

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: humc@hiawasseeumc.org
Website: 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
Cell (706) 400-2618
Visit us online at www.hiawasseeumc.org



Remember Whose You Are



During the Advent season a couple years ago, my family was having an evening together at home. The kids were getting more and more excited about Christmas as we had just finished our nightly Advent reading. I walked upstairs to collect my laptop for some catching up on emails and I found my oldest daughter sitting on my bed already using my computer. As I started to say, "I need to use that laptop," she asked me to come and take a look. I walked over to her and found that she was looking through family pictures. Before I knew, we were going through more pictures from the past several years, and I was sucked into a stroll down memory lane. It was amazing to see how quickly our family had changed and I realized how fast life moves by. As we looked through the pictures, I was reminded of things that had changed for the better, and other things I would like to recapture. Most of all, I was shown again how blessed I am and who those blessings come from.

You have probably heard the phrase before, "Remember who you are." These words are usually shared to remind us to believe in ourselves and remember the values we have been taught, or stand for. From a human vantage point alone, it doesn't sound like a bad thing to remember. However, one little tweak of this phrase can make a world of difference. Rather than remembering who you are, I would remind you to "Remember whose you are." Sure, you could take that to mean that you are the son or daughter of your parents or that you are the husband or wife of your spouse. The list could go on and on concerning human relationships. Above all these relationships though, is one of far greater importance. This relationship can even make all the other relationships more meaningful. I want to remind you to remember that you are a child of God. Really knowing and remembering this fact carries the weight of eternity.

God's Word is full of promises and His promises are trustworthy and true. One of God's promises in Galatians 3:28-29 says, "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you." God wants to bless His children. He desires that we have abundant life that glorifies Him and shares His promises with others, so that they may know His love and remember whose they are too. Even in the midst of great difficulty that results from life in a broken world, God is with us and He will never leave us to be alone. No matter who you think you are, God created you and offers you the gift of His saving grace so that you can always remember whose you are.

It's amazing that a few family pictures can remind us how blessed we are. Even more amazing is that we never have to doubt whose we are!

Be Blessed,

Sam

Pastor Sam





From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

On **Ash Wednesday** we began a time of intense spiritual reflection and renewal; a spiritual pilgrimage to the cross at Calvary. The self-denial and spiritual focus of **Lent** helps prepare our hearts for the peak of the Christian year: **Holy Week**, which begins with Palm Sunday and culminates with Resurrection Sunday. Holy Week encompasses the arrest, conviction, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It was the week in which the world was redeemed—a week in which the *re-creation* of the world began.

In Robert E. Webber's *Rediscovering the Christian Feasts*, (pp50-51), he describes a firsthand account of Holy Week Worship in Jerusalem by the fourth century church as written by a woman named Egeria :

On **Palm Sunday**, all Christians assembled at the tomb on the Mount of Olives. Carrying palms and branches, they walked slowly to the church in Jerusalem crying "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." When night fell, evening prayers were celebrated and concluded with a prayer in front of a cross erected for the occasion.

Monday through **Wednesday** the church met to sing hymns and praise songs and to read appropriate Scripture passages and to pray. Egeria reported that often the crowd was moved to groaning and tears by the readings.

On **Thursday** evening, Communion was celebrated. Then all went home to eat their *last meal before Easter*. Later they returned to worship all night long, remembering the gospel accounts of Thursday night.

Early on **Friday** after worshipping all night, Christians proceeded to Gethsemane to read the passage describing the Lord's arrest. They went to the place of the cross where the words of Pilate were read, then went home to meditate. Friday night they came back together to acknowledge the cross as the instrument of salvation.

On **Saturday**, worship was conducted at the third and sixth hours. After nightfall the **Easter vigil** was held, a dramatic reenactment of the resurrection, including a ser-

vice of light that celebrated Christ as the light of the world and the annual baptismal service in which people were baptized into Christ's dying and rising. The glorious service that occurred on **Sunday morning** after the all-night vigil celebrated the resurrection of Christ through readings, songs, preaching and communion.



Finally, Egeria tells us that Easter did not end on Resurrection day, but was followed by **eight days of celebration**. The fast was over; they identified no longer with death, but with resurrection and life!

Can you imagine the involvement—the total immersion in the death and resurrection of our Lord that these fourth century worshipers must have experienced?

