

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: humc@hiawasseeumc.org
Website: hiawasseeumc.org
706-896-2818
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Hiawassee United Methodist Church
1139 U.S. Highway 76
P.O. Box 609 Hiawassee, GA 30546

SUNDAY:
9:00am Prayer
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship Service

WEDNESDAY:
6:00 pm Adult Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Our Mission:

Worship Jesus Christ;
Share the Gospel;
Lead the Lost to Christ;
Grow as Disciples;
Be a Godly **influence** in our Community.



HUMC Mountain Messenger



Pastor Sam Hamby
Church (706) 896-2818
Cell (706) 400-2618
Visit us online at www.hiawasseeumc.org



“Going On To Perfection”

I once knew a young man in another Christian denomination that experienced a call on his life to become a pastor. After expressing this calling to his pastor and allowing his pastor and local deacon board to examine him, he was ordained in that church a few months later. In not so similar fashion, I answered a call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church late in my senior year of college. Little did I know that ordination in the UMC would require me to earn a bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree in seminary, years of candidacy studies, meetings with mentors and accountability groups, Board of Ordained Ministry interviews with extensive doctrinal paper writings (twice), and a three year provisional period. All in all, it took me nine years to become an ordained minister from the time I began the process. There were times when I wanted to give up and I wondered if I had misunderstood God's call on my life. Needless to say, I don't think I would have made it through the process without my loving and committed wife, a supportive extended family, and several good ministry friends. Because the process was so long and involved, I sometimes mistakenly thought that getting ordained was the ultimate goal. After accomplishing that goal I soon realized that process was really a time of preparation, testing, and trial for more to come in the life of a Christ follower called to be a minister.

The year I was ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, my ordination class was brought before the clergy of the North Georgia Annual Conference for approval. The Bishop questioned us from a list of questions asked by John Wesley. Two of those questions are as follows: “Are you going on to perfection?” and “Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?” Since I had just completed my board interviews to be recommended for ordination, it was hard for me to think that I would be going on to perfection in anything. Then I remembered the story of the Israelites and their journey out of slavery in Egypt that took them into the wilderness for the next 40 years. The goal was the Promised Land, but the journey would be a time of preparation, testing, and trial for this nation called forth by God to be His chosen people to bring salvation into the world. The perfection God calls us to become is that of love which is in Him, by Him, and through Him. This kind of perfection is not something we do, but something we receive and become. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

What about you? Does life feel like a series of tests and trials? You are not alone. In fact, you have more opportunity than you realize to receive grace from God through Jesus Christ. He gives us power through the Holy Spirit to go on to perfection in His love. Take time this summer to allow God to enter into every part of your life and truly be your Savior and Redeemer. By God's grace we can be made perfect in love in this life and become what Christ proclaims in Matthew 5:48 when He says, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Blessings,

Sam

Pastor Sam



JULY 4th Picnic at HUMC!

11:30-2:30

Bring a side dish or dessert to share ... HUM Men are grilling the hamburgers and hotdogs!

Wear your best patriotic outfit!

Bring a clean joke to share!

Singing by the Choir and the Ladies Trio!

Dancing or just singing along to the hits of the 40's, 50's and 60's!

Games: Cornhole, Hillbilly Golf, and more!

Prizes awarded for best outfits, best jokes, games.

Come for fun!

One of the most important things we can do for HUMC is to plan for the future. If we aren't thinking ahead, we will be behind in no time!

Come to the planning meeting.

Bring your Ideas!

HUMC MOVING FORWARD,

on July 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

A light supper will be provided to enjoy while we talk about HUMC's future. Call or email the church office with your reservation.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Are we inviting? Can we find ways to encourage new folks to participate in the activities of the church?

Is it time to replace yourself? Are you training someone to take over your job so that when you are ready to move on to a different function, you have someone ready to take over the old function?

How are we perceived by the community?

Can we upgrade or update the facility and our activities to be more appealing to the younger retirees that are moving to the area?



HUMC 4th of JULY Party

11:30 — 2:30

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert.



