



Update on in-person worship

On Thursday, August 27, our Planning & Preparation Taskforce conducted a Zoom meeting to discuss worship services at Soddy UMC. At present, the Scenic South District and Holston Conference continue to suspend in-person worship inside our buildings. However, outdoor worship has been approved for those churches that wish to do so.

Our plan is to begin an abbreviated outdoor worship on Sunday, September 13, at 8:30 AM, in the playground. Please note that if the weather is bad on Saturday night/Sunday morning the service will be cancelled.

You're asked to bring a lawn chair.

Social distancing will still be maintained (so no handshakes, hugs, etc.).

Families will be expected to sit together.

Offering plates will not be passed but will be available for you to drop your offering in.

Due to the brevity of the service, the restrooms/fellowship hall will not be open.

And you will need to wear a mask.

Naturally, if you're over the age of 65, not feeling well, or providing care for someone, you're still encouraged to remain at home. As I've said before, do not

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

risk your health by trying to return to church too soon. Err on the side of caution as you've been doing.

I will continue to pre-record the sermon and post to Facebook and our YouTube channel for those who aren't comfortable with outdoor worship, or if we have to cancel the service due to bad weather. The outdoor service will consist of a responsive reading, prayers, a creed, a children's message, sermon and benediction. There is to be no congregational singing (again, a conference requirement). The service will last approximately 35-45 minutes.

If you can't make it back yet, no problem. I completely understand. While this isn't the best possible solution, at least it's a step in the right direction. So bring a lawn chair, wear your mask, social distance, gather under the big tree, and let's make church happen!

Resources from *The Upper Room*

During these unprecedented times it's good to have resources to turn to. Recently, I received an email from *The Upper Room* with information I want to pass along. I pray these will be useful tools for you.

We're experiencing the convergence of at least three storms – pandemic, economic downturn, and social upheaval over the bitter fruit of persistent racism. Where is God in the midst of this “perfect storm?” How do we hear and respond to God's presence in the midst of such anxiety and anger? These resources are designed to help address these difficult and nagging questions.

Everything can be found at <https://www.upperroom.org/>.

- **Morning Prayer with The Upper Room via Facebook Live every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m. (CT).** These guided prayer experiences are archived so you can join at your convenience if you miss it live.
- **Resources for Spiritual Wellness in Anxious Times.** For navigating the pandemic, this page makes available a robust list of timely practices – for individuals and families. Included are digital devotionals, videos, eCourses, podcasts, etc., all of which can be accessed and distributed free of charge to everyone in your congregation.
- **A PDF file of the September / October issue of *The Upper Room*** is available to since many readers are currently reticent or unable to pick up their copy of the devotional guide because of the virus.
- **Resources for the Spiritual Work of Overcoming Racism.** For addressing the spiritual virus of racism that continues to tear our society apart, *The Upper Room* is compiling and adding more content each week to this list of helpful resources.

What to expect when in-person worship resumes

- (1) **If you're over the age of 65, sick, or providing care for another, you are encouraged to stay home.** While we understand the desire to be back at church, your health and well being are more important. *DO NOT come to church until you feel ready to do so.*
- (2) **All persons over the age of two (2) MUST wear a mask while in the church building.** *Please bring your mask from home.* Social distancing will be maintained. The pastor will not be shaking hands after the worship service.
- (3) **Families must sit together and maintain social distancing between the family unit and those around them.**
- (4) **There will be no congregational singing. Children's time will continue but children will remain with their families. No snacks will be handed out.**
- (5) **Collection plates will not be passed but will be on hand.** Please leave your offering before or after the service.
- (6) **Bulletins will be available but will not be handed out.** You will need to pick one up as you arrive. *Please bring your Bible from home.* Church/pew Bibles will not be available.
- (7) **The bathrooms and fellowship hall will not be open.**
- (8) **The Holston Conference requires us to keep a record of attendance each week with names and contact information.** In the event of a reported case of COVID-19 we need to be able to get in touch with all those in attendance that day. Understand this is something we must do in order to reopen, so please be patient if an usher asks for your contact information.



The Holston Conference is still taking online church credit/debit donations.

The website is <https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/churchoffering> and Scenic South District, designating the payment to Soddy United Methodist Church. This is a secure site and donations are mailed directly to the church. These funds will be included in your annual offerings letter mailed in January. Please remember, if you are designating your offering to anything other than the Church's general operating fund, checks only made payable to Soddy UMC can be mailed directly to the church, 255 Depot Street, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379, or to Suzie Weber at 1102 Harbor Landing Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379. **Thank you!**

September Birthdays

- 2 Bailey Nelson
- 8 Roger Graham
Brandi Powell
- 11 John Bramlett
- 13 Samara Jolly
Emily Gallaher
- 16 Marcie Woodall
- 17 Victor Rogers
- 19 Michael Musgrave
- 21 Patrick Mulkey
- 25 Trish Jordan
- 27 Cindy Cunnyingham

September Anniversaries

- 1 Carlos & Barbara Wilson
- 3 Mike & Carla Anderson
- 16 Mitch & Suzie Weber
- 20 Carl & Carole McLaughlin
- 21 Frank & Jimmie Lou Mulkey

“Today is the oldest you have been, and the youngest you will ever be. Make the most of it!”
~ Nicky Gumbel”



October Birthdays

- 7 Katie Wood
- 10 Kelsey Jones
- 11 Sylvia Williams
- 12 Doug Yeatts
Barbara Hendron
- 15 Jessica Lyon
Thomas Hendron
Barbara Musgrave
- 18 Scott Musgrave
- 22 Kathryn Mullins
Gideon Musgrave
- 25 Rachel Musgrave
- 30 Gena Bain

October Anniversaries

- 7 Mike & Stephanie Parrott
- 20 Roger & Donna Graham
Art & Marylu McDonald
- 21 Todd & Felicia Kingrea

“There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.”
~ Martin Luther”

A banner for the month of September. The word "SEPTEMBER" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters with a black outline. The letters are set against a background of four red apples with green leaves. The entire banner is enclosed in a red rectangular border.

Sunday, September 6th

SERMON SERIES: PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION
"Grow In Grace"

Monday, September 7th.....LABOR DAY



Sunday, September 13th

WORSHIP IN THE PLAYGROUND BEGINS!
SERMON SERIES: PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION
"Indications Of Infancy"

Monday, September 14th

Committee on Lay Leadership ZOOM meeting

Sunday, September 20th

SERMON SERIES: PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION
"Marks Of Maturity"

Sunday, September 27th

SERMON SERIES: PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION
"The Growing Christian And The Enemy"

A banner for the month of October. The word "OCTOBER" is written in large, orange, blocky letters with a black outline. The letters are set against a dark blue background featuring a silhouette of a haunted house with a full moon and a bare tree. The entire banner is enclosed in a yellow border with a scalloped edge.

Sunday, October 4th

SERMON SERIES:
FROM DEATH TO ETERNAL GLORY
"The Great And Final Sacrifice"

Sunday, October 11th

SERMON SERIES:
FROM DEATH TO ETERNAL GLORY
"Where's Thy Victory, Boasting Grave?"

OCTOBER 17th - 23rd

Pastor Todd will be on vacation

Sunday, October 18th

Kathy Jones, guest speaker

Sunday, October 25th

SERMON SERIES:
FROM DEATH TO ETERNAL GLORY
"The Name Above All Names"

Saturday, October 31st