We have different opportunities for worship now. Given our technology advantages, we can remember and immerse ourselves in Holy Week through movies and music. We can take advantage of the Lenten season to deny ourselves and to focus on Jesus. We can worship together in the services that are provided:

Palm Sunday Worship March 25th, 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday March 29th, Service of Darkness remembering the events leading up to the death of Christ. Presented by the CHOIR 6:30 pm

Good Friday March 30th, Combined service with Sharp Memorial at HUMC. Noon

Community Sunrise Service April 1st, Upper Pavilion at GA Mtn. Fairgrounds led by HUMC. 7:00 am

Resurrection Sunday Worship April 1st, 10:45 am

PLAN TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN WORSHIP OF OUR RISEN LORD AND SAVIOR!



Lenten Luncheons Continue In March: 12—12:50 pm
A simple meal will be provided and a short devotional given.



Happenings on the Hill

We are on Facebook as Hiawassee United Methodist Church.



Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 11th.

Enhance your Lenten journey
Plan to attend **Wednesdays during lent** At Noon
Devotional and a light lunch

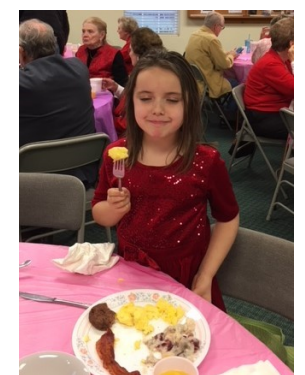
Fellowship Luncheon March 11th
Our first quarterly Fellowship Lunch for 2018 will be Sunday 3/11, following our worship service. We will need volunteers to coordinate, set-up & clean up. If you can help, please call or email the church office.

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

3/2	@ 6 pm	Going Solo
3/7	@ noon	Lunch and Devotional
3/11	@ noon	Fellowship Luncheon
3/14	@ noon	Lunch and Devotional
3/14	@ 2 pm	Worship Meeting
3/14	@ 3 pm	Finance Meeting
3/15	@ 2 pm	Admin Council Meeting
3/17	@ 9 am	HUMM Breakfast Meeting
3/21	@ noon	Lunch and Devotional
3/28	@ noon	Lunch and Devotional
3/29		Maundy Thursday
3/30		Good Friday



Thank you
Everyone enjoyed the Valentine Breakfast!
Many thanks to the HUM Men!



Going Solo Ladies Supper March 2nd 6 pm to 8 pm

All single ladies plan to attend and bring a dish to share! We meet on the first Friday of every month at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship, and growing in Christ.





Finance: Joan Whitaker



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY

- ◆ The current balance in our General Checking account is \$26,311.
- ◆ The balance in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage account is \$14,019 which is more than three months mortgage payment. As discussed last month, a payment of \$14,565 was added to a donation of \$25,000 and applied to the principal of our mortgage loan on January 31, 2017.
- ◆ Today's balance of our Mortgage Loan is \$443,844.
- ◆ The only noted expenses we have incurred since the beginning of the year are our quarterly Property Insurance payment of \$1,053 and our Propane bill was up to \$769 (\$460 more than same time in 2017) due to the extreme cold temperatures in January. And the above mentioned mortgage payment.
- ◆ We continue to receive many requests for assistance due to the extreme cold temperatures we have experienced this year. Since January 1st, we have paid a total of \$1,632 in assistance. Through generous donations we have been able to help many local folks in their time of need.
- ◆ We want to advise everyone that the church now has a Brokerage account with Scottrade. The benefits include no Trade Minimum, no Platform Fees, no Account Maintenance Fees, no Account Opening Fees, and only a \$6.95 Online Trade Fee. If you have any questions or want any other information regarding this method of giving to the church, please contact Joan Whitaker in the office.

Financial Report as of February 14, 2017 Year to Date Figures	
General Budget Income	\$ 28,570
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Income	30,502
Total Budget Income	\$ 59,072
General Budget Expenses	\$ 27,557
Debt Retirement/Mortgage Expense	28,851
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 56,408
Net Income	\$ 2,664

We still have \$5,723 in General expense bills due this month and our mortgage payment of \$3,851 is due February 28th. We do have two more Sundays of tithes this month.



