



# ELEMENTS

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



## **Patti's Ponderings**

I love our country and I am not always proud of it. Faith and Patriotism. It's complicated. How do we make sense of it all? There are many examples in scripture of faith-filled people supporting and submitting to their government. Jesus said, "Give to Ceasar what is Ceasar's and to God what is God's." And, there are many stories of faith-filled people in scripture standing in opposition to their government. Shadrack, Meshack, Abednego and Daniel do both when they take a stance against their King, when the King's demands go against their religious tradition. They refuse to eat the food their faith disallows, they refuse to pray to the foreign gods, and they offer themselves to serve in the king's army. There is no one right posture towards our world leaders and national governments. It's complicated. And we each have our own perspective to claim.

I hope you can join us in worship on July 5<sup>th</sup> as we look at faith and patriotism through the lens of music. Let's claim the joy and pride we feel for our country, while we acknowledge there is more work to do to live into our values as a nation.

## **One more year!**

Clergy in the United Methodist Church get a little anxious each spring, as the Bishop and District Superintendents work on appointments. You see, we are only appointed to churches for one year at a time. I am pleased to share that Rev. Glen, Pastora Lucia, and I will all serve here at Smoky Hill for one more year (at least!) It truly is a joy to serve this congregation and all of you wonderful people. I am so proud of Smoky Hill and your courageous leadership in loving boldly, especially proclaiming the inclusive message of God's love for ALL people. An added celebration this year is that Rev. Glen's ordination credentials were officially transferred from Missouri Conference to here in the Mountain Sky Conference! He has worked diligently behind the scenes to fulfill all of the requirements these past 2 years. We had a special moment in Clergy Session of Annual Conference, when he stood and we all welcomed him. A few tears were shed. We are so glad he has chosen to call Mountain Sky home!

~Pastor Patti



Now that Pride is Over...

One of the most painful moments of reality that I have ever had to deal with was when a good "Christian" friend (who I grew up with and went to the same United Methodist Church) basically told me that I could just go to another denomination if I didn't like the position of the United Methodist Church on accepting and including LGBTQI+ who were in same sex relationships. (Real discussion May 1992.)

The message was clear. He was ready to throw away at least 18 years of our friendship and was totally fine if I just started to attend an MCC church, Disciples of Christ or Episcopal church that welcomed people who were like me.

I remember sharing that I didn't want to go to another denomination... that I thought the United Methodist Church could still keep its identity as followers of Christ and that our welcome would just be a little bit wider.

Well, a lot has changed.

The Book of Discipline changed. Churches like Smoky Hill have taken a bold position to have someone like me not only attend this church but to also be on staff and fill the role of associate pastor... and fortunately for me, I wasn't the first one here on staff to be part of the LGBTQI+ community.

But it still isn't easy... because as associate pastor as well as everyone who is on staff from Patti to the trustees, it is our responsibility to care for everyone regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, age or differing theological or political beliefs.

Some think we roll out the rainbow flag only in June and that my discussion of the community I'm a part of should be limited to one Sunday per year.

Some people believe that as soon as the month of June is over, that the rainbow flag should go back into the closet along with the Christmas and Easter decorations.

But I have to say, I always keep a little bit of Christmas out in my study... and I always celebrate the miracle of the resurrection (Easter) every Sunday.

Because that is who we are.

And after all, closets just aren't the best place to let your light shine.

For everyone who is straight, an advocate, or who is LGBTQI+... I want to thank you.

Thank you for your ability to listen, hear and understand as well as make room at the table for everyone to be here... And thank you for allowing me to be your associate pastor.

Thank you for knowing that the rainbow flag is a constant reminder that a number of churches in Centennial don't welcome anyone unless they think and look like they do; and that we are just a little bit different with our doors open to everyone.

It's a great thing when someone straight can sit down with someone gay or someone who is from a different race or belief can find common ground and talk about grace, forgiveness and how Christ is a part of their life.

It's why I'm still a United Methodist.

