

# The WINE

*The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church*



## 2023 Holston annual conference highlights

Holston Annual Conference met on June 4th – 7th at Lake Junaluska. Here are some highlights from the conference:

- ★ The annual conference mission offerings for Ishe Anesu Mission in Zimbabwe totaled \$36,616, and \$26,401 for Change for Children grants.
- ★ There were 4,778 “Hands-on Mission Kits” collected across the nine districts of Holston. The total value amount of all the kits was \$114,000. The Scenic South district had a goal of 400 home buckets. We collected 727!
- ★ The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) reported that \$8.047 million was received in tithes in 2022. While the approved budget for 2022 was \$8,742,252, spending was held to \$7,564,689, which left the conference budget with \$483,107 to begin this year. A shortfall is anticipated in 2023 as a consequence of recent local-church disaffiliations. The body approved a 2024 budget of \$8.18 million.
- ★ The annual memorial service celebrated the lives and ministries of 24 clergy, five clergy spouses, and 14 surviving clergy spouses, all deceased within the last year.
- ★ A total of 26 clergy retired.

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*From Pastor Todd, continued*

- ★ The annual conference voted to approve a Nurture Team proposal to raise \$1.5 million for a “New Voices” campaign which will culminate in the June 2024 missions offering. The “New Voices” campaign will invest in Holston’s five camps, five Wesley Foundations and two colleges (\$125,000 each) which already have a legacy of developing church leaders.
- ★ A total of 16 new clergy were recognized during the Service of Ordination and Commissioning: Three clergy were ordained as elders, five were commissioned as provisional elders, two were commissioned as provisional deacons, four were licensed as local pastors, and the orders of two clergy were recognized.
- ★ Five of the nine submitted resolutions were discussed. During a 90-minute period, 26 members participated in asking questions, making motions, and speaking for or against resolutions on the floor.
  - **Resolution 1: The conference voted in favor** of the Extended Cabinet’s resolution to collaborate with other annual conferences in working for legislation providing a “gracious, fair and non-punitive separation process” for local churches at General Conference 2024.
  - **Resolution 2: The conference voted in favor** of a resolution in support of a U.S. regional conference. The vote was 443 to 102.
  - **Resolution 3: The conference voted to “postpone indefinitely”** a resolution calling on clergy and lay members who intend to disaffiliate from the denomination to recuse themselves from church leadership roles. The vote was 313 to 235.
  - **Resolution 4: The conference voted in favor** of a resolution aspiring to a future in the denomination “where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church ... including as laity, clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards.” The vote was 339 to 223.
  - **Resolution 5: The conference voted to refer** a resolution calling for Holston’s nine districts to be renamed according to city names within their boundaries to the Strategy Team for consideration. The resolution’s stated purpose was to reduce confusion and make district names easier to remember.

Resolutions not considered by the conference during the allotted time will be referred to related entities for consideration, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett said.

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*From Pastor Todd, continued*

A total of 264 local churches in Holston have disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church following a called annual conference that was held in April. That was approximately 30% of Holston's previous total number of churches. In addition, approximately 130 clergy from the various Orders have also left the denomination. On Monday morning, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett delivered her State of the Church Report in which she called for a "recalibrated perspective."

"I bring to you great news at this Annual Conference. Ultimately, all is well," she said to applause. "And here's the reason. The head of the church, Jesus Christ, has risen from the dead."

The reality of Jesus' resurrection "puts everything in perspective. It recalibrates everything," Wallace-Padgett said, explaining how Holston leadership is re-focused, not on buildings and finances, but on new visions and strategies to develop disciples.

The Invitation Team, one year into its existence, extended three invitations in the year going forward, said the Rev. Kim Goddard, co-chair. (1) "We are inviting Holston Conference to embody discipleship." (2) "We are inviting all to community." (3) "We are inviting you to heartfelt expectant hope for the future." Goddard added, "We are not inviting you to do something new. We are inviting you to reclaim a passionate love for Jesus. That is our best path forward."