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



Answer: Did you figure it out? Well, the answer is in the way the question is worded. You cannot add what one person HAS to what someone else has Paid and come up with any kind of meaningful number. You have to subtract. Each man has paid \$9 and the bellhop has \$2. Difference: \$9 x 3 = \$27 - \$2 = \$25; which is what the hotel manager has. Alternative solution: Each man has \$1 for \$3 the bellhop has \$2 for \$5 and the hotel manager has \$25 = \$30.

Library News: Dawn Lamade



Now available in the HUMC Library, more of the "Mitford Years" series by Jan Karon. These popular books, set in western North Carolina, offer a delightful look at life in a small town through the eyes of the rector at the local Episcopal Church. Enjoy the reading:

- Book 1: *At Home in Mitford*
- Book 2: *A Light in the Window*
- Book 3: *These High, Green Hills*
- Book 4: *Out of Canaan*
- Book 5: *A New Song*
- Book 6: *A Common Life*
- Book 9: *Light From Heaven*

In addition, we have the first Father Tim novel by Jan Karon, *Home to Holly Springs*.

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>



From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner



Once upon a time there was a farmer who owned a large farm and had a very beautiful daughter. Unfortunately he also owed a large amount of money to the local money lender.

The money lender was old and ugly and fancied the farmer's daughter. So he proposed a deal. If the daughter would marry him he would forgive the farmer's debt. Well, the farmer and his daughter were horrified at the thought. So the cunning and unscrupulous money lender proposed that they allow chance to determine their fate.

He told them that he would place one black and one white pebble into an empty moneybag. The daughter would pick one pebble from the bag. If she picked the black pebble she would become the moneylender's wife and her father's debt would be forgiven. If she picked the white pebble she would not have to marry the moneylender and her father's debt would still be forgiven. If she refused to pick a pebble her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble strewn path on the farmer's property and the moneylender reached down and picked up two pebbles and placed them in the empty moneybag. The sharp-eyed daughter noticed that both pebbles were black. He then asked the daughter to pick a pebble from the bag.

Well, it seemed the girl was stuck between a rock and a hard place and before you continue, let's pause and consider, What would you do? How would you advise the girl to proceed. The girl put her hand in the bag and picked out a pebble. Fumbling with it she dropped it on the path where it was immediately lost among all of the other pebbles. "Oh, how clumsy of me!" she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag you will know which one I picked."

The moneylender was trapped. He dare not admit his dishonesty. So, what seemed like an impossible situation turned into an advantageous one for the girl and her father.



Missions MinistryRobin Broom

Opportunities!



Last week I had the most amazing opportunity to join a team of roughly 45 volunteers on a medical mission to a nearby village. Our organization, Helping Hands, partnered with one of our district health offices to do a medical outreach to the people of Buduma "B". We reached the remote place where we were to do the outreach (well we weren't sure, but it was an open field close to a few run down buildings). We arrived early that morning and began to set up, but there were no people. One of our team members even commented, "Where are the people?" Slowly and surely word reached out into the community and they came. *God granted us with the opportunity to share His love and His Good News with approximately 360 souls.*



Once we got all our many stations set up, we gathered as a team, got our last minute instructions and we prayed. The people began to come in groups and there were many, many children. We got them registered, then as they waited for the laboratory and immunization stations they received health education, and then according to their needs they saw the clinicians and received medication. (We even had a give-away station supplying mosquito nets, soap, and some fun things for the kiddos.) Every single person that came that day (approximately 360) were tested for malaria and HIV, the two most common diseases in our area. There were many positive HIV tests and we were able to connect them to a local health office that could supply their monthly medications and care for them. We also offered counseling for these people and their families.

A few weeks back we began planning this outreach. We met and discussed what the needs would be and how we could effectively meet each need and staff every station. We knew partnering with the local government offices here can sometimes be a bit "tricky". We are always very careful in our approach to share the Gospel because of the many different religions we might encounter. Nevertheless, we believed that God would open this door to reach the beautiful people He created. We came prepared with 7 young men (recent graduates from Word of Life Bible Institute) who love sharing about their faith in Jesus. God made a way, and we were completely free to share with anyone and everyone who was willing to listen. And every time I looked around, there were young men sharing a word of encouragement and hope, either one-on-one, in small groups, or at a station where many were waiting to be treated. And all of us were more than ready to share some love and pray with them. There were many that day that had never heard the Gospel, they did not know how much God loves them and sent His Son to die for them. But now they know—what a privilege, what an **opportunity** to lead people into salvation knowledge of Jesus. And now I am sure, there will be people from the small village of Buduma "B" in Uganda, Africa, living for eternity with us in Heaven. Hallelujah!!!!