Pastor Patti is preaching the first two Sundays of July and then I will try a turn at the pulpit for the last two... I'm going to preach about two parables that Jesus taught around seeds... Nothing gay about that... But it will still be fabulous!

Hope to see you online or in person.

Blessings, Rev. Glen



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 REPORT

The Mountain Sky Conference includes United Methodist churches in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, and one in Idaho. Every year in June, the clergy and laity of these churches meet to worship God and do the work of the annual conference. This year, our conference was held at the Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, MT.

The theme was “The Way of Loving Boldly,” and the conference opened with worship and an Episcopal Address from Bishop Kristin Stoneking.



The conference celebrated 70 years of full ordination for women in The United Methodist Church, honored mission partnerships across the Mountain Sky Conference and around the world, remembered clergy, spouses, and laity who have died, received new leaders, approved the 2027 Spending Plan, closed churches with prayer and gratitude, welcomed three new church charters, and ordained and commissioned new clergy for ministry. Those retiring were honored, including our previous pastor Rev. Derek DeToni Hill.

One of the most important items of business this year was electing the delegates who will represent the Mountain Sky Conference at the 2028 General Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Western Jurisdictional Conference in Reno, Nevada. Our own Jana Jones was elected as a laity delegate to Jurisdictional Conference. There was a strong presence of youth and young people, and several were elected as reserve delegates.



Five petitions were approved, including the establishment of a Safe Sanctuary Ministry Team, recognition of a Caretaker of God’s Creation Coordinator and a commitment toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions, a resolution for fossil-free investments, clergy minimum compensation, and a covenant of understanding between Rocky Mountain College and the Mountain Sky Conference.



Bishop Stoneking shared a recommended reading list for the Mountain Sky Conference, books that speak to faith, leadership, and what it means to *Love Boldly* in this moment in the life of the Church. One of the books on her list was given to all in-person attendees, *Five Marks of a Methodist* by Steve Harper. It is an invitation to remember the practices and commitments that shape Methodist identity and discipleship.

At the Ordination and Commissioning Service, Bishop David Wilson of the Great Plains Conference used the image of the potter and the clay to remind us that the Creator is shaping us over and over, again and again, both as individuals and as the greater Church.



2027 Annual Conference will be back here in Colorado, at Saint Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, June 23-26. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about what happened at Annual Conference, go to the Mountain Sky website <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/> or ask Jana Jones, Lynne Kersten, or Paul Morales, your lay delegates. Thank you.



# ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS



Some members of Tuesday Morning Theologians and Tuesday Lunch Bunch visited The Refuge in Broomfield on June 16. This is a picture of the group with Kathy Escobar, founder of The Refuge. The Refuge is a hub for healing community, social action, and creative collaboration. During Lent Rev. Patti preached on Kathy Escobar's book, "Turning Over Tables" and the Tuesday classes and other classes read the book.

**Open Door - Sundays at 9:00 am in Room 218** This class is a welcoming, inclusive environment, inviting individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate, whether you're new to Bible study or have been participating for years. Come as you are! No need to prepare or do homework - just bring yourself and an open heart. We use various forms of media to stimulate thoughts and ideas and focus on meaningful conversation and spiritual growth rather than formal lessons. No need to rsvp – just drop in whenever you can. For more information contact Kim Brice [kbrice227@gmail.com](mailto:kbrice227@gmail.com)

## **The Way of Faith – Sundays at 9:00 am in the Upper Room & on Zoom**

This is an inclusive and open group whose focus is on God's love in our world today and how we can do better to live God's will in our lives. We start each class with a video that includes such authors and theologians as Richard Rohr, Diana Butler Bass, AJ Levine, Adam Hamilton and many, many more. Each Sunday is a standalone teaching and conversation allowing people to attend when possible. We hope you will join us as we gather to discern the way of Christ in our lives today and seek to be deeper rooted in the love of God.

## **Parenting 20-Somethings Group**

We are a group of parents that gather each month to talk through the triumphs and trials of parenting our 20-something old children. We would love for you to join us. This group led by Pastor Patti, mother of two 20-somethings, is open to our congregation and community. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call the church office to get a code to enter the building if you, or someone you know wants to join us.

