

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

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The **POWER** of We

Disaster Response: How You Can Help

In This Issue

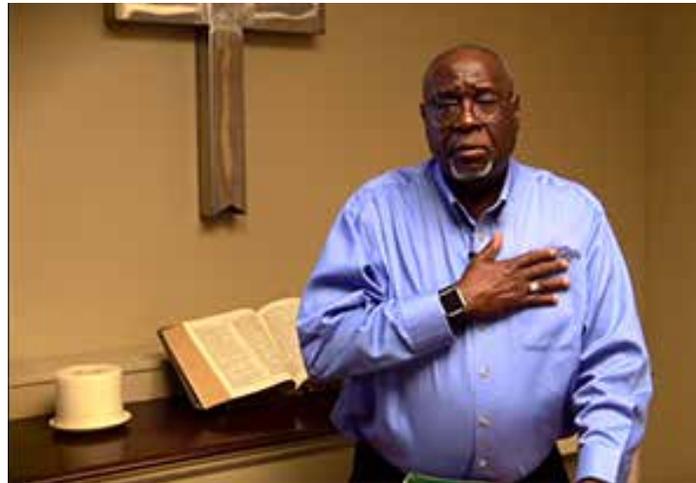
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Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

Contact The Circuit Rider at news@mississippi-umc.org.

Mission:

The mission of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



As several regions of the country journey on the long road to recovery, people are anxious to do something to serve those in need. However, assistance without organization can be harmful instead of helpful. In this video (<https://vimeo.com/237756800>), Bishop Swanson explains how the Mississippi Conference can be helping hands and a non-anxious presence in the lives of those affected by disaster.



2017 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/2t7XYFm>

Purpose:

The Mississippi Annual Conference—empowered by love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship—forms spiritual leaders, faith communities and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

Our Values

The Mississippi Conference Four Core Values are love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship. For more information, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe.



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out
The **POWER** of We

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www.mississippi-umc.org

word POWER

Philippians 4:1-9 (NIV)

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Final Exhortations

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Bishop On the Move

Below are some of the events where Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. will be visiting in the upcoming weeks.

October 18 (Wednesday)

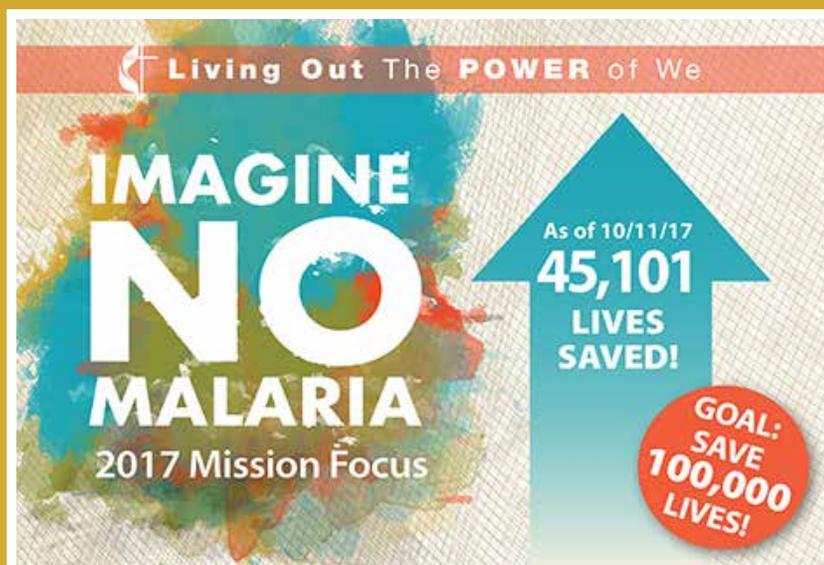
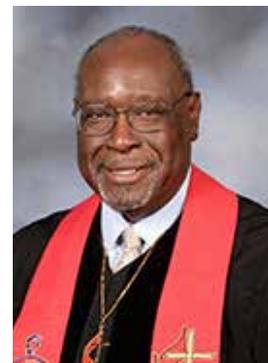
Bishop Swanson will be the keynote speaker at the annual Latasha Norman Domestic Violence Forum at Jackson State University beginning at 6:00 p.m.

