



New year, new district, new name

Some of you may already be aware that Soddy United Methodist Church has been moved to a different district within the Holston Conference. We were formerly part of the Cleveland district, but now we have been transitioned into the Chattanooga district. This move came about through the work of the Holston Conference Strategy Team which has been meeting regularly to explore and develop ways that Holston can be more effective in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

One of the changes that has come from the Strategy Team is the reduction of the number of districts in Holston. Formerly, there were twelve districts that made up the Holston Conference. Due to rising costs, lower giving, and a host of other factors, the number of districts has now been downsized to nine. Naturally, such a reduction means the merger of some districts into others, and changing some churches from one district boundary to another.

Soddy UMC—along with Daisy UMC, Sale Creek UMC, and Savannah UMC— have become part of the Chattanooga district now. It is a move that has probably been too long in coming since our proximity to Chattanooga is better than that of Cleveland. (It takes close to an hour to drive from here to the Cleveland district office, whereas it takes half that time to get to the Chattanooga district office on Brainerd Road).

From Pastor Todd, continued

But it hasn't just been merging districts or realigning churches within districts. All of the districts in Holston now have new names. What used to be the

Chattanooga district is now called the **Scenic South District**. The other districts are:

District 1: New River District

District 2: Clinch Mountain District

District 3: Appalachian District

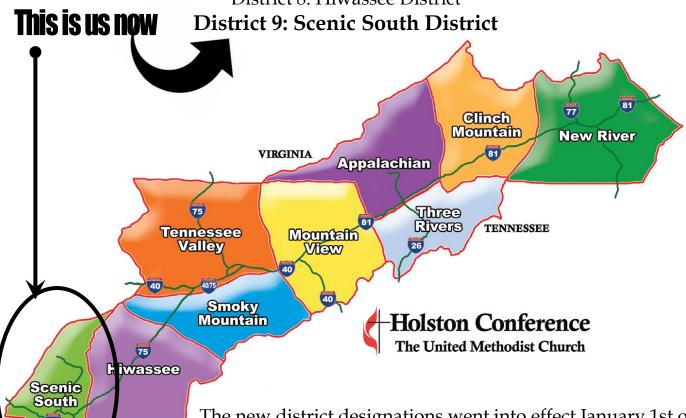
District 4: Three Rivers District

District 5: Mountain View District

District 6: Tennessee Valley District

District 7: Smoky Mountain District

District 8: Hiwassee District



The new district designations went into effect January 1st of this year. The new names and the change from twelve to nine districts are final in accordance with the Holston Annual Conference's vote to formally adopt the "Comprehensive Conference Strategy Plan" in June 2017.

Contact information for the Scenic South District:

District Superintendent: Rev. Randy Martin 4315 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411 (423) 629-0333 chatdist@holston.org Melissa D. Oakes, Administrative Assistant



March Birthdays

- 8 Mitch Weber
- 9 Ken Nunley
- 15 Emily Stulce
- 20 Mary Bert Hamrick
- 27 Martha Bramlett
- 28 Tom Lynch





- 18 Steve & Jean Wortham
- 22 Ken & Mary Ann Scoggins



Dear Soddy friends—

Words cannot express the heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and deep concern for Ken during his recent serious illness. I strongly believe that the prayers of the saints move the hand of God and that has been evidenced in the life of my husband. He is becoming stronger day by day, and we look forward to the day we can go home and continue care there until he can once again do the things he loves to do. Your love offering is overwhelming to us both and so very much appreciated. I'm sure there are needs we have yet to anticipate that will be met by your generosity. We love you all so very much. God bless you richly every day.

—Mary Ann Scoggins



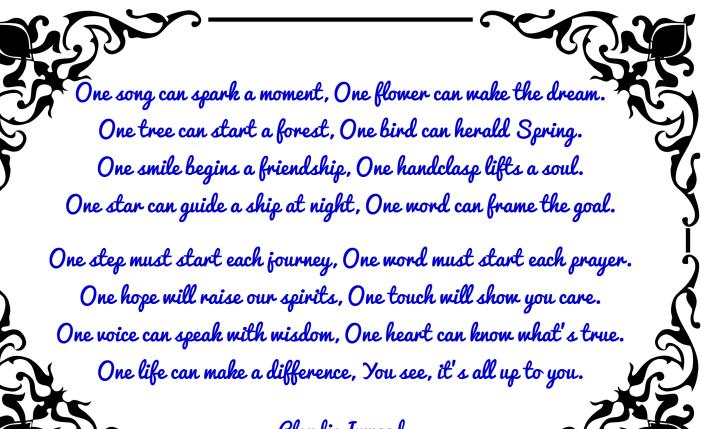
Attenion all ladies: you're invited to the UMW Day Apart!

