



# FIRST THINGS FROM FIRST UMC, ALCOA

2nd Week of June, 2022

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Next Step Committee Seeking Direction:

The Next Step Committee is a new committee committed to providing leadership and vital information to the Alcoa First United Methodist Church family as we navigate the options regarding the current division in the United Methodist Church.

Committee Members Include:

David Duggan (Chairperson) Barbara Stinnett, Jane Carter, Wes Chamberlain, Elizabeth Scharschu, Bill Wilson, and David Lawson. Also included are staff members Rev. Todd Chancey and Johnny Walker.

At the Next Step Committee meeting, I shared vital information from the Holston Annual Conference. The primary information shared contained the following:

- All property (real and tangible), all assets, all equipment and furnishings located at 617 Gilbert Street, Alcoa, TN 37701 (Alcoa First United Methodist Church) reverts back to the Holston Annual Conference should the property fail to continue being used as a United Methodist Church.
- There are several ways we could leave the denomination and retain our property and assets currently in the denominational rules (Book of Discipline), but so far the Conference is recognizing only one avenue to leave the United Methodist Church.
- Our annual Conference leaders and trustees have laid out a detailed plan for churches that wish to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church, for many of us, their plan seems unfair, unreasonable and very expensive. Under the current Conference Plan, I have been informed that if and when we meet all the detailed requirements for leaving, our exit fees will be somewhere in the range of \$400,000.00 - \$450,000.00 or more.
- This option for leaving expires on December 31, 2023.
- Currently our Bishop has stated that the Annual Conference in June of 2023 will be our only considered date to disaffiliate under paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline.
- It is also widely accepted that should we stay in the United Methodist Church, the denomination is forecasting that all language in the current Book of Discipline pertaining to human sexuality will be removed. If this happens, then it is understood that self-avowed practicing homosexuals along with LGBTQ+ persons would be acceptable for full ordination as ordained clergy, and pastors would be presiding over same sex marriages in United Methodist Church and on church properties. Both of these provisions are currently prohibited by our denominational rules (Book of Discipline).
- Other easier and assumed less expensive options are available in the denominational rules (Book of Discipline) but at this time, I am being told those other options are not being considered.

Due to this strong-armed approach from our conference leadership, the Next Step Committee would like to inform the congregation on the factual understanding we are facing, so they have developed the following plan to help us get a better vision for our future as a church family:

The Next Step Committee is requesting the help of our church family. At their meeting, they discussed the importance of sharing factual information and also seeking the input and desires of the church membership. The committee has approved the following first step plan:

- Announce the plan to the congregation during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 5, 2022.
- Offer open meetings for information and sharing of questions and answers on the following dates:
  - Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
  - Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. BEFORE WORSHIP in the Green Room (Fellowship Hall).
  - Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR in the Sanctuary.

NOTE: All members are encouraged to attend one of these meetings.

- Hold a Church-wide meeting at 11:45 a.m. On Sunday morning, June 26, 2022 in the sanctuary for the purpose of having the membership vote on their desire for our church family to either stay in the United Methodist Church or their desire for our church family to leave the United Methodist Church. THIS VOTE WILL BE NON-BINDING, IT IS ONLY AN INFORMATIONAL VOTE to help direct the Next Step Committee in the direction of the majority of our membership in relation to staying United Methodist or becoming some other named ministry.

- David Duggan, myself or other committee members are available for one-on-one discussions prior to the directional vote. Also if any groups (Sunday school, Bible Study Groups, Music Groups or other Small Groups) would like to have someone from the Next Step Committee meet with your group, let David Duggan or me know and arrangements will try to be accommodated.
  - Only members of Alcoa First United Methodist Church who attend this called meeting will be allowed to vote on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Everyone is welcome to attend.
  - Let it be stressed again, this is a NON-BINDING VOTE, for the purpose of helping the Next Step Committee move in the direction of the church membership as we move forward.
- Thank you all for your dedication, love and support of the ministry here at Alcoa First United Methodist. My door is always open to discussions.

Blessings,

Pastor Todd

## Choctaw Mission Team Request Prayers:

On Saturday, June 18th the Choctaw Mission Team leaves for Philadelphia, MS to provide a week long Vacation Bible School for Native American children on the Choctaw Reservation. Team Members from Alcoa FUMC: Jill Pugh, Anna Pugh, Allen Garrett, Lisa Goins, Jason Goins, Todd Chancey, Clairia Dominick (Pastor Todd's Granddaughter) Heidi and Rodney Hyatt (Liz Chancey's sister and her husband.) Please keep the mission team in your prayers. During the Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, June 12th we will pray for our mission team members. If you would like to help, please consider donating a Walmart gift card. There is a Walmart near the camp where the team will be staying and they can purchase gas, food and Vacation Bible School Supplies. Thanks in advance for your prayers and generosity to help our mission team. We apologize for mistakingly leaving off Jill and Anna Pugh from last week's prayer request.