October 24 (Tuesday)

Parkway Hills United Methodist Church in Madison will be the site of a Scouting dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bishop Swanson is hosting this event for the Andrew Jackson Council of Boy Scouts of America.

October 29 (Sunday)

- Bishop Swanson will preach at St. United Methodist Church in Laurel as they celebrate their 121st anniversary. Worship service begins at 11:00 a.m.
- There will be a teaching event for lay and clergy in the Hattiesburg District at Richton United Methodist Church in Richton at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Swanson will teach on making disciples with a focus on the four Core Values of Living Out The Power of We.



Imagine No Malaria Update

For more information:
www.mississippi-umc.org/inm

Connecting

Miss. Conference's Participates in Week of Praying Our Way Forward

The Mississippi Conference is leading the week of Praying Our Way Forward October 22-28. Faith communities within the conference are not only invited but encouraged to pray daily for the church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Conferences have been asked to unite in prayer for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. Clergy, laity, congregations and small groups across the denomination are asked to pray for God's guidance. The Mississippi Conference will provide resources leading up to the week of prayer for those who desire to participate, as well as brief reflections throughout the week of October 22.



Promo Kit for The Gathering 2018 Available Now

Plan to bring your youth (grades six through 12) to The Gathering 2018: Director's Cut (www.mississippi-umc.org/thegathering) because this annual weekend conference gives students the freedom to have fun as a faith community. Most importantly, they can enjoy a shared worship experience designed specifically for youth, to engage them in a deeper relationship with God.

At this link: www.mississippi-umc.org/tgdirectorscutpromokit, you'll find everything you need--from logos and images to videos and posters--to promote this youth event at your church. For more information about The Gathering Student Conference 2018, contact Mike Howington, youth and family ministry coordinator at 601.354.0515 or mhowington@mississippi-umc.org.



Experience the Mississippi Convocation on the Black Church

Join church leaders from across the state for the 2017 Mississippi Convocation on the Black Church (<http://bit.ly/2fm7wHn>) Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Anderson United Methodist Church located at 6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson. The theme of this year's convocation is "Intentional Discipleship through the Lens of the Black Church Experience."

All clergy and laity are welcome to participate. The conference cost \$30 per person. Registration is required and the deadline is Monday, October 23, 2017. For questions, contact Jane Horstman at jhorstman@mississippi-umc.org or 769.243.7072.



2017 Mission Grants Deadline: October 31

These grants are established to strengthen missions in the local churches of our annual conference as the church reaches out to their communities. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500 per project, with one award of up to \$10,000. Don't delay! Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, October 31, 2017 and must be delivered in person or by mail. Do not fax or email applications for submission. Find more details here:

www.mississippi-umc.org/2017missiongrants.



Mississippi United Methodist Foundation Offers Communications for Churches Workshop

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation is pleased to present *Communicating in an Ever-Changing World* with Scott Vaughan (*photo right*). The workshop for clergy and church communicators is Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Foundation Building located at 581 Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland. The event has been approved by the Center for Ministry for ½ CEU for clergy. Refreshments and lunch are provided. There is no cost for the event, but you must pre-register at <http://www.ms-umf.org/events> or by calling 601.948.8845. Space is limited, so register early.



Disaster Response News

Register Now for Upcoming ERT Training: Oct. 21 and Jan. 27

Those who feel called to providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster, are not only welcome but encouraged to attend an early response team (ERT) training.

The registration fee is \$40 and includes a manual, t-shirt, lunch, background check and leader expenses. For ERT certification, participants will need to attend the entire course. For more information and how to register for the October 21 (<http://bit.ly/2fDbDvt>) training at Pascagoula First United Methodist Church and the January 27 (<http://bit.ly/2gAXXBH>) training at Madison United Methodist Church, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/ert>.



Opportunities to Serve in Disaster Recovery

If your church is looking for opportunities for a fall mission trip, you do not have to look far. There are many places that your team can serve in long-term recovery from several disasters that have affected the lives of people here in Mississippi.

