently invested endowment. The earnings of this fund will strengthen our organization so that our future giving can be even more directly linked to our projects and partners, addressing injustice and alleviating suffering. Your contributions will strengthen our internal capacity to further invest life-changing programs and services that create a promising tomorrow for future generations of United Methodist Women in answering God's call to serve. You can give online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund; by phone at 800-278-7771 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday; by text 41444 and enter Legacy150 in the message area; or by check mailed to United Methodist Women, Attention: Development, Legacy Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115

I look forward to seeing you on April 21, 2018, at St. Mark's UMC for our Day Apart event. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program will be at 10 a.m.

As we leave Winter behind, I encourage you to think about all those recipients who because of you are able to have new beginnings, a better life. I thank all the United Methodist Women who continue to care and make better the lives of women, children and youth around the world. I *[Rejoice in the Lord Always](#)* for each of the Maryville United Methodist Women!

2018 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 2019 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 2018 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 2018 Hands-On in the memo line. * Do not put money in the bucket!*

Canned Ham (2-lb total)
1 - 4-5lb. Bag self-rising flour
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)
1 - 2lb. Bag rice
1 - 4-5lb. Bag Sugar

1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)
1 box old-fashioned oats (18 oz. or less)
1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct. or less)
1 - 2lb. Bag dried beans

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC:
Wednesday, June 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (do not deliver early)



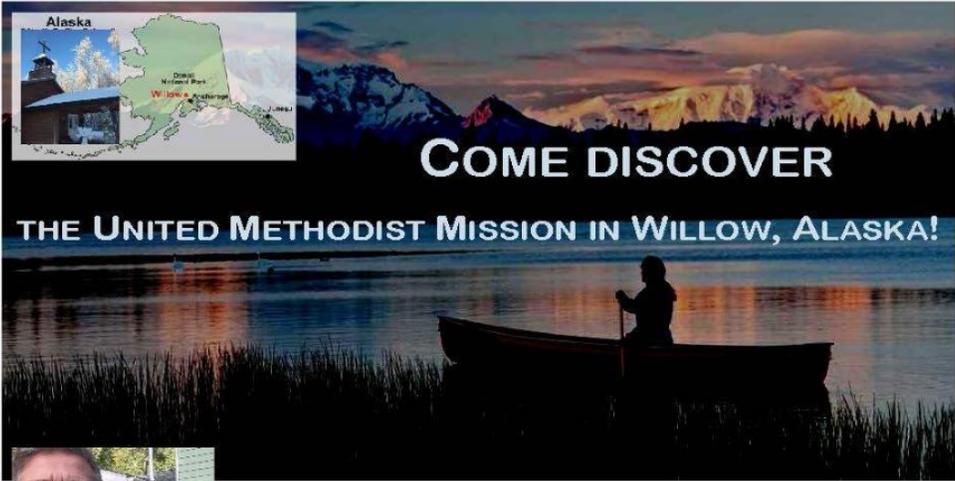
Moving Expenses Pastors-Legal Department GCFA

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “Act”) made numerous changes to the taxation of both individuals and organizations. Several of the changes relate to deductions available to individuals. One such change that has possibly received less attention involves moving expenses.

As outlined extensively in the IRS’s [Publication 521](#), the “deduction of certain moving expenses to a new home because [the taxpayer] started or changed job locations” has been an available deduction, and it is created by Section 217 of the Tax Code. In addition to the available deduction, another section of the Code – Section 132(g) – provides that the reimbursement of qualified moving expenses by an employer will not be treated as a taxable fringe benefit. In other words, if the employee would be able to take the moving expense as a deduction, the employer could pay for those expenses on a tax-free basis.

Unfortunately for those who will incur moving expenses that would meet the deductibility standards outlined in Publication 521, the Act has suspended the application of Sections 217 and 132(g) from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2025. The end result of this suspension is that (1) moving expenses incurred during that time period will not be a deductible expense (except for certain members of the Armed Forces) and (2) any reimbursement by, or payment of, these expenses by an employer during the same time period will need to be reported as taxable income to the employee (again, except for certain members of the Armed Forces).

Thus, for example, if a local church covers some or all of the moving expenses of an employee, such as its pastor, the church will need to report that amount on [Form W-2](#) as taxable income to the employee. And, as another example, if the payment of moving expenses is made by an annual conference on behalf of a pastor serving a local church, the conference will likely need to issue that pastor a Form 1099-MISC reflecting the amount paid (the [instructions](#) to Form 1099-MISC state Box 7 should include “taxable fringe benefits for nonemployees,” which will presumably include moving expenses for the years during which Sections 217 and 132(g) are suspended).



**COME DISCOVER
THE UNITED METHODIST MISSION IN WILLOW, ALASKA!**

**Pastors Joe-d and Christina DowlingSoka,
will be in your area soon. Make plans to see them and learn about
how you can become involved in this vital community ministry.**

Come Discover at One of the Following Gatherings!

Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm—East Ridge UMC, Chattanooga, TN
(Contact: Ken Sauer at pastorsauer@comcast.net or 423.463.5060)

Sunday, March 4, 5pm—Church Street UMC, Knoxville, TN
(Contact: Barbara Clark at bclark@churchstreetumc.org or 865.524.3048)