

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



I Surrender All

Based on recorded history, the shortest war was a military conflict called *The Anglo-Zanzibar War*. The war was fought between the United Kingdom and the Zanzibar Sultanate on August 27, 1896 and lasted between 38 and 45 minutes. Shortly after the battle began, the outmatched Zanzibar fell in full surrender.

In general, we live in a society that views surrender as a negative response, if not a disgraceful one. Among the several definitions of surrender are: *to cease resistance, give up, hand over, lose, and abandon oneself entirely*. To surrender mean to no longer be in control. When we surrender, we are at the mercy of someone else.

I don't know about you, but I don't remember going to school to learn how to surrender. In many ways, this concept is not part of our American value system. However, many Americans identify themselves, at least in name, as Christians. This concept that is often viewed as negative is actually a key concept for one who identifies as a Christian (follower of Jesus Christ). In The Gospel of Matthew, chapter 16:24-25 says, *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it."*

If you have attended very many church worship services, you are probably familiar with the hymn, "I Surrender All." The words of this hymn begin, "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give." As we willfully give over the controls of our life to our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are practicing a surrender of our lives that allows God to accomplish His will for us. We will find that as we continue to surrender to God, our thoughts, desires, and actions will change from earthly, selfish ones to holy, godly ones.

Even the believer in Christ can struggle to keep the concept of surrender close to heart. It seems so natural for us to want to take control rather than give up control. However, our relationships with others (spouse, children, parents, friends, co-workers, supervisors, neighbors, etc.) would prove to be less burdensome and more fulfilling if we practiced surrender in our lives.

Have you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ and given Him control? Jesus Himself surrendered His life and died on a cross to give us real life for eternity to come. He knows something about "surrender." Isn't it amazing that Jesus, who was without sin, surrendered Himself to God's plan of salvation and stepped into our place on the cross? He took on our sin and became that sin to be sacrificed once and for all so that we would not have to die an eternal death separated from God. Will you surrender your life to Jesus and be freed from all the heavy burdens of this life? Give your life to him and live in full surrender!

Blessings,

Sam

Pastor Sam



From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy



EASTER celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and all that the resurrection implies. It begins on **Resurrection Sunday** and continues until **Pentecost** It's not just a day, but a season!

During the time between the resurrection and Pentecost Jesus met with his disciples to teach them, ate and fellowshiped with them, and ascended into the heavens. The Easter season recalls all of this and ends with Pentecost, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We just spent the Lenten season as a time of penitence, self-denial and introspection, reminding us of the price that God paid to redeem us. That's how much He loved us.

Now we celebrate! Throughout the season, our worship should be joyous ... Jesus' resurrection means that we will experience eternal life! *Hallelujah!*

What does the Resurrection imply?

Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ. But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with Him at His Coming, the grand consummation when, after crushing the opposition, He hands over His kingdom to God the Father. He won't let up until the last enemy is down—and the very last enemy is death!

As the psalmist said, "He laid them low, one and all; He walked all over them." When Scripture says that "He walked all over them," it's obvious that He couldn't at the same time be walked on. When everything and everyone is finally under God's rule, the Son will step down, taking His place with everyone else, showing that God's rule is absolutely comprehensive—a perfect ending!

- 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28 *The Message*



Earth Day is April 22nd

The history of Earth Day 2018 dates back to 1970 when it was first celebrated. It was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and the respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution. The first Earth Day celebrations took place in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. Today, Earth Day is celebrated in more than 193 countries each year.



You're Invited!

Dear Church Family,
You are invited to celebrate our 50th anniversary on May 26, 2018 from 2-5 pm in our fellowship hall. PLEASE, NO GIFTS.
Dan and Carol Simpson



To our church family,
Thank you for your generous donations to help cover the cost for Lorena's air fare. Lorena is scheduled to arrive in Atlanta on 3/27.
...Dan, Carol, Scott and Matthew.

To our church family:
Michael and I want to thank you for your kindness shown to us during Michael's knee surgery. Thank you for your cards, phone calls, but especially your prayers. We love you all very much.
...Michael & Sarah Henderson

How we appreciate you, our HUMC family, and all your expressions of kindness and sympathy at the Homegoing of our mother, Mae Lamade! It was so important to her, while she could still understand it, to be a member of this community of faith. You have demonstrated the love of Christ to us both during this time of grief and of illness. Thank you!
...Dawn Lamade and Hope Horkavy

Happenings on the Hill



We are on Facebook as Hiawassee United Methodist Church.



