



The WINE

The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church



Entering a new year and a new season

January marks the beginning of a new calendar year. On the church's liturgical calendar, the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent. But we're approaching January and a time when we evaluate where we've been, where we're going, who we are, and who we want to be. It also marks a fresh start, a new beginning. We shouldn't be surprised to know the church must go through the same evaluative process.

Just like you and I, the church is a living organism. It isn't a building, a pastor, or a program. The church is the body of Christ, the living embodiment of Jesus's grace and presence in the world. As such, it goes through growing pains, mid-life crises, and even old age. For those who've been part of Soddy UMC for a long time, you've witnessed all of those—and more!

As we move further into January I'm going to be presenting a sermon series titled "The Mission Of Soddy UMC." Across the front of our bulletin and on our website are the words "Glorifying Growing Going for God." That's our mission statement. Don't worry if you don't recognize it or haven't heard much about it. That's my fault. I take full responsibility for not doing more to emphasize and live out these words, and for not leading the church more effectively in fulfilling them. The January-February

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

sermon series will help us understand why that mission statement means is important.

For four weeks, we're going to look at what "Glorifying Growing Going for God" means in terms of what we do as a church. We'll conclude the series with a message titled "Leveraging Your Church's Identity" that will help us understand who we are as a congregation, and what we can do with our unique identity. I hope this series also leads to ongoing conversations among members, Sunday school classes, committees, and groups about how we move forward into the new year. To that end, I'm also hoping to have a series of monthly meetings with the Administrative Board (outside of the regularly-scheduled business meetings) to talk about our vision, our goals, our identity, and what the church wants and needs.

Not long after I arrived at Soddy UMC, several of our leaders participated in a "Rethink Church" initiative, sponsored by the Scenic South district. We gained some valuable insights into our community and identity, but never followed through on what we could do with that information. Now we'll be able to reference that data and see how it can help us moving forward.

The Covid pandemic has decimated churches around the world, and ours is no different. We're still tracking well below pre-pandemic attendance and giving levels. Many of our activities have been curtailed or forced into smaller forms. As we (hopefully!) begin to emerge from the Covid cocoon, church leadership must wrestle with what happens next.

I'm excited about the opportunity to preach and teach on assessing, identifying, and brainstorming what we look like in 2022 and beyond. Just like other churches, we have a unique opportunity to use the last two years to our benefit. I believe that God will show us what he wants of us, and how to get there.

Happy new year! See you in 2022!



I'm looking forward to the future,
and feeling grateful for the past.

Mike Rowe

January Birthdays

- 10 Todd Kingrea
Barbara Wilson
- 13 Glenn Brumlow
- 19 Martha Sheeks
- 26 Paul Smith
- 28 Sherrill Card

January Anniversaries

- 14 Ray & Nancy Woodall



**Life isn't about your age.
Life is about living.
So when your birthday comes be
thankful for the year that has just past
and anticipate with a happy heart
what the coming year will bring.**

~ Catherine Pulsifer



February Birthdays

- 9 Kathy Jones
- 13 Virginia Gram
- 16 Serena Wood
- 18 Sue Harper
- 19 Suzie Weber
Stephanie Parrott
- 21 Betty Smith
Amanda Jolly
- 25 Gabrielle Musgrave
- 26 Brett Kingrea
- 28 Andrew Stulce

February Anniversaries

- 5 Kevin & Kathy Jones



*And I'd choose you:
in a hundred lifetimes, in a hundred
worlds, in any version of reality,
I'd find you and I'd choose you.*

~ Kiersten White



To the congregation of Soddy United Methodist Church:

Thank you very much for a wonderful year of worship and ministry together! And thank you for the lovely poinsettia given in our honor, the cards, food, gifts, and other expressions of love during the holiday season. We're so very grateful for you!

~Pastor Todd & Felicia





Crafts & Carols 2021



Crafts & Carols 2021





Saturday, January 1st

NEW YEARS DAY

Sunday, January 2nd

"No Resolutions, Just Commitments"

Tuesday, January 4th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, January 5th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Sunday, January 9th

*"Getting Rid Of The Bad To Make Room
For The Good"*

Tuesday, January 11th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, January 12th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Sunday, January 16th

"Come With Us"

Monday, January 17th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 18th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, January 19th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Thursday, January 20th

United Methodist Women (6:00 PM)

JANUARY 21st - 23rd

Sunday, January 23rd

"Things Have Changed But They're No Different"

Tuesday, January 25th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, January 26th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Sunday, January 30th

SERMON SERIES: THE MISSION OF SODDY UMC
"Glorifying"



February



Tuesday, February 1st

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Sunday, February 6th

SERMON SERIES: THE MISSION OF SODDY UMC
"Growing"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Tuesday, February 8th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, February 9th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Sunday, February 13th

SERMON SERIES: THE MISSION OF SODDY UMC
"Going For God"

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting

Monday, February 14th

Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 15th

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, February 16th

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Thursday, February 17th

United Methodist Women (6:00 PM)

Sunday, February 20th

SERMON SERIES: THE MISSION OF SODDY UMC
"Leveraging Your Church's Identity"

Tuesday, February 22nd

Marys & Marthas Bible study (10:00 AM)

Wednesday, February 23rd

YOUTH (6:00 PM)

Sunday, February 27th

HYMN SING SUNDAY

