

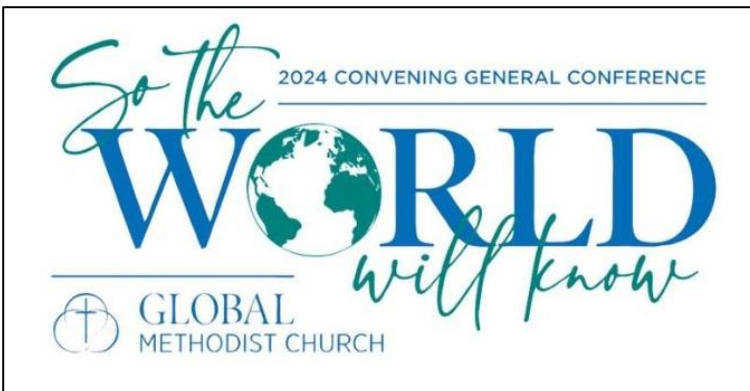
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# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194



A new Methodism has officially begun! In Isaiah 43:18-19, God says to Israel, “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing.”

Over the course of a week in San Jose, Costa Rica, we saw a glimpse of that new thing beginning. From September 20-26 around 340 delegates from around the world came

together to make official the *Doctrine & Discipline* of the Global Methodist Church.

Delegates represented annual conferences from 36 countries, including places like Bulgaria, Slovakia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, and the Philippines. We even had about 40 representatives from Africa who joined via video connection because they had trouble getting travel visas into Costa Rica. And while we were there, it was announced that churches from six new countries had voted to join the GMC: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Peru, and Mexico.

Every morning began with a worship service. The music was incredible. The sermons were deeply moving. And the Holy Spirit was powerfully at work. Many compared it to a revival. People often fell to their knees in prayer as they worshiped the Lord. It was like no other conference I’d ever seen before.

The rest of each day was spent approving needed legislation to formalize our budding denomination. So, we voted to approve a new **Constitution** for the church, establishing the standards and rules that will govern how the church functions. This included our core doctrinal standards, such as the Articles of Religion, John Wesley’s *Standard Sermons*, and some of the foundational creeds, like the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. This section is protected, and change to it is limited.

## **Bishops**

The conference also approved a new plan for bishops. As mentioned before, there were two options available. In one every annual conference would have its own bishop, while in the second we would have a smaller group of **at-large bishops**. In the end, the conference chose the second of those: the *General Superintendency Plan*.

So, there will be fewer bishops. They will oversee the needs of the whole church, while supervising **4-6 annual conferences**. But there job will be less administrative and more spiritual leadership. The day-to-day administration of the annual conference will be handled by the **Conference Superintendent** (what used to be the President Pro Tempore).

To that end, we elected **six new interim bishops** who will serve part-time for the two years leading up to the 2026 General Conference, which will then elect a full slate of bishops. Each bishop can serve a maximum of two six year terms (12 years total). And then, they return to being a local church pastor. There are no permanent bishops.

The interim bishops elected are: Kimba Evariste (Congo), Carolyn Moore (Georgia), Leah Hidde-Gregory (Texas), John Pena Auta (Nigeria), Jeff Greenway (Ohio), and Kenneth Levingston (Texas). Each of these will begin service in November. Also, Bishop Scott Jones and Bishop Mark Webb will continue to serve the church for another two years.

## **New Mission Statement**

The conference also approved a new mission statement and vision statement. The new mission statement is: **“The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.”**

And the **new vision statement** helps clarify how we will fulfill that mission: “Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.”

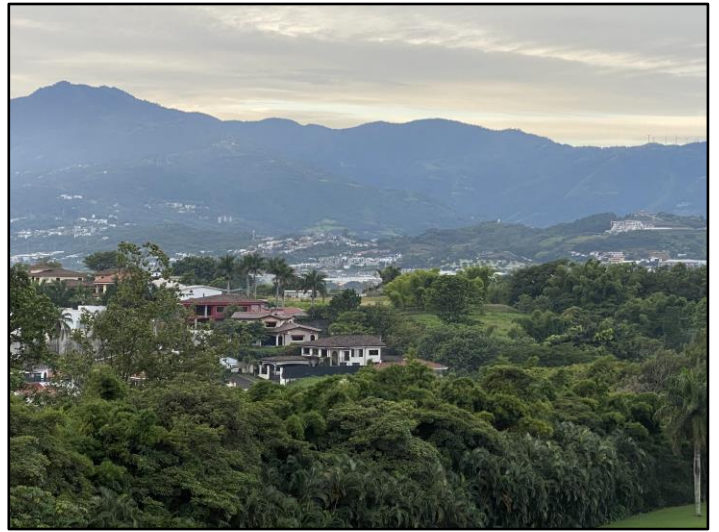
## **Mission Partners**

One of the exciting things that happened along the way is that our delegates from Mississippi-West Tennessee got to meet with some of the leadership from the two Philippine conferences, the **Mega Manilla Conference** and the **Covenant Conference**. It is likely that within the next few months we will form an official mission partnership with these two conferences, committing to help them financially and missionally as they plant new churches to reach people for Jesus.