- 4/1 @ 7 am Sunrise Service at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.
- 4/1 @ 10:45 am Resurrection Sunday Worship
- 4/4 @ 5 pm Children's Ministry interest meeting
- 4/6 @ 6 pm Going Solo
- 4/7 @ 9:30 am Emmaus
- 4/11 @ 9:30 am Trustees Meeting
- 4/11 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 4/18 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 4/19 @ 2 pm Admin Council Meeting
- 4/21 @ 9 am HUMM Breakfast



Come see the 2018 Tour Esangelo Children's Choir from Uganda Wednesday, May 30th @ 6 PM

We are excited to announce the return of The Esangelo Children's Choir from Uganda. The performances are all acoustic, with the children and adults playing musical instruments from Africa and dressed in traditional grass skirts and celebration costumes. This tour will feature video highlights of the Village of Eden that will bring the ministry to life.



The antique Deacon's Bench in the hallway has been restored and donated, by her daughters, in memory of Mae Lamade. She found the bench 60 years ago in New England.

April 29th is a Fifth Sunday!

Coffee and Donuts will be provided in the Welcome Area. We are asking the Sunday Schools to finish ten minutes early to encourage you to take a little extra time to fellowship that day before Worship.



Thank You!

To all those who were participants in the Holy Week activities. Choir members, Handbell folks, Audio/Visual people, the Worship Committee and others all worked hard to make each of the services excellent and meaningful. We are blessed to have so many folks willing to give their time and talents for God's glory!

Going Solo Ladies Supper April 6th 6 pm to 8 pm

All single ladies plan to attend and bring a BREAKFAST/BRUNCH 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. This month we will explore our spiritual gifts and discuss how we can utilize them in the church.





Finance: Joan Whitaker



Financial Highlights

- ◆ The current balance in our General Checking account is \$23,808.
- ◆ The balance in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage account is \$13,715 which is \$2,162 more than three months mortgage payment.
- ◆ The only noted expenses we have incurred this past month are \$600 to have floors in the welcome area and kitchen cleaned, and \$250 to have the Steeple cleaned.
- ◆ The new United Community Bank account is all set up. Beginning April 1st, only one check will be needed for tithes and offerings. Please write in the "For" section of the check, how you want the funds designated.

**Financial Report as of
March 14, 2018
Year to Date Figures**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| General Budget Income | \$ | 40,768 |
| Debt Retirement/Mortgage Income | | 34,049 |
| Total Budget Income | \$ | 74,817 |
| General Budget Expenses | \$ | 41,429 |
| Debt Retirement/Mortgage Expense | | 32,701** |
| Total Budget Expenses | \$ | 74,130 |
| Net Gain | \$ | 687 |

We still have \$3,250 in general expense bills due this month and our mortgage payment of \$3,851 due March 31st. We do have two more Sundays of tithes this month.
**This figure does not include the \$14,575 applied to the principal of our mortgage loan. While it was an expense, the funds came from a balance in our Debt Retirement/Mortgage account as of December 2017.



During the 1st quarter of 2018, HUMC paid over \$1700 to help 11 families with food, gas, rent, water and electric bills. Thank you for your generosity!

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing — the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.Frederick Buechner

Trustees Conley Carter

There have been a couple of instances lately when exterior doors were left unlocked when our building was unoccupied. The weather is improving and activity around the church will be increasing. Everyone is encouraged to be mindful when entering and exiting the building to ensure that doors are locked when our facility is vacant. Thank you for your attention to this concern.

The Board of Trustees

Worship Committee ... Carol Simpson

- ◆ Thanks to all who provided the soups and other food for the Lenten Lunches, and to those who led the beautiful devotions.
- ◆ Thank you to all who led the Lenten Readings on Sunday mornings.

The Worship Committee

Answers: 1. Ephesians; 2. six (6); 3. False (Ephesians 5); 4. False (Ephesians 6); 5. True; Bonus: five (5) - it is thought by most scholars to be a baptismal hymn and if you knew that - pat yourself on the back you are a true bible scholar.

