



WELCOMING ALL, LOVING ALL, SERVING ALL

FROM THE PASTOR: General Conference

It is finally here! As I write this article, General Conference is underway in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 23 -May 3. Please be in prayer for our 862 delegates from around the world throughout this vital and long overdue conference that visions and plans for the future of the United Methodist Church. (It's normally held every four years, but Covid has delayed General Conference 2020 until this year.) General Conference is the highest legislative body in the United Methodist Church and the only body that speaks officially for the denomination.

Delegates will together explore, deliberate, and vote on over 1,000 submitted petitions during these days of holy conferencing. But within these 1,000 petitions, there are some areas that are especially of note:

- Budget-Proposal for a nearly 40% reduction in the denomination-wide budget.
- Bishops-Proposal to change the total number of bishops, including possibly increasing the number of bishops in Africa and decreasing the number of U.S. bishops.
- Clergy Retirement-Proposal for major change of clergy pension plan.
- Ecumenical Relationships-Proposal for full communion with Episcopal Church to allow greater levels of part-

nership in ministry, including, but not limited to, the ability to share clergy with one another.

· 3 R's-Three areas that are especially garnering attention are being called the "3 R's"

o Regionalization-Proposals for the seven current central conferences and the U.S. to all become regional conferences with the same duties and powers to pass legislation for greater missional impact in their respective regions.

o Revised Social Principles-Proposals for a full revision and major overhaul of our Social Principles for the first time in 50 years to make them more succinct and globally relevant.

o Removal of exclusionary language towards LGBTQ+ individuals.

Please keep our delegates, bishops, and everyone involved in General Conference in your prayers, including our own Bridget Sloane, who works for United Methodist Communications, and Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, who is the Director of Stewardship and Generosity for Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work and for God's will to be done during this season of holy conferencing as the future of the United Methodist Church is envisioned. And may we be encouraged that our mission will never change to make disciples of Jesus

Christ for the transformation of the world no matter what happens at General Conference. And we at Smyrna First United Methodist Church are resolute in our commitment to our newly adopted mission statement to be "a community who is passionate about welcoming all, loving all and serving all so that we may offer Christ to all" regardless of the specific outcomes of General Conference. I am thankful for you all and hopeful for our future as United Methodist Christians.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Theresa *See page 5 for the May sermon series*.*

Here is the link to download the 2024 annual conference Bible study and sermon series* the conference is recommending.

<https://twkumc.org/news/2024-annual-conference-bible-study-now-available/>



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

8:30 Liturgist

May 5 Dorris Waldron
May 12 Trish Pendleton
May 19 Norma Hawk
May 26 Norma Hawk

8:30 Ushers

Mike & Pam Ashworth
Tim & Donna Sweeney
Jan Schilling, Nadina Tharpe
Frankie & Steve Cashion

Communion Servers

Jan Schilling, Julie Walker

11:00 Liturgist

May 5 Cindy Fiala
May 12 Cindy Fiala
May 19 Karen Yatuzis
May 26 Karen Yatuzis

Coffee & Conversation

Donna Sweeney
UMM
Norma Hawk
Trish Pendleton

Children's Message

No Message
Brinda Sullivan
Lynn Patterson
Ken Sloane

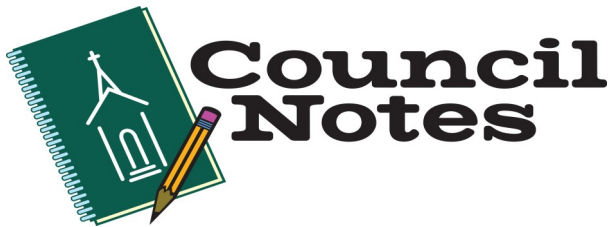
11:00 Ushers

Jeff Bowles, Greg Upham

Communion Servers

Matthew & Delta Frye

****If anyone would like to be a liturgist, usher/greeter or communion server at the 8:30 worship service please contact Lynn Patterson or Mary Ann Rogers.**



We met on Sunday, April 21 and approved our new mission statement. It reads as follows:

“Smyrna First UMC is a community who is passionate about welcoming all, loving all and serving all so that we may offer Christ to all.”

This falls in line with our new vision statement. The vision statement is already on the bulletin and will be on the website and Facebook page as well. As we make plans for all events and activities at Smyrna First, we will refer to these statements to make sure what we are planning to do falls in line with them. It is our hope and prayer that we as a congregation will continue to embrace these statements!