Go to <http://bit.ly/2kuIVAt> to find out regions where you can serve and Live Out The POWER of We.



Faith Communities

Readiness 360: A Ministry Tool

Readiness 360 is an online survey tool that assesses four critical capacities for multiplying thriving ministries: spiritual intensity, dynamic relationships, missional alignment and cultural openness.

Whether starting a new worship service, a new ministry site or even revitalizing an existing faith community, the Readiness 360 survey report can be a helpful tool. It will aid your congregation gain shared, unprecedented insight as to where you are (your unique strengths in your current context) so that any new vision, goal or ministry becomes more achievable. It also points your church toward specific steps that builds on these areas of strength, leading your church toward renewal and a future that is befitting of the Gospel. Find more details here: <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/readiness360>.



Spiritual Leadership

Pick Up Four CEUs with Journey Partners

This two-year training program in spiritual direction is a historic practice within the Christian tradition. Journey Partners students participate in six retreats, all held at the Grey Center in Canton. Each retreat includes times for large-group study, Sabbath practice, peer-group learning and worship. Journey Partners is open to both laity and clergy of all denominations.

The next Journey Partners class begins in March 2018. If you're interested in learning more, please visit the Center for Ministry website (<http://www.centerforministry.com/>), email Richard Robbins at richard@centerforministry.com or download the Journey Partners brochure (<http://bit.ly/2hmz0cW>). **Applications are due by December 1.**



Administration

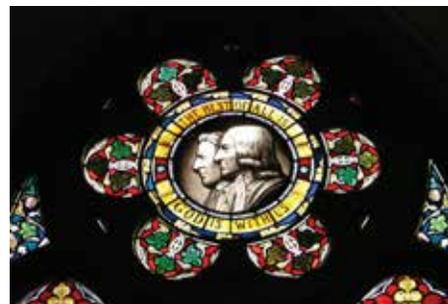
Learn About Financial Leadership at Administration Training

This financial leadership training provides counsel and guidance to strengthen the administrative and financial abilities of the local church treasurer, financial secretary, finance committee members and church business administrators. Course options range from human resources to budget preparation to internal controls.

The training cost \$60 for the first person from a church and \$10 for each additional person from the same church. This fee covers meals, snacks and resources for the complete day.

For more information on course descriptions, the agenda and registration, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/localchurchadministrationtraining>. Click on the location below nearest you if you're ready to register today!

- West Point First UMC, Starkville District - Oct. 14, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2wapyiY>)
- District Office, Meridian District - Nov. 18, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2xy29eX>)
- Williamsburg UMC-Collins, Hattiesburg District - Dec. 9, 2017 (<http://bit.ly/2feyFZa>)



Open Enrollment Begins October 1

Beginning October 1, eligible members will have an opportunity to enroll in the Mississippi Conference insurance plan(s) with an effective date of January 1, 2018. To be eligible to participate in the conference-sponsored insurance plan(s), you must be under episcopal appointment serving at least ¾ times (75 percent) with a minimum compensation of \$20,454. Find out more details on enrollment into medical, dental and vision plans and other benefits here: <http://bit.ly/2ysPLdW>.



Protecting Our Churches: Festival and Carnival Risk Management Tips

Many churches are engaging in different types of activities that will attract young people.

Often we find that festivals and carnivals are ways to get new and existing youth involved in the church. It is important, though, to remember the issues that come along with hosting these events.

For several safety issues to address when putting on a festival or carnival, go to <http://bit.ly/2xBAFKY>.

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. administers the conference property insurance plan and writes a monthly newsletter titled, Protecting Our Churches for the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church.



Students

Mad Lab: Youth Leader Training

By Mike Howington, Miss. Conference Youth and Families Coordinator

I like to call youth ministry the "Mad Lab" of the church. Unfortunately, just like with any lab there are failures along with successes. My heart is to help your church's mad scientist have as many victories as possible.

We have formed a team of amazing youth trainers. I would love for me or one of our Mad Lab leaders to come to your church or district to walk through all the equations you need for a healthy and fruitful student ministry.