Team Members Prayer List:

Delbert Aycock, Rev. Bert Beria, Lesley Beria, Rev. Todd Chancey, Alex Colyer, Rev. Jason Crandall, Clairia Dominick, Rev. Allen Garrett, Jason Goins, Lisa Goins Micah Horst, Caelyn Houser, Rachel Houser, Heidi Hyatt, Rodney Hyatt, Kadie Lass George Linden, Anna Pugh, Jill Pugh, Ryland Stitt

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## Bill Bailey Scholarships Awarded:

We are honored to announce the 2022 recipients of the Bill Bailey Scholarships. As we lift up this year's students, let us also remember and honor Mr. Bill & Mrs. Doris Bailey. Bill and Doris dedicated their lives to the goodwill of local students in the Alcoa and surrounding school systems. We share these scholarships in memory of Bill and in honor of Doris Bailey. May God add his blessings to these scholarships. Each of the following students will receive scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each for the 2022/2023 school year. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

Audrey Roach - daughter of Ed and Jenean Roach  
Savannah Roach - daughter of Ed and Jenean Roach  
Allie Boyd - daughter of Josh and Jama Boyd  
Tyler Boyd - son of Josh and Jama Boyd  
Kendall Ellis - daughter of Joe and Belinda Ellis  
Sarah Grace Travis - daughter of Tabitha Travis  
Garrett Dickinson - grandson of Bob and Judy Humphrey  
Andrew Lawson - Son of David and Darunee Lawson



## **Stewardship Campaign:**

By now you should have received a letter from Pastor Todd, a step chart and an estimate of giving card for our 2022/2023 stewardship campaign. Attached are all three documents related to this year's campaign. As the letter states, your participation helps our Executive Committee plan our future mission and ministry needs. If you have any questions please see Ron Scott or Pastor Todd. Sunday, June 12th will be pledge Sunday. At the end of the service you will be given time to bring your estimate of giving cards to the altar. Thank you all in advance for all your generosity, support and love for the mission and ministries of Alcoa First United Methodist Church. SEE EMAIL ATTACHMENTS.

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## **Missions Moment:**

This Sunday we will get to hear from Sharon and Graham in a video update and learn how we can better support them and continue God's work in Ecuador. Until then, will you pray for them? Will you ask God how you can partner with Him to reach the hearts of these loved people? Perhaps you are meant to join Alcoa First in May 2023 to go to Ecuador and help change a life!

Who would have thought I would find the Lord in a far away country through the hands of missionaries sent there to reach a different people? God's ways are not our own and perhaps you are meant to be the foreigner who comes to bless and change a heart forever.

Andi Heinemann

For more information on Sharon and Graham Nichols:  
<https://www.facebook.com/sharon.s.nichols.5>

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## **IMPACT Student Ministries Notes:**

Please stay up to date with what we are doing by visiting  
<https://impactsmafumc.webstarts.com/>

Read our weekly student newsletter at  
<https://impactnewsletter.webstarts.com/>

The word "IMPACT" is written in large, colorful, block letters. Each letter is filled with a different vibrant color, creating a rainbow-like effect. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance.

## **Wellness Ministry:**

The Wellness Ministry will be meeting on June 28, 2:30-4:00 PM in the Green Room. The menu will be salads with healthy dressings and toppings that can be easily prepared at home.

Sign up sheet is on the table outside the church office.

Come join us!

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## **Small Dinner Groups:**

The Small Dinner Groups program is back!

Participants meet once a month and enjoy a meal together. The make-up of the group changes each month, which is not only fun, but helps us get better acquainted with more folks.

Sign up sheet is on the table outside the church office.

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## **Altar Flowers:**

The altar flower calendar is located in the hallway to the right of Johnny Walker's office door.

October Sundays are all available as well as a few other Sundays throughout the year

Choose a date, pick up a form in the basket under the calendar, and give the completed form with your payment to Johnny. That's it! Sign up today!