Library News: Dawn Lamade



Billy Graham, preacher to Presidents and to people all over the world, died in February. Listed below are a few of the titles by Rev. Graham in the HUMC library.

- Just as I am: the Autobiography. 1999.(Biography)
- The Holy Spirit, activating God's spirit in your life. 1978. (Theology)
- Peace with God. 1977.(Inspiration)
- Storm Warning. 1992. (End Times)
- Nearing Home. 2011.(Inspiration)
- The Billy Graham Christian Worker's Handbook. 1996.(Inspiration)
- Angels. 1994.(Theology)
- Where I am. 2015.(Inspiration)

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



In early March, I came across two devotionals in **The Upper Room** or **Our Daily Bread** that had children as their lead paragraphs. One dealing with the faith and trust children had for their fathers and the other dealing with a child's free expression of joy. I thought back to my own childhood (a long time ago) remembering the joy I had when with my own father and the questions I asked, even though I trusted and had faith in him.

It also brought to mind a discussion I heard among Christians concerning why we call God our Father. It also called to mind what Jesus said in Matthew 18:3 and 4, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."(NKJV) Elsewhere in the Scriptures children are mentioned and in particular the New Testament calls believers the "children of God".

But, why call God "Father"? The easy answer is that Scripture uses Father when referencing God, in fact, the Gospel of John references God as Father no less than 13 times. I think that our heavenly Father is much like our earthly fathers because it is OK to ask questions and those questions do not lessen the faith and trust we have in them, nor are either of them grieved or embarrassed by the joy we express to them, about them and for them.

I sometimes ask questions of God. Many of them similar to the questions I asked my father - most often starting with "Why". Do you ever question God? Is it OK to question God? Absolutely! He invites us to come as children and children ask questions. That is one way that our understanding and our relationship grows closer, stronger and more loving, AND, you have a great free wireless connection to Him - it is called prayer.



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



www.hiawasseumc.org



Missions MinistryRobin Broom

Jamilla ...

There was a startling turn of events today as I went to visit Jamilla, a young girl who has fought a very tough battle with abdominal cancer. We arrived at her home as usual (We have been visiting every other day for a few weeks now), and as we drove past, we went through a man's yard to get to her home, this man told us she had been taken to her home. Strange, I thought this was her home, and just the day before when we had visited she had been moved to a different place. So this time we were told we would have to drive to where she was. The man in the yard offered to take us to her. So he went to prepare to go, washing his arms, feet and legs and to change clothes because he had been in the garden digging. After a few minutes, up through the bushes appeared the grandfather of Jamilla. He told us he was the one who had carried Jamilla there yesterday and it was about 8 kilometers away. He got in the car, and he would now take us to her.

We drove what seemed like forever on dirt paths, some only wide enough for a bicycle to pass. But, somehow we managed in our small car. We made it to the main road (still dirt) and as we were driving along we passed by a motorcycle with a woman on the back. As it flew by, I realized it was Jamilla's mom and Jamilla was with her. Jamilla sat facing her mom (backwards on the motorcycle) in between her mom and the driver of the motorcycle, her arms and legs dangling to the side of the bike. I was unsure if she was still alive and I dare not ask at the risk of complete humiliation. They turned around and led us to the home. They carried Jamilla back inside and laid her down on her grass mat. They covered her and I entered the room. She was still alive, but barely.

I sat down on the floor with the other women, the men and children remained outside. We sat as Jamilla gasped for each breath, her head and arms shaking tremendously. After 5 or 10 minutes, she finally calmed down and drifted off to sleep. We all just sat - holding back our sobs, watching her sleep and wondering if each breath would be her last. She continued to breathe a while, then shake and whimper, then she would drift back off to sleep again. All of our eyes were locked on Jamilla as we took turns swatting the flies away from Jamilla's face and body while we waited. All I knew to do was pray. And so I did, begging for God's mercy.

The big question of "why" danced around in my mind, but not for reasons you would think. Why did Jamilla get moved to where she was? It soon became clear as a tall man came over to greet me. This was Jamilla's father. As is custom, she had been brought there to die and to be buried there at his

home, even though her father had not seen Jamilla in quite some time. He is a Muslim and had other wives and children. When Jamilla became critically ill, he never returned to their home. At one point during my visit that day he lined all his children up in a row from firstborn to last along the wall. He was so proud he had produced them, like a proud owner of beautiful stallion offspring. I wasn't proud at all for him, I was angry, angry that he could just walk away and then get the honor of her being buried at his home. Lord, help me walk in love and forgiveness towards this man.

