

THE HERALD

May 14, 2025

Volume 57, Number 18

Greetings Church Family,

It's May. A month typically marked with endings and new beginnings. The mild Spring will give way to the sweltering days of Summer. Students will finish the school year and transition into a time of rest (and eating everything edible your home's food pantry) before moving up a grade. Some will graduate from school and head into college or begin new careers.

The same is true in the life of the church as we recognize and celebrate these endings and new beginnings in the lives of our members.

In addition to Graduation Sunday, this Sunday is also Confirmation Sunday, which serves as a significant occasion for us as United Methodists that marks a pivotal moment in the faith journey of young members. It's a time of reflection, renewal, and commitment. During this service, confirmands publicly affirm their faith and confirm their baptismal vows, choosing to embrace the beliefs and values of the church community. In other words, this is the day that our students take ownership over their own faith journeys.

This day serves as an important reminder of the promises made during baptism, either by the individual or on their behalf, and emphasizes the importance of personal faith and community support. As confirmands stand before the congregation, they not only declare their commitment to God but also highlight the vital role that the church plays in nurturing their spiritual growth. This special time is a perfect snapshot of how God's grace works in our lives from the prevenient grace bestowed upon us before we are even aware, the justifying grace that reconciles us to God when we receive salvation through faith in Christ, and the sanctifying grace wherein God's Holy Spirit empowers us to live a holy life and grow in perfect love.

In confirmation, we are reminded of our belonging, responsibility, and the call to serve in God's Kingdom. Furthermore, confirmation is an opportunity for the entire church family to celebrate our students who are taking this important step in their faith journey, by lifting them in prayer, and to encouraging them to continue their journey of faith into the next stages of life.

This tradition reinforces the idea that faith is both a personal relationship with God and a communal experience. The involvement of the congregation emphasizes the shared responsibility in guiding and supporting these young people as they navigate their spiritual paths.

In essence, Confirmation Sunday is not only a milestone for the confirmands but also an occasion for the entire church to commit anew to fostering a loving, supportive environment where faith can flourish. As the church celebrates this special day, it's a beautiful reminder of community, growth, and the enduring nature of faith in action.

I hope to see you in worship Sunday at 10:00am in the Sanctuary!

Grace & Peace.

MISSION

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

VISION

We are seeking to reach beyond ourselves by Inviting others to a Life in Jesus, Growing as Disciples, and Caring for People.

MINISTRY TEAM

Every Member

Minister

Pastor

Rev. Corey Burns

Allison Haley

Music

Dr. Amy Holder

Children

Billie Jo Burns Nursery & Lambs

Dr. Hardin Coleman

Lora Hass

Youth

Joy Overby

Church Administrator

Jane Doss

Pianist

Shirley Rossano

Organist

Susan Kane

Communications Director

Pastor Corey

THOSE SERVING

FINANCIAL

May
Bill Layton
Jack Livingston
Carolyn Rodgers

June

Gene Carlton Hank Frazier Blake Wright

WORSHIP SERVICE SOUND SYSTEM/ AUDIO VISUAL

> Byron Burton Kameron Brown



Unity Youth

When God's In It: More From Discovery Weekend

Post-discovery prayer and reflection takes me to a unique place of humble gratitude. Now, with this weekend of concentrated worship and discipleship a week in the past, I recognize even more times, places, and faces where God was surely present. Our Speakers for the weekend did such an amazing job relating our place in God's plan. Gracy Coley led off Friday with a wholehearted testimony to being loved by God to then pour His love on others. Our guest speaker, Connor Hutson, came in Saturday morning to share how he has journeyed in faith and discipline to be an Intentional follower of Christ. Audrey Stokes shared later Saturday on Faith and in doing so was a living page of the Bible in faithfulness. Hunter Hilliard relayed personal attestation of Evangelism sharing his experience in Unity Youth of coming to Christ, Baptism, and now spreading the Gospel "and with words when necessary." Then, our beloved Dr Amy poured her love upon the students at the Saturday night prayer service with words of encouragement. Finally, on Sunday, Ashlee Dunsmore took that big step up to the lectern to deliver a poignant and powerful sermon on walking Obediently with Jesus. Our College counselors closed us out Sunday with 'Going Forth' messages to keep the spiritual fires burning in our students. Along with these key-note speakers, many students also enthusiastically shared readings and scriptures. Thank you to all our Speakers for stepping out in faith and showing God's Heart!

