

# Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: [humc@hiawasseeumc.org](mailto:humc@hiawasseeumc.org)  
Website: [www.hiawasseeumc.org](http://www.hiawasseeumc.org)  
706.896.2818  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY:**  
9:00 a.m. Prayer  
9:30 a.m. Integrative Bible Study  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

**WEDNESDAY:**  
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice



## *Our Mission:*

*Worship Jesus Christ;  
Grow as Disciples;  
Serve Others*

## Hiawassee United Methodist Church

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

# HUMC Mountain Messenger



**Pastor Sam Hamby**  
Church (706) 896-2818  
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Visit us online at [www.hiawasseeumc.org](http://www.hiawasseeumc.org)



## **“GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING”**

It is hard to believe that Advent season is already here and we are just around the corner from celebrating Christmas. Where has the time gone? I guess many of us could ask that question about our lives too. It seems like only yesterday I was a child anticipating the Christmas season and experiencing the traditional rituals of my family’s celebration of the season. Of all the traditions and rituals I experienced growing up, my most fond memories are of going out to sing Christmas carols. Have you ever looked into the history of the traditional carols we sing every year? Many of them are now hundreds of years old and have been crafted and shaped over time to become what we now know them to be today. I am sure you have your favorite carols you love to sing this time of year.

One of our most treasured carols today is, “Away In A Manger.” This song is not terribly old, as it was first published in 1885. However, there is plenty of mystery around this song because it is not known who wrote the words. The first person to publicly sing it is also not known. The song was first seen in “Martin Luther’s Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School Collection.” The third stanza of the song, “be near me Lord Jesus” was said to be written by Charles H. Gabriel in his book “Gabriel’s Vineyard Songs.” William J. Kirkpatrick composed the music to “Away in a Manger” in 1895. The hymn tells the story of the birth of Jesus. Some have thought that the song tells the story in an odd fashion, but it has gained a place in our hearts as one of the most known and loved Christmas carols.

One of my most favorite Christmas carols is, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” This song was written by Charles Wesley, but that is not necessarily why I love this hymn. I love this hymn because of the story of Salvation brought to us by Jesus. This song was originally written by Wesley in 1739, but was not necessarily intended to be a Christmas song. It was written for Wesley’s book of hymns and sacred poems. The version we know today was not the same version that Wesley originally wrote as it was later set to upbeat music by Dr. William H. Cummings in the mid 1800s. While this hymn is mostly sung in churches, synagogues, and homes during the Christmas season, it has become one of our favorite carols this time of year.

Have you heard the story of Jesus’ birth this year? Have you shared the story with someone else including your family, friends, neighbors, and strangers? These hymns take us back to that simple story of God entering into this world and offering himself to set us free from all the sin that we cling to. Take time to sing these hymns and breathe in the story once more. You might realize you needed to hear the Christmas story more than you thought.

Merry Christmas,

*Sam*

Pastor Sam





## From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, the church makes a spiritual journey—a pilgrimage drawing us closer to Christ. We begin at a distance from the coming of Christ in Bethlehem, and each week we draw closer to His birth. Therefore worship during the first two weeks of this season emphasizes the second coming of Christ and our need to **prepare for His return**. The preparations we make for the second coming of Christ are similar to the preparations Israel made for the coming of the Messiah. Terms such as *hope, eager anticipation, longing, and looking toward the day* all express the kind of feelings Israel had as it waited for the Messiah. Those descriptive terms likewise capture the feelings we Christians have as we await the consummation of history and the redemption of all things.

Starting with the third week of Advent, the emphasis shifts to the feeling of **joy**. Since the day of His appearing is coming closer, the accent falls on what Christ will do in His coming. Both His first and second comings are related to salvation, redemption, and the renewal of Crea-

tion, which includes the restoration of all things to the Father and the sure destruction of evil. Hallelujah! The pink candle on the Advent Wreath represents joy.

