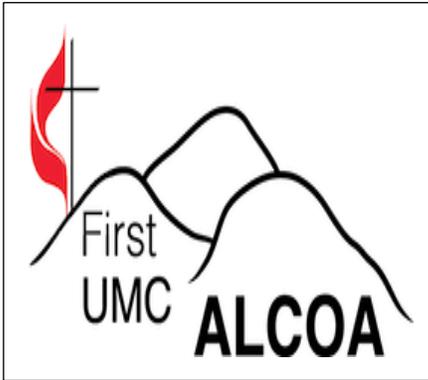


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# 1st Talk

## From Pastor Todd's Desk



### Crossroads

This is a very important week in the life of our church family. On Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. our church family will vote on whether to stay in the United Methodist Church or whether to leave the United Methodist Church. If we do vote to leave the United Methodist Church, then we will vote whether or not to join the new Global Methodist Church. For many, it seems our church is at a crossroad.

I personally feel there are several reasons we are at this crossroad:

**Senior Pastor: Rev. Todd Chancey**

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**Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Joe Green**

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- 1- The interpretation of Scripture and Biblical Authority. Will the church stay true to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures? Do we believe God's word is supreme and is the foundation of the Christian church?
- 2- United Methodist Bishops not following the *Book of Discipline* and breaking our rules and agreed polity.
- 3- The desire for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to become ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church and to be same-sex married in our churches and their marriages presided over by our clergy persons.
- 4- The Trust Clause attached to the local church property and all assets (bank accounts, chairs, pews, Bibles...) that states the ownership reverts to the Annual Conference and not to the local congregation should congregation leave the United Methodist Church.

### Inside This Newsletter

- 1) A message from our Pastor.
- 2) Dissafiliation News.
- 3) J.O.Y. ful News
- 4) Church Directory Update

For me, these are the four major issues that have brought us to this crossroad. As your pastor, I feel it is important for me to personally share my understandings of these major issues.

**Continued on Page 2**

# Weekly Schedule

## Sunday

Sunday School

8:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning

Worship

9:30 a.m.

World Changers

(Children)

IMPACT Students

5:30 p.m. – 7:15

p.m.

## Wednesday

World Changers

(Children)

IMPACT Students

5:30 p.m. – 7:15

p.m.

Praise Team

Practice

6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir

Practice

7:30 p.m.

## Thursday

Men's Bible Study

7:00 a.m.

### Pastor Todd (Continued from page 1)

1- I believe the the Bible is God's word for God's people. I believe it is "God Breathed" and is what God intended it to be. That it teaches us all we need for salvation and warns us of the world of sin, and it should be understood and followed as God's blessing for his children.

2- It saddens me that our bishops fail to up-hold our doctrine and policies. When the bishops are not held accountable for their violations then anything is possible and anything is acceptable.

3- All people are of sacred worth. All people are welcome in church membership, at the Lord's table for Holy Communion and in the fellowship of the church. However; Elders (clergy), are held to a higher standard. The current *Book of Discipline* states: The practice of homosexuality is not compatible with Christian teachings. It also states that we will not ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals and no same sex marriages can take place on our properties or presided over by our clergy. I fully agree with our current stance on these issues as stated in the *Book of Discipline*.

4- If we fail to continue as a United Methodist Church our property and all our assets belong to the Holston Annual Conference, there is one exception to this rule: Paragraph 2553 in the *Book of Discipline* allows for churches to leave the denomination, pay exit fees and complete the process of disaffiliation no later than December 31, 2023. For the Holston Annual Conference, our deadline to complete this process has been set for April 22, 2023 and our process must be complete and all our exit fees paid by March 6, 2023. At this time, this is the only process available for our congregation to leave the United Methodist Church and not forfeit our property and assets. If we vote to disaffiliate and if the Annual Conference votes to let us leave on April 22, 2023, the congregation will own all the property and assets in perpetuity. Time is of the essence and this is a one time option, laid out in paragraph 2553 that allows local churches to leave and keep their property and assets.

After much prayer and discernment, Liz and I approve and support the Next Step Committee and the Church Council's recommendation to 1) leave the United Methodist Church and 2) join the Global Methodist Church. I pray, our church family members have all educated ourselves on these issues and I trust fully in the guidance of God's Holy Spirit as our congregation votes on these issues Sunday night.

Blessings, Pastor Todd and Liz

Dear AFUMC Family,

We are continually blessed to serve such a loving and generous congregation. Thank you all so much for your out-reach and gifts during Pastor appreciation month. Your kindness continues to be a blessing to us and to many. We are honored and blessed to serve you all in Jesus name. Thank you again, Todd and Liz Chancey.

## J.O.Y. ful News

Sunday, December 4  
6:00 p.m.

Fairview UMC

Christmas Musical  
Extravaganza

\*Please note change of  
date\* Free admission

This is definitely a  
Christmas event you  
won't want to miss!  
Be sure to get your  
name on the sign-up  
sheet to go! Church  
bus will leave at 4:45!