- ⇒ Best Patriotic Outfit
- ⇒ Games
- ⇒ Joke Telling Contest
- ⇒ Singing
- ⇒ Dancing
- ⇒ Prizes



Church Cookout

There will be a meeting on Thursday, July 27th from 6 pm to 8 pm to discuss ideas for HUMC Moving Forward.



Summer Feeding Program

This year HUMC will be providing breakfast items for two days, for approximately 40 children, at a summer day camp sponsored by Towns County Schools and the Rec Center. We will also provide pizza and drinks on the last day of the program. We are asking for your donations to cover the costs involved in this ministry. Your generosity will be greatly rewarded. Contact: George Fell at 706-897-6566 or EM: gcfell44@gmail.com

Towns County School Supply Bash

We are again collecting school supplies for Towns County school children. A box has been placed in the main hallway for your donations. Listed below are items they need:



- ◆ notebook (filler) paper - wide ruled and college ruled
- ◆ spiral bound notebooks - wide ruled and college ruled
- ◆ composition notebooks
- ◆ pencils
- ◆ crayons
- ◆ colored pencils
- ◆ markers
- ◆ binders - 1", 1 1/2", 2" - please no trapper keepers
- ◆ scissors (safety scissors for elementary students, for ex.fiskars)
- ◆ tab dividers
- ◆ page protectors
- ◆ 2 pocket folders - all colors, but most teachers ask for blue, green, red, yellow
- ◆ 3 prong folders - all colors, but most teachers ask for blue, green, red, yellow
- ◆ glue sticks - most teachers do not ask for bottled glue
- ◆ Pencil pouches - most teachers do not want the boxes
- ◆ highlighters
- ◆ expo markers
- ◆ index cards - both sizes
- ◆ compass/protractors
- ◆ graph paper
- ◆ cap erasers
- ◆ pink pearl erasers
- ◆ additional for classroom: hand sanitizer, hand wipes, paper towels, tissues.
- ◆ Larger size Backpacks for Upper Elementary, Middle School (small size backpacks will not hold their books)

Ladies Spring Event May 18th

Thank you Kathleen Schmidt for your presentation and assistance in creating Gratitude Journals. Thanks also to Diane Ramsey for organizing this day, which was enjoyed by all.



Answers: 1. Malachi 2. Zechariah 3. Two - Zechariah and Zephaniah 4. True 5. False & True - Malachi did write in the 400's but that is after (not before) the 500's BC.



Singing Service

Sunday July 30th at 10:45 am

Email your favorite hymn, song, or chorus to Hope at:

eblafarm@windstream.net

or drop your suggestion in the box outside the sanctuary door during the month of July. We'll use as many as possible to fashion a worship time that glorifies God! Let's let the Holy Spirit lead us in this musical morning of praise!

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR!!!

BRING YOUR BIBLE TO WORSHIP

AND READ IT FOR YOURSELF!

OR USE YOUR IPAD OR OTHER DEVICE TO READ ALONG WITH PASTOR SAM ... WE HAVE WIFI!



AUDIO-VISUAL Team

JULY SCHEDULE:

COMPUTER	MIXER	
Jul 2 John Whitaker		Mike Henderson
Jul 9 Preston Perren		Tommy Kirchner
Jul 16 John Whitaker		James Fagin
Jul 23 Aaron Hamby		James Fagin
Jul 30 Peg Jones		Mike Jones

Church Member Services Directory

Massage Contact: Geri Baker 706-896-6108
 Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting Contact: Tayo Ledue 706-896-6001
 8 Rivers Fly Rod Co. Contact: Matt & April Holtsclaw 706-896-1527

HUMC and Hospitality- hos•pi•tal•i•ty, noun. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

UMM Breakfast is the 3rd Saturday of the month. All men are welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a 9:00 a.m. breakfast and business meeting.



www.hiawasseumc.org



The schedule for Fellowship Lunches has been changed from monthly to approximately 4 times each year. We need a Coordinator and Assistants to serve on this committee. Listed below are the duties required for each luncheon. If you would like to serve on this committee, please talk to Pastor Sam.