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**PLEASE CONTACT KATHRYN MULLINS IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY!**

**COKEBURY'S HERO HOTLINE**

**Called Together to Serve God!**

**JULY 24 25 26 27**

The graphic features a central shield-shaped emblem with a yellow background and red diagonal stripes. Inside the shield, the word "HERO" is written in large, blue, 3D block letters with a yellow outline. Below it, "HOTLINE" is written in red, outlined letters. A cartoon superhero dog character is positioned at the bottom of the shield, wearing a blue suit and a red cape. The background of the entire graphic is a yellow and red striped sunburst pattern.



**COMING IN  
SEPTEMBER**

**THE CHURCH IN CRISIS**

**1 Corinthians**

Pastor Todd's Bible study will resume on Tuesday,  
September 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

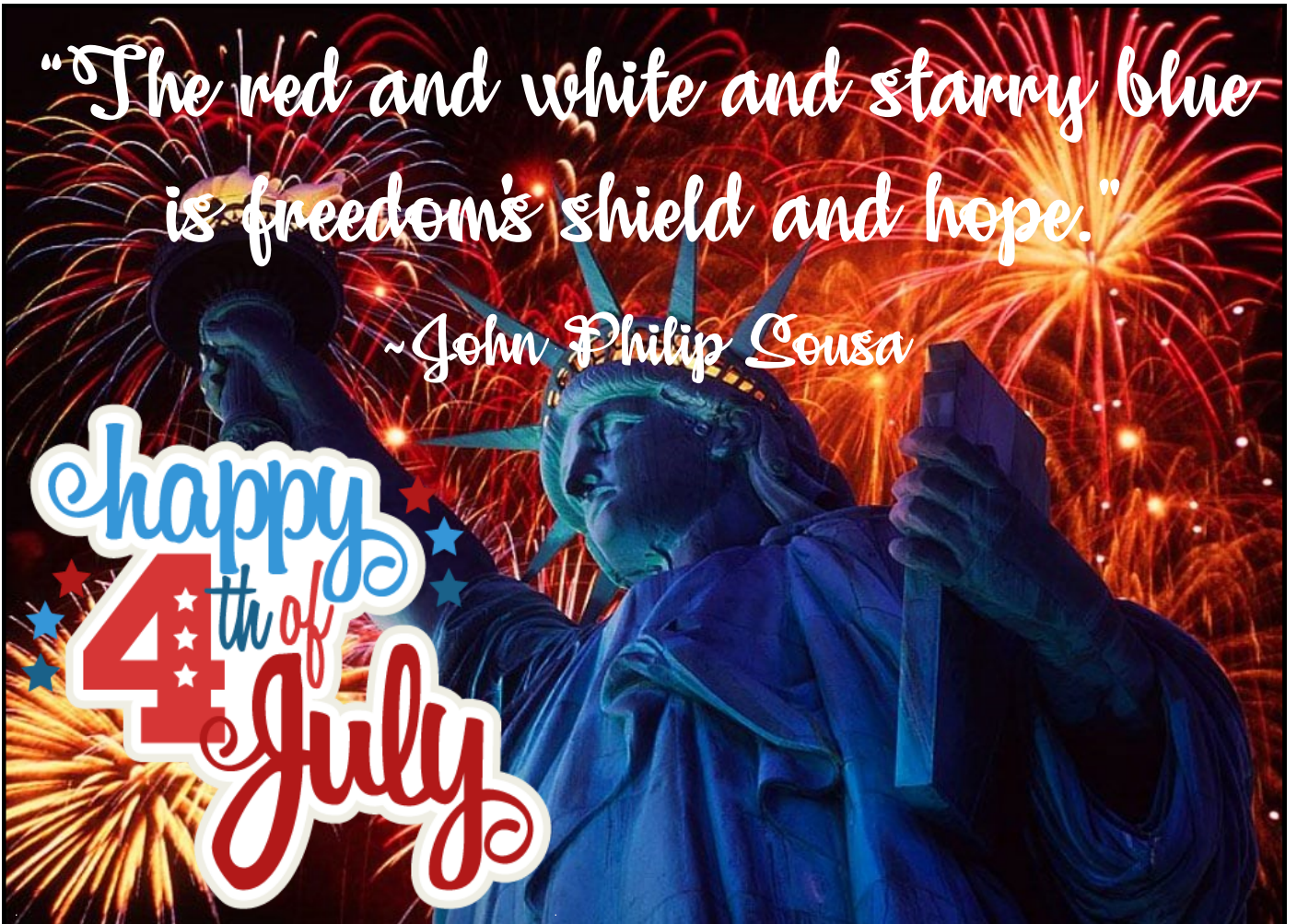
Meeting  
Reminder!

