

Happy Friday, New South Family!
Welcome to the 92nd edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending May 7, 2021.

Announcements

1) First, Some Annual Conference Details:

A) New South Annual Conference Logistics Annual Conference is scheduled for May 21 – 22, essentially noon Friday to noon Saturday, at Wilmore FMC. Business sessions from 12:00 noon to 5:00p on Friday, and 8:00a to noon on Saturday and the ordination service at 7:00p on Friday evening. The complete notebooks will be out soon. This happens to be, unfortunately, the same weekend as Asbury Seminary graduation and also our local high school graduation, so rooms may be difficult super-close to Wilmore. Plan now to attend.

While inside, we will be wearing masks while moving and while singing, but they may be removed at other times. We'll sit in a distanced fashion around tables during business sessions. Visitors and family welcome, especially for the ordination service. We will be livestreaming the ordination service, but not the business sessions.

B) Annual Conference Reports – If you are a reporting entity to the NSC and would like your organization's document / report included in the conference materials booklet, please submit those to [Charlie Fiskeaux by the end of the day TODAY.](#)

C) Memorials At Annual Conference Each year at Annual Conference, we take a moment and honor those from our churches who have passed on to Christ throughout the past year. Since we did not really do this last year, we'll honor those this year who have died since May 1, 2019. If you'd like those names included in the conference booklet, please submit the name and church affiliation to [Charlie Fiskeaux by TODAY by clicking here.](#)

D) Delegates Names / Contact Information Needed Please submit your delegate's (or delegates') name, address, phone number and e-mail address to Charlie Fiskeaux ASAP for this year's annual conference. [You can do that via e-mail by clicking here.](#)

2) Local Church Annual Reports The World Ministry Center has not yet sent the annual / statistical report to local churches. I've promised you that for several weeks, but so far, they've not released it. I'll certainly pass it along when they do, so again, you haven't missed it. 😊

Resources

1. Free Methodist Liturgical Network – an invitation from Superintendent Bruce Cromwell:

Years ago I became one of the first Free Methodists to formally become an oblate at a Benedictine monastery. For me, it was Saint Meinrad in Southern Indiana, where I met with a spiritual director for about 15 years before I moved to Michigan to pastor at Lansing Central. Though I switched directors and continue to see someone every month now that I'm in Kansas, my affinity and appreciation for the structure of the daily office, lectio divina, examen, and other long-standing devotional and worship practices remains strong.

There are many people across our denomination who have similar interests in a life of liturgy. This is part of why the Free Methodist Liturgical Network was formed.

We recently put together a brief video (3 minutes, 24 seconds) to introduce you...to the FMLN. You can watch it [HERE](#). We have slowly been expanding our connections, but hope to become ever more diverse as we spread across the nation and beyond.

I've also attached (attached / below) a .pdf of the Liturgy of Lament we hosted via Zoom on March 21. Several persons across the denomination, including all of our bishops, participated.

For some, the FMLN won't help in their growth in holiness and grace and their ongoing ministry in the mission of God. For others, though, it may be a welcome service and resonate with their spirit as they continue to follow God's Spirit. Thank you for considering how we can reach all those entrusted to our care, no matter what style or affinity of worship may most speak to their hearts.

2. Oakdale Christian Academy Opportunities: Oakdale Christian Academy is looking for short and long term ministry partners. If you are ready for a two-month, a one-year, or a long-term ministry opportunity contact us and explore Oakdale as a place to invest your energies, gifts, and skills! We are hiring for the roles of cook, dorm deans, admissions director, and teachers. <https://oakdalechristian.org/employment/>

In addition to salary, the following living expenses are fully covered:

- Campus Housing
- All utilities (gas, electric, water, trash pickup)
- Lawn care and building maintenance
- High speed Internet
- Washer and dryer
- Home phone service
- Meals in the dining hall for the employee and household while school is in session (10½ months of the year)
- Free tuition for staff children in grades 7-12

Please contact Will Mosier-Peterson (advancement@oakdalechristian.org) with any questions you may have related to the ministry of Oakdale Christian Academy or the attached annual report.

3. The Center for Pastoral Formation The Free Methodist Center for Pastoral Formation presents: [A Brief Introduction to the Center for Pastoral Formation](#) with all FMC-USA Conference personnel. This is a new ministry in the FMC that covers pastoral care of pastors, credentialing and connections. You who are on the MEG and MAC, pay particular attention.

Articles

1) At Wilmore's Society Meeting last Sunday, I referenced the article attached / below from the Wall Street Journal. To me, it contains lots of good information and perspective, but I particularly noticed that it places much of the responsibility for recovering a stable approach to society upon family and community – which is the domain of the Church.

Regular Free Methodist Newsletters / Communications (click the links below)

[This Week's Issue of the Light and Life Magazine](#)

[The Latest Issue of the Free Methodist Foundation Financial Newsletter](#)

[The Latest Issue of the FM Pastors and Leaders' Newsletter](#)

New South Conference Calendar

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| May 21-22 | NSC Annual Conference – Wilmore |
| June 17-20 | NSC Family Camp |
| June 21-27 | NSC Teen Camp |
| June 28-July 2 | NSC Kids Camp |

May / June Birthdays

Mark Driskill, May 12

Roberta Zent, May 12

Tim Huff, May 17
Scott Clark, June 4
Joy Ireland, June 11
James Demaray, June 19

Sarah Baldwin, June 21
Jan Coleman, June 24
Sharon Bryson, June 27

*I'd love to know your birthday, so the conference can send you an expensive present...or maybe just a "Happy Birthday" wish. If yours is not listed, [please e-mail it to me.](#)

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: This Sunday I return to studying the earthly interactions of the resurrected Christ, looking specifically at Matthew 28:1-10, and Jesus' command that His disciples should go to Galilee.

A Few Quotes and Jokes In Honor of Mother's Day:

"Silence is golden. Unless you have kids, then silence is just suspicious" ~ Unknown

"Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out." ~ Unknown

"It just occurred to me that most of my diet is made up of the foods that my kid didn't finish..." ~ Carrie Underwood

"If evolution really works, how come Mothers only have two hands?" ~ Milton Berle

"The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found." ~ Calvin Trillin

"If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way Mom told you to in the beginning." ~ Unknown

"Motherhood: the days are long, but the years are short." ~ Gretchen Rubin

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." ~ Buddy Hackett

"A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after." ~ Peter De Vries

Daughter: "Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?"

Mom: "I don't know honey, you'll have to ask Grandma."

Blessings on your worship this weekend!

D-