Our task force is very close to finishing the guidelines for the Simplified Board Plan which we have spoken about in our newsletters and from the pulpit; we hope to have it ready to be approved at our May Council meeting.

Our next Council meeting is Sunday, May 19 and we will meet in fellowship hall immediately following the 11 am worship service. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend. For further information about any discussion or action, please contact any Council member. There are lists of the 2024 leadership in the narthex.

~Nita Wright
Church Council Chair

WHO IS THE S. P. R. COMMITTEE?

Taken from Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation “S/PPRC”, 2017-2020. Copyright 2016 Cokesbury. Used by permission
In *The Book of Discipline* the SPRC is given the responsibility for administering the relationship between staff, congregation, and the district superintendent so that the mission of the church moves forward.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

Taken from Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation “S/PPRC”, 2017-2020. Copyright 2016 Cokesbury. Used by permission
The specific tasks for the SPRC is listed in *The Book of Discipline* as:

- Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families, including advocating for a healthy work/life balance;
- Promote unity in the churches;
- Confer with the staff on the effectiveness of ministry and impediments to effectiveness, including conflict of interest and sexual misconduct;
- Conduct annual staff evaluations;
- Teach the congregation about itineracy, steps into ordained ministry, the value of diversity in staffing, and the ministerial education fund;
- Write job descriptions for staff;
- Confer with staff about continuing education and spiritual formation;
- Confer with the district superintendent about the clergy leadership for the congregation.
- Recommend staff positions to the church council;
- Create written personnel policies and sexual misconduct policies for the congregation;
- Consult on matters of staff support, including housing, vacation, insurance, pension, and other matters outlined in the *Discipline*.

The administrative function of the SPRC includes both leadership and management. *Leadership* is the role of “keeping an eye on the big picture.” *Management* is the role of tending to daily activities so that details are taken care of and strategies are implemented.

(Each month we will be looking at the role of the leadership committees we have at SFUMC and their responsibilities. If you would like a copy of the Guidelines for your specific committee, please notify the church office.)

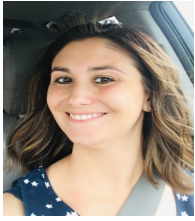


The Sparrow's Nest
Mother's Day Out



Hello Families of Preschoolers!

April 1st, new students register for 2024-2025
Classes meet Monday and Wednesday, 9 am - 2 pm, August through May.



Betsy Jordan, Director

We would love to be a part of your child's education!
Check out our website: smyrna1stumc.org
For questions contact sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com
A ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church

April has been a busy month. We had a fun visit from Channel 2 meteorologist, Shelby Mac this month, as well as pancakes and PJ day!

May 8 is scheduled to be our "water day". We close out this school year with graduation on May 15.

Fall enrollment is currently underway. Our classes are filling up nicely.



TECH TEAM REPORT

The Communication Team has been busy again with posts about Eastertide, General Conference and our various activities. Please continue to send information for us to share with the congregation and community. I will stagger postings, so we have a smooth stream of information without overloading and perhaps losing important items.

We are working on our Tech booth schedule for the months of June and July. This will be a perfect time for anyone interested in learning how to work in the booth to get some hands-on training. With high school graduation we will be losing a valued member of our team and are trying to find a replacement and an additional couple of folks to work the early service. If we do not get more people to work in the booth, there likely will be some Sundays when the early service is not streamed and may have to be acoustic with no slides.

Next month CloudSmart, our new Managed Service provider, will begin working with Verity, the current Managed Service provider, as they prepare to take over our system. We are excited about this change.

~Jeanne McDonald, Chair

NOTICE

The June and July Newsletters will be combined into one Summer Newsletter. Watch for more details!