United
Methodist
Women
FAITH-HOPE-LOVE IN ACTION

On Saturday, March 17th, our United Methodist Women unit is hosting the Annual UMW Day Apart & Mission Event. I would like to invite all the women of our church to attend.

It is my favorite service and I think you would enjoy it. Whether you are a member of the UMW or not, I'd like to invite you to join us for the service and lunch afterward. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with snacks available; the service starts at 10:15 AM.

— Pat Ricketts, UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Claudia Inwood





Are you old enough to remember writing or receiving handwritten thank-you notes? Those cards with polite words of thanksgiving to a host, friend, or associate used to be quite common. I still mail them occasionally. But judging by recipients' surprised reactions, it's not so common to receive such notes these days. We rush through our lives forgetting to thank people who show love and care for us.

The book of Philippians can be described as a long and amazing thank-you letter. The apostle Paul wanted to express his gratitude to the believers in the city of Philippi for the gift they had sent after learning of his imprisonment for preaching the message of Christ. Led by the Spirit, Paul also sought to encourage them to stand firm in persecution and to rejoice, regardless of their circumstances. What a great way to say thank-you!

The unyielding joy Paul shares with his readers is based on the great truth "The Lord is near." Our loving God is never far away from his children. He is standing with us in our suffering. He knows what we are going through, and he is always ready to guide and comfort us, even in the most difficult situations. Nothing can separate us from his wonderful love!

Do you know this gracious God? Are you thankful to him?



Merciful Lord, fill our hearts with godly joy and thanksgiving. Teach us to rely on you even in the most difficult situations. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

rayer





Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31 2:00 PM

We are in need of the Following donations:

- COOMES for the reception
- INDIVIDUALLY—WRAPPED CANDY (chocolate and non-chocolate)
- NEW PLASTIC EGGS (to replace some of the old ones)





Jim & Daisy Mulkey

The Terrace at Mountain Creek 1005 Mountain Creek Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37405

Mary Bert Hamrick

701 Sequoyah Road Room 205 Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Claudia Inwood

9449 Dayton Pike Apartment #214 Soddy Daisy, TN 37379 (423) 332-0499

Alma Gann

Summit View Senior Center 825 Runyon Drive Chattanooga, TN 37405





Registration begins at 9:30 AM; program starts at 10:15 AM. *Childcare provided.* Lunch served by the Soddy UMC women for donations

Worship & fellowship

Pastor Natalie Justice from Ooltewah UMC will be our inspirational speaker for the morning session. Her message is *Pursuing Joy in Times of Trouble*, based on Philippians 4:4-7. After lunch our Mission Today speaker will be Ray Woodall of the Soddy Daisy Food Bank.

HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT

Our mission project for the day is to bring personal items for the Health & Wellness Department of the Soddy Daisy Food Bank.

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Soddy United Methodist Church Soddy Daisy, TN

Bars of soap • Toothpaste • Toothbrushes (adult & children) • Deodorant Shampoo (adult & baby) • Toilet paper • Shaving cream



Sunday, March 4th Lenten Sermon Series: Choose Carefully

"The Man Comes Around"

Tuesday, March 6th Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

Wednesday, March 7th Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, March 11th Lenten Sermon Series: Choose Carefully

"From Pageantry To Passion"

Tuesday, March 13th Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

"Which Way, Lord?"—Pastor Todd's

Spring Bible study begins

Wednesday, March 14th Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Thursday, March 15thUnited Methodist Women

Sunday, March 18th

Lenten Sermon Series: Choose Carefully

"The Man Who Almost Changed History"

Tuesday, March 20th Marthas & Marys; AARP meeting

Girl Scouts

"Which Way, Lord?" Bible study

Wednesday, March 21st Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth

Sunday, March 25th

PALM SUNDAY

Lenten Sermon Series: Choose Carefully

"Standing In A Soldier's Sandals"

Tuesday, March 27th Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts

"Which Way, Lord?" Bible study

Wednesday, March 28th Choir practice; Youth

Thursday, March 29th MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Saturday, March 31st EASTER EGG HUNT