### **Please Note**

Unfortunately, the  
event we had  
scheduled for  
Thursday, December  
8th in the Green Room  
featuring the Tellico  
Top Notes has been  
canceled.

### **Welcome New Member**

Help us welcome  
J. R. Presby to our  
church family. J.  
R. Joined on  
profession of faith  
on Sunday,  
November 13th  
during the  
morning worship  
service. We are  
blessed to  
welcome J. R. to  
our church family.

## **Dissafiliation / Next Step Committee News**

### **Church/Charge Conference Dinner**

November 20, 2022 Covered Dish Thanksgiving Supper at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up by this Thursday, November 17, so that we may have an accurate count.

### **From the Next Step Committee**

Affiliation/Disaffiliation Voting Procedure by David R. Duggan

Next Sunday, at a church conference at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, our church congregation will vote on whether or not to leave the United Methodist Church (UMC), and if that vote carries by a two-thirds vote, whether or not to join the Global Methodist Church (GMC).

Only members of our church who are present may vote.

The members of the Next Step Committee will serve as tellers for the vote and will preside over the vote.

The voting will be by secret ballot, and ballots will be placed in a ballot box.

There will be two ballots. The first ballot will read, “\_\_\_ I want to LEAVE the United Methodist Church OR \_\_\_ I vote to stay in the United Methodist Church.” If the vote is to leave the UMC by two-thirds vote, then there will be a second ballot which will read, “Do you wish to join the Global Methodist Church? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No.” The vote to affiliate with the GMC requires only 50% plus one vote of those present and voting.

Johnny Walker, as our church business administrator, has been designated the membership secretary. Recently an ad hoc committee has thoroughly reviewed our membership roll. If there is any question about whether a given person is a member and has the right to vote, the membership secretary will make that determination. If there is any question about how that determination should be made, the person who desires to vote will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot which will be held separately from the other ballots until a final determination is made by the membership secretary about whether or not that person may vote. If the determination is made that the person may vote, then the vote will be counted and added to the other ballots. If not, the vote will not be counted.

In preparation for each ballot, the membership secretary, and his designees, will distribute the ballots. Each member will be asked to raise his or her hand and to keep it raised until a ballot is received.

**Continued On Next Page**

## Next Step Committee Continued

If members enter the sanctuary late and after ballots have been distributed, they may still receive a ballot as long as voting continues. The tellers have the right to declare the vote closed, and once the vote is closed, no one may vote. After each person marks his or her ballot, the person will walk to the ballot box and place the ballot in the box. Two of our tellers will be seated near the box to make sure ballots are placed in the box.

When the voting is completed, David Lawson and Barbara Stinnett will remove the ballots from the box. The four vote tally keepers—Elizabeth Scharschu, Jane Carter, Wes Chamberlain, and Bill Wilson—will be in place, seated at the teller tables. David and Barbara will bring the ballots to the tables where the tally keepers are seated. While David and Barbara are each looking at each ballot, David will call out the ballot vote as Barbara watches to make sure the ballot is announced correctly. The tally keepers will each keep a tally sheet and tally the vote as it is called out by placing a tic mark beside the option chosen and announced for each ballot, and by totaling each group of five tics with a fifth, cross tic, on the tally sheet. After all ballots are announced, each tally keeper will count the tally marked for each ballot option and place that number on his or her tally sheet beside each option.

David and Barbara will then total the vote by adding the numbers recorded for each option on each of the tally sheets. As long as three out of four tally keepers agree on the total number of votes for each option, it will be assumed that the fourth teller made a clerical error, and the agreement of three tally keepers will be final. If less than three tally keepers agree on the total vote for each ballot option, first, they will re-check their math in counting the total number of tics placed beside each option. If there is still not agreement of at least three tally keepers on the total vote for each option, the votes shall be counted again until at least three tally keepers are in agreement. The agreement of at least three tally keepers will constitute the final vote.

**Ballots that do not mark just one of the two options on each ballot will be invalid. I.e., if neither choice is marked, both choices are marked, or a third option is written in, such ballots will be invalid.** Invalid ballots will be noted and preserved (and counted as invalid ballots), but only those ballots marked for only one of the two options stated on the ballot will be counted in determining the outcome of the vote.

Voting results will be announced. Those present are welcome to wait in the sanctuary while votes are being counted, but they will not be allowed at the teller tables.

All ballots will be preserved by the church.

The voting will be preceded by a congregational dinner at 5:30 p.m.

## Church Directory Update

Members of the directory team were sent the first look at our new church directory via PDF file yesterday! This first 'look' is so exciting! After our team makes corrections, the final product should be shipped to the church within a few days. We have allowed for one (1) directory for each family with some set aside for new members.

Your individual portraits will be sent to your homes. Look for those in 7-10 business days, we are told, but definitely before the end of November.