Emely Tenorio	May 3
Emma McClung	May 4
Dale Inman	May 7
Carol Smith	May 7
Don Hollins	May 9
Mary Holloway	May 9
Regina Medlen	May 9
Melissa Owens	May 9
Jo Motley	May 10
Donna Nelson	May 13
Cathy Pickens	May 13
Kim Honey	May 14
Oren Oliver	May 15
Saya Hickey	May 17
Linda Carol Taylor	May 19
Suzanne Williams	May 21
Nadina Tharpe	May 24
Shirley Cobble	May 25
Derwin Brownlow	May 26
Scott Seagle	May 26
Tyler Wooding	May 26
Maria Tenorio	May 27
Mike Ashworth	May 29
Larry Bass	May 29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office: sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org



Tom & Nita Wright	May 24
Larry & Karen Yatuzis	May 26
Mike & Jan Bryant	May 27
Dub & Marjorie Raborn	May 28
Danny & Michelle Martin	May 31

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



Beginning May 5 we will start a new project called **Sharing Sunday**. Every first Sunday of each month we will ask the congregation to bring one specific item to donate to the food pantry. As the pantry is an extension of the church, we feel this is a way to get everyone involved. **In May the requested item is one small box of cereal.** Generic brands are just fine. We hope everyone will get on board and be blessed by making their contribution to literally feed Christ's sheep. If you have any questions please see me.

The Mission Team had a very successful trip to Baldwin, Louisiana which is a little less than 2 hours west of New Orleans. Lois Anderson, Pat Sallee, Susan Kuppler, Jan Schilling, Trish Pendleton and Dale Inman braved the 12-hour drive to help serve in the UMCOR Depot. Time was spent verifying hygiene kits, making school kits, singing at the nursing home and helping in the clothes closet at a domestic shelter. The most fun was had by Dale Inman as he was able to go into the community to help build a 35' wheelchair ramp. He had so much fun he is going back in November and in addition to that, he plans to take the orientation course to be certified as a long term volunteer. Way to go Dale!! Dale also gets the prize for putting up with five women on the 12-hour journey each way. We would love to have others join us next year as it is truly an uplifting experience.



~Trish Pendleton
Mission Committee Chair



Trustees Report

The following actions were taken at our April 2 meeting;

1. Work completed on Parsonage foundation, no issues noted by USS on Fellowship hall foundation
2. Reviewed proposal for sewer easement from Town (offered \$4,482.60 for 9 month construction easement on 7,962 SF). Reviewed and approved proposed counteroffer (\$5,525.00 for 9 month construction easement on 7,962 SF). City has accepted our counter offer.
3. Continuing gutter replacement on portion of the Chapel, have deferred other projects pending budget review.
4. Voted to terminate pest control services with Legacy Pest Control and search for new company to provide service.

~Pat Hickey, Chair

ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF DOLLARS?

During the COVID pandemic I became a work-from-home employee of The United Methodist Church (I've served as the Director of Stewardship & Generosity since 2011). While we were "hunkering down" I was able to write an online course for local churches on "Creating a Narrative Budget" which I facilitate with "eLearners" from around the world. The course was well received, but it was also life-changing for me as this was where I met Pastor Theresa Johnson, which led to a visit to Smyrna First UMC and to our decision to make this our church home.

I had three main goals for the Narrative Budget course. First, churches would be able to use the tools and advice I offered to create an attractive and inspiring Narrative Budget for their congregation to use. Second, church leaders would see the importance of telling the stories of how their church is making an impact – not just on the congregation, but on their communities and around the world. The third goal was that the Narrative Budget would help churches stop looking at church budgets as containing two kinds of dollars: "operating dollars" and "ministry/mission dollars."

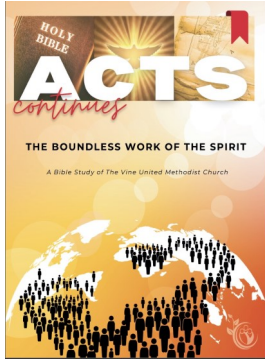
As you look at a line-item budget (most churches have these) it is easy to group certain budget dollars as operating, administrative, facilities, fixed cost, or other terms. *A narrative budget attempts to remind us that the church exists to achieve a mission, and all dollars given to the church are mission dollars.* Dollars spent on insurance, electricity, heat, maintenance to buildings and property all make the prospect of a food pantry possible. They make youth ministry, Sunday school, and Bible study groups possible. Our worship services depend on all those items I've already listed plus our dedicated staff.

The budget our church leaders put together is a ministry & mission budget, and our generous support through our tithes and offerings is crucial to the mission Christ has called our church to live out in this community. Every dollar we give is a mission dollar!

