

# The Good News

MAY 2025

HARDINSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Hardinsburg United Methodist Church is part of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Annual Conference has a double meaning. One is that it is the organization that oversees the ministry and mission of the church. Bishops, District Superintendents, Conference staff and committees of the conference administer the affairs of the conference, appoint pastors, credential clergy and manage the camps and institutions of the church. The other is that it is an annual meeting of lay and clergy delegates from the local churches of the Annual Conference.

This year our Annual Conference will meet in Owensboro at Kentucky Wesleyan College June 9 - 11. Sheila Eakin is our lay delegate, and I am your clergy delegate. Hope Overflowing is the theme for Annual Conference 2025. It's based on Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

These are the anticipated events and actions of this year's Annual Conference.

### Vote on Constitutional Amendments.

A Constitutional Amendment is any legislation that proposes a change to Part I of our Book of Discipline (Paragraphs 1-59), otherwise known as the Constitution.

Constitutional Amendments must first acquire a 2/3 majority vote of the General Conference. When it passes at General Conference, it

goes to every annual conference worldwide for ratification. The amendment is adopted if at least 2/3 of all the voting members of the annual conferences in United Methodism approve it.

Each member of the Annual Conference will have the opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" to each amendment. These amendments cannot be debated or changed by the Annual Conference.

The first and most involved amendment is Regionalization. It involves restructuring the current configuration of The United Methodist Church.

Regionalization allows for the United States and each Central Conference (areas outside of the United States) to become a regional conference. Each regional conference would have the authority to adapt parts (not all) of the Book of Discipline for the missional effectiveness of that region. Each regional conference would continue to consist of multiple annual conferences – as we currently are structured. (For more information on Regionalization go to [kyumc.org](http://kyumc.org))

### Reduction of Districts.

Currently the Kentucky Conference has nine districts. The recommendation, to be voted upon at the 2025 session of the Annual Conference, is to reduce the number of districts to four. This proposal would place Hardinsburg in the newly formed WEST District.

### The Sale of the Conference Office in Crestwood, KY.

The Conference Board of Trustees is recommending the sale of the conference office building and Episcopal residence. The conference office and Episcopal residence are



both located in Crestwood. These sales are the result of downsizing of conference staff and the sharing of a bishop with The Tennessee/Western Kentucky Conference.

The Memorial Worship Service remembering clergy and spouses who have died since the last session of Annual Conference.

The Ordination Worship Service where we will ordain and commission our new clergy. On Monday evening at Settle Memorial UMC, our new pastor, Tess Welch, will be commissioned on the Elder track.

Reading of the Appointments. At the end of Annual Conference for more than 200 years, the Bishop reads the appointments setting the clergy appointments for the following year. It is anticipated that Tess Welch will be announced as pastor at Hardinsburg and Talbert Chapel.

Since 1980, I have found my seat at Annual Conference and celebrated with Methodist clergy and laity from all over Kentucky. Remembering the servants of the Lord who have gone on to glory, joyfully receiving new clergy into the family of the ordained and proudly acknowledging the great accomplishments of the churches of the Kentucky Annual Conference.

Your Servant,  
Keith





## Welcome Pastor Tess Welch!

We are happy to welcome Tess Welch as our new pastor of Hardinsburg and Talbert Chapel United Methodist Church! Her 1st sermon will be July 13<sup>th</sup>. Tess is completing her final year of her Master of Divinity at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where she has focused on religious education, church and community leadership, and women in ministry.

During seminary, Tess

served as Assistant Children's Minister at Haygood Memorial UMC in Atlanta. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Education and a minor in American Sign Language. At WKU, she was active in campus ministry and also interned at Scottsville First UMC. Her love for ministry was nurtured further during her four summers as a counselor at Camp Loucon.

Originally from Houston,

Texas, Tess has called Kentucky home since 2018. She enjoys cooking, exploring nature, and spending time with loved ones. She will be commissioned as a provisional elder at this year's Annual Conference and feels deeply honored to serve our churches.

Please join us in giving Pastor Tess a warm and joyful welcome!

Ginny Hamm is looking to host an open house in May at Three Bells Farm. Stay tuned for more information on the date and time.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." ~ Henry David Thoreau

## Congratulations BCHS Seniors!

We have two seniors in our congregation who will graduate from BCHS on May 16.

Mercer Rogers is the son of Scott and Heather Rogers of Hardinsburg, and the grandson of Burns and Marcella Mercer. Mercer will be attending Brescia University in Owensboro. He plans to follow a curriculum for Pre-pharmacy and he will be playing basketball for the Brescia Bearcats!

Larkyn Knochel is the daughter of Corey and Jayme Knochel of

Westview, and the granddaughter of Leon and Norita Smiley. Larkyn will be attending Jefferson Community and Technical College/ University of Louisville via their ULtra program. She plans to major in Visual Arts Communication/Communication Arts Technology.

Congratulations Mercer and Larkyn as you begin a new adventure. May God guide your pathway.



## Support Project Graduation – Special Collection on May 4

Project Graduation will take place on May 16 and is a valuable, all-night celebration for our graduating seniors. Organized by dedicated volunteers - including parents, school staff, and community members - this event offers a safe, supervised, and substance-free environment for students to celebrate their achievement.

Each year, HUMC supports this important initiative by taking up a special collection, and we will do so again this year on **Sunday, May 4**. Your support helps ensure a memorable and safe night for our BCHS graduates. Thank you for being part of this community effort!







*"All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."*

~ Abraham Lincoln



Congratulations to Jeff LaGrange, (son of Donna & Denny LaGrange) on being named the Messenger-Inquirer Coach of the Year!



## Blankets of Praise

Join us in making a difference to kiddos in Crisis. It's a great time to start thinking about how you can be part of this wonderful mission. Whether you're skilled at making blankets or prefer to find one, there are many ways to participate. If you're making a blanket, a good size to aim for is about 1 ¼ x 1 ¼ yards, though this can vary. If you are more of a no-sew kind of person, try teaming up with someone who is - where you provide the supplies they provide the sewing. Also, you can YouTube how to make a simple fleece blanket simply by cutting & tying.

On May 11, Mother's Day, Bro. Keith will bless the blankets before we deliver them to our dedicated law enforcement offic-



ers. When a child must be removed from care, these blankets are given to them in order to wrap them in safety to know they are not forgotten. Our goal is to surpass last year's generous donation of 29 blankets, and with your help, we can make an even bigger impact this year. Together, we can show law enforcement officers and children in need that they are supported, cared for, and never forgotten, making this year's project truly meaningful and impactful.

## Gopher Phil is Collecting for the Blessing Team!

Phil the Gopher will be storing food....er, funds, for the HUMC Blessing Team. This team of dedicated women began meeting in 2021, sending cards of encouragement and condolence to all who came to their attention. Funds collected will be used for printed post cards and stamps.



## Memorial Day



**With Honor & Gratitude  
We Remember**

*"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."*

~ General George S. Patton



# **Hardinsburg United Methodist Church**

**P O Box 3**

**123 Main Street**

**Hardinsburg, KY 40143**

Pastor: Keith Switzer

Phone: 270-756-5901

Cell: 270-702-2276

Pastor: Kswitzer@kyumc.net

Secretary: hmcsecretary@outlook.com

[www.Hardinsburgumc.org](http://www.Hardinsburgumc.org)

[YouTube.com/Hardinsburgumc](https://YouTube.com/Hardinsburgumc)

**May 2025 Newsletter**



Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and YouTube

Livestream

**Welcome Home to  
Hardinsburg United Methodist Church**