When God is in it there will be many surprises. The other speakers I recognized were in the seats of the Fellowship Hall and Small Groups. This group of students accepted the challenge of unplugging from the world outside those doors that constantly attempts to bombard minds and hearts and step into one another's lives and needs. I witnessed so much sharing in small groups, fellowship of encouragement in sessions, and hands on shoulders praying at the altar. One of my many blessings was watching the students step out of comfortable as we did an exercise called "Speed Blessings." They each rotated to face one another and share a blessing received from God in their life and to pray a blessing to their partnered student from God. It was awkward, unexpected, and challenging...but when God's in it...what a Holy moment!

Once again, thank you Church for being a safe, loving landing spot for Children and Youth as we continue to celebrate their faith with Affirmation class graduation, Senior Sunday, and our Confirmation Class recognition. Church - you are the best and your Student Ministries are Blessed!

Hardin

WEEK ENDED

May 11, 2025 1,065

Worship Attendance

In person Worship: 10:00am Children, Youth & Family Ministry, & Special Services

UStream Channel (website), Facebookradio, and radio/tv Broadcast.





-DISCOVERY WEEKEND-















(featured above)

"George Armstrong has a side hustle?"

Don't believe everything you see,
but do believe it when we say,
George & Lisa hosted an amazing
"Cinco de Mayo themed' dinner
for Discovery Weekend Saturday meal.

Thank you for all the hands and hearts
"on deck" helping
with Discovery Weekend meals!

PRAYER CONCERNS & PRAISES

Our Youth & Children, UMC Conference, Our Community, Nation/World Community, U.S. Troops, Healthcare & 1st Responders, Schools.

Our Church Family

Mary Ruth Bennett
Linda Bray
Amanda P. Bryars
Nancy Campbell
Mary K. Carlton
Maria Copeland
Johnny Crabtree
Ralph & Libby
Franklin
Annie Ruth Fossett
Nancy Graham
Alex Holder
Shannon Hurt
Jerry Kirkland

Barbara Partin
Kay & Skip Rogers
Ann R. Sanders
Pat Smith
Gary Stewart
Tal Thomas
Tony Wallingsford
Tracy Wallingsford
Linette & Keith
Webb

Margaret Bailey April Ballard Jordan Beebe & Brycen Angie Bledsoe Jocelyn Boles **Brother-Anita Tolliver Bob Brune** Billy & Brenda Burns Ron Clements Tujuana Coley Mildred L. Cook family **Charles Dawson** Judy Dawson Allan & Sarita Dozier Wendall Dudley Vera Dunson

Our Church Friends

Ann Edwards Dan Farrington Barbara Partin's father's family Anne Flournov Kristen & Colby Gann Rev. Roy Hall family Beth Hargrove Shirl Haswell Randy Hillhouse **Judy Hughes Foster Hunt** Glen Jacobs Bill Latham Joan Lee Levi Lima **Brenda Little family**

Susan Livingston
Macey McCauley
Denise Monza
Rev. Joy Morgan
Jordon Otinger
Leigha Phillips
Holly Sanders & baby
Gail Sherwood
Janet Sprouse
Ellen Thomas
Donna Vincent
Lee Ann Walker
Kaetlyn Weaver
Maurita Wiggins
Steve Wilburn

All our members who are homebound, at assisted living facilities, and nursing homes:

HIGHLANDS

HEALTH & REHAB
Bob Hodges

HUNTSVILLE Faye Berry Joanne Stewart MARYVILLE, TN
Dorothy Hopps

ROSEWOOD MANOR
Kaye Johnson
Virginia Wallingsford

SOUTHERN ESTATES
Shirley Haislip

Shirley Haislip
Jo Smith
Don Wright

HOME
Revia Melton
Marilyn Reed
Mildred Shelton
Martha Lou Wright







Affirmation Sunday and Mother's Day! So proud of the Journey kids!!!!











-NOURISH ONE CHILD—DATES

Wednesday, May 14th LAST Packing for School Year

Tuesday, May 20th- Patio Picnic at the Carlton's Home @ 5pm -1030 Peninsula Drive

Summer: Beginning June 4-25—led by Trinity Baptist Church
Beginning July 2nd - led by Calvary Baptist Church

Remember: you can recycle your ink and toner cartridges by bringing them to the stairwell by the office. Proceeds from these will benefit our local schools.