In the fourth week of Advent, we are brought closer to the event of Jesus' birth: **God with us**. We rejoice with those immediately involved in the events surrounding the miraculous conception of Jesus Christ: the angel announcing to Mary (the Annunciation), and Mary's great response (the Magnificat).

Our Christmas Eve celebration focuses on the coming of this great **Light** into the world to dispel the darkness of sin. The **heart of Christmas is the Gospel** - the Good News:

Jesus came to overthrow evil and establish God's reign in our lives. HALLELUJAH!!! We have so much to celebrate ... don't let the world's craziness dilute the real celebration of Jesus!

(excerpted from *Rediscovering the Christian Feasts* by Robert E. Webber p.12)

# JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS



**Annual Christmas Musical Evening**  
featuring our Choir and talented soloists!  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 pm  
Bring an unchurched friend or neighbor!  
They'll be glad you did!



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Sunday, December 24th  
Candlelight Service  
5:00 pm  
We gather as a family to worship King Jesus!



**AUDIO-VISUAL team**

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

	COMPUTER	MIXER
Dec 3	Peggy J.	Mike J.
Dec 10	Preston	Tommy
Dec 10 6 PM	Aaron	James
Dec 17	John	Mike H.
Dec 24	Aaron	James
Dec 24 5 PM	Preston	Tommy
Dec 31	Preston	James



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

## Happenings on the Hill



We are on Facebook as **Hiawasse United Methodist Church**.

Support the Towns County Food Pantry when shopping at Amazon. Once you sign into Amazon with the following link, Amazon will donate a percentage of your sale to the Food Pantry. This is no additional cost to you. Shop for great deals at [smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0206686](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0206686)



The Men's Group, HUMM, will sponsor a **Christmas Luncheon and Party on Saturday, December 16th @ 1 pm. in the Fellowship Hall.** So bring your appetites and your best Christmas Carol Singing Voices for a fun Holiday Afternoon.



In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she

fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament." She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God's love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God's Christmas gift — Jesus — brings joy that lasts forever.

## This Month at HUMC

- 12/1 @ 6 pm Going Solo at the Copper Door
- 12/3 1st Sunday of Advent
- 12/10 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 12/10 @ 6 pm Christmas Musical
- 12/11 @ 6:30 pm PPR Meeting
- 12/13 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 12/16 UMM sponsors Christmas Party for all
- 12/17 3rd Sunday of Advent
- 12/20 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 12/24 @ 10:45 am Worship—4th Sunday of Advent
- 12/24 @ 5 pm Candlelight Service — Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day — Office Closed
- 12/26 Office Closed

## December Gifts for the Needy

- There will be a basket in the Welcome Area for your change, cash and checks, to help provide for those less fortunate in Towns County.
- Put something in the basket each week during December.
- All funds collected will be deposited to the Altar Fund.



Thanks to coordinator Pat Lee, and all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! This year HUMC delivered 63 boxes. God is good!



## From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner

Merry Christmas!!!

I ran across this article as I was going through a collection of clippings I had from various sources. This one I have had for many years and the original writer, I believe, was Robin Hammond Clark, Attorney at Law, Legal Information Officer, North Carolina Real Estate Division who thought it was about eight or nine years old when published. It is called "Title Search Reveals God as Owner."

A New Orleans attorney, seeking an FHA loan for a client, spent three months tracing the title back to 1803 on property of his client to be offered as collateral for the loan.

After receiving a reply from FHA officials turning down the application because he had not cleared the title prior to 1802, the annoyed attorney wrote, "Your letter regarding titles in Case No. 1891566 received. I note that you wish titles extended further back than I have presented them. I was unaware that any educated man in the world failed to know that Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803. The title to the land was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain by right of discovery made in 1492 by a sailor named Christopher Columbus who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the then reigning monarch Isabella. The good queen, being a pious woman and as careful about titles, almost, I might say as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope for the voyage before she sold her jewels to help Columbus. Now the Pope, as you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted, made the world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume that He also made that part of the world called Louisiana and I hope you are satisfied."