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## **Invitation to Pray:**

Invitation to pray\* for our church at 8:45 am on Sunday Morning!  
Location: by the naturally-lighted stained-glass windows of our sanctuary

(Note\*: as prompted by the recent group discussion about "Purpose of the Local Church," "5 Solas," and "Authority Structure for a Christian" after the 3-year study together with AFUMC Sunday Evening Bible Study group)

Coordinated by Darunee Lawson (email [daruneelawson@yahoo.com](mailto:daruneelawson@yahoo.com) or call/text 865-297-2709)

## J.O.Y. ful News:

Just Older Youth

June 24th, Friday – Drift Boat Cowboys @ the GSM Heritage Center – 7:00 PM show - Be sure to note when you sign up if you're a member of the Heritage Center or not. General admission - \$15.00/members-\$10.00. Tickets are purchased online. Seating is now provided for concert audience. After we procure our seats, then dinner at the Riverstone Restaurant. Bus will leave the church parking lot by 4:30 PM.

July 22nd Friday – “Hello Dolly” @ the Bijou Theatre – 7:30 PM show - \$25.00 tickets – A Word Players production. Dinner before show will be at Copper Cellar.

August 4th, Thursday – “9 to 5” @ the Barter Theater in Abington, Va. 2:00 PM show. \$32.00 tickets. Lunch at Luke's Café.

Tuesday, September 13th – Potluck Brunch @ the Cove

Tuesday, September 27th – “Peter”-Biblical Times Christian dinner theater in Pigeon Forge. Bus leaves @ 5:00. Tickets are \$28.00 each

Pick up a full schedule of all events planned for our seniors located on the table under the J.O.Y. marquee and on the table under the TV in the front hallway. Signup sheets for all events are located at the Welcome Desk in the front hallway. Lots more exciting events await.

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## New Church Pictorial Directory:

Last Sunday, June 5th, the committee began collecting up-to-date information from our congregation for a new directory. We ask you to please fill out the information sheet that will be located on the back of the First Things Highlights insert in your bulletin, then as you leave the sanctuary, simply place in the marked baskets either in the narthex or at the Welcome desk. Forms will also be by each basket.

The committee has selected the Portrait Café. We anticipate a completed directory by the end of the year, but first we need your help to be able to compile correct information for the directory as noted above!

So exciting to begin this process!

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## Fall Flea Market:

October 8, 2022 in the Green Room  
Begin getting your donations together now! All proceeds go to a new church bus fund.

A lot of “stuff” is needed for this event, and an army of volunteers will be needed for this fundraiser!

## June Birthdays

- 6/1 April Hawkins
- 6/3 Landon Daugherty
- 6/5 Barbara Adkins, Susan Beavers
- 6/6 Joshua Hawkins
- 6/7 David Duggan
- 6/8 Emma Dickenson
- 6/10 Aaron Goins, Kim Perkins
- 6/11 Francis Gross, Joey Kinkead, James Larrabee
- 6/12 Emi Pickett
- 6/14 Jake Weller
- 6/15 Lynsey Wolfe
- 6/16 Garrett Dickinson, Carly Lidvall
- 6/18 Jeff Ridenour
- 6/19 Andrew Lawson, Kenneth Reynolds
- 6/20 Jerry Page
- 6/21 Pat Scott
- 6/22 Lynn Hood
- 6/24 Pat Coulter, Katherine Guess, Janice Veal
- 6/25 Peggy Roberts
- 6/27 Andi Heinemann
- 6/29 Linda Davis, Collin Ridenour
- 6/30 Wynn Maples

## Church Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8  
6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday Meal  
7:00 pm Praise Band Practice  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, JUNE 9  
7:00 am Jerry Page Men's Bible Study  
(Nova SS Classroom)

SUNDAY, JUNE 12  
9:30 am Blended Summer Worship  
10:30 am Sunday School  
**NO** 6:00 pm Sunday @ Six

SUNDAY, JUNE 12-15  
5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School



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## Honors

- Given to the Building Fund in honor of Robert & Leanne Gibbs by David & Darunee Lawson.



## Church Staff

**REV. J. TODD CHANCEY**

Pastor  
423-290-3999

**REV. JOE GREEN**

Pastor Emeritus

**JOHNNY WALKER**

Church Business Administrator  
& Director of Visitation  
865-582-6941

**LYNSEY WOLFE**

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**LISA GOINS**

Director of Children's Ministries

**PATTI MOORE**

Children's Minister  
childrensministry@alcoafumc.com

**BETH GREEN**

Director of Music Ministries  
& Worship Coordinator

**SARAH CLINARD**

Nursery Coordinator

**CARLA TAYLOR**

Accompanist

**JOHN TATE**

Church Accountant

**SHAWN JONES**

Media Technology  
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**LIZ CHANCEY & DEBBIE WEST**

Media Technologies Support

**JOE VAN CLEAVE**

Custodian