## **Beer & Theology July & August**

Plan now to join us for our next beer and theology gathering on Monday, July 6 at 6:30 pm.

We will be back at Bent Barley Brewing located in Southlands Mall.

Our topic of conversation will look at how Stoicism may have impacted Paul as well as early Christian Communities. Marcus Aurelius' book "Meditations" as well as his role as Roman emperor 161-180 AD and practicing stoic will be discussed.

Also save the date for the afternoon of Sunday, August 9th. Steve and Deborah Stanley have graciously invited us to sample Steve's home brew as well as Deborah's homemade wine in their home.

**RSVPs to the church office 303-690-9816 or Rev Glen [associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org)**

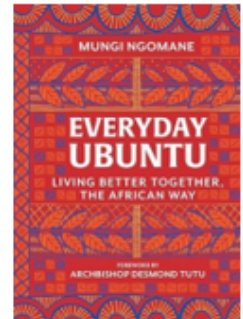
Directions and details for the August gathering will be sent out to those who RSVP.

## Books for Summer Reading

It's time to relax on the patio or by the pool with a good book. Here are some suggestions from the UWF Reading Program.



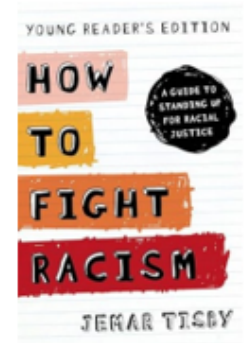
The Personal Librarian  
by Marie Benedict and  
Victoria Christopher Murray



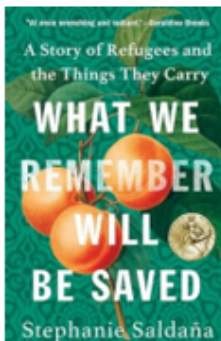
Everyday Ubuntu:  
Living Better Together,  
the African Way  
by Mungi Ngomane



The Women  
by Kristin Hannah



How to Fight Racism:  
A Guide to Standing  
Up For Racial Justice  
by Jemar Tisby  
Young Readers Edition



What We Remember Will Be Saved:  
A Story of Refugees and  
the Things They Carry  
by Stephanie Saldaña



Good Enough:  
40ish Devotionals for  
a Life of Imperfection  
by Kate Bowler &  
Jessica Richie

To find the full listing of books for UWF Reading Program, click here:

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=13204>

Most books are available at local libraries. The Smoky Hill United Women in Faith have a bookcase in Room 210 with books to borrow.

The Smoky Hill Justice and Joy Readers meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 1-3pm in the Upper Room.

If you'd like to join us, contact Rebecca Mino (303)330-7795 or [rebeccamino@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccamino@hotmail.com)





**Join us next year  
June 21 - 26  
2027!**

**See digital newsletter edition for VBC video links.**

**KIDS  
SUMMER CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**

Worship and Summer Children's Church from 10:00 -11:00 am. Meet in gathering space for Modified lessons and fun, or stay in Worship with your parents.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month Worship as a Family.  
(will be inside and outside all summer)

**Worship at 10:00am**

**Nursery care** for all kids up to the age of 5 is available from 9:30 - 11:15am every Sunday morning.

**Adult Sunday School Classes from 9:00 to 9:45 am**

Will meet every Sunday: The Way of the Faith and Open Door

## ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Loose Leaf Paper & Spiral Paper

Pencil Bags & Backpacks



**Drop in the wagon by the Front Doors**

Pink Eraser & Crayons

Glue & Glue Sticks

#2 Pencils & Color Pencils

Ink Pens & Markers

We are collecting supplies until August 16th. You can drop off supplies on Sunday mornings from 9:00 -11:00 am, or Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00pm. You can contact Crystal @ [crystaltd@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:crystaltd@smokyhillumc.org) and she can pick up supplies.

