

Church Council Approves Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church and Affiliation with the Global Methodist Church by David R. Duggan

In a 15 to 1 vote on November 6, 2022, the Church Council approved the motion of the Next Step Committee to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church (UMC), and to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church.

The church congregation will now vote on these two issues in a church conference on Sunday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, and following a congregational meal and time of fellowship. Only members who are present may vote. Disaffiliation from the UMC will require a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, and affiliation with the Global Methodist Church, if disaffiliation is approved, will require a vote of fifty percent plus one vote.

In approving this motion, the Council not only approved the Next Step Committee’s final report and recommendation for our church to disaffiliate from the UMC and to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church, but the Council also approved the Next Step Committee’s recommended plan to cover the costs of disaffiliation.

The approved plan to cover costs consists of four components: (1) By March 6, 2023 our church will pay the Holston Conference of the UMC an amount presently estimated at \$244,365 for conference and district tithes and our church’s share of an alleged unfunded pension liability; (2) in late January or early February 2023, a banquet celebrating both our church’s centennial and our disaffiliation and future course of action will be held, and members and supporters will be given the opportunity to make contributions and/or pledges to raise the total amount of money to pay all disaffiliation costs; (3) if necessary to cover the costs until contributions and pledges are received, along with a lesser amount of tithes to the Global Methodist Church which will allow our church to recoup costs paid, we can draw upon our unrestricted reserves or our line of credit, although it is hoped that will not be necessary; and (4) there are also relationship costs.

The issues we have been dealing with can harm relationships in families, among friends, and in congregations and communities; therefore, all of our members are asked to be Christ-like in every conversation, and to guard our witness so that as we stand on principle and for what we believe to be true, we will guard against words or actions that would cause harm to others or irreparable damage to our witness.

As we contend for the faith given once for all to the saints, let us go forth in prayer and trusting in the Lord, knowing that God has good things in store for us.

Sunday Afternoon Bible Study (4:30 p.m.)

The Sunday 4:30 p.m. Bible Study led by David Lawson will be on a holiday break November and December. The Bible Study will resume in January, 2023.

Sisters In Christ

We will be meeting again Sunday November 13th in our room downstairs after Sunday school. Bring a snack to share, bring a friend, and bring your ideas! We will be brainstorming for the Centennial Banquet! We have been asked to help organize this event and I’d love to get the ball rolling ASAP with planning this incredible celebration. Can’t wait to catch up with everyone! I realize this date may not work for everyone and that’s ok! We hope to be having more frequent meetings now. Direct all questions to Elizabeth Scharschu at (210-389-9873) or Escharschu@gmail.com or ask on the Sisters Watsap or Facebook page. ALL ARE WELCOME! See you there! The planning meeting will be a short one, so that we all can attend the Fall Festival in the afternoon.

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.

J.O.Y. ful News

Thursday, Nov. 10th - Friendsgiving Potluck – at Pastor Todd and Liz’s home – 11:30 a.m. Entrée (ham), paper products, drinks will be provided. Members fill in with side dishes, salads, desserts. We are so very grateful for our pastor and his wife that they open their beautiful home for us to gather and enjoy precious time together. There’s delicious food and wonderful fellowship! If you’re new to our church, consider joining in. Everyone 50 years old and over is welcome! Their address is; 850 Hamilton St. / Alcoa, Tn. (37701)

Sunday, December 4 – 6:00 - 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.

Church/Charge Conference Dinner

November 20, 2022 Covered Dish Thanksgiving Supper at 5:30 p.m. Please see insert in your church bulletin for details and return that to the church office or place in offering.

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 Greens.

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

Sunday, December 11th - 9:30 a.m. 3rd Sunday in 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 Band

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.

Sunday, January 1st - Saturday, January 21st - 7:00 p.m. AWAKE21 - 2023 REVIVAL Schedule of locations and pastors will be posted soon.



1st Talk

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Newsletter*

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*Pastor Emeritus Rev. Joe Green
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Please join us this Sunday November 13th at the Field of Dreams, as we celebrate Fall along with our friends at Middlesettlements United Methodist Church. Please provide your best covered dish and the church will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, and condiments. There will be fellowship and music for the adults. The children will have fun with inflatables, a playground, and crafts. Bring your covered dish, your chairs, and join us for fun and fellowship.

Date: November 13, 2022

Location: Field of Dreams - 2508 Middlesettlements Road, Maryville, TN. 37801

Time: 3:00 -6:00 p.m.