These are just a few of the highlights from General Conference. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! We could not have done any of this without you. I am excited for what God is doing through the Global Methodist Church and what He has in store for us in the days ahead!

*Brother Lauren*







# October

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

9:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Church Office Closed

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Staff Parrish

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

4:30 p.m. Ladies' Handbell Practice

5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

6:15 p.m. Snack Supper

6:30 p.m. Youth

6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

9-12 noon Methodist Market



The delivery of the shoe boxes is only the beginning of the Operation Christmas Child story. Gospel books in 80 languages are offered to boys and girls. Before the boxes are handed to each child, they listen to the story of salvation through Jesus Christ. The salvation story is placed on the top of each box. The Good News of illustrated pages makes the Jesus come alive in a way children can understand.

Boxes will be picked up by November 17.

## Join Us in Supporting Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts

Hurricane Helene has left a trail of devastation across several of our Global Methodist Church communities, severely impacting families and congregations in its path. The destruction is overwhelming, and the need for support is urgent. As we lift up the victims and their communities in prayer, we recognize that immediate financial assistance is crucial for the recovery efforts already underway. While volunteer opportunities will come in time, right now the greatest need is financial support to help rebuild homes, churches, and lives.

We invite you to join us in this critical response by giving financially. Your generosity will directly impact those affected by this heartbreaking disaster. Here's how you can donate:

**Make checks payable to First Methodist Church and mark them Hurricane Relief.**



14. Mallory Pender

15. James Cresswell

Laura King

16. Jack Robinson

18. Brenda Paul

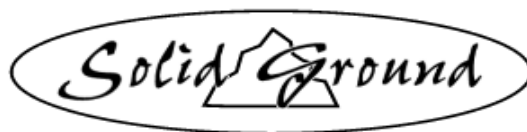
19. Buford Atkinson



This week we will continue to move through our October series, *The God Who Corrects Us*. These lessons began with The Fall of man and move through the early Bible stories of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel. This Sunday we will turn to the story of Noah. Our lesson "Doing What's Right" reminds us that sometimes following God is hard and people may tease us or try to influence us to disobey what God would want. Noah's story shows us the promise of God and how He will be with us.

## **HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY**

Our Children's Wednesday Night Bible study has our children learning about the stories and people in the Old Testament. For the next several weeks, we will be in the Book of Judges, learning the stories of Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Samuel. This Bible Study has us moving through the Books of the Bible, one story at a time. We meet at 5:30 p.m. with Snack Supper at 6:15 p.m. We will dismiss at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Bible Study for the Youth meets at 6:00 in the basement. We are moving through a study call "Confirming Your Faith." This study encourages us to talk about things in our everyday lives that can help strengthen our Faith or hinder it. We took a break at the mid-way point in this study to watch the movie, "Run the Race." This movie is the story of 2 brothers who have been dealt an unfair hand in life. One brother has a very deep-rooted faith while the other one struggles with the question "WHY?" Why would God allow these things to happen to us? Why do other people get the breaks? Why should I continue to follow Him? For the next several weeks, we will be moving through the Bible Study that compliments this movie.

## **M28 Camp – Tentative Date -July 8-12, 2025**

Camp registration has opened. I will register our Youth Group on Monday, October 14. Sign-up will require a non-refundable deposit of \$120 to hold your place. Spots will only be held if the full deposit has been paid. Deposit may be split into 2 payments of \$60, but half must be paid upfront.

## **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

This a reminder that a new Sunday School Class for young adults will meet across from the His Kidz Sunday School rooms. If you would like more information, contact Christy Vandevere (571-5330).

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024**

Greeters	Donna Heidel/Marilyn Burnett
Scripture	Luke 15:1-7
Sermon	<b>“Prevenient Grace”</b>
Flowers	Rita and Max Sanders

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### **OCTOBER**

13. 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 17:11-19
14. No other rock	Isaiah 44:6-17
15. I have seen God	Genesis 32:22-31
16. God’s watchful care	Psalms 121
17. Promised days of restoration	Jeremiah 31:27-34
18. God’s law enlightens	Psalms 119:97-104
19. Carry our your ministry	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5