There were moments of complete sobbing over Jamilla, honestly I was crying out for God to take her, that He would accomplish whatever work was still being completed in Jamilla and her family. And at one moment, when there was a little bit of commotion inside I leaned over and whispered in Jamilla's ear, "It's okay, Jamilla, go ahead and let go. Go be with Jesus, you will be okay there." We spent some more time just waiting, watching. I had gotten to know Jamilla's older brother a little over these past weeks, and I watched as he stood outside the room gazing at his little sister. Our eyes met, his filled with tears, quickly wiped away, and he turned and walked away. I prayed for Jamilla as we prepared to leave and knelt down and kissed her gently on her forehead. I looked intently into the eyes of her grandmother and mother as we shook hands goodbye, hopefully communicating the love in my heart for them. I pray they know this love is one that only comes from our Heavenly Father. And we drove away.

Since writing this a few days ago, Jamilla left this world. She is healed. I attended the Muslim burial for my sweet little friend, whom I know is dancing with Jesus. And God answered more than just that prayer, He broke my heart for her father. He was like a lost little boy at the burial, scurrying around to make sure he pleased the leaders of the Mosque who were present to perform the service. Please pray for her father. Pray for her mom, grandmother and siblings who have lived their lives by Jamilla's side these past few months. They are very weary. Pray that God's love and truth will penetrate their hearts and minds as we continue to reach out to this family.

(This photo was taken during one of my visits when Jamilla wanted to drive. Of course, she just sat in the driver's seat.)



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
(Please include a note for Robin Broom-Africa)

Church Member Services Directory

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



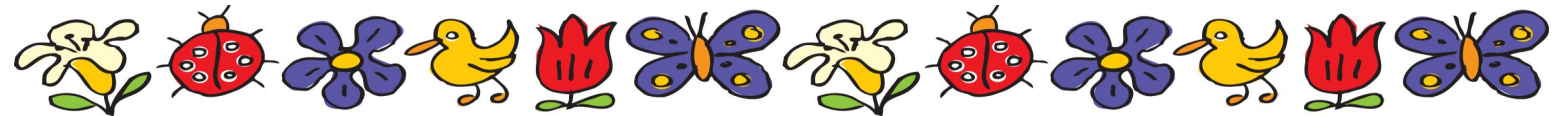
Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey

Now, if you were not able to attend our meeting, you missed hearing our **Guest Speaker Roy Perren** as he shared his testimony – this is just a small part of it. Growing up in a Christian home, like some of us – Roy didn't always live what he believed. But, **God is Faithful** as he quoted the impact that verses like Prov. 22:6 had made in his life. The training he received at home by his parents allowed him to remember his early training in the Lord and later recommitted his life to Christ. He has since made another commitment to spend more time in prayer and reading through the Bible – 27 times so far and every time learns something new. I'm quite a ways from that number – how about you? He also shared other verses that are important to him: Luke 17: 7-10, talks about our responsibility as "servants" to do what is expected of us without expecting anything in return. A "servant" of God seeks to obey God's commands without question. Jesus said: "**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve....**" Mk 10:45.

Pastor Sam will be leading us in making a **30-day Prayer Commitment** as we seek **God's direction** for our church ministries and many additional areas in need of prayer. A **30-day Prayer Calendar** is available which will list suggestions on what to pray for and have appropriate Bible verses for personal reading each day. There will also be regular reminders from us to help remember our commitment to use the Prayer Calendar during the 30-day period. We are told in the Bible to: "**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**" 1 Thes 5: 16-18.

If you are hearing about this for the first time, consider making a commitment to join us in this 30-day Prayer Commitment to seek God's direction through the Power of Prayer. This quote is from Derrick Prince who also has read through the Bible over 50 times: "**Prayer is not a way for me to get God to do what I want, but prayer is a way for me to become an instrument to do what God wants**".

Most of you should have already received an e-mail copy of the Admin Council Minutes from our March meeting. If