Set Up:

- ◆ Set up dining tables with table cloths, center pieces, salt/pepper shakers
- ◆ Arrange the service tables for food and dessert
- ◆ Set out plates and utensils
- ◆ Make iced tea and lemonade
- ◆ Set up the drink service area with cups for cold drinks and for coffee, condiments for coffee, a scoop and bowl for ice. Place signs on the counter for "Sweet Tea" and "Unsweet Tea."
- ◆ Place signs on the table for "Desserts" and "Salads"
- ◆ Turn on the warmer for those bringing hot dishes
- ◆ Make coffee
- ◆ Set out Ice, and drinks on the counter
- ◆ When ready to serve, set out the food dishes

Cleanup:

- ◆ Clean tablecloths and the tables
- ◆ Store away center pieces
- ◆ Store away salt/pepper shakers
- ◆ Clear and clean the drink area
- ◆ Clean the floor, vacuum
- ◆ Arrange the tables with 6 chairs at each
- ◆ Clear and clean the food/dessert tables
- ◆ Wash and dry any dishes and utensils used
- ◆ Clean the kitchen

Finance: Ed Halderman and Joan Whitaker



**Financial Report as of June 21, 2017
Year to Date Figures**

General Budget Income	\$ 104,696
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Income	51,622
Total Budget Income	\$ 156,318
General Budget Expenses	\$ 94,019
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Expense	45,073
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 139,092
Present Net Gain	\$ 17,226
Outstanding bills to pay in June:	
(General Expenses)	\$ 2,884
(Mortgage Expense)	3,851

Still in a Positive/Net Gain status as of 6/21 with one more Sunday of tithes and offerings.

Following up on last month's report, our Finance Committee and Administrative Council attendees decided on the following distribution of our Yard Sale proceeds.

- ◆ 10% tithe to the church General Fund
- ◆ \$3,563 to replace the air conditioner unit in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ \$1,215 for a 65" television in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ \$1,200 for a necessary upgrade to our church website

We praise God for providing what we need to replace the air conditioning unit without having to use our reserve funds. There are eight more units which will need replaced at some point, and these reserves may be needed.

Again we thank you for your continued support and dedication as we join together in doing Our Lord's work.



Library News: Dawn Lamade



New in the HUMC Library:

In the beginning, God... Interested in learning more about Genesis? These titles and others are available in the HUMC library:

Genesis 1-11 by John MacArthur (Bible Study). An in-depth look at the creation story, the first murder, Noah and the Flood, the first covenant, the Tower of Babel, and the dispersion of the nations.

Creation, Fall, Restoration: a Biblical Theology of Creation, by Andrew S. Kulikovskiy. (Bible Study) The author takes us into the territories of scientific and biblical interpretation, and the changing views of nature in the history of both these areas.

Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth, ed. by Terry Mortenson and Thane Ury. (Bible Study) Fourteen theological scholars address key topics related to the age of the earth. This is the crucial issue of debate in the church today regarding origins.

Please check out your book or movie and leave the card, found in the back of the book or movie, in the box in the library on the shelf near the return box. This gives us an opportunity to find out what is being used and we can send you a gentle reminder if you have forgotten to return a book or movie.

A listing of titles in the library is now available online.

Book listings can be found at <http://cloud.collectorz.com/HUMC/books>
DVD and video listings can be found at <http://cloud.collectorz.com/HUMC/movies>

From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner



In the past two issues of Mountain Messenger I wrote about the spiritual significance of numbers in the Bible. This month I want to continue this discussion on the number **three** (including third, trinity, etc.). The biblical number three pictures completeness. It is also the first of 4 spiritually perfect numbers. The others are 7, 10 and 12 and I'll cover them in the next few months. Probably the most spiritual representation of the number three is the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is introduced to us in the very beginning text of the Bible - God (the creator), Son (the Word) and the Spirit of God (the Comforter/Advocate).