~Ken Sloane, Stewardship Chair

MAY SERMON SERIES

- May 5 Luke 24:44-53 (Ascension Sunday)
- May 12 Acts 1:4-14 Divine Anticipation: Waiting for the Spirit
- May 19 Acts 2:1-4, 37-45 Unquenchable Fire: Community & the Holy Spirit (Pentecost Sunday)
- May 26 Acts 8:26-40, 10:1-48 Cosmic Crossroads: The Spirit's Ever-Expanding Reach

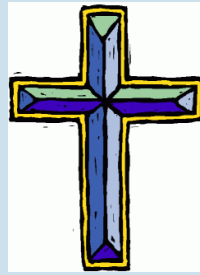


June 2 Acts 9:1-19, 10:9-16
Changed Lives: Stories of Transformation

June 9 Acts 15:1-35
Unity in the Midst of Storms

June 16 Acts 28:30-31
Acts Continues: Writing the Next Chapter

June 23 Acts 17:28-32
The Story Continues: Living Acts Now



SMYRNA FIRST UMC YOUTH Sunday School & Sunday Youth Nights

From Genesis to Revelations,
learn more with us!

Every Sunday morning, 10 am **AND**
Sunday evenings at 4 pm in
fellowship hall.

*Meet new people and gain a deeper
understanding of God's word to
apply scriptural truth to your everyday life.*



Join us on Sunday, May 12, as
we recognize and congratulate
our 2024 graduates during both
worship services, and at a recep-
tion following the second
service in fellowship hall.

****If you have a family member who will be graduating from High School, College or Graduate School in May and would like to see them honored during worship services, please communicate this information to the church office, 615-459-2826 or send an email to sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org by May 1****

The **Worship Committee** would like to express their gratitude to everyone for always graciously volunteering to serve as a liturgist, usher and as a communion server for both services. Please contact Mary Ann Rogers or Lynn Patterson if you would like to serve in the future.

During the months of June and July we will have combined worship at 10 am each Sunday. Sunday school classes are encouraged to meet at 9 am.

It was heartwarming to see the number of folks that came out to Carry the Cross* on Good Friday. Thank you for walking with us as you were able. To carry the cross means to fully put your trust in God always. Please consider walking with us next year.

Gratefully, Lynn Patterson



*Carrying the Cross 2024

PLEASE NOTE:

For anyone using fellowship hall at any time, when you are cleaning up, please be sure there are 6 round tables with chairs on the right side of the room with 2-3 long tables in the center, and the left side of the room is empty. **Please also make sure the screen is down and it is not blocked.** This will be the standard set-up for the room and will accommodate Yoga class, backpacks, Bible Study, Sparrows' Nest, SALT, Coffee & Conversation, etc. Thank you for your help

SALT

(Senior Adults Living Triumphantly)

The next SALT committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1 at 10 am.

Our May event will be held on Thursday, May 16 at noon in fellowship hall with a Cinco De Mayo theme.

The meal will be Taco salad, desserts and drinks.

After lunch there will be a game of Bingo with prizes!!
Come join the Fun!!

FINANCIAL UPDATE BUDGET VS ACTUAL

April Tithes & Offerings Received	
thru 4/21/2024	\$ 22,519.00
April Budget Needs thru 4/21/24	\$ 29,842.00
April Over/(Under) Budget	\$ (7,323.00)
YTD Balance Forward	\$ (27,712.00)
YTD Over/(Under) Budget Needs	\$ (35,035.00)

Use this QR code to access the VANCO donation page for a one time online donation or to set up recurring donations.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 9-12, 2024

6:00-8:15 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS and to donate items for it. More information will be announced soon, but please mark your calendars and make plans to help with this wonderful ministry for the children of our church and community.

Remember and Honor

The Church Office will be closed May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family

Susanne Kennedy	Sarah Pickel
Shirley Cobble	Cheryl Byrd
Ken Victory	Marie Tilley

Family Members & Friends

Roberta Nance	Holly Patterson
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Assisted Living/Home Bound

Ken & Shirley Cobble	Jo Motley
Larry Coleman	Richard Nelson
Jane Hollins	Bob Smith

If you add a friend/family member to the prayer list, please keep the office updated on their progress.

