



May 27, 2026

Bi-monthly
Issue

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Here comes June 2026!

Next Step Ministries is now with us and will be with us for the next 10 weeks. Please pray for their ministries and the well-being of their staff and campers.

We will be transitioning pastors as Rhonda Hobbs completes her season with us on Sunday June 21st and then we welcome our new pastor Carmel Day and her husband Casey on Sunday, July 5th.

An exciting Summer for Colonial Heights awaits!!



Looking forward to seeing everyone at worship on Sundays at 10:45 am with Sunday school at 9:45 am.

The regular office hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 9 AM to 2 PM.

The church office will be closed Monday, June 1 thru Wednesday June 3 for Annual Conference. Please keep those attending in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

The United Methodist Men

The men will be meeting on Wednesday May 27th at 6:30 pm for their monthly meeting.

Ladies Night Out

Next ladies' night out will be May 28 at Fireside BBQ and Cheesecake.

Please contact Janice if you plan to attend.

Celebration for Rhonda

On Sunday, June 14th we will be celebrating the completion of our season we have had with our pastor Rhonda Hobbs. She arrived in 2019 to help up as we transitioned through so much these past years. She will be preaching her last sermon with us on Sunday, June 21st. We invite all to join us, Sunday, June 14th, to celebrate with a dinner in our fellowship hall following worship. *More details to come.*

Time to Update the Church Directory

As we prepare to welcome our new pastor and continue growing as a church family, we want to ensure our directory is accurate and up to date.

On Sundays through May, you'll find a directory update insert in the bulletin or on the table outside the office. Please take a moment to complete it and return it to the church office. Your updated information helps us stay connected and care for one another.



🍴 Meals Made with Love 🍴

FREE Homemade Meals at Colonial Heights UMC! Join us every **Wednesday evening from 5:00–6:00 PM** for a delicious, homemade meal—prepared with love and served with a smile.

Tonight, Wednesday, May 27th, our meal is a juicy grilled beef hamburger with cheese, lettuce, tomato & onion slices and chips & gourmet chocolate chip cookie.

🍽️ Upcoming Feed the Hungry Meals 🍽️

- Wednesday, June 3 is Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Wednesday, June 10 is Shredded BBQ Chicken Tacos
- Wednesday, June 17 is Meatball Subs
- Wednesday, June 24 is Grilled Chicken Sandwich
- Wednesday, July 1 is Hot Dog Meal

🛒 2026 Red Wagon Needs 🛒

This month of June we are focusing on: **Dried Beans**


Please place your donations in the **Red Wagon**. Your generosity helps us care for our community in meaningful ways—thank you for giving! ❤️

Dogwood Elementary Food Bags

The school year is over for our students but we will return in August to this program. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Help Needed:

Grocery Bag Donations for Our Feed the Hungry Meals & Dogwood's Backpack Program are still needed and appreciated.



Pastors Message

You Don't Have to be Big to Bloom

If you ever have the chance to go to the United Methodist Retreat Center at Lake Junaluska Assembly in North Carolina, one of the first sights you will see is the Rose Walk. For the first half of the walk, you don't have to stop to smell the roses, the fragrance comes to you. Each year at Annual Conference I am amazed at not only the smell, but all the different colors, sizes, and shapes of roses in the garden. The beauty of the vibrant pink and yellow Peace Rose, the deep rich pink of the Queen Elizabeth Rose, there was even an orange rose! (Sorry guys, it wasn't UT orange 😊)

One year I watched as the gardener and her assistants gently pruned just the right branch from each bush along the path. How carefully and painstakingly she tended to each bush. Each bush was watered with just the right amount of water. Each type of rose was given the right kind of fertilizer for its variety. Each petal dusted for bugs. With all that attention no wonder they thrive and bloom!

Then I saw it, among the big 3-4 foot high bushes, there it was, a tiny rose bush, less than a foot high! Yet even though it was so small in height, it was covered in roses! Dozens of big, beautiful blood red roses, on this little bitty plant. I thought to myself, "Well I don't guess you have to be big to bloom!" And the Spirit replied, "No, you don't, do you?" And the face of little children came to my mind.