As spiritually significant as the Trinity is, the number three is significant in other ways. Three is mentioned over 450 times in the Bible. Consider the following: 3 righteous patriarchs before the flood (Abel, Enoch, Noah); 3 righteous fathers after the flood (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, who was later named Israel); 3 to the third power is 27 which is the number of books in the New Testament; 3 times Jesus prayed in the garden before his arrest; Jesus was placed on the cross on the third hour of the day (9am); He died at the ninth hour (3pm); 3 is the number for the resurrection (Jesus dead 3 days and 3 nights); 3 men witnessed the transfiguration (Peter, James, John); 3 people were allowed to ask God anything: Solomon (1 Kings 3:5); Ahaz (Isaiah 7:11), and Jesus Christ (Psalm 2:9). God gave Israel 3 gifts (His law, the land of their inheritance, and their calling); The Bible names 3 angels (Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer). There are 3 places where sexual sins are specifically referenced (Romans 1:20-32) homosexuality and overall sexual immorality, (1 Corin. 5:1-13) the church allowing a member to commit incest, (Rev. 2:19-25) a woman in Thyatira teaching believers to commit sexual immorality and spiritual adultery; 3 seasons of God's festivals: Spring - Passover, Summer - Pentecost, and fall (Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles).

These example only scratch the surface of the number of times three is referenced. What I found most interesting is the fact the Trinity is introduced in Genesis - the beginning book of the Bible and that 3 is also prominent in the Book of Revelation the last book of the Bible. In particular; an angel cries 3 woes (8:13); two witnesses are not allowed to be buried but lie openly for 3 days; 3 unclean spirits will be allowed to deceive the world to fight Jesus in the battle of Armageddon (16:13-16) and New Jerusalem will have 3 gates on each side for a total of 12 (21:13) which is also one of the spiritually perfect numbers.

Perhaps, the most powerful spiritual statement involving three is found in Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End who is and who was and who is to come.





Missions

On the Lighter Side ...

Living in a different culture most certainly brings its challenges! And as we all know, life itself can just be downright hard sometimes. This month's update is a bit on the lighter side, because quite frankly I just needed to laugh. I am learning to laugh at myself — trying to speak the languages (there are at least 4 spoken on a daily basis here) and trying to “blend in” in a place where that is simply impossible. It really is quite comical! So here are some funnies and some things that might give you a new perspective from my last few years here in Uganda—ENJOY!

One of the youth came and shared with me how his father had him move out of the house (not uncommon at his age, it is time for him to live on his own). He said he had nowhere to go and had been sleeping on the floor of a local saloon. Well this Mama's heart thought—he cannot live in a saloon, it is not safe. He will have to wait until late at night for everyone who is there drinking to leave and there will be drunks, fights, etc. Where will he study? I thought, I must go immediately and investigate. So I went to town to see about this. The young man met me and we walked to where he was staying. We finally stopped and he pointed out where he was sleeping—a hair “saloon” (salon). Words are different here!



Hungry?? Ever thought of walking in to your back yard, taking a stick and throwing it up into a mango tree (or any tree with fruit), waiting for the fruit to fall, bending down to pick it up and eating it? The thought never crosses my mind, you? The kiddos and locals do it every single day while the mangos are in season. They use the resources God gives them for their daily provision.



How about countless times showing up late, early, or others being really late or really early. I thought I was doing really good learning my numbers and counting to ten. But then I realized hours/time are different here. For example, I would show up at 2:00pm instead of 8:00am. Why?? Time here is counted by the number of hours past sunrise (usually around 6am). For example their time “2” is for us 8am. They call it 2, 2 hours past sunrise. Another why?? Most don't have a watch—they use the sun. What time is it anyways??

Being in a different world is humbling to say the least, but it is so much fun!

“A joyful heart is good medicine.” Proverbs 17:22

With Much Love, Robin

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus— the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. Acts 20:24

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT AND FOR BEING SUCH A HUGE PART OF MY TEAM!!!
Mail (Tax Deductible) Financial Support to:
Answer God's Call Ministries
215 W. Mesa Avenue - Gallup, NM 87301
(Please include a note for Robin Broom-Africa)



This month we will finish up the books of the Old Testament by focusing on Zechariah and Malachi. These two minor prophetic books may contain within them more Messianic prophecies than any of the others. One foretells the coming of John the Baptist. Questions:

- 1, Which of these two books foretell the coming of John the Baptist?
 2. Which of these two books contain more messianic prophecy?
 3. How many books in the bible begin with the letter Z?
 4. Zechariah wrote in the 500's BC (True or False).
 5. Malachi wrote about 100 years before Zechariah in the 400's BC (True or False).
- Bonus: Which of these two books is the last book in the English Bible?