Attention ALL CHURCH MEMBERS -

Your copy of the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions 2010/2024 is available for free.

- 1) Go to: COKESBURY.COM
- 2) Scroll down to the bottom of the web site to **Cokesbury Services**
- 3) Third item under <u>Cokesbury Services</u> click on Book of Discipline & Bool of Resolutions (Free Versions)
- 4) Scroll down one item to: FREE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

The pages you may be most interested in is the LOCAL CHURCH pages 201-299. You can also print these pages.

ADULT BOOK STUDY GROUP PASTOR COREY'S

Summer Interest Survey

Choose one option from each category below. (Note, if the answer to Question #1 is "No," then no further questions are necessary.)

#1 Are you interested in participating in the Pastor's Book Study this Summer?

#2 What type of book study do you prefer?



- Devotional Study

☐ Book of the Bible

- O UMC Study
 - O Other

#3 What topic is of most interest to you?

- Evangelism/Discipleship
 - O Biblical Interpretation O Social Issues

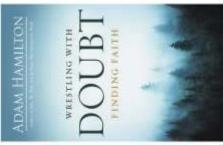
- O History/Memiors
- ☐ Faith & Practice Theology

Do you have any thoughts or suggestions about future adult studies?

On the back of this form are three (3) book suggestions to select from

Ways to return your survey to Pastor Corey: bring by the office, place in collection plate, mail it to us, or fill out the online form (QR Code on last page of this Herald) which goes directly to Pastor's inbox. Any questions, please let us know.





Will Willimor

What's next for Methodist church folk?

Finding Faith, join best-selling author and pastor Adam In Wrestling with Doubt, Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative

	some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them.	to in the present moment? What should we stop doing and begin doing, responding
	doubt and shows y trust in God can g from them.	What should we stop doing and begin doing, responding in God's call now? What are
و مر و	y trust in God can grow them.	and begin doing, responding
	from them.	to God's call now? What are
neant to declare that humanity has never been separate from had-except by its own neartive		In course that there are are
has never been separate from		the biblical texts, stories from
and-except by its own negative		our past, and core Wesleyan
The state of the s		convictions that might guide
choice. When we recover this		us from this point?
fundamental truth, faith		
becomes less about proving		
Jesus was God, and more about		
learning to recognize the		
Creator's presence all around us,		
and in everyone we meet.		
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BALLOT 1: REGIONALIZATION

How the United Methodist Church is structured globally

Regionalization was supported by 78.1% of General Conference delegates.

Regionalization builds connectional unity across the whole denomination while making room for customization in how the church lives out its mission in each region of the world. Currently central conferences (regional bodies outside the United States) are permitted to adapt select portions of the Book of Discipline to "make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries" to better fit their particular contexts (Book of Discipline ¶32.5). This ability of central conferences has been part of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church since its founding in 1968.



This Amendment...

- Creates eight regional conferences by renaming and realigning the existing central conferences as regional conferences and creating a regional conference in the United States.
- Provides greater clarity about the power these regional conferences have to customize select portions of the denomination's *Book of Discipline*.
- Makes room for the possibility of jurisdictional conferences within regional conferences outside the United States.

Since one of the regions would be the United States, United Methodists here would have, for the first time, the same authority as every other regional conference to adapt select portions of the *Discipline* contextually.



What can't be regionalized?

All regions will be required to adhere to the core parts of the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* outlining our church mission, doctrinal standards, and essentials of our faith. The General Conference is the only body given authority to change or adapt these.

What can be regionalized?

Regions would be allowed to adapt parts of the *Book of Discipline* relating to organization and administration such as...

- Criteria for ordained and licensed ministry
- Criteria for specialized lay ministries
- · Criteria for admission of and care for lay members
- Organization of the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences
- Hymnal and ritual
- · Judicial administration

BALLOT 2: PROTECTING MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL

(Paragraph 4, Article IV)



Ensuring full participation for all members

The addition of "gender" and "ability" to Paragraph 4, Article IV was supported by 90.1% of General Conference delegates.

This amendment affirms that no one should be excluded from membership in the Church for any reason. It adds two words to Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution (Book of Discipline ¶4).

Inclusiveness of the Church—The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, **gender**, **ability**, color, national origin, status or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.

