

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 58th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending August 28, 2020.

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

Announcements

1) Annual Conference Ordination Service: This service is scheduled for tomorrow, August 29, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30a at Wilmore. Bishop Keith Cowart will be with us. We will be receiving Licensed Pastors, several Conference Candidates, and several Elders. For those who cannot make it, you can watch it via livestream [by clicking here – the WFMC YouTube Channel](#) at 10:00a tomorrow.

* **Change** – sadly, Adam’s travel plans fell through and they are now not able to be with us.

Schedule for the Weekend: Friday, August 28 6:00p NSC BOA meeting – Superintendency – Room C202
Saturday, August 29 10:00a Worship and Ordination Service – Sanctuary

In all the gatherings, the wearing of masks while within 6’ distances of others and while singing is required. Once we’re in seated 6’ away from other family units, masks may then be removed.

Here are some housing options, should you need housing:

Places to stay in Wilmore:

[Scott Station Inn](#)

[Asbury Inn](#)

[Red Bud Inn Bed and Breakfast](#)

[The Home Place guest House](#)

[Potters Inn Bed and Breakfast](#)

Places to stay in Nicholasville:

[Comfort Inn South](#)

[The Home Place Inn](#)

[The Cottage on the Corner](#)

[The Corner House Bed and Breakfast](#)

[Holiday Inn Express](#)

2) NSC Family Camp Change: Due to the number of regular attendees who said they would/could not be here at Eagle Ridge for the camp and the difficulty in securing some key staff positions, the decision has been regretfully made to cancel Family Camp for this year. Scott Clark, Family Camp Director

3) Ongoing Corona Virus Counsel: If where you live is anything like where I live, there is new news, once again, just about every day about the Covid threat and announcements by lawmakers about new regulations, restrictions, etc. Though we are in different states and cities with different recommendations and mandates, please remember that our position on this is to honor the law and presume the best of our lawmakers, even in things about which we disagree – to the point of defacing the gospel. There will very likely come a day in our world where Christians are asked to dishonor Christ – which we cannot do. But until that day, we seek to honor Christ by honoring the laws of our land.

4) A Pastoral Reminder: As I am today, you may be watching with concern what has happened, and is still happening, with Hurricane / Tropical Storm Laura. In addition to praying for the residents who are suffering because of it, and for those who are beginning the recovery work, let's also remember to pray for the spiritual realities at work here.

Through all of these storms, diseases, times of rage and unrest, and nearly unbelievable events, the Lord is calling - shouting even - to our nation, asking that we see Him as real and turn to Him while we have the time and opportunity to do so.

As C. S. Lewis wrote so incisively, "...pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. No doubt pain as God's megaphone is a terrible instrument; it may lead to final and unrepented rebellion. But it gives the only opportunity the bad man can have for amendment. It removes the veil...and plants the flag of truth within the fortress of the rebel soul."

We may well argue about whether God "causes" or "allows" the sorts of pains our nation (and world) is experiencing...but God uses them just the same. Even as we take great compassion on those who are suffering, may we always be able to see the greater spiritual reality behind these times of pain...and respond to God as He calls us to do, praying that others do the same.

Church of the Week: Let's keep the Pastor Msafiri Eradi and the Louisville Kiswahili church in your prayers in these days.

Conference / Superintendent's Calendar (all times eastern; in-person schedule subject to COVID restrictions)

August 28:	District Leader dinner with Bishop Cowart, WFMC, 4:30p
August 28:	NSC BOA meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p (Superintendent Search Team)
August 29:	NSC Adjourned Sitting / Ordination – Wilmore, 10:00a
September 10:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
September 23-25:	New Room Conference, Nashville, TN – all online this year.
October 2-3:	Mustering of the Men – Eagle Ridge Retreat Center
October 7-8:	Superintendent's Leadership Team (SLT) - Zoom
October 16:	DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p
October 16:	BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p
October 17:	MEG / MAC Meeting – Wilmore, 8:00a
November 12:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
December 10:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
March 19:	DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p
March 19:	BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p
March 20:	MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00a
June 17-20:	NSC Family Camp – Eagle Ridge (tentative dates)

And now...

-----The Important-----

Resources

- 1) Free Methodist Pastors and Leaders' Newsletter** – [Click here for the latest edition.](#)
- 2) A Word from FMWM Asia Area Director Eric Spangler:** *"FMC World Missions Asia is deeply grateful for your steady gospel partnership during these last months of pandemic and social upheaval. We wanted to say "Thank you" and so [we put together this little video](#) that we think you will enjoy."*
- 3) Meet the New Director of FMInfuse (FM Youth Ministries) Zach Fleming.** Check out the attached letter.

Job Openings

At this point, we have two churches who need pastors: Greeneville (TN) and Harriman (TN) Please keep this process in your prayers – that the Lord would provide shepherds for His flock. Remember too that [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at FMC Human Resources.

September Birthdays (*that we know of)

Nowitzki, Brian	September 5
Thomas, Joyce	September 12
Cole, Buffy	September 19
McPeake, Patti	September 21
Matthews, Doug	September 30

*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: We conclude our study of Jude this Sunday with likely the most well-known verses of Jude's letter, the doxology, verses 23 and 24.

Quote: "It is God alone who can cast out Satan...but He is generally pleased to do this by man as an instrument in His hand." – John Wesley, *A Caution Against Bigotry*

Joke:



Blessings on your worship this weekend!

D-



Rev. Zach Fleming
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Dear Superintendents,

My name is Zach Fleming. I am the Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry at the McPherson Free Methodist Church, in McPherson, Kansas. I have been serving students and families in McPherson since 2005.

This past March (right before the world got really crazy, really fast) I took over as the director of FM:Infuse. FM:Infuse is a ministry of the Free Methodist Church (USA) which seeks to resource, equip, and encourage Free Methodist Youth Workers across the United States.

One of the ways we accomplish this is by putting on an event called FMYC. FMYC stands for "Free Methodist Youth Conference." This high school event takes place once every four years and is traditionally held in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Upon taking over leadership of FM:Infuse in March, the major task that was before me was FMYC 2021.

In the brief time since early March, COVID-19 really began to impact all of life (and it continues to do so). The FMYC executive planning team had been meeting weekly on platforms like ZOOM since March.

Around mid-to-late July it became apparent to not only our team, but to the Free Methodist Board of Bishops, that because of the realities and uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, that the wise decision is to postpone FMYC until the Summer of 2022.

This announcement was first released in a video to the Free Methodist Youth Workers (USA) Facebook page. If you'd like to view that video, you can do so here: <https://youtu.be/5jv2b0l08g4>

I would also invite you to share the existence of this Facebook group with all youth workers in your conference. It is a space that is frequently updated with resources and announcements, as well as a great space for FM youth workers to connect.

My current goal is to restructure FM: Infuse to reclaim what it was originally intended to be: FM:Infuse exists to see a new generation of youth leaders that are fully committed to the call to reach teenagers for the cause of Jesus Christ through the resourcing and encouragement of the FM denomination.

Our mission is to network and equip youth pastors and volunteers with the necessary resources and training needed to fulfill our shared vision.

I'm working now to not only rebuild the CORE leadership team of FM:Infuse, but also our network of local youth workers in the United States. It would help me immensely if you would pass on/forward the churches in your care (especially those who have a youth worker).

In addition, please pass on my contact information. I'm working hard to reestablish this network and can use all the help I can get.

Youth Workers, I invite you to reach out to me (introduce yourself, etc.) at your earliest convenience. *

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Fleming". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "Z" and "F".

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