Jail/Prison MinistryElaine McEver



Good News: Ms. Elaine's House is getting a new House Mother. Diann Hall is a referral from Christ the King Church. She has a BA in Behavioral Services, 15 years experience with Department of Family and Children Services, 4 years experience with Well Spring Living as Life Coach, and is a devout Christian. She is planning to move in on July 1, 2017. The other news is that Pastor Mike Stewart, from Ministries of Grace, will be returning to the Executive board of Almost There, Inc. At one of our early meetings he had a vision of houses like ours popping up all over Georgia and the US.

As I saw the long list of pastors who will be retiring this year from North Georgia UMC, I remembered a former pastor saying that you could never retire from ministry. Then as he was spending his last days in a nursing home with Alzheimer, the story was told that he would be preaching one minute and swearing the next. Makes me wonder about myself. My mind and body tells me that it is almost that time. My heart and love for the Lord and hurting sisters in Christ continues to cry out for mercy for them. For many years I have lived Jail/Prison Ministry. I have been at Ms. Elaine's House in Hiawassee for 8 months with girls who have chosen Enotah Drug Court as an alternative to prison. Three women have been living with me. Two followed the rules with many rewards from Judge Gunter for going beyond their requirements. One woman is now waiting to transition from Union County Jail to Prison for being AWOL and refusing a drug screen. One was told by the court that if she had her own place, she could get her little girl out of foster care. We helped find her an apartment and with assistance from thrift stores, The Women's Enrichment Center, and private donations collected clothes for a 4 year old.

Even as I write this article, things continue to change. Because of appointments Ms. Diann will not officially start until August 1 so I will be at Ms. Elaine's House for a few more weeks and she will be helping out until then. I also love and appreciate HUMC. Thank you for your support as we continue to help women who have been caught up in the criminal justice system.

Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey



Pastor Sam was our featured speaker in June. He very effectively shared with us his vision for our congregation, our community, and how we can serve as we develop a better understanding of who we are and who we are here to serve. We will be getting more information to you soon, but mark your calendar for a special meeting in July

led by Pastor Sam which we are calling:

“Moving Forward” on Thursday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Finance: A Fund Raising Dinner will be in September. We will be using our Yard Sale proceeds to help with a new AC unit in the Fellowship Hall, improve our internet website, and update a new TV in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Fellowship Lunch: We will be making some changes to our normal monthly schedule. Since we have other meal functions throughout the year, this is what we now have on the schedule for 2017: **July** – 4th Celebration with food, music, and fun, **September** - Fund Raiser Dinner, **October** – Fellowship Lunch, **November** –Chili Supper.

Connectional Church Group Sing: We will be hosting this fun musical event with some good ole singing and performances so mark your calendar for: **August 13th at 6:30 p.m.** We have had overflow crowds in the past. We will have a new 65” TV in the Fellowship Hall for needed overflow. Remember to car pool to free up parking for visitors.

Missions: Call George Fell to assist with our church's community outreach **Feeding Program-** summer day camp for kids in July. We will be supplying breakfast for 40 on 2 days and pizza the last day. Let's help share some **LOVE.**

Library: With Pastor Sam's Sunday sermons and Wednesday Bible Studies from Genesis on the foundations of our faith – it's a good time to check out some of the additional new study books on Genesis in the library.

Admin Council Meeting: Next meeting is: **July 20th at 2:00 p.m.** Don't miss this one – see you in July.

King David offered this advice to his son Solomon about building the temple: “**serve** Him with a **loyal heart** and with a **willing mind**: for the Lord **searches all hearts** and **understands all the intent** of the thoughts...” “**Be strong** and of **good courage**, and **do it; do not be dismayed**, for the **Lord God –my God- will be with you.** He **will not** leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished **all** the work, for the **service** of the house of the Lord.” 1Chron.28:9, 20

Remember: Today, we are also, building **His Church** as we **serve** our Lord with a loyal heart & willing mind.



“Surely the LORD is in this place.”

Genesis 28:16