## All Church Splash and Picnic in the Park

**JULY 25TH FROM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

RED-TAILED HAWK PARK 23701 E HINSDALE WAY, AURORA, CO 80016.

**BRING SOME LUNCH AND SNACKS!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US**  
**FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!!!**



### Save the Date:

July 13<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup> - School Supply drive  
 August 16<sup>th</sup> Backpack Blessing during Worship.  
 September 13<sup>th</sup> – Kick off Sunday, back to full Sunday school with fun after church.



# JUSTICE MINISTRIES

## RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

### Friday Night at the Movies – Summer Film Series

This summer, the Smoky Hill United Methodist Church Racial Justice Task Force invites you to join us for a special three-part “Friday Night at the Movies” series in Celebration Hall. Together, we’ll watch thought-provoking films that explore justice, compassion, dignity, and our shared humanity.

These evenings are intended to create space for reflection, conversation, and community. We welcome not only our church family, but friends, neighbors, and surrounding churches as well.

#### Friday, July 17 – 6:00 PM

##### *All the Empty Rooms*

This powerful documentary reflects on the lasting impact of gun violence through the preserved bedrooms of children lost in school shootings. Through the stories of grieving families, the film invites viewers into a deeper conversation about memory, loss, and humanity.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990352403618?aff=oddtcreator>

### FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

SHUMC Racial Justice Task Force  
**Summer Film Series**

**“All the Empty Rooms”**

**Friday, July 17 @ 6:00 pm**





**Use QR Code to RSVP**

**Friday, August 14 – 6:00 PM**

 *Just Mercy*

Based on a true story, *Just Mercy* follows attorney Bryan Stevenson as he fights to overturn the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian, a Black man sentenced to death in Alabama. The film powerfully examines injustice, courage, and the pursuit of mercy within the legal system.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990352521972?aff=oddtcreator>

Come for the movies, stay for the conversation, and join us as we seek greater understanding together. All are welcome.



Rainbow Alliance would like to thank everyone who made SHUMC's June Pride Month so meaningful. To those who helped decorate the Gathering Space, participated in and attended Pride Sunday making it a beautiful and inspiring service, to those who came to *1946: The Mistranslation that Changed Culture* documentary, and to those who walked in the Denver Pride Parade representing Smoky Hill we are sincerely grateful to you all! And special thanks to Pastor Patti and Rev. Glen for your leadership, affirmations and kindness to all at SHUMC.

**AURORA PRIDE:** An annual event for SHUMC since 2017, we will again be participating at **Aurora Pride on Saturday, August 29th**. This year's event will be held at Winged Melody Park in the Highlands on East 38<sup>th</sup> Place. We will need help setting up, taking down and manning our booth again this year. If you're interested in helping, please contact Denise Arnold at 303-514-3859 via phone or text.



## PALISADE PEACH ORDERS

It's time to order peaches!

- Order on Sundays in Gathering Space
- Order online at [smokyhillumc.org](http://smokyhillumc.org)
- Call 303-690-9816 or come to the church office



**PRE-ORDER by July 12  
and SAVE \$**

*Thank you for supporting SHUMC Men's Group Ministries*

The Men's Group is selling Palisade Peaches again this year. Order by Sunday, July 12 to get the best pricing. This is a Men's Group fundraiser so please spread the word!



### **Funeral Reception Team**

When there is a funeral at the church, the funeral reception team is available to provide a reception after the service. We have a list of volunteers who are willing to provide food (usually sandwiches, fruit and vegetable trays, salads, cheese and crackers or cookies). An email is sent when food is needed and our team members can choose what item they would like to provide or not provide if it is not a good date for them. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the funeral to help with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. If you would like to be added to the funeral reception team, please contact Sharon Davis at [stdavis21@comcast.net](mailto:stdavis21@comcast.net) If you are already part of the team, you do not need to respond.