It is always such an honor to go out in to the surrounding villages. There are such practical ways to share the love of Christ. There are little old ladies that just need a hand walking to their seat, babies that need holding, some might need a simple smile, and most folks just need you to stop—stop and let them know someone cares.

Get out there—don't miss your opportunities today!

*THANK YOU so much for partnering with me in sharing God's love and Truth with the beautiful nation of Uganda!!!
May God bless you!
With much love, Robin*

Financial Support can be mailed to:
Answer God's Call Ministries
215 W. Mesa Ave. Gallup, NM 87301

Church Member Services Directory

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



Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey

Jane Carter was our featured speaker for February. We all know Jane, but its times like these meetings that you really get to know the heart of a person when they share their story, and we all have a story to tell. And that's what we experienced with Jane's testimony. She accepted Christ into her heart as a young girl. She was raised in a home where parents were active and serving in the church. Jane met Conley while in school, dated, fell in love, married, moved around the country and settled in Knoxville. While working at a local church for many years, she "burned out" for a variety of reasons and took a twelve year break. They moved to Hiawassee, and Jane felt led to return to serving God using her gifts. They started attending HUMC. She has served God in our Finance and other areas for many years and just recently passed the torch to others. She needed a break to care for her mother get refreshed. Through all of her experiences God has been involved in working through her life. She feels that God has greatly blessed them, and she loves the Lord and her church.

Pastor Sam: New ideas to have a monthly - **Kids Science Program** (talking about God) for the community. Thinking about 10-noon with Pizza lunch. He needs some of our former teachers to assist with this.

In 2016 the Bishops of the Church were asked to come up with a Denominational Direction for the Methodist Church. This could be presented sometime in the future. As a local congregation we would review and discuss the direction suggested and determine the direction for our local church. We will keep you up to date as we hear more regarding any directional decisions.

We will have a new **superintendent** in June – **Alice Rogers**, Emory Campus.

Finance: Each of you has continued to bless our church with your faithfulness. Be sure and read the Finance section for more details on all of the specifics. We approved the final 2018 budget in the amount of \$261,342. We continue to receive many requests for assistance from the community – so far this year you have helped to allow us to give \$1,632 to help others. We have also made an extra payment to our mortgage principal due to a generous donation of \$25,000 which has reduced our current mortgage to \$443,844 – Praise the Lord!

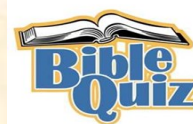
Lay Leader: It was suggested that since the Christmas Card Box program wasn't working any more, we use the money we all spend for cards etc. and fund a special mission program. It was a unanimous vote to do so. Details to follow. We will also be following up on exploring the use of grants to fund a Young Life program through Faith Based organizations.

PPR: The meeting finalized decisions on the various personnel compensation packages for 2018.

Trustees: They will be taking down the damaged parsonage ramp and replacing it with steps; cleaning/buffing floors in the narthex, bathrooms, and kitchen; cleaning the church steeple; painting the white crosses; and doing some Pavilion repairs.

Worship: Check out this section in the newsletter, but plan to attend the Lenten Lunches at noon for the next 5 weeks. A light lunch and devotional will be provided. A great choir presentation on Maundy Thurs. service Mar.29th, Good Friday service at noon, Easter Sunrise service at the Fairgrounds at 7 a.m.– HUMC is in charge – come and help. **Our next meeting: March 15th – 2:00 p.m.**

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have – but do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Pet 3:15 NIV



This month's quiz is NOT bible oriented. Instead of asking you to remember facts from the Bible, this month I am asking you to put on your thinking caps and solve a money problem:

Problem: Three men agreed to share a hotel room that the manager said cost \$30. Each man paid \$10. A short time later the manager realized that the room rate was only \$25; so he sent a bellhop up to the room with \$5. On the way to the room the bellhop could not figure out how to split the \$5 evenly between the 3 men. So, he gave each man \$1 and kept the other \$2 for himself.

This meant that each man spent \$9 for the room for a total of \$27 and since the bellhop kept \$2 the total is \$29. Where did the other \$1 go?



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