## Finance: Joan Whitaker



### Financial Report as of November 15, 2017 Year to Date Figures

General Budget Income	\$	185,609
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Income		69,745
<b>Total Budget Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>255,354</b>
General Budget Expenses	\$	175,595
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Expense		64,057
<b>Total Budget Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>239,652</b>
<b>Present Net Gain</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,702</b>

Outstanding bills to pay in October:		
(General Expenses)	\$	5,418
(Mortgage Payment)		3,851

Still in a Positive/Net Gain status as of 11/15 with two more Sundays of tithes and offerings.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER

1. We continue to be in a Positive/Net Gain position year to date.
2. We still have more than seven mortgage payments in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage Account.
3. The balance in our General Checking Account is \$28,721 and the balance in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage Account is \$29,697.
4. The only noted expense this month was our Quarterly Insurance payment of \$1,501.
5. Our Amazing Grace offering for the Methodist Children's Home was \$640.00. Also, an additional offering received of \$350 for UMCOR Hurricane relief was received bringing our total for this offering to \$2,950.
6. Important reminder, December donations must be received in the office by December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in 2017 donations for tax purposes.

## Library News: Dawn Lamade



There are a number of Christmas books and DVDs in the HUMC library. Included among these are the following:

### Books (Fiction):

The Christmas Shoppe by Melody Carlson. The small town of Parrish Springs is not ready for Matilda Honeycutt. Matilda, a strange older woman with scraggly gray hair and jewelry that jangles as she walks, is certainly not the most likely person to buy the old Barton Building on the town's quaint main street. See how she develops her store and impacts the town.

Christmas at Harringtons by Melody Carlson. Christmas is approaching, and Lena Markham finds herself penniless, friendless, and nearly hopeless. She is trying to restart her life after false accusations landed her in prison, but job opportunities are practically nonexistent. See what happens after she purchases a second hand red coat.

The Gift of Christmas Present by Melody Carlson. After the death of her mother, a college student discovers she was adopted. When she goes in search of her biological family, she finds a shocking lineage.

### DVDs:

The Christmas Shoes: Two separate stories mesh - in the first, a young music teacher, Maggie Andrews, begins dying of a heart condition and her son Nathan tries to get a pair of Christmas shoes for her before she dies. In the second, lawyer Robert Layton and his wife Kate are slowly drifting apart and the matter comes to a head during Christmas when Kate takes over for Maggie for the school choir.

The Christmas Blessing: In the inspiring sequel to The Christmas Shoes, Nathan Andrews is all grown up. As a young doctor, Nathan finds himself questioning his career choice, so he goes to his hometown to soul search and reconnect with his father.

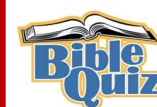
The Christmas Card: US Army sergeant Cody Cullen's horror tour in Afghanistan ends when his mate Jonesy is blown to pieces while they deliver medical supplies in Nurestan. Cody is sent home and on his way, he passes Nevada City, California, where he meets Faith Spelman, who writes the parish's Christmas cards to lonely soldiers, coincidentally including him, an orphan.

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. Go to our website for a direct link under "News."

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>



This month, December, begins the liturgical season of Advent where we celebrate the first coming of Jesus. Our journey to Bethlehem ends on Christmas Day, but our journey to Jerusalem is just beginning. Our quiz on the book of Acts focuses on the beginnings of the Christian church. Let's begin:

1. True or False. Acts covers the beginnings of the new church but only for one generation.
2. True or False. The writer of the Book of Acts was a gentile doctor named Luke.
3. Who was Paul's traveling companion in Acts? Judah, John, Luke or Elmo.
4. In what city is the Areopagus located?
5. Who did Paul circumcise in chapter 16?

Bonus: In what chapter did (what is now a tradition) the decorating of a Christmas tree with Chrismons occur?