### **Ushers & Welcome Desk**

Do you enjoy greeting people with a smile and have a desire to help them feel welcome and comfortable? We are looking for folks to staff our Welcome Desk and to serve as Ushers. Our summer schedule of one worship service at 10:00 am will begin on May 24 so this would be an ideal time to 'learn the ropes'. Training will be provided for both positions though they are both easy and enjoyable. For more information, please contact Susan Hora, [cusaglass@gmail.com](mailto:cusaglass@gmail.com), 636-236-6549 (call or text).

### **SHUMC Abundant Health**



**July 22<sup>nd</sup> is  
World Brain Day**

**Over 1 in 3 people are affected by neurological conditions, the leading cause of illness and disability worldwide.** Neurological conditions cause great suffering to the individuals and families they affect and rob communities and economies of human capital reports Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organization's Director-General. Read information about how you can protect your brain at "8 brain health tips for a healthier you" from the [Mayo Clinic](https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/brain-health/tips-advice/2016-07-22)

### **On the Move with Smoky Hill UMC**

**Group Exercise on Zoom:** Looking for exercise that requires no money, no travel, and fast access to your shower? Join the Zoom exercise community on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:30. Contact Susan Hora at [cusaglass@gmail.com](mailto:cusaglass@gmail.com)

**Hiking Group:** Keep an eye out for upcoming hikes by watching the weekly e-blast or our [Smoky Hill Abundant Health Facebook page](#) or contact Marta at 720-271-0691 with questions.

**Medical Equipment Closet:** Did you know we have medical equipment that you can borrow for yourself or your neighbor? This includes crutches, walkers, shower seats and more. Contact the church office to arrange borrowing items.

**Yoga at Smoky Hill:** Yoga classes are being paused for the summer.

**Join us on Facebook!** [Smoky Hill Abundant Health](#) This is the place to connect about hikes, bowling, kayaking, fishing, and new recipes!



## MUSIC



### Summertime Music at Smoky Hill UMC!

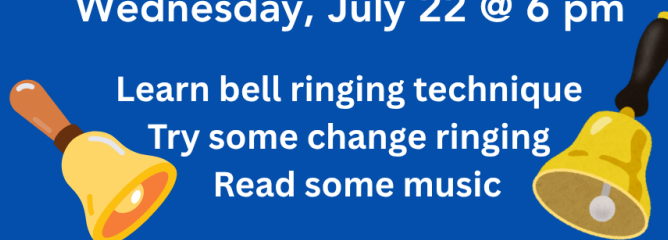
If you've ever wanted to join a musical group, ring bells, or play an instrument, here's your opportunity! Short-term commitments of fun!

- [Summer Choir](#) - Open to ages 11 and up, rehearsals Sundays @ 11am
- [Good News Singers](#) - Open to ages 11 and up, rehearsals Wed. @ 6pm
- [Children's Choir](#) - Open to 1st - 5th graders, rehearsals Sundays @ 9:30am
- [Praise Team](#) - Open to vocalists & guitarists, rehearsals Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
- [Crystal Bells](#) - Handbell choir workshops, Wed. 6/17, 7/22 & 8/12 @ 6pm

Contact Dan at [music@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:music@smokyhillumc.org) for questions and other opportunities to be a part of music at SHUMC this summer!

### Handbell Choir Workshop

Wednesday, July 22 @ 6 pm



Learn bell ringing technique  
Try some change ringing  
Read some music

Beginners welcome!

You do not need to read music to participate!

Please RSVP to Dr. Dan at [music@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:music@smokyhillumc.org)

Smoky Hill United Methodist Church  
19491 E Smoky Hill Rd  
Centennial, CO 80015



