

Worship

Lots of positive feedback on the Wilderness Lenten worship series, Holy Week services & events and Easter services. Holy Humor Sunday seemed to be well received. We will have several guest preachers in May.

- May 10 - Mike Collier - I will be in worship but will have been in Washington D.C. with the Reynolds Academy all week.
- May 17 - Bob Groenke - I will be in Florida on vacation
- May 24 - Brent Livingood - I will be traveling back from Florida
- Upcoming Summer Sermon Series: Faces of Our Faith: we'll dig deep into the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in the biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace.
- Tentative Stewardship Worship Series: October 11, 18, & 25 with consecration Sunday on Nov. 8.

Discipleship

- Mike Collier held a meeting of the Discipleship Leaders on April 19th - more to come on that.
- Methodism 101 continues
- Women's Small Group - 2PM - Wednesdays
- Women's & Men's Small Groups 6:30 PM Wednesdays

Outreach Ministries: Colleen Dixon held an informational meeting on Sunday, March 29th following worship. More to come on Outreach as this ministry begins to take shape.

Disaster Relief Ministries: I have not been successful in getting someone to replace Jim Hallsey. Will continue this work.

- Building Teams
 - April Teams - Some will stay at Smethport UMC some at JUMC - all will eat with us on Wednesday nights
 - 4/19-25 - team of 18 from Powell UMC , OH, at JUMC
 - 4/26-5/2 - team of 17 from Bethlehem UMC, VA, at Smethport (if shower trailer is repaired)
 - 4/27-5/2 - team of 8-10 from Christ Church, NY, at JUMC
- The lockbox combination is 1970.
- At the direction of the Property Care Team I have asked that the building teams be limited to twice per month.
- West Jefferson UMC has requested use of the fellowship hall for Disaster Team Meals while WJUMC hosts their Summer Reading Program this summer. They will use the fellowship hall between 5-7 on Sundays and Thursdays. They will not cook, but will prepare the food to serve. The dates are: June 14, Sunday, June 18, Thursday, June 21, Sunday, June 25, Thursday, June 28, Sunday, July 2, Thursday , July 5, Sunday, July 9, Thursday, July 12, Sunday, & July 16, Thursday.

Membership, etc.

Prospective Members

Toria Knox & Pat Rogers, Jamie & Deanna Knox, Laurie & Bobby Moon, Allen & Phyllis Shumate

New People:

Christopher & Lynn Gambell, Lucille Longhorn

Continuing Education 2026 (see attached report)

Reynolds Leadership Academy for Evangelism & Discipleship 2026-2027 Cohort -

5/4-7/2026

Session 2 - Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington DC

9/29-10/3/2026

Session 3 - Rise Leadership Institute, Leawood KS

Vacation

May 11-May 24, 2026 - Florida

Annual Conference

June 18-21, 2026 (I will leave after worship on June 14, 2026)

Pastor's Assessment

Listening Meeting Date:

Action Plan Date:

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

A Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is a churchwide prayer practice of adding a brief daily breakthrough prayer. Who is it for? It is for everyone: all ages, staff and congregants, pastors and laypersons, ministry teams, committees, small groups, and classes. Congregations are already praying prayers of healing, protection, and comfort; a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is a simple way for the entire church to learn to seek, ask, and knock in prayer boldly. It focuses on praying for God to break through with fresh ideas, new hopes, dreams, and God's preferred future for the church and community. See attached.

2026 Worship Attendance

Total	158
In Person	71
w/o snow totals	82
Online	87
w/o snow totals	81

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

- From the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church¹

Team building is the first step: Creating a team is crucial to this process. Jesus modeled the importance of doing ministry in collaboration with others. Gathering a group of people is essential to praying, dreaming, listening, discerning, designing, and communicating the next steps. Often we begin with a need, but it is complex and requires a team effort. God is an integral part of the team, and with God, we know that all things are possible.

Begin by prayerfully asking God to identify some prospective team members. Then, listen and take notes about the people God is leading you to. Invite them to be a part of your team. Be clear about the role and function of the team.

Team building tips to consider:

- Resist adding this task to an existing team. You can encourage a group to do something new with God. Many of the current teams already have full work agendas and are busy.
- Be mindful to invite people who accurately reflect the congregation and the neighborhood in which your church exists. Remember, only some team members need to be congregation members.
- Consider inviting people who are new or have been visiting the church. This offers an excellent chance to have a fresh perspective to the team. They are not yet used to the church culture, norms, and systems.
- Invite people experiencing a season of “holy discontent,” sensing or desiring something new or different for the church and, more importantly, for those in the community that are unchurched.
- Ask people to join based on their spiritual gifts, passion, and passionate discipleship journey.
- Ensure that the people have the capacity and are committed to being present, participating, and giving witness to the team process and focus.

Has the neighborhood around your church transformed quickly or slowly over time? Are their people from the community missing during ministry moments and worship? Is your congregation busy and constantly being used, but you know there is more to dream with God? Are you tired and do not know what to do next? Are you wondering where to start and what to do? You have come to the right place to join a powerful prayer movement with God. Breakthrough Prayer resources offer daily discipleship disciplines to dream new dreams and bold ministries in your life, congregation, community, and beyond.

What is a breakthrough prayer initiative? It is a churchwide prayer practice of adding a brief daily breakthrough prayer. Who is it for? It is for everyone: all ages, staff and congregants, pastors and laypersons, ministry teams, committees, small groups, and classes. Congregations are already praying prayers of healing, protection, and comfort; a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is a simple way for the entire church to learn to seek, ask, and knock in prayer boldly. It focuses on praying for God to break through with fresh ideas, new hopes, dreams, and God's preferred future for the church and community.

How could we begin a breakthrough prayer initiative? Is the Holy Spirit stirring inside of you or your team? First, pastors and laypersons come together and form a breakthrough prayer team. Then, they unite in discerning and writing a breakthrough prayer for their congregation. Next, the congregation is invited to daily pray the same short, specific prayer at the same time every day for the duration of the initiative. For example, you could ask everyone to pray the breakthrough prayer every day at 10 a.m. or 10 p.m. for 40 days.

Why would a congregation begin a breakthrough prayer initiative? Our communities and contexts are constantly in transition and transforming. However, one constant is that God is already at work in mission and

¹ <https://www.holston.org/breakthrough-prayer-initiative>

ministry in our communities.

Instead of deciding on our own what it looks like to be in ministry with God in our context, it seems best to be still, pause, pray, listen, and seek God's wisdom and revelation in moving forward in ministry. Then, we will know the next steps of joining God in ministry in our context. Chances are God will reveal new ministry opportunities that we might not dream of but will reach and transform people's lives.

Does breakthrough prayer work? Yes! You can find many breakthrough prayer stories across the entire canon of scripture. One specific breakthrough prayer echoes across our congregations every Sunday when we pray the Lord's Prayer together. We are asking for God's will to be done (breakthrough) in our midst, just as it is in heaven. Breakthrough prayer initiatives have led to churches seeing transformation in their ministries and relationships with their communities. Breakthrough prayer is a natural way for congregations to experience renewal.

God is working in ways beyond our imagination, and we have the opportunity to join in.

Let's Pray!

Here is Holston Conference Congregational Development's Breakthrough Prayer that you are welcome to join us in praying for all Holston congregations:



And here is a simple breakthrough prayer for families with young children and people on the go:

God, show us new dreams for our church and lives. We want to join you in ministry in our neighborhood. Your way is always awesome. Amen.

What breakthrough is God revealing?

Where is God inviting you to create new things for new people?