BALLOT 3: RACIAL JUSTICE

(Article V)

Strengthening the United Methodist stance on racial justice

This change to Article V was supported by 91.8% of General Conference delegates.

Article V of The United Methodist Constitution (*Book of Discipline* ¶5) serves as a pivotal framework for the United Methodist Church's commitment to addressing and eliminating racism in all its forms. The proposed changes to Article V strengthen this commitment by explicitly recognizing the church's role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy both within the denomination and in broader society.

Racial Justice—The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.

BALLOT 4: EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE FOR CLERGY DELEGATES

(Section VI, Article IV)

Clarifying requirements for clergy eligible to vote for clergy delegates

This change was supported by 84.7% of General Conference delegates.

This amends Section VI, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution (Book of Discipline ¶36).

Previously, the paragraph required clergy voting for clergy delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional or central conference to have completed a "course of study or an M. Div. degree..."

It would now state: "course of study or Master of Divinity from a University Senate approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a Central Conference..."



Local pastors would retain the right to elect clergy delegates if they meet the following criteria:

1. Educational Requirements:

They must have either

- a. Completed the Course of Study, or
- b. Earned a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central or regional conference.

2. Service Requirement:

They must have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately before the election.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.umcna.org/ac25constitutionalamendments.

Email questions to delegation@umcna.org.



UMC Constitutional Amendments

WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTION?

The Constitution is found in Part I of the United Methodist Book of Discipline. It is the fundamental constituting and legal document of The United Methodist Church. The Constitution is binding to all United Methodist conferences and entities worldwide.



PROCESS OF AMENDING THE UNITED METHODIST CONSTITUTION

Just like most constitutions, it can be amended in order to meet the changing needs of our denomination and ministries. A constitutional amendment can be proposed by any member, body or organization within The United Methodist Church. All constitutional amendments must be voted on by General Conference and then ratified by annual conferences.

Proposal by any UMC member, body or organization

Approval by 2/3 majority vote of General Conference delegates

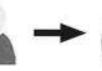
Ratification by 2/3 aggregate vote across Annual Conferences

Council of Bishops certifies and announces results of ratification vote













VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

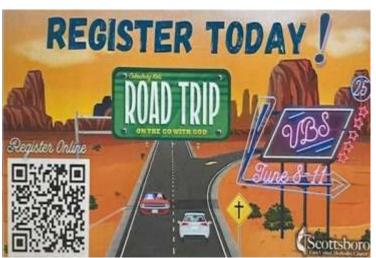
- The North Alabama Conference will vote during the afternoon session on Friday, May 30, 2025.
- Clergy in Full Connection and Lay Members are eligible to vote on constitutional amendments.
- The vote will be by written ballots.
- Amendments can be debate but the wording cannot be changed.











Our Children's Ministry Leaders are on the move prepping & planning for VBS in a big way. If you have any

old (or new) US Highway Road

Atlas or folding Road Maps of any U.S. state & any year that you

would like to donate, please bring your donations by the Church office any time. Thank you!

Robin Kirkland



We offer our Deepest Christian Sympathy & Prayers to the family & friends of Rev. Roy Hall, who passed from this life May 7th. Funeral Service will be Saturday, May 17th at Scottsboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church . Visitation: 10am-12noon Service: 1pm



5th Sunday of Easter, May 18

CONFIRMATION & GRADUATION SUNDAY

8:45am Sunday School

10:00am **Worship** Sanctuary

5:30-7pm 1st Kids/Youth End of School Party

Monday, May 19

Tuesday, May 20

5:00pm Patio Picnic at the Carlton's Home (NOC) -1030 Peninsula Drive

6-8:00pm Community Band @ Fellowship Campus

Wednesday, May 21

4:45pm Choir Practice @ Choir Room 5:30-7pm **Youth** small group @ FH 6-7pm Voice of the Heart small group

Thursday, May 22

9:30am Caring Card Ministry 6-8:00pm Music Valley Playhouse @ Fellowship

Friday, May 23 Saturday, May 24

3:00pm Pick up pre-ordered (\$40) UMM smoked Boston Butt roasts at Fellowship Hall

6th Sunday of Easter, May 25

8:45am Sunday School

10:00am **Worship** Sanctuary—Rev. Sherill Clontz 11:00am **Charge Conference**-with Church Council 12pm **Trustee Meeting** in Fellowship Hall

5:30-7pm Youth (No 1st Kids Activities)