Are we nourishing the souls of the little ones in our midst? Giving them the right nourishment for their roots and water for their souls so that even though they are small they will bloom for God's Kingdom? People often say, "Children and youth are the future of the church." Well that's not completely true. Children and youth are the church NOW. They generate life, energy, fun, creativity, excitement, and their own unique wisdom and insights that the church needs.

I hope this writing is familiar, it is a repeat from 2023 but something we need to remember often. Children and youth are the church today. Jesus calls us to bring the good news to the little ones. I want to thank everyone who is giving love,

leadership, and support to our children and youth. We are blessed beyond measure to watch our youth and children blooming right before our eyes as they discover ways to serve our church and community!

Blessings to bloom where you are planted!

Rhonda

"But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." -- Luke 18:17-18, NRSV

Greetings Smoky Mountain District,

As I prepare to move into another area of ministry, I wanted to express my heart felt thank you for the privilege of serving as your District Superintendent during this past year.

I want to especially thank Mrs. Cheryl Thompson and the Smoky Mountain Leadership Team and all of you Clergy and Laity for your graciousness, hospitality, generosity, warm reception, prayers, encouragement, and the many thoughtful gifts shared along the way. Your kindness and support have meant more than words can fully express.

Thank you , Thank you, Thank you.

It has been a blessing to witness your faithfulness and love for Jesus The Christ and His Church. I am thankful for the relationships formed, the conversations shared, the worship experienced together and the many ways we partner in ministry.

Though this season is coming to a close, I carry fond memories of This District and the people called United Methodist with me.

Thank you for allowing me to walk along side you for this chapter of my journey.

May God continue to do what only God can, Bless The Smoky Mountain District and the Holston Conference with wisdom, unity, peace, hope, joy and much love in the days and months ahead.

Faith hope love

Rev. Angela M. Hardy Cross

Smoky Mountain District Superintendent

P.S. Also those pastors who have not heard from me by now , breathe a sigh of relief and have another glorious year in your current appointment, but remember this, all appointments are projected until the gavel falls on the last day of Annual Conference!



After 41 years of ministry, the Rev. Kim Goddard will be recognized along with other clergy retirees at Holston Annual Conference on June 2. Her commentary appears with other retiree reflections in the Annual Conference Worship Book.



Church's clever sign messages spread joy and keep the faith



Annual Conference

The Holston Annual Conference will take place **May 31 – June 3, 2026**, at the **Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center.**



Scan to read

Prayer and Praise



If you have an update—or if someone needs to be added to or removed from the prayer list—please let the church office know.

Prayers

Charlotte Cain, Hubert Styles, Family of Mike Lawson, Al & Brenda Horn, Don & Carolyn Albert, Mike & Jean LaForest, Barbara Haven, Beverly White (Henderlight's neighbor), Julia Dyker, Blanche Clifton, Bob Williams, Carol Porcher, Chuck & Glenna Reynolds, Jean Fornwalt (David Eilart's mom), Sonny & Judy Henderlight, Charles Hamby, Ken Porch, Brian Harding, Lorenda Wolfe (Brenda's sister), Marty Elmer, Sharon Eilart (David's sister), Phill & Lis Henry, Regina "Gail" Royston (Brenda Horn's cousin), Karen Ballard Motzer (Laura Brake's Friend) Lis Henry's Daughter, Jennifer Holley, Val Johnson

Cancer Treatment

Brian & Jean Reagan, Lisa Greer, Faye Stafford, Rev. Rhonda Hobbs, Denise Fitzpatrick, Bobbie Bernard, Phil Johnson (friend of Dyker's), Ron Cross (friend of the Dyker's), Tillery and the Phillips family, Nancy La Rocco's granddaughter, David Eilart's cousin, John (Julie's Friend)

Nursing, Retirement & Assisted Living

Wanda Ketron, Hubert Styles (Ben Atchley Veterans Home) & Ann COX

Military

Gabe Green (Lis Henry's nephew)