**So exciting!**

## Alcoa First UMC Holiday Schedule

**Please save these very important dates**

**Wednesday, Nov. 23rd** - Church Office Closed at Noon

**Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 24 and 25th** - Church office Closed

**Sunday, November 27th** - 9:30 a.m. 1st Sunday in Advent - Service of the Hanging of the Christmas Greens.

**Sunday, December 4th** - 9:30 a.m. 2nd Sunday in Advent

**Sunday, December 11th** - 9:30 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Children's Musical

**Sunday, December 18th** - 9:30 a.m. 4th Sunday in Advent - (Choctaw Christmas Mission Team in Philadelphia, Mississippi)

**Wed., Dec. 21st** - 7:00 p.m. Service of the Longest Night

**Thursday and Friday, December 22nd and 23rd** - Church Office Closed (Christmas Holidays)

**Saturday, December 24th** - 11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service - Featuring the Chancel Choir

**Saturday, December 24th** - 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Featuring the Praise Team

**Saturday, December 24th** - 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Carols and Candle Lighting

**Sunday, December 25th** - 9:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship - No Sunday School

**Monday, December 26** - Office is closed

**Sunday, January 1st** - 9:30 a.m. New Years Day Worship - No Sunday School

**Monday, January 2nd** - Church Office Closed - (New Years Holiday)

**Monday, January 2nd** - AWAKE21 Service (AFUMC) 7:00 p.m.

### From Pastor Joe's Desk

Thanks to the SPR Committee and this wonderful congregation for your cards and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month! Beth and I feel blessed to be part of your church family! We wish you all the best for Thanksgiving! God bless you!

Pastor Joe & Beth

### Music News 'N' Notes

The PrimeTimers Choir has become our "Ladies Chorus" since ten ladies have signed up to sing! We will have our first rehearsal on Wednesday morning, November 30th at 10 o'clock and we will sing in the December 4th worship service. Kathy Burns is our accompanist. Beth will contact all our ladies by email or text so they can mark the dates on their calendars.

### AWAKE21

Sun. Jan. 1st - 21st  
7:00 p.m.  
2023 REVIVAL  
Schedule of locations and pastors will be posted soon.

## Men's Ministry

### News

Sunday Morning Prayer Group (right before morning worship) at 9:20 a.m. in the youth room. All are invited.

Stay up to date on our church website by looking at the men's ministry page.

Update - Centennial Gala Sisters (and Brothers) in Christ

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30th, at 6pm in room 126. We will be working on planning the Centennial Gala. See you there! Check your email for information about the Gala planning meeting we had on Sunday. Please message me with your email if you need to be added to the list!  
- Elizabeth Scharschu

# New Christmas Decorations

Over the past few years, we have been able to replace some of the older Christmas Decorations with new ones. We still have a few things we would like to replace or add so that our Sanctuary is filled with joy as we celebrate the Advent season. We are asking our church family to consider the following:

I would like to Donate \$10.00 (per person) to honor or remember the following individuals this Advent and allow the donation to be used for new Christmas Decorations.

I (we) would like to HONOR the following Person/People:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would like to REMEMBER the following Person/People:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor or Memory by

\_\_\_\_\_ [name donor(s)]

A list of those being honored or remembered will be published during the Advent Season and the New Christmas Decorations will be dedicated to their honor or memory. Please fill out the form above and place (with an attached check or cash) in the offering plate or leave in the church office. Thank you! Please Reply by Sunday, December 4, 2022.

## This Week

Wednesday (16)

We will shop for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

Sunday (20)

Sunday School (AMEN #2)

No Sunday Night IMPACT because of the Church dinner and vote.

Stay Up To Date

Impactsmafumc.com

Coming Up @ IMPACT

Wed. Nov. 23

Not Meeting

Thanksgiving Week

Wed. Nov. 30

5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Event

Laser Tag

“Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28).

## IMPACT Student Ministries

### **Confirmation Class (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

January 8 / 15 / 22 / 29

February 5 / 12 / 19 / 26

March 6 – 17 (Not Meeting) Spring Break

March 19 / 26

Confirmation Sunday (April 2)

Please pray about this class and if your student(s) is/are ready. Please let Pastor Todd, Mrs. Liz or Chris know to sign them up.

### **Currently Studying (WE DON’T TALK ANYMORE)**

We Don't Talk Anymore is a three-week series on developing a growing relationship with Jesus by joining the conversation with Him through drawing near, prayer and reading the Bible.

### **Devotional**

**You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)**

If you've known about God already for some time, you might read this Bible verse and think, why would I need to find God? Even if you've had a great relationship with God, there is always much more that we can experience and learn about Him. He wants us to experience Him in a deeper way and know about His ways so that we can experience more of His love and goodness in our lives.

It's not that God is holding out on us and is only willing to reveal Himself to us if He sees we are seeking enough. This Bible verse is simply saying that our hearts were never designed to be able to focus on several things at once. We must choose to place our focus on one thing and that one thing alone to really get results.

Today, decide that you're going to daily take time to seek the Lord. This verse assures us that when we do, we will find Him. You'll never regret taking your time and focusing on the Lord.