



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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May 2024

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director
Taylor Stephens, Youth Director

*Sharing God's love with our neighbors,
inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ.*

ARTICLE

I just ran across an article I wrote for the Norwood UMC newsletter over 23 years ago. It hits differently now.

I wrote about my wife leaving her job managing a motel that was actually just down the street from Bookwalter. It had been several different brands over the years (Best Western/ Howard Johnson's) and we learned a bit about how franchises worked through that experience.

Businesses that exist as franchises are owned by different people even though they come under the same name. The owners pay for the right to use the franchise name. In return, business is generated by national advertising and name recognition. With the right to use the name, there are standards a company expects from any given franchise because it affects the reputation of the entire enterprise.

When those expectations are not met satisfactorily, an owner can "lose" the franchise. When this happens, the owner is asked to "bag the sign." This entails the literal physical covering of the sign advertising the franchise.

When I wrote this, I drew the analogy of what our sign meant and asked if we lived up to the expectations of what it meant to be a church.

Today, with all the churches closing or leaving, it leaves me pondering what it means to be United Methodist. It might even mean something different next week once General Conference is completed.

With all the inevitable uncertainty, I find myself looking for a sign, but not just one out in front of our building. I long for a sign from God that is encouraging and directional. Show us the way, Lord! I ask you to pray for the same and let's see what we see.

Steve

YOUTH BAKE SALE

The young people are hosting a fund-raising bake sale this Sunday, May 5th. Please consider donating a baked good or purchasing one (or both!) to help them get money needed to attend Senior High Assembly at the end of June.

The "Early Bird" cost for attendees is \$350 per person and that jumps up to \$400 if they do not register before May 17th. We would also welcome any full or partial sponsorships for them.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH

In another effort to raise funds, the youth will also host a spaghetti dinner after church on Sunday, May 19th following worship.

That is also Pentecost so come decked out in red. This may help if you end up dropping any sauce on your shirt.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on Monday evening, May 13 at 7:00 PM. We will meet in person in the Chapel Class as well as offer an online Zoom option.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

For the month of May, we will be collecting two special offerings for Annual Conference. The first one we have done for years... "Change For Children." The second is a Conference initiative called "New Voices" which is designed to help our five conference camps, five campus ministries and our two colleges to equip young leaders for faithful leadership. Please mark any gifts accordingly.

REMEMBERING

Mynatt Funeral home has extended an invitation to a Grief Recovery event called "Remembering" at Christ UMC in Halls on May 2 from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. You will be given an opportunity to share ways to honor and celebrate the lives of lost loved ones. There will also be discussion on self-care on your grief journey. Light refreshments will follow. Call 865-318-9278 to RSVP.

HANDS ON MISSION

Both the Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Valley Districts have been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets from each District for the 2024 Holston Annual Conference Hands-On Mission Project. These will be once again going to Zimbabwe.

Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. Each church is asked to bring ONE check for the total shipping amount.

* Do not put money in the bucket! Pack in NEW 5 Gallon bucket with lid.

Each bucket should contain the following:

1 bag Self-Rising Flour (4-5lb)

1 bag Sugar (4-5lb) (TN VALLEY ONLY)

1 bag of dried beans (2lb)

1 bottle cooking oil (48oz or less)

Canned Meat (Ham, Tuna, Spam) 2 lb total

1 bag of Rice (2 lb)

1 powdered/dried milk (56oz or less)

Delivery dates and times will be announced later.

Remember, food items have expiration dates! Please, make sure the expiration date is 2025 or later to cover transport time and having a useful shelf-life for the people in Zimbabwe.