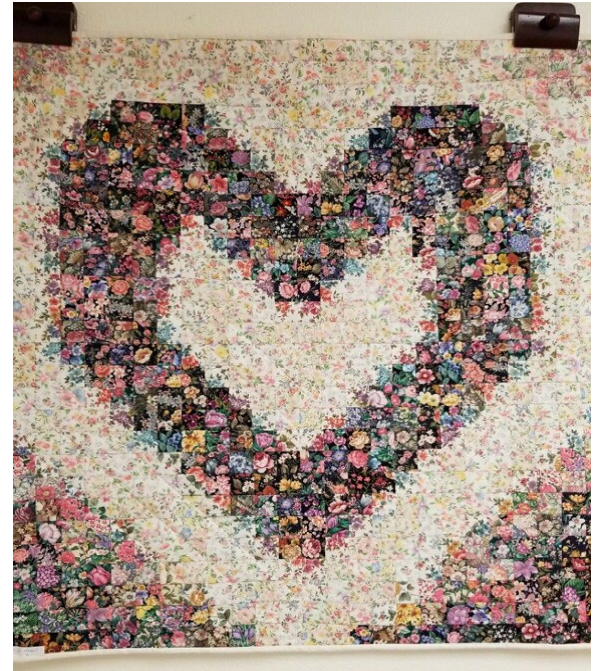
## TRUSTEES

There is a dedicated work group of individuals that meet up at the church on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 12:00 to do all types of maintenance projects to improve the church building. We paint, patch walls, fix tables, clean doors, install lights and many other needed tasks. I would like to invite any other individuals that would be interested in helping out to join us whenever possible. All materials are provided. Please feel free to give me a call (Mark Brinton 303-961-5272) if you have any questions. Thanks.

**Quilt Sale and Fund Raiser**

The Kemper family generously donated quilt tops constructed by Barb Thiebaut to the Smoky Hill Mission Crafters. Barb is Adam Kemper's grandmother and Abbie, Joel and Maggie's great-grandmother. The Mission Crafters finished off these finely crafted quilt tops with the purpose of raising funds for the Smoky Hill Racial Justice Team that Adam co-leads and the United Women of Faith where Deb is the Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

The Quilts will be on display in the Gathering Space for the months of July and August and will be available to purchase during that time.



**Doll Ministry Sewing Day**

**July 18<sup>th</sup> , 9 to 3**

**SHUMC Celebration Hall**

**Grab your sewing machine and join us as we make items for the doll ministry. We have material, patterns and thread.**

**Bring your scissors and pins. Knitters and crochet artists are invited to come make items as well.**

**All are invited, we'll find a place for you to contribute!**

*BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch!)*

The Fall Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 9-3 As the date draws closer, we will be looking for volunteers to help put on this fabulous event.

Registration is now open to everyone, use the link below if you would like to be a vendor. Booths (8' x 8') are \$75 and a small table space (8' table with space for you to sit behind) is \$60. Our prices are low compared to many local shows! Crochet is already sold out.

<https://forms.gle/Y333zXwXP6gZD9w6A>





# WORSHIP

Smoky Hill United Methodist Church  
**Summer Schedule**  
Worship Service 10:00 am  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am  
Spanish Service 10:00 am  
**May 24 ~ Sept. 6**



## Enciende Una Luz

Servicio Hispano  
Domingo a Las 10:00 a.m.  
y Facebook Live

Llame a Pastora Lucia Correa al  
303-690-9816

**CAN'T BE HERE?** Join the 10:00 AM English service on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)  
*To livestream the Spanish service, please contact Pastor Lucia for the link.*

### Pockets of Peace: Celtic Worship Service

This monthly service is a pocket of peace amidst our chaotic lives.

Join on Zoom the 1st Thursday of the month.

For link see eblasts or contact  
[churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org)

Next Service: Thursday, July 2nd at 8pm

### Pockets of Peace

Join Pastor Patti on zoom Thursday, July 2nd at 8 pm for Pockets of Peace. This is a Celtic inspired contemplative service for 30 minutes. There is music, Celtic blessings, scripture, and silence. It is a great way to wind down at the end of the day. Life can be chaotic, peace can be elusive, so snag some time and create a pocket of peace for yourself. Contact church office for zoom link.



19491 E Smoky Hill Rd  
Centennial, CO80015  
303-690-9816

[www.smokyhillumc.org](http://www.smokyhillumc.org)

***Following Jesus together to make the world a more loving and just place.***

Email all information and updates for church communications to [churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org](mailto:churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org)