**The next business meeting of the administrative  
board will be Sunday, August 13, at 5:00 PM.**

*"The red and white and starry blue  
is freedom's shield and hope."*

*~John Philip Sousa*

**Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of  
July**



# Upcoming birthdays!

## July

- 1 Hazel Grace Gardener  
Rod Musgrave
- 7 Kyle Anderson
- 8 Vicki Hardesty
- 10 Patsy Irwin
- 11 Mike Anderson  
Trudy Harper
- 15 Arnie Stulce
- 21 Tripp Mullins
- 24 Virginia Gill  
Thomas Wood  
Ron Jordan
- 26 Paige Hendrix  
Preston Hendrix



## August

- 11 Gene Elliott
- 12 Ann Reahard
- 13 Paul Ed Parrott  
Brynlie Dotson
- 16 Brody Dotson  
Linda Reagan
- 17 Michelle Musgrave
- 18 Elena Mullins
- 20 Kristen Woodall
- 21 JoAnne Posey  
Caleb Nelson
- 26 Allison Ellis

# Upcoming wedding anniversaries!

## July

- 17 Joseph & Marti Hendrix
- 29 Sid & Vivian Parrott

## August

- 1 Carlos & Barbara Wilson
- 2 Paul Ed and Suzanne Parrott
- 14 Skip and Martha Sheeks
- 25 Kay & Vicki Hardesty



**Pastor Todd will be in Virginia visiting his parents from July 16th—23rd. He will leave after worship on July 16th. If you have any special needs during that time please contact Kathy Jones or Cindy Cunnyngnam.** Cindy preach and lead worship on Sunday, July 23rd.



**Sunday, July 2nd**

*"An Arraignment Of America"*

**Tuesday, July 4th**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Sunday, July 9th**

*"Words OF The Living In The Shadow Of Death"*

**Tuesday, July 11th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

**Sunday, July 16th**

*"Perfect Protection"*

**JULY 16th - 23rd**

**PASTOR TODD WILL BE VISITING FAMILY  
IN VIRGINIA**

**Tuesday, July 18th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

*United Methodist Women (12:00 PM)*

**Sunday, July 23rd**

**GUEST SPEAKER: CINDY CUNNINGHAM**

**Monday, July 24th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, July 25th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Wednesday, July 26th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Thursday, July 27th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



**Sunday, July 30th**

**NAVIGATING REVELATION: JUDGEMENTS**

*"The Scroll And The Lamb"*





# AUGUST

**Tuesday, August 1st**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

**Sunday, August 6th**

**NAVIGATING REVELATION: JUDGEMENTS**  
*"Seven Seals Of Doom"*

**Tuesday, August 8th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

**Sunday, August 13th**

**NAVIGATING REVELATION: JUDGEMENTS**  
*"Angels In The Horn Section"*  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting**

**Tuesday, August 15th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**  
*United Methodist Women (12:00 PM)*

**Sunday, August 20th**

**NAVIGATING REVELATION: JUDGEMENTS**  
*"The Stubbornness Of Humanity"*

**Tuesday, August 22nd**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

**Sunday, August 27th**

*"We Interrupt This Program..."*

**Tuesday, August 29th**

**Marthas & Marys Bible study**