MORNING GLORIES SUMMER STUDY

We will be studying "James: What You Do Matters" by Margaret Feinberg. We will begin meeting on May 31 and end on June 28, in room 303 at 10 am each Friday. The cost of the study book is \$20.00. Please let Nita Wright know by Sunday, April 28 if you plan to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

- 8:30 AM Modern Worship
- 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 4:00 PM Youth

MONDAY SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 AM Sparrow's Nest
- 6:00 PM Cub Scouts
- 6:00 PM Sinfonietta Rehearsal

TUESDAY SCHEDULE:

- 11:00 AM Yoga Class
- 6:00 PM Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 AM Sparrow's Nest
- 3:00 PM Food Pantry
- 5:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study
(as scheduled)
- 6:00 PM Hand Bells
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir


THURSDAY SCHEDULE:

- 6:00 PM Yoga Class
- 6:00 PM Praise Band

FRIDAY SCHEDULE:

- 10:00 AM Morning Glories
(as scheduled)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 See Schedule 10 am SALT Committee	2 See Schedule 5:30 Pack backpacks	3 See Schedule Church office is closed on Fridays.	4
5 See Schedule COMMUNION 12:15 pm UWF	6 See Schedule 6 pm Worship	7 See Schedule 6 pm Child/Youth Comm. Mtg. 6:30 pm Trustees	8 See Schedule	9 See Schedule 6:30 Scout Leaders Mtg.	10 See Schedule	11
GRADUATES RECOGNIZED 12 See Schedule 7:30 am Men's Breakfast - FH MOTHER'S DAY Youth Cancelled	13 See Schedule	14 See Schedule 6 pm Finance Comm.	15 See Schedule Sparrow's Nest Final	16 See Schedule Noon Salt Lunch FH 7:00 SPRC Mtg. Yoga Cancelled	17 See Schedule	18
19 See Schedule 12:15 Church Council FH	20 See Schedule Cub Scouts Final	21 See Schedule 11 am No Yoga 12:30 Sparrow's Nest Board Mtg.	22 See Schedule	23 See Schedule	24 See Schedule	25
26 See Schedule	27  MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES	28 See Schedule	29 See Schedule	30 See Schedule	31 See Schedule 10 am Morning Glories Bible Study	
						FH=Fellowship Hall
Complete Cleaning Crew is on campus every Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm to clean our buildings.						

**SMYRNA FIRST
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

301 Sam Davis Road
Smyrna, TN 37167

Address Correction
Requested

Tel: 615-459-2826

Visit us on the web:
smyrna1stumc.org
Facebook: @sfumc.tn
Instagram: @sfumc.tn
Twitter: @sfumc_tn

**Sparrow's Nest
Parents Day Out**
Monday &
Wednesday
9 am - 2 pm
More Info:
sparrowsnest
director@
gmail.com

*"Smyrna First UMC
is a community
who is passionate
about welcoming
all, loving all and
serving all so that
we may offer
Christ to all."*

WORSHIP *with us*

Modern Worship, 8:30 am; Traditional Worship, 11:00 am

**GET CONNECTED WITH A SMALL GROUP
AT SMYRNA FIRST**

Sunday school classes available each week:

Fellowship, 10 am, room 201

MINGS (Men in Need of God's Strength),
10 am, room 312

Motley Christians, 10 am, room 303

Pairs & Spares, 10 am, room 307

Searchers, 10 am, room 305

WINGS (Women in Need of God's Strength),
10 am, room 310

W.I.P.S., 10 am, room 309

YOUTH (6TH-12TH GRADES), 10 AM,
rooms 315-317

3RD-5TH GRADES, 10 am, room 101

PRESCHOOL-2ND GRADE, 10 am,
room 103

Nursery, 8:30 & 11:00 am, room 108

2024

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Theresa Johnson
Worship Music Leader.....Branson Clark
Youth Ministries Director.....Andi Steinberg
Children's Ministries Director.....Brinda Sullivan
Organist.....Bobby Medlen
Pianist.....Jesse Bobick
Office Manager.....Sandra Phelps
Financial Secretary.....Cheryl Byrd
Sparrow's Nest Director.....Betsy Jordan
Custodial.....Complete Cleaning Concepts



ing volunteers to serve from 8:45 – 12:45 each day. Volunteers help with mealtimes, arts & crafts, reading, and safe sanctuary supervision. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Martin at memartin600@comcast.net or 615-516-9801 for more information. Project Transformation's mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. The mission is lived out through these three C's: College-age young adults implementing literacy and social-emotional interventions with Children, strategically housed in Churches. You can learn more here: projecttransformation.org/tennessee