For more information contact youth and families coordinator, Mike Howington at 601.354.0515 or mhowington@mississippi-umc.org.



Still Time to Register for Orange Tour

Experience fresh insight and new ideas for children, youth and family ministry that is powerful and lasts week after week at the Orange Tour Friday, October 20 at Heritage United Methodist Church (<http://bit.ly/2wglJuk>) in Hattiesburg. Sponsored by Heritage UMC and co-sponsored by the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church (<http://bit.ly/2lbVpLm>), Orange Tour is easy to attend, easy to afford and easy to see the impact on your whole team and your whole church. Go to <http://bit.ly/2vF65ZE> find a list of Orange Tour pricing, registration and other details.



Save the Date | Announcements

Laity Sunday 2017

October 15

On Laity Sunday, we celebrate that we are all called, laity as well as clergy, to go and make disciples. We are called to be the church together in a world so desperately in need of hope.

This year's theme is "Therefore, Go! With HOPE Through Hospitality." We practice hospitality wherever we are, even when we are outside our home or church. We also receive hospitality. How we do both...offer and receive...reflects how we live out the calling of God upon our lives.



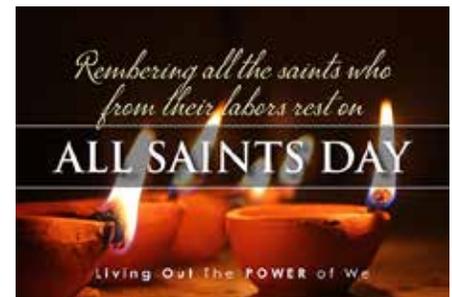
The Gathering Tour: Director's Cut - Columbus First UMC and Senatobia First UMC October 15 and November 12

Let your youth get a sneak peek of what's to come at The Gathering 2018 by bringing them to one of two remaining The Gathering: Director's Cut Tour (www.mississippi-umc.org/thegathering) stops. Each stop is free to attend. Registration for this event is requested for planning; however, additional guests are welcome. Find more information here (www.mississippi-umc.org/tgdirectorscuttour).

All Saints Day

November 1

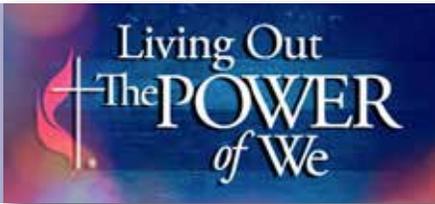
We recognize and celebrate All Saints Day November 1 and "all the saints who from their labors rest." All Saints Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us. On All Saints Day, many churches read the names of their members who died in the past year. To find out what The United Methodist Church believes about saints, go to <http://bit.ly/2xBbHSH>.



Holy Land Journey 2018

February 5-16, 2018

You are invited to travel with Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. to the Holy Land- the place where Jesus was born, walked among humanity, performed miracles, died for us and was resurrected. The Holy Land tour is February 5-16, 2018. For more details on the pilgrimage, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/holylandjourney.



Four-part Bible Study: Living Out The POWER of We
With Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.
Link to access the videos: <http://bit.ly/2l1bUbW>

Employment

As a courtesy to the Mississippi Annual Conference, job announcements from across the United Methodist connection are featured in *The Circuit Rider*. To submit an employment notice, send an email to news@mississippi-umc.org. Postings are not guaranteed to appear more than once in Mississippi Conference publications. **To read a description of job opening(s) listed below as well as other listings, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities>.**

- Associate Director of Student Ministry
- Director of Scouting Ministry (GCUMM)
- Part-time Church Secretary
- Part-time Minister of Music
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Director of Youth Ministry

Stay Connected

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC
- You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbyuHKRMLljq
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/

Stay Connected with ConnectText

Mississippi United Methodists with the ability to receive text messaging via phone are encouraged to sign up for ConnectText. The service is another option for people to stay informed about important dates and other conference happenings.

To sign up for ConnectText:

1. Remember, you must have the ability to get text messages on your phone.
2. From your mobile phone, text the letters 'MSUMC' to the number 95577 and press send.
3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you're connected!