

Good Friday afternoon, New South Family. Welcome to the 36th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending March 6, 2020.

-----**The Critical**-----

Announcements

1) We Are So Grateful to God for His mercy on our people and facilities in and around Nashville. There is much clean up to do, so let's keep those in prayer as they work, and pray for God's grace in the lives of those who grieve.

2) Evangelistic Services Slated for New Life Fellowship: On Sunday, March 8th at 5:00 pm we will be having an evangelistic service at New Life Fellowship, Scottsville, KY, Ray Gill, preaching. Welcome to all in the area!

3) For Pastors and Churches Interested in Affiliating with the Free Methodist denomination, the World Ministry Center has set up [this new web site](#) with lots of information about the process.

4) Important Legislation is Being Introduced that may allow pastors who have opted out of Social Security to opt back in. See the full communique from headquarters below.

5) New Book of Discipline: Pre-orders for the 2019 Book of Discipline are open now! Many have been anticipating the release of the 2019 Book of Discipline for the Free Methodist Church - USA. The 2019 Discipline contains all updates approved by the delegation at the 2019 General Conference. This is an essential resource for our Annual Conferences, churches, pastors and leaders.

The Book of Discipline presents the history, theological roots, and contemporary global mission of the Free Methodist Church - USA. It is our ecclesiastical and organizational manual containing the common constitution of the global Free Methodist Church, and is a contemporary expression of how the FMCUSA organizes itself for effective ministry under the Holy Spirit.

The 2019 Book of Discipline is available in both hard cover and soft cover editions. Click [HERE](#) to pre-order your copy from the LIGHT + LIFE BOOKSTORE today! Delivery is anticipated to be by March 31st.

Church of the Week: McMinnville (TN) Bratcher's Crossroads w/ pastors Bobby Wheeler and Adam Schell

Conference / Superintendent's Calendar (all times eastern)

March 12:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
March 14:	Supt in Charlotte and Greensboro, NC
March 14:	FMH&P – Gallatin #1 of 2
March 20:	District Leaders – Wilmore, 2:00 – 5:00 p
March 20:	BOA – Wilmore, 6:00 – 10:00 p
March 21:	MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00 a - noon
March 31-April 2:	Global Overseers Team (GOT) - Indianapolis
April 9:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
April 18:	FMH&P – Gallatin #2 of 2
April 26-28:	ABS - Tampa
May 14:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
May 29-30:	New South Annual Conference, <u>Wilmore FMC</u>
June 7-9:	ABS - Indianapolis
June 15-20:	NSC Teen Camp
June 11-14:	NSC Family Camp
June 22-26:	NSC Kids' Camp

August 9-11: ABS – Baltimore
August 25-28: Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis
September 23-25: New Room Conference, Nashville, TN
And now...

-----The Important----- Resources, Articles and Attachments

1) An Endorsement for the Missions Prayer Calendar/ Global Prayer & Praise Guide: Pastor Joe Ritter (Waynesville, NC) writes: “I'm putting in a plug for the missions prayer calendar. A number of years ago, our family began using the WGM prayer calendar at the dinner table, and we decided to pray for the missionary children listed for each day. (It was fascinating after we joined KMBC that we started to know some of the WGM missionary kids we prayed for because they attended KMBC.) When we started receiving the FMC missions prayer calendar, we added that, and we've since added the Samaritan Ministries prayer calendar (now that we are members).

The kids love it, they learn to pray for others, and they get a glimpse of things that are happening around the world. These are great tools to teach our children how to pray for others and to be concerned for missions.” (Thanks, Lois Huff, for assembling this!)

2) Here in an Important Video on “Beauty.” [A very good use of thirty minutes!](#)

3) Four Lessons on Leadership by Asbury Seminary president, Tim Tennant. [Click here.](#)

Job Openings

At this point, we have a pastor or interim pastor in every NSC church, although those interim situations are, well, interim.

However, [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at the FMC Human Resources web site.

February /March Birthdays (*that we know of)

Myrna Hale – delegate, Wilmore FMC (KY), March 11

Charlie Fiskeaux – NSC Finance Team and NSC BOA member, March 14

Chris Wittenberg – Minister of Rest Homes, Wilmore FMC (KY), March 21

Roger Ryan – Pastor, Fountain Square Ministries, Bowling Green (KY), March 27

*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to Timothy at newsouthconference@gmail.com

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: This Sunday I continue a series on the letters to the churches of Revelation with the letter to the church at Smyrna, Revelation 2:8-11.

Quote: *Many Christians are tricked into believing that they cannot enjoy life except as a member of the world. However, the happiest people I know are separated followers of Jesus Christ. They are not dependent upon artificial stimulants. They do not have to abuse their bodies to relax their minds. The Bible says, “In Your presence is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11).*

Christianity is not a long list of restrictions. It flings open the windows to the real joy of living. The cosmos would have us believe that following Christ is nothing but "thou shalt nots." The cosmos would have us believe that Christianity is a killjoy, a stolid kind of life, unnatural and abnormal.

But the evidence in the Bible is to the contrary. Christ said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10) ~ Billy Graham

Joke:

A man wanted to be buried with his money. On his death bed, he called his pastor, his doctor and his lawyer to his bedside. "Here's \$30,000 to be held by each of you. I trust you to put this in my coffin when I die so I can take all my money with me."

At the funeral, each man put an envelope in the coffin. Riding away in a limousine, the pastor suddenly broke into tears and confessed, "I put only \$20,000 into the envelope because I needed \$10,000 to repair the roof of the church."

"Well, since we're confiding in each other," said the doctor, "I put only \$10,000 in the envelope because we needed a new CAT Scan machine for the pediatrics ward at the hospital, and we were \$20,000 short."

The lawyer was aghast. "I'm ashamed of both of you," he exclaimed. "I want it known that when I put my envelope in that coffin, I enclosed a check for the full \$30,000."

Blessings on your weekend and day of worship.

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Information on a Pending Bill Allowing Pastors to Opt Back Into Social Security

Please be aware of the following information that just came out from the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA). We wanted to make sure you were aware of this change. Please forward this information on to your pastors.

New Bill Would Give Ministers the Opportunity to Opt-in to Social Security

Congressman Kevin McCarthy recently held a press conference with local pastors about his newly introduced bill, the Clergy Act. This bill would offer ministers – many of whom opted out of paying into Social Security in their youth – a two-year "open season" to effectively opt-in to Social Security. McCarthy released the following statement:

"In speaking with pastors throughout our community and faith leaders across the country, it became clear to me that clergy members need more choice and adaptability when it comes to planning for their retirement, including the ability to opt back into Social Security."

The Clergy Act would allow ministers who have previously opted out of self-employment social security to opt back in. Dan Busby, ECFA's president, said "This opt-in provision is long past due and on behalf of ECFA's over 2,400 members, we salute Representative McCarthy for introducing this legislation."

An application must be filed by a minister no later than the due date of the Federal income tax return (including any extension thereof) for the minister's second taxable year beginning after December 31, 2020. This proposed legislation does not require the payment of retroactive social security taxes for years before the opt-in is effective. For more information, read the full article [here](#), or view the bill [here](#).