



## **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).

*continued*

***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

District 9: **Scenic South District**

**This is us now**



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



## Happy Birthday!



*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*



## Attention 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*

# March Anniversaries

18 Steve & Jean Wortham  
22 Ken & Mary Ann Scoggins

## Happy Anniversary





*One song can spark a moment, One flower can make the dream.*

*One tree can start a forest, One bird can herald Spring.*

*One smile begins a friendship, One handclasp lifts a soul.*

*One star can guide a ship at night, One word can frame the goal.*

*One step must start each journey, One word must start each prayer.*

*One hope will raise our spirits, One touch will show you care.*

*One voice can speak with wisdom, One heart can know what's true.*

*One life can make a difference, You see, it's all up to you.*

*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?



## Prayer

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.





# Community Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 31 2:00 PM**

*We are in need of the following donations:*

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



Leave your donations in the fellowship hall. **Contact Kathryn Mullins if you have any questions.**

**THANK YOU!**



Jim & Daisy Mulkey

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

Claudia Inwood

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

Mary Bert Hamrick

701 Sequoyah Road  
Room 205  
Soddy Daisy, TN  
37379

Alma Gann

Summit View Senior Center  
825 Runyon Drive  
Chattanooga, TN  
37405





*Rejoice*  
in the Lord  
*Always*  
Philippians 4:4a NRSV  
Holston Conference United Methodist Women

**Cleveland District UMW**  
**Day Apart & Mission Today**  
*Event*  
**Saturday, March 17th, 2018**  
**Soddy United Methodist Church Soddy Daisy, TN**

**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.*

**ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED:**

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





<b>Sunday, March 4th</b>	<b>LENTEN SERMON SERIES: CHOOSE CAREFULLY</b> <i>"The Man Comes Around"</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 6th</b>	Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts
<b>Wednesday, March 7th</b>	Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth
<b>Sunday, March 11th</b>	<b>LENTEN SERMON SERIES: CHOOSE CAREFULLY</b> <i>"From Pageantry To Passion"</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 13th</b>	Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts <b>"Which Way, Lord?"</b> —Pastor Todd's Spring Bible study begins
<b>Wednesday, March 14th</b>	Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth
<b>Thursday, March 15th</b>	United Methodist Women
<b>Sunday, March 18th</b>	<b>LENTEN SERMON SERIES: CHOOSE CAREFULLY</b> <i>"The Man Who Almost Changed History"</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 20th</b>	Marthas & Marys; AARP meeting Girl Scouts <b>"Which Way, Lord?"</b> Bible study
<b>Wednesday, March 21st</b>	Fellowship dinner; Choir practice; Youth
<b>Sunday, March 25th</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>LENTEN SERMON SERIES: CHOOSE CAREFULLY</b> <i>"Standing In A Soldier's Sandals"</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 27th</b>	Marthas & Marys; Girl Scouts <b>"Which Way, Lord?"</b> Bible study
<b>Wednesday, March 28th</b>	Choir practice; Youth
<b>Thursday, March 29th</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>
<b>Saturday, March 31st</b>	<b>EASTER EGG HUNT</b>