### Giving for Hurricane Relief Nears \$700k from North Georgia United Methodists

North Georgia United Methodists have shown an abundance of generosity in response to this fall's hurricanes and tropical storms. Combined September and October giving to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) through the North Georgia Conference totals \$691,263.45.



## Missions Ministry .....Robin Broom

I am truly moved lately as I sit and ponder the Kingdom of God, His family, the Body, you, me, us. We hear and read in Scripture about how we are a family and Paul even uses the analogy of a body made of many different parts. This picture is becoming clearer in my mind. There has been a situation in my life (ok, more than one) where I just simply struggle! I struggle with people because I see someone doing something very differently than I would. But ... God is teaching me such a huge lesson that has not come without difficulty. There have been many tears and much frustration over the years. However, I think I am starting to step back and truly grasp that God created others to be and do exactly what He intended. HE wills them to do those things, just like they are doing. Here is the kicker, I cannot do what they do, or be who they are, and they cannot do what I do or be me. God created me to be me and no one else can do that. The fact is—in this life we need each other!!!

I am reminded of a woman who works at our village, Mama Lena. (As I write this, I realize that I don't even know her name. In Uganda most "mom's" are simply called "Mama \_\_\_\_\_". The blank is filled in with one of their child's names. Her daughter is Lena.) Mama Lena cleans one of our school buildings at the Village of Eden and she does it with such excellence. I watch her take the rugs from the classrooms, scrubbing them with such devotion. I always make time to go over and get a hug—she gives the best (reminds me of my mama)! Oh the peace that comes from those hugs is indescribable! I'm not sure that Mama Lena will ever know how much those hugs mean to this girl who lives so far away from her mama. Or will she ever know what it means to those children who have special physical needs who sit on those spotless rugs each day in class? God created Mama Lena with a purpose, and He created you the same. Never doubt that your life makes a difference.

As I have reflected across the span of people who have come in and out of my life, you have come to mind. And, sometimes, well usually, there is no need to re-invent the wheel or no need to search to find words to express myself. This week as I read Philippians Chapter 1, my heart was stirred for each of you. So in the perfect words of the Apostle Paul, here is what I read:



*"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart." Philippians 1:3-7*

This season of thanksgiving I am thankful for us—the Body of Christ. Christmas season makes us think of our family. This Christmas season, my thoughts are of a family a little bit bigger than in years past and much more diverse than years before. I am thankful for those who do things much differently than me. I am seeing that they do their part and that frees me to do mine. And the world needs both!! It needs you, to smile, to sing, to pray, to give, to organize, to preach, to teach, to love, etc. The world needs you! I cannot do what you do, but what God requires of me is different. I am thankful that I have found what God created me for, what He intends for me to do. And you are a huge part of that!!! If you are reading this, I say thank you. Thank you for being you—because it helps me to be me. Never doubt that your life has made a difference in mine. Thank you for your prayers, your love, your encouragement, and your financial support.



**THANK YOU so much for partnering with me to take the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ to the beautiful nation of Uganda!!!**  
Financial Support can be mailed to: **Answer God's Call Ministries**  
**215 W. Mesa Ave. Gallup, NM 87301**  
(Please include a note for Robin Broom-Africa)

## Jail/Prison Ministry .....Elaine McEver



Because of the crackdown on illegal drugs, more people are in all three of the jails that I visit. Some women from Union County are being housed out to other jails because of overcrowding. At Clay County Jail, there are women from other areas who are being housed there. For the first time in my memory, a woman visited our meeting who claimed to be Buddhist. She said her parents were strong Christians. Because of my background I was able to tell her the difference and why I chose Jesus Christ. We have to be careful not to offend so we had to be gentle. She listened intently.

Three new women will be placed in Ms. Elaine's House this week. The Board voted to start taking some who are in Family Court and one person who was homeless. The Director of Family Court, Dennese Stringfellow, has agreed to send those who may need temporary housing after residential treatment. Almost There, Inc. was approved to apply for Grant Funding but there were some reports that must be completed, so that was postponed until next year. Plans to complete the reports have been put into place. Alpine Exterminating Co. gave the house a free treatment for ants. A new stove was delivered by Home Depot from an anonymous donor. The Director of Rock Bottom Ministries from Hayesville visited us to get ideas for a recovery program in North Carolina.

Prayer requests are for the women to stay strong, trust in the Lord, and connect with other Christians. Thanks for your continued support.



## Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey

**Bill Scoggins** was our featured speaker this month. He has served on Trustees for over 8 years and been chair for 6 years. Bill along with his committee members and volunteers has kept our church and parsonage running and in good shape and it's hard to realize our worship facilities are already 12 years young. The physical inventory of

our church is completed and the parsonage will be soon. Our **CPR** training class will be in 2018, as soon as an instructor can be assigned to teach the class. Then Bill shared his testimony on when he came to know the Lord and how he has been growing in his love of Christ. For all of us, our relationship is a work in progress as we continue to read the Word and Pray for God's leading in our lives. Be Faithful!

**Protecting our Congregation:** As a concern of the Trustees; the recent shootings at churches around the country, we are now discussing the need for a complete review of what we need to do to protect our congregation. This was our first meeting and we will be following up with you regarding the direction we will be taking to make our worship facilities safe. Some great ideas were shared and will be followed-up on.

**Nominations:** Pastor Sam shared with us some of the names of the people who will start serving on our Committees for 2018. The November minutes will have an update and a complete list will be available soon.

**Finances:** As members and friends of our congregation we have been **blessed** by your faithfulness. As we approach the end of the year, we are in good shape – Thanks to everyone for all you do. **Remember**, for your end of the year 2017 donations to be included in your statement, they must be received in the office by December 31.

**Lay Leader:** We will have a 4' x 4' banner up in the Rec. Center promoting our church. The proceeds from this project go to help fund equipment for players who otherwise would not be able to afford them or participate.

**Worship:** Our church will be decorated again by the Worship Committee and we thank each one of you who do this beautiful job as we worship. The **Christmas Musical** presentation is Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The **Christmas Eve** service is Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm - bring a neighbor or friend with you. The **Sign Committee** is doing the necessary research to evaluate our options as they seek the best direction for the future. The current sign could use new plexiglass since they are turning yellow due to the weather. Trustees will check on this and follow-up.

**Shepherds:** An appreciation luncheon will be given for the current leaders on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, check with Brenda for further details.

**Chili Supper:** Great response to our using actual bowls, glasses, silverware, etc. from those who came to our supper. And the treat of ice cream was also a positive hit. The income from this was an improvement over last year. Remember, funds go to the various local ministries, food pantry, and other community outreach. Thanks to all for your willingness to help make this a great success along with our witness for Christ.

**Generosity: "Wherever, your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matt 6:21**

Who is more generous – a billionaire who gives one million to the church or a struggling single mom who gives a hundred? If we do have a lot of money, does that mean we're not generous? Jesus says we can't know the answer to that question without knowing the heart of the giver. The Bible shows us that God doesn't focus on how much money we have but rather on how generous we are with it. What we spend our money on reveals what we care about most. When we realize that everything we have is a gift from a generous God, it could motivate us to share our money, possessions, and time, more willingly and freely to further His Kingdom.

**Next Council Meeting:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**"If we will do God's work in God's way at God's time with God's power, we shall have God's Blessings"**  
Leonard Ravenhill



Let mutual love continue.  
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.  
Hebrews 13:1-2

**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 @ 9:00 am for breakfast and a business meeting. In December, the Christmas Party will take the place of the breakfast.

Answers: 1. True 2. True 3. Luke 4. Athens 5. Timothy Bonus: Not mentioned in the Bible at all.

### Church Member Services Directory

Massage Contact: Geri Baker 706-896-6108  
Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting Contact: Tayo Leduc 706-896-6001