



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

July & August 2025 Newsletter

From Our Pastor Rev. Parker Benson

Well, here it is August. That has always meant football to me. I love football and I love Fridays and Saturdays in the fall. You will often see me on Sunday morning with my “NO SCORES” sign. That is because I tape the 2nd half of the Saturday evening game and go to bed. I have learned that I cannot stay up late on Saturday night and preach the next morning. One of my joys is coming home after church and watching the 2nd half of last night’s game on the DVR.

I once told my mother, “Football is my only vice.” She said, “That’s not a vice.” I said, “Good, because I love it!” I always have, ever since I was a little boy.

We all have different loves, or different things we enjoy. Some enjoy golf, or working in the flower bed, or shopping, or babysitting the grandkids. I enjoy football. I don’t talk much when I am watching football; I am not socializing; I am watching the game.

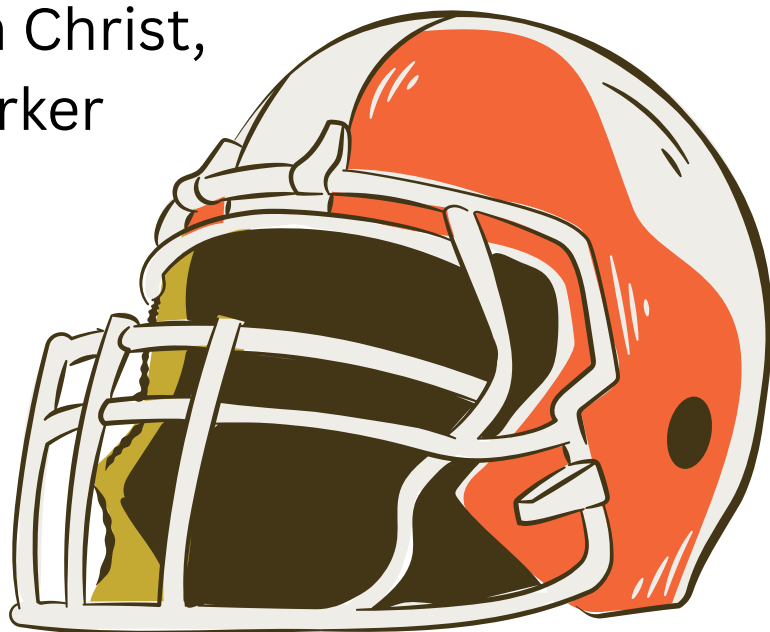
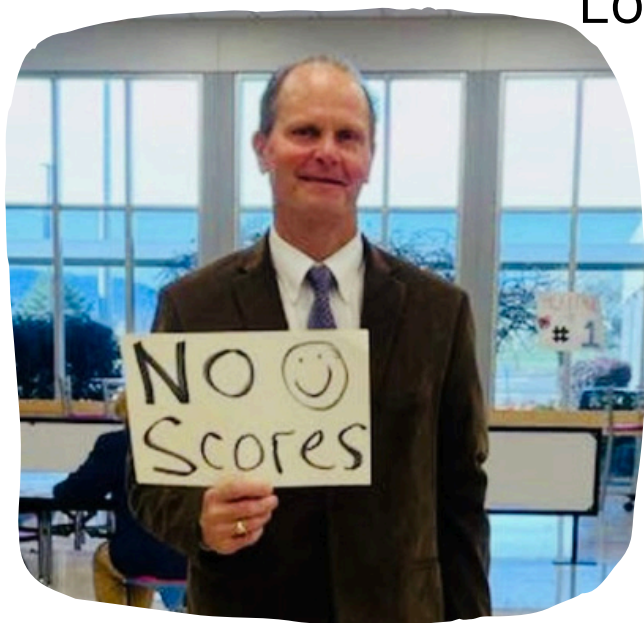
But, like you, I enjoy other things as well. One of the difficulties of life is that I enjoy so many things.


Such as watching football, riding a motorcycle, working around the farm, watching TV with my wife, reading, studying, hiking, going to the lake, etc. etc. All these things take time. And we only have 24 hours each day. So we have to prioritize our time and do what we can each day.

I find it useful to do the things that are urgent and important before I do the things that are simply enjoyable (although enjoyable things are important too). “Work before pleasure,” as they say, but balance that with, “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” Anyway, here it is August. Time waits for no one. And, as John Ward used to say, “It’s football time in Tennessee!” Go Big Orange. And praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Will there be football in heaven? If so, I want to play – and not watch.

Love in Christ,
Parker





*Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD*

-Psalm 33:12

**Happy 4th of
July from**

*Smoky Mountain
Methodist Church*



**ITS FOOTBALL
TIME IN
TENNESSEE!!!**

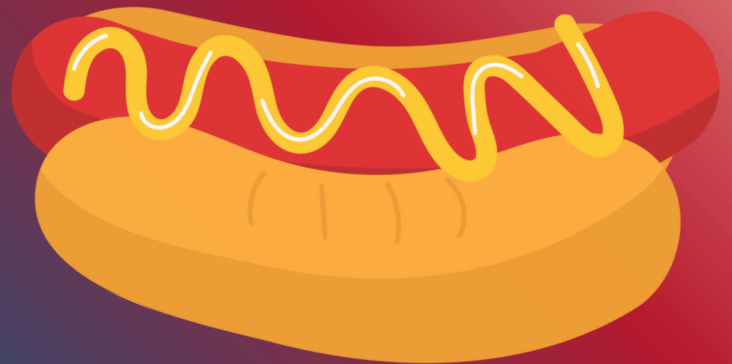


CRAZY FACTS FROM PASTOR BRAD:

JULY 2025



AMERICANS EAT
ABOUT 150 MILLION
HOT DOGS ON
INDEPENDENCE DAY!!



AMERICANS SPEND
\$1 BILLION ON
FIREWORKS ANNUALLY.
ALABAMA IMPORTS
ROUGHLY IN FIREWORKS
\$19,400,000



CRAZY FACTS FROM PASTOR BRAD:

AUGUST 2025

AUGUST 11TH MARKS THE END OF
THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER,
WHICH BEGAN ON JULY 3RD.



9

AUGUST 17TH IS WHEN THE CAT
NIGHTS BEGIN, GOING BACK TO AN
IRISH LEGEND; THIS BIT OF
FOLKLORE ALSO LED TO THE IDEA
THAT A CAT HAS NINE LIVES.



NEW!

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BRAD COMING SOON...

**Starting August 19th from
10-11:30 a.m.**

**For the next 10 weeks we will be studying
the books of Philippians and James**



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Members Spotlight

Mark Woelke



TENNESSEE

FSU

FLORIDA

Where were you born and raised?

***Born in upstate New York in a small town called New Hartford. Raised in South Florida**

How long have you lived in TN?

***Kris and I moved to Tennessee in 2016 (9 Years ago)**

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

***I basically only listen to Christmas music all year.**

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

***Just Hanging with Kris., the kids, and our grandkids**

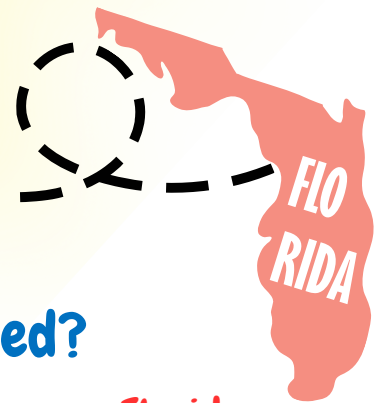
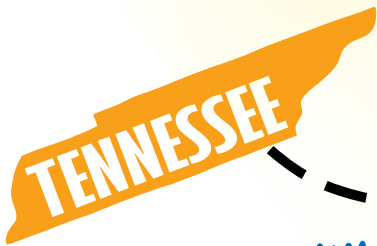
What qualities do you admire most in others?

***Empathy / Selflessness / Their Love for FSU Sports**

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Members Spotlight

Kris Woelke



Where were you born and raised?

***Born in Clearwater, Florida and grew up in Tallahassee, Florida**

How long have you lived in TN?

***I have lived in Tennessee for 9 years.**

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

***I played Ado Annie in the musical Oklahoma in high school.**

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today?

***I enjoy gardening, running, and being with my family.**

What qualities do you admire most in others?

***I admire people who are kind, who see the needs of others, and do all they can to help.**



July & August Birthdays

July:

1st – Debbie Ryan
5th – Richard Hiltten
13th – John Urban
18th – Jesse Brock
19th – Miranda Salazar
23rd – Donna Worrell
26th – Marsha McPherson

August:

2nd – Jenny Brown
2nd – Karen Gale
3rd – Michael Mulligan
6th – Jeanie Hiltten
11th – Hilda Chesney
12th – Beth Clarke
12th – Debbie Cummings
17th – Teresa Mulligan
24th – Dick Hostetler
24th – Dianne McRae
26th – Amanda Webb

Men's Luncheon

Monday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Calhouns in Maryville, TN

***All men are welcome to attend for great food
and Christian fellowship!***



Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Council Meeting July 3, 2025

Opening Scripture & Prayer: George Lybrand

Pastor's Report

Rev. Benson is on vacation this month. George introduced Rev. Brad Brown, SMMC's new Associate Pastor. Rev. Brown has been meeting with several SMMC groups to acclimate to his new position. SMMC is thankful for his knowledge and experience with social media and special programs for young church members. He told council about the various fundraising events he's been involved in with great results. Brad said this is his fourth church appointment, and he is very happy to be here.

Trustee Report

Steve McGee shared the following:

- The septic has been located and is being maintained.
- The awning destined for the back porch is estimated to cost \$4,900.
- Our contractor has been onsite regarding concrete work that needs to be done on SMMC property.
- Steve is in contact with the owner of a used 2009 golf cart, and reports it is in excellent condition, has a canopy for wet or cold weather, and will fit 2 passengers. Asking price is \$2,600.

Steve will arrange the payment and pick up the cart. It will be stored at Trinity House.

- Mark Woelke will ensure liability insurance for using the cart.

MOTION

Steve McGee moved that SMMC purchase the used 2009 golf cart for use by church members, at a cost not to exceed \$2,600.

Second: Debbie Cummings

Motion passed unanimously.

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Continue...

Mission Team

- Mike Goddard reported three members of the SMMC Mission Team recently provided a hot meal and gift bags to female residents of True Purpose, in addition to engaging in prayer and fellowship with the group. The Mission Team plans to repeat the visit in the future.
- Mike said attendance at the men's luncheon is growing and they may need to find a bigger restaurant soon.

Items from the Chair

George Lybrand informed council members of the following:

- Sandy Lybrand said the county approved the worship center's café.
- We are waiting for the final design and construction plans and then to the planning commission for approval.
- Our contractor has been busy obtaining permits for the project.
- SMMC is working on requirements to obtain a bank mortgage.

The next meeting will be August 7th and will consist of two goals:

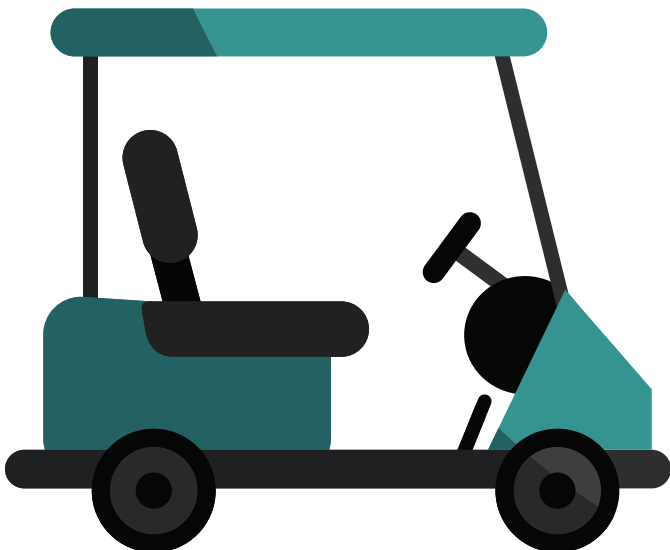
9a – 10a regular Council meeting

10a – 2p discussion of the five-year plan

Prayer & Adjournment – Bonnie VanPelt

Respectfully submitted

Teresa Mulligan, Secretary



**Need to hitch a ride from the church parking lot?
Wave down Steve McGee, and he will take you for a spin!**

Special Thank You!

We want to personally thank everyone who has helped us move, fed us, prayed for us, and welcomed us with open arms! God opened this amazing opportunity here at SMGMC, and we are so blessed.

Here's to a new beginning and a bright future!

-Pastor Brad Brown and Jenny



In Memory of...
Squire Parsons



April 4th, 1948 - May 5th, 2025

*Know the song "Sweet Beulah Land"?
Wrote in 1980, this song was one of
Squire's most popular songs!
Rest In Peace*

Got Facebook?



**We need help growing our
church's facebook page!**

***Come see Pastor Brad or his wife
Jenny Brown for help! ***