

May - June 2020

# CORONAVIRUS

# THE VINE

The (slightly different) newsletter of  
Soddy United Methodist Church  
during this unexpected and unusual time

## Interesting times, indeed!

There's an old quote that says "May you live in interesting times." While seemingly a blessing, the expression is normally used in an ironic sense; that is, life is better in "uninteresting times" when there's peace, tranquility and stability rather than in "interesting times" of conflict and upheaval.

We're most certainly in the midst of interesting times! Everything that we've known as *normal*—going to church, hugs and handshakes, dropping into the store on the spur of the moment with no advance preparation—has been turned upside down. We're garbed in masks and gloves. Businesses that haven't closed are operating under revised hours and policies. Pastors have become televangelists as we put sermons and worship services on video. Events have been cancelled. Parents and grandparents have become teachers. Interpersonal contact has been minimalized.

Interesting times, indeed!

One of the great things about being human is our resiliency. As a species, we're pretty good at adapting to changes in the world around us. While we may not like or want the changes, we soon learn to "go with the flow."

Churches are resilient, too. They survive economic and environmental

*continued*

challenges. They weather storms of controversy, schism and conflict. Churches lose and gain members, change worship, add ministries, and go through pastoral transitions. And somehow churches always seem to endure.

Yes, sometimes churches die when its membership drops so low that it can no longer function. And sometimes churches get torn apart internally over issues of leadership, theology, gossip, worship style, and things like that. But aside from those extremes churches are hard to get rid of. That's because the church is God's idea, not humanity's.

Part of the United Methodist Church's baptism liturgy states that

**The church is of God and will be preserved to the end of time, for the conduct of worship and the due administration of God's Word and Sacraments, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.**

(The Baptismal Covenant III, p. 45, *United Methodist Hymnal*)

As long as God wills, each and every church will remain. Every church will accomplish the purpose for which God created and established it. That means when the COVID-19 pandemic is over we'll still be the church that meets at 255 Depot Street in Soddy Daisy. Soddy United Methodist Church isn't through, just as the United Methodist Church as a whole isn't through. The UMC might—and most likely will—change somehow, some way, in the future. But the UMC is a denomination, which I believe is a human idea. While denominations may (and do) change, each individual church remains until God says its work is complete because *the church* is God's idea.

We're in the midst of some very interesting times. But take heart! The church is still present in each and every one of us. Even without a building, or the ability to gather for worship, we remain God's idea. You and I are the church. And God's not finished with us yet!





**The following is contingent upon  
Camp Lookout being in operation.**

Soddy United Methodist Church will be sponsoring Camp Lookout scholarships for the summer of 2020. Children and grandchildren of members and affiliates are eligible for these full camper scholarships.

If you are interested, please pick up a Camp Lookout brochure, available in Friendship Hall, or online at [www.camplookout.com](http://www.camplookout.com) to select a program session and date. Once you have made your decision, please contact Soddy UMC Treasurer, Suzie Weber (423-595-4628), to obtain the sponsorship code needed to make your child's reservation directly with Camp Lookout. **PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS CODE WITH ANYONE!** Each camper must be accounted for by the Treasurer to ensure proper payment to Camp Lookout.

**Please choose carefully.** There are some stipulations.

- Each child is expected to attend camp as per the reservation.
- If changes are needed to either program or dates, you must notify Camp Lookout no later than two (2) weeks prior to the opening day of your camp session.
- If you must cancel your reservation, there will be a \$50.00 cancellation fee that you are responsible to pay to Soddy United Methodist Church. Cancellations must be completed by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern) on the Friday that is at least one (1) week prior to the opening day of your camp session.

Please remember the church will be billed for **all** reservations made. Thank you.

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No decision has been made regarding Vacation Bible School, which has been scheduled for June 22nd—26th. Kathryn is awaiting projections for when and how things open up again, as well as considering some sort of virtual VBS. As soon as we know any details we will pass them along.

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**Holston Annual Conference (originally scheduled for June 7th - 10th) WILL NOT meet at Lake Junaluska as usual. Instead, there will be a virtual annual conference on Saturday, June 27th, beginning at 1:00 PM. More information will be shared as we receive it.**

# MAY

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Ray Woodall
- 8 Karen Yeatts
- 9 Mike Parrott
- 11 Steve Wortham
- 12 Carson Wood
- 13 Marion Wood Wagner
- 20 Evelyn Caldwell
- 21 Britany Posey
- 24 Annaliese Mullins  
Aiden Mullins
- 25 Donna Graham
- 28 Charles Bain
- 31 Rebecca Musgrave

## Anniversaries

- 23 Tripp & Kathryn Mullins
- 27 Matt & Jessica Lyon

# JUNE

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Jim Mulkey
- 9 Sid Parrott
- 11 Becky Stulce  
Hannah Musgrave  
Kathy Vinyard
- 12 Marti Hendrix  
Bennett Hendrix (1st birthday!!)
- 14 Ron Reahard
- 15 Marie Musgrave
- 17 Carl McLaughlin
- 24 Matthew Kingrea
- 28 Matt Lyon
- 29 Kellsea Hendrix

## Anniversaries

- 4 Charles & Gena Bain
- 6 Arnie & Becky Stulce  
Doug & Karen Yeatts
- 17 Jeff & Karen Ward
- 20 Buck & Jean Johnson
- 24 Vic & Sharon Rogers



# In case you're missing some friendly faces...



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# In case you're missing some friendly faces...





**Sunday, May 3rd**

*"Willing To Respond, Willing To Restore"*

**Sunday, May 10th**

*Mother's Day "Hi, Mom!"*

**Sunday, May 17th**

*"Letting God Out Of The Box"*

**Sunday, May 24th**

**HYMN SING SUNDAY**

**Monday, May 25th**

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**Sunday, May 31st**

**pentecost**

*"Why United Methodists Baptize Infants"*

*\*The Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Bennett Hendrix*

**ITEMS ON THIS LIST ARE CONTINGENT UPON BEING ABLE TO MEET ONCE AGAIN. SERMONS WILL BE PRE-RECORDED AND POSTED ONLINE UNLESS WE RECEIVE THE OKAY TO GATHER FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP.**



**Sunday, June 7th**

**Sunday, June 14th**

Administrative Board meeting

**Sunday, June 21st**

**FATHER'S DAY**

**Monday, June 22nd**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, June 23rd**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Wednesday, June 24th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Thursday, June 25th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Friday, June 26th**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Sunday, June 27th**

**HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE**