

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

March 2026 Newsletter

From Our Pastor Rev. Parker Benson

It is the Season of Lent

Lent is simply a period of time – like a week, a month, or a year is a period of time. Lent is a period of 40 days just prior to Easter not counting Sundays. Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday and always ends on Easter Sunday, this year February 18 – April 5. The underlying meaning of Lent is bittersweet. It is a time of penance and reflection as we ponder and consider our Savior’s journey to Calvary. We cannot enter Lent flippantly or merrily but rather reverently, discreetly, and in the presence of God.



Lent is the remembrance of a man’s walk to the gallows. In reality, we are all walking to the gallows, but this man – this God-man, made His walk intentionally. It was His plan; a grand and masterful plan; the plan of salvation and redemption. Still, it was a hard road.

In the end He did not want to go. “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Lk 22.42). He gave His life for us. Some might do that for a good person or for some good people, “but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5.8). He died so we might live. We cannot come into His presence as a sinner, but rather as one asking for, and receiving, forgiveness. We must repent of our sins, we must be cleansed, we must be redeemed, we must be made right. And we are made right through the blood of Jesus Christ. By His stripes we are healed. (Is 53.5).

Still, for Him, it must have been a lonely walk. It is called the ‘Via Dolorosa,’ which is Latin for “way of grief.” The Via Dolorosa is a rocky road, uphill in Jerusalem, and it represents the final walk, the last few hours of His journey. He was 33 years old when he died.

We know the Lenten story has a happy ending. We celebrate the ending on Easter morning and, in fact, every Sunday. But we must never forget that the road to Easter runs through the cross. We can’t have the resurrection without the cross. First comes the cross; then comes Easter.

Lent is a time of walking to the cross with Christ. It can be a lonely time, but it can also be a blessed and most holy time.

I pray your Lent goes well, and may the name of our Lord Jesus be glorified in you,

~ Parker

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Dave Humphrey



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Zanesville, Ohio. I was raised in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

Ten schools in 13 years.

How long have you lived in TN?

This May will mark 3 years in Tennessee for Ginny and I.

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

At different times in my life I've had the opportunity to have short conversations with President Jimmy Carter, golfers Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and other athletes. The conversation I enjoyed the most was speaking to a veteran who stormed the beach at D-Day.

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

My hobbies include photography, riding, a motorcycle, golfing, and hiking with Ginny as well as exploring the beautiful State of Tennessee.

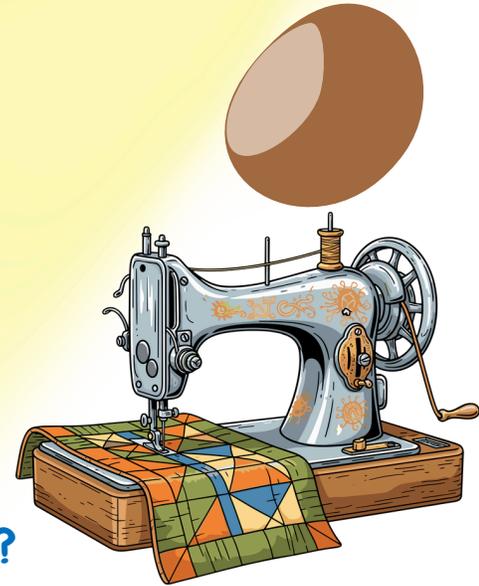
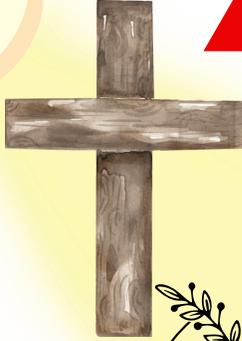
What qualities do you admire most in others?

Christian values, a sense of humor, and a splash of sarcasm.

Smoky Mountain Methodist Church

Monthly Member's Spotlight

Ginny Humphrey



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. I moved in my high school years to Washington, Pennsylvania.

How long have you lived in TN?

I have lived in Tennessee for 3 years with David.

We came down on our honeymoon and stayed.

Name something unique about you that very few people know.

My family is from Southeastern Kentucky. A small mining town called Jenkins. My sisters and brother were born there. I was the baby of our family and born in Ohio.

Parents always called me their only Buckeye.

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

My hobby right now is scrap quilts. I love piecing different patterns and colors of fabric together and making something beautiful.

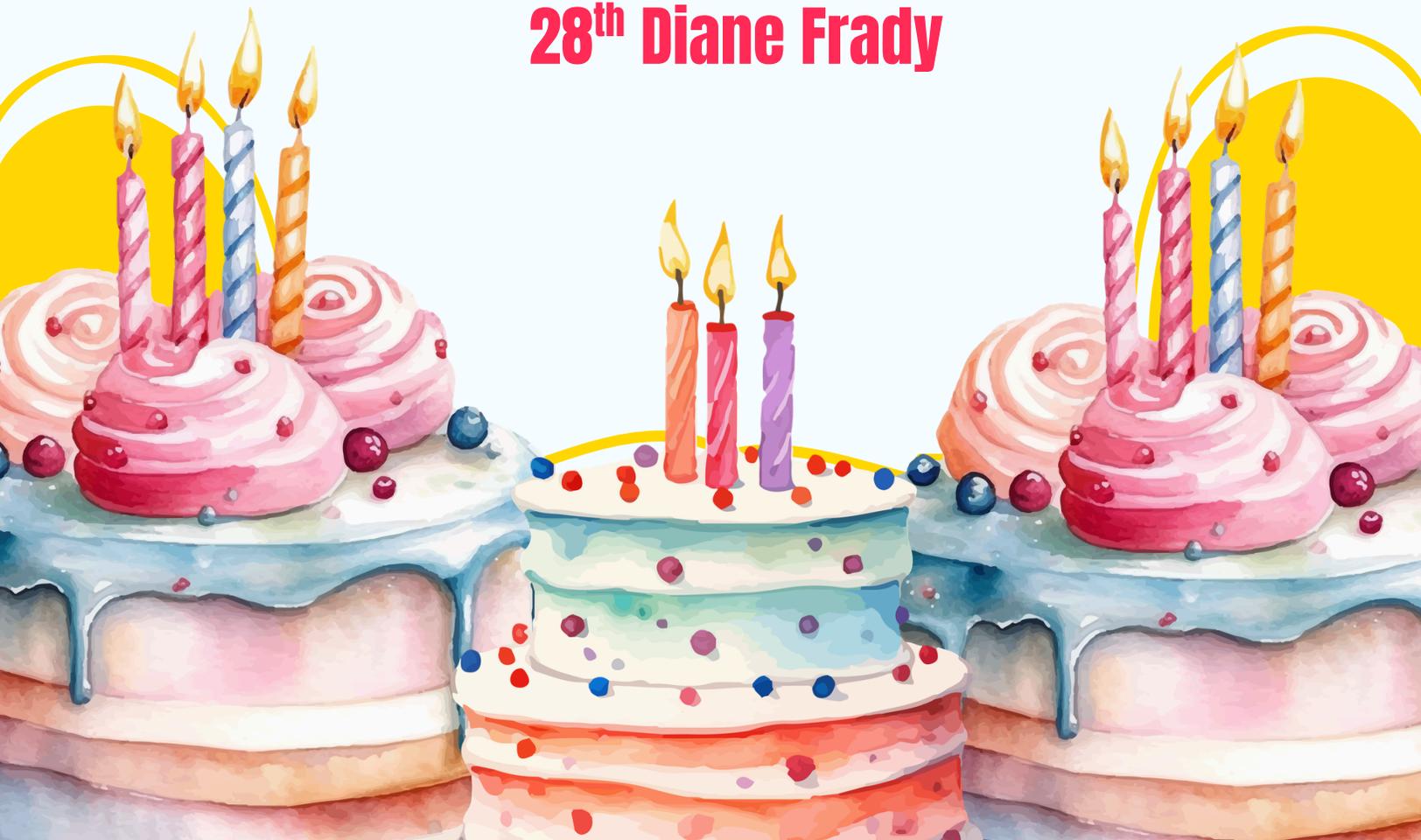
What qualities do you admire most in others?

People who have a deep faith and commitment in Jesus.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**4th Lark McGee
12th Sandy Lybrand
14th Ron Faircloth
17th Cathy Kresica
28th Diane Frady**



ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE SMOKYMOUNTAINGMC.ORG

**GO TO THE HOMEPAGE AND CLICK ON
“GIVING.” IT’S SIMPLE AND EASY TO
USE! TRY IT TODAY!**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

REMEMBER TO TURN
YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD
ON MARCH 8!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING QUARTER

JOIN US AT 9:30 ON
SUNDAY MARCH 8 IN
THE CHOIR ROOM. WE
WILL USE THE WESLEY
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
AS A GUIDE. PLEASE
SEE KRISTINE BROCK
FOR MORE DETAILS.



SMOKY
MOUNTAIN
METHODIST
CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

on A Biblical Worldview



JANUARY 6-MARCH 10
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
@ THE TRINITY HOUSE

Rev. Parker Benson will be teaching a
10 week study on a Biblical Worldview

lis. L.
etiam. Eu
diam in. Mi ipsum
sodales neque sodale
vitae semper quis. In die
lorem sed risus ultricies t
unt nunc pulvinar sapien et.



St. Patrick's Party

Tuesday, March 10th from 5-8 p.m

at Everett Senior Center

Back by popular demand, we will be playing St. Patrick's Bingo!

MUST RSVP BY MARCH 1ST!!



BINGO				
14	18	40	47	70
10	25	44	60	68
13	23	FREE	59	63
7	29	31	58	65
4	20	39	52	66





St. Patrick's Bingo

Who: Youth & Children

When March 11

Children at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Youth at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: SMMC @Trinity House

3742 E Lamar Alexander Parkway

Maryville, TN



Women of Faith Craft Event

Sponsored by:



*Smoky Mountain
Methodist Church*

FREE EVENT!

**Only 30 Seats Available
MUST RSVP!!**

Who: Women 20+
**What: Christian fellowship,
craft project, and appetizers**

When: March 12th 6:30 p.m.

**Where: Trinity House
3742 E. Lamar Alexander
Parkway
Maryville, TN, 37804**



**What we
are making!**

Men's Luncheon

Monday, March

16th at 11:00

a.m.

Calhouns in
Maryville, TN



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



SMMC NURSING

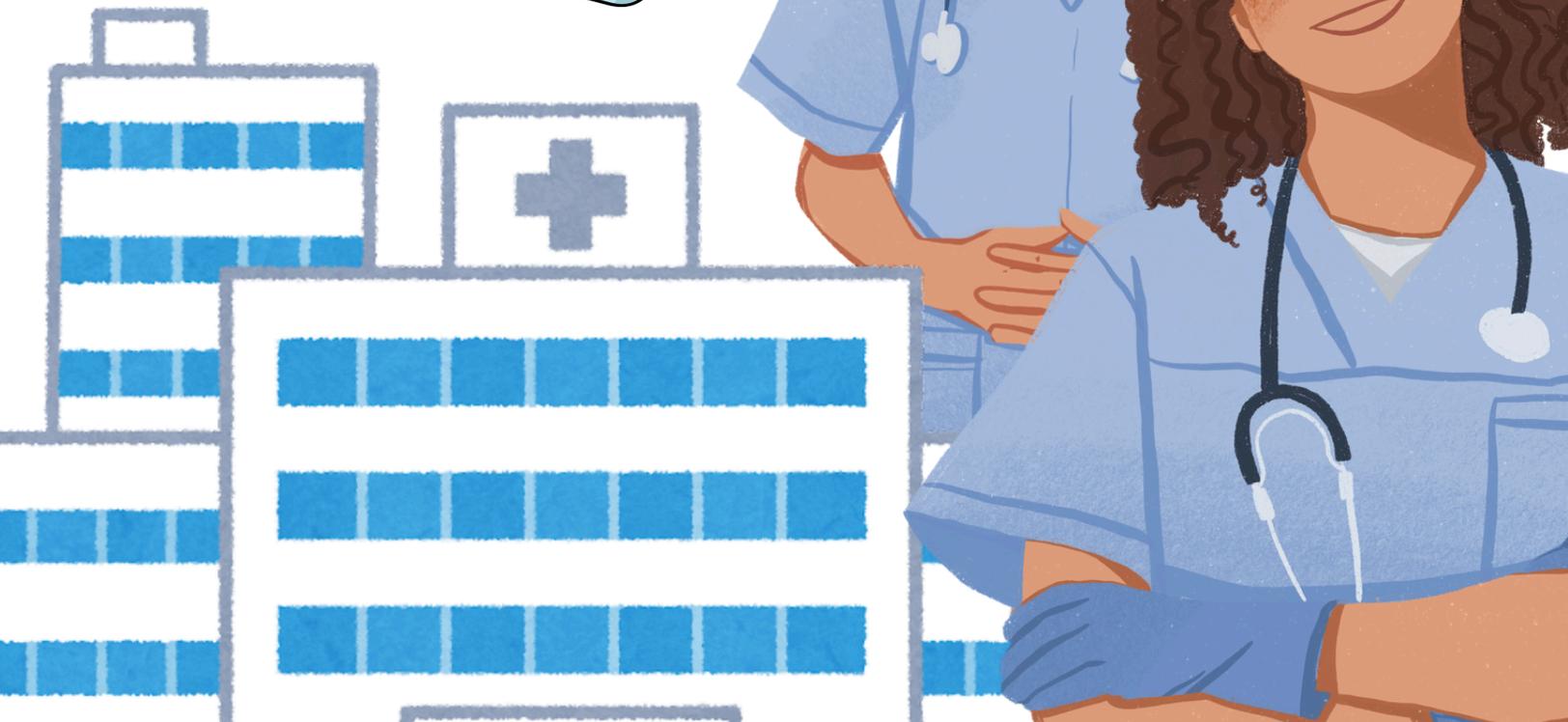
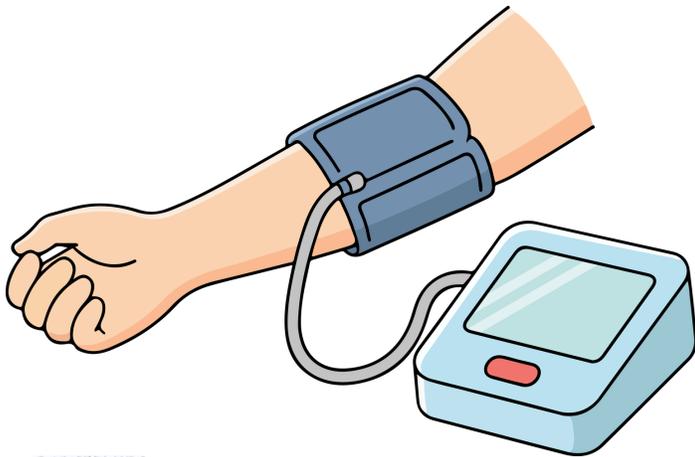


CAREER SEMINAR

When: March 17 from 5:30-7

Where: Trinity House 3742 E Lamar

Alexander Parkway Maryville, TN 37804



SMMC DENTAL HEALTH CAREER SEMINAR

When: March 24 from 5:30-7

Where: Trinity House

3742 E Lamar Alexander

Parkway Maryville, TN 37804



Ice, Ice, JESUS!

Who: Children & Youth

When: March 25

children at 5:30-6:30

youth at 6:30-7:30

Where: SMMC @Trinity House

3742 E Lamar Alexander Parkway

Maryville, TN



SMOKY MOUNTAIN
METHODIST CHURCH
SINGLES GROUP

TRIVIA

NIGHT

March 27th
at
6:30 PM
@ TRINITY
HOUSE

3742 E. LAMAR
ALEXANDER
PARKWAY
MARYVILLE, TN
37804
ACROSS FROM
HERITAGE HIGH
SCHOOL



SMOKY MOUNTAIN METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 4 @ 11AM

@ HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL 3741 E LAMAR
ALEXANDER PARKWAY MARYVILLE, TN

