



*The Voice of the  
Harpeth River District  
United Methodist Women  
~ Reminder ~*

*2022 Harpeth River District Officers*

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<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>~ ~ open ~ ~</i>	
<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>~ ~ open ~ ~</i>	





Hello UMW Sisters,

As I was gathering materials to write this Christmas message, I received the weekly *Ponderings* email from our former pastor, Rev. Eddie Smotherman. Bro. Eddie is now retired and he and his sweet wife, Kay, live in Murfreesboro. With his permission, I'm sharing this with you.

I wish for you and your loved one a happy, safe, and blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Peggy Owen

### ***Ponderings***

*Have you heard the story about the pastor who looked out of his study window and saw that a little kitten had climbed high up into a skinny tree in his backyard? The kitten was trembling with fear and was afraid to come down. The pastor went out and tried to coax the kitten down with warm milk and food, but no luck. The kitten would not budge.*

*The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided to tie one end of a rope to the tree and the other end to the bumper of his car, and then to drive away just enough to bend the tree over far enough to where he could reach the cat. The plan was working beautifully. The tree was bending over nicely; just a little more and he could have saved the kitten. But then, oh my goodness, the rope broke! The tree went boing! The kitten instantly sailed through the air and out of sight! (Let me hurry to tell you this is going to turn out all right.)*

*The pastor felt terrible. He searched all over the neighborhood, but no one had seen a stray kitten. So, he prayed, Lord, I don't know what else to do but to commit this little kitten into your keeping.*

*A few days later, the pastor was in the grocery store, where he saw one of his church members and noticed that she had cat food in her grocery cart. "Oh," he said. "I see you have some cat food. Do you have a new cat?"*

*The woman answered, "You won't believe this." She proceeded to tell how her daughter had been begging for a cat, but she kept refusing. The woman finally told her daughter, "I'll tell you what. You pray about it, and if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." She told the pastor, "I watched my daughter go out into the backyard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you will NOT believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the sky with its paws outspread and landed right in front of her! So, now we have a new kitten. We named him Matthew, which as you know, means 'Gift from God.'"*

*Now, there's a sermon in that! That's a funny story, but on a more serious note, here's what it is for me. Whether we know it or not, we are launching our children and youth out into the world. And before we launch them into high school and college and life on their own, we had better be sure they are ready—that they have the roots and wings and faith they will need for the living of these days!*

*Let me say something from the bottom of my heart. You can give your child (or grandchild) a new digital camera, a state-of-the-art cell phone, or an expensive automobile if you want to this Christmas, but without question, the best thing you can give them is Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.*

***It's worth pondering,***

***Eddie***

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**2022 Calendar of Events  
for the **District** and the Conference**

Jan. 8 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Executive Team Committee Conference Training for District Officers	Waverly First UMC
<b>Feb. 5 (Sat.)</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>District Leadership Team Meeting</b>	<b>Nolensville First UMC</b>
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>District Faith Lift</b>	
<b>Feb. 12 (Sat.)</b>		<b>Weather Delay Date for District Meeting &amp; Faith Lift</b>	
<b>Apr. 21 (Thurs.)</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>District Partners in Mission</b>	<b>Columbia First UMC</b>
Apr. 29-May 1 (Fri.-Sun.)	TBD	Spring Retreat	Beersheba Springs
<b>June 25 (Sat.)</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Local President's Roundtable/Lunch</b>	<b>St. Andrew Memorial</b>
	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>District Leadership Team Meeting</b>	
July 14-16(Thur.-Sat.)	TBD	Mission u	Scarritt Bennett Center Nashville
Aug. 6 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Executive Team Meeting	TBD
<b>Aug. 20 (Sat.)</b>	<b>9:30 am-2:00 pm</b>	<b>District Mission Study/Brown Bag Lunch</b>	<b>Centerville UMC</b>
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>District Leadership Team Meeting</b>	
Aug. 20 (Sat.)	TBD	Social Action Day	TBD, Memphis Area
Sept. 17 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Annual Meeting	Brentwood First UMC
<b>Sept. 24 (Sat.)</b>	<b>8:30 am-9:00 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Christ UMC</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Meeting Begins</b>	<b>Franklin</b>
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (Fri.-Sun.)	TBD	Fall Retreat	Lakeshore Camp/Retreat Center Eva, TN
Nov. 12 (Sat.)	TBD	Conference Training for District Officers	TBD

