

VERSE of the MONTH

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9

CONNECT WITH US

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Selmer FUMC Staff:

Pastor—Rev. Jolinne Balentine-Downey
jolinnebdowney@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Vickie James
selmermethodist@gmail.com

Children’s Coordinator—Lily Sparks
lillianash04@gmail.com

Nursery—Pam Crotts
pamelafercrotts@gmail.com

Music—Mike Rodgers
michaellrogers@yahoo.com

Treasurer—Frankie Hill
frankiehill1201@gmail.com

CALENDAR

- April 2– Hospitality Meeting 5:30 pm
- April 4– Cleaning the Church 8:00 am
- April 7– Potluck
- April 14– Staff & Church Leader Meeting Noon
- April 18– Open Hands @ Farmer’s Market 10:30-Until
- April 21– Trustees Meeting Noon
- April 25– Church Council Meeting 6:00pm
- April 26– Mobile Food Pantry 8:00 am
- April 28– SPRC Meeting Noon
- April 29– Lifeline Screening 8:00 am
- May 1– Cleaning the Church 8:00 am
- May 2– National Day of Prayer 8:00am
- May 5– Potluck
- May 7– Hospitality Meeting 5:30 pm
- May 9– United Women of Faith Banquet 6:00 pm
- May 16– Open Hands @ Farmer’s Market 10:30-Until
- May 19– Senior Banquet 6:00 pm
- May 24– Mobile Food Pantry 8:00 am

TITHE.LY

IN PERSON

1122 W. CHERRY AVE.
SELMER TN 38375

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

THE CONNECT

Planning Meeting
APRIL 14 @ NOON

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

ALL CHURCH OFFICERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND

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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Where is God Calling Me To Serve at Selmer First?

Selmer First offers many opportunities for ministry and serving as the hands and feet of Christ! We would love for you to join any one or all of these ministries in any way at any time. Here is a list from which to choose: Hospitality Group - Work on many of the special events that happen in this church and offer community outreach. See Pam Wheeler, Vickie James or any of the

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Get Ready, People!

A new-old program is in the beginning stages of revitalization! Outings, Food and Fun for those 55+ is in the works, and we would love to hear your ideas! Please see Martha Glover or Mandy Smith as we work toward plans for times of good fellowship.

What’s Next?

We jumped right into the new year, and, the Lord has kept us hopping! I sure do appreciate all of your hard work. Many lives are being touched by your generous giving of time and talents. But what’s next? All church committees are meeting this month to guide us in our work, and a special Planning Meeting for church staff and all church officers is set for Sunday, April 14, immediately after Connect Classes. Lunch will be provided. We encourage you to come with ideas, dreams, wishes, visions, goals, needs... If God has placed it on your heart, we want to hear about it. We might not be able to do it all at once, but, with God’s help, we can develop a plan to get there!

Grace, peace, and joy!

Pastor Jo

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jeremy Doyle-3
Simms Rhea-8
Marjorie Wheeler-14
Rev. Jolinne Downey-15
Pat Walker-19
Kristen Hill-20
Taylor Horton-21
Ann Manley-23
Justin Sutton-25
Marie Maxedon-28

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Rhodes Platt-01
Bryce Youngerman-01
Pam Crotts-05
Bruce Manley-09
Alexis Lopez-13
Ernestine Dunaway-18
Joey Lawson-19
Natalie Lawson-21
Alexander Wellington-23
Karl Volner-29

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING

Harbor Chase #3122
6300 Briarcrest Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38120
Daryl & Marty Melton

McNairy County Health Care
Center
835 E. Poplar Ave. Selmer,
TN 38375
Pat Walker Rm# 311
Ruth Cox Rm# 115B

1045 Landsdown Manor Lane
East, Memphis, Tn 38117
Becky Wilkerson Unit 247

3460 Helene Drive
Pass Christian, MS 39571
Chris Thweatt

ANNIVERSARIES

Art & Linda Crotts-4/5
Sam & Robin Bedwell-4/29
Billy & Denise Brown-5/28

CONCERNS

Pat Walker
Darryl & Marty Melton
Yvonna Cody
Chris Thweatt
Becky Wilkerson
Ruth Cox
Marie Maxedon
Wayne Maxedon
Caitlin Bomar
Natalie Doyle & Family
Virginia Matlock
L.C. Foust
Gene Hebert
Paul Fisher
Tom O'Neal
Peggy Choate
Avery Ray
Joyce Brown
Alicia Powell
Debbie Williams
Family of Pastor Gregg
Worthey

Note of Thanks

Thank you to your congregation and Sunday School Classes for your generous donations to the Backpack Ministry. God's Blessings on the members of FUMC.

Kathi Graham

Welcome New Members

The Congregation of Selmer First would like to welcome the newest members who have joined our church family: Jeremiah Holmes, Janice Courville, Kristen and Brett Hill, and Kessler Jones. We know God is working in this church, and we are look forward to growing together in Christ!

Gentle Reminder from Trustees

The Trustees are asking that any property belonging to the church in any capacity be checked out through the church office. This is important in keeping track of who has what at any given time. Please see our church secretary, Vickie James, for sign out sheets.

Where is God Calling Me to Serve at Selmer First?

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Hospitality Ladies for more information.

Open Hands Ministry - Serving free meals to the community every third Thursday at the Selmer Farmer's Market as an outreach to those with food insecurities or in need of support by prayer, encouragement or just a friendly hello.

Church Maintenance - Cleaning our church facilities the first Thursday of the month. Being good stewards of what God has given to us as a church is important as Christians. If you have any time to donate, we would love to have you come work alongside us. Hours are generally 8:00 a.m. until noon. please feel free to come the whole time or just a portion, as all help is much appreciated. See Vickie James for more information.

Shoe Ministry - When the teacher(s) of a local school discover children who are in need of shoes or socks, that information is passed on to us. See Linda Crotts if you would like to help shop for those items when needed.

Backpack Ministry - Robbie Volner is the liaison for this ministry between our church and Selmer Elementary School. This ministry donates money so teachers may go and buy food for a weekend backpack for children who are suffering from food insecurities at home. Your donation to this ministry is used wisely and serves several children at school.

For more information on any ministry, please see Pastor Jo or Vickie James.



News from Across the Denomination

The Work of Our General Conference Delegates

Please save the date for an April 9 informational webinar with delegates!

As most United Methodists are aware, the scheduled meeting of the General Conference (the highest legislative body in The United Methodist Church) was postponed in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Typically, delegates gather from around the world every four years to make decisions on behalf of the denomination. Legislation that was to be considered in 2020, along with petitions submitted in 2023 for this meeting, will be taken up at the session to be held in Charlotte, NC, from April 23 – May 3, 2024. There are 1,099 submitted petitions to consider at this 2024 meeting. Delegates received all of this proposed legislation in three volumes of a publication called “The Advance Daily Christian Advocate,” which is available online.

Preparing to Attend the General Conference

Delegates attending this General Conference were initially elected to attend the 2020 session. A formula determines how many clergy and lay delegates each conference may send to the General Conference. The potential number of voting delegates from around the world is 862 for the 2024 session, 12 are from the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference (TWK).

TWK delegation members were elected before we became a new conference. Therefore, for the 2024 session, the General Conference identifies our representatives as two delegations from our legacy conferences: the Tennessee Conference and the Memphis Conference. All of our delegates, including reserve delegates, have been meeting in person and via Zoom for several months to review the legislation they will be asked to consider. The group developed a covenant (agreement) for how they would work together. These individuals have volunteered many hours reading legislation and contemplating the potential impact on the church. They have gathered, prayed, and discussed these issues with one another.

What Happens During the General Conference

The delegation will serve for two weeks at the General Conference. During the first week, they will attend meetings with their assigned legislative committees, which deal with specific topics and related sections of the Book of Discipline.

They will consider:

- Revisions to church law and policies,
- Changes to church structure and organization,

- Changes or additions to official church rituals.
- Denominational statements,
- Missional priorities, and
- Churchwide budget for the next four years.

The legislative committees then bring recommendations regarding proposals to the full body for consideration during the second week. The delegates will have the opportunity to pray and worship with people from around the world each day, asking the Holy Spirit to inform and inspire the work before them. Throughout the two weeks in Charlotte, TWK delegates will work with our communications team to answer questions and keep our clergy and congregation members updated on their work.

At District Gatherings of annual conference members in May, the delegation will provide a closing report on the decisions made at the General Conference and the potential impacts on our conference. Some issues may need to be addressed at the TWK Annual Conference in June. Please watch for district communications for details about the district gathering in your area.

Answering Your Questions: TWK Delegation Informational Webinar | April 9 @ 7 p.m.

Some topics have attracted much attention. The delegation is aware that clergy and members of our congregations have questions and may want clarity about proposals and how things work during the General Conference. Therefore, the TWK Delegation is hosting a live webinar on Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m., during which they will provide more information on some of the proposed legislation and answer questions. That evening, the webinar link will be available on the conference website at www.twkumc.org.

Legislation to be discussed includes those regarding Regionalization, the Church Budget and clergy retirement benefits, the proposed Revised Social Principles, and proposals regarding human sexuality. It would be helpful if you submitted questions for the webinar before that day. **You may send questions or comments to our delegates using a contact form on the conference website.** The General Conference Information page on the conference website is: <https://twkumc.org/general-conference-information/>

Delegates elected by the Memphis Annual Conference include: (clergy) Robert “Rob” Martin; Amanda Hartmann-Westmoreland; Sara K. Corum; (lay) David Reed; Josh Shaw; Solomon Christian; Elyse Bell; and Melba Mitchell. Elected but now not able to represent the Conference are: Autura Eason-Williams (deceased); Frank Holbrook (resigned position); Jonathan Jeffords (resigned position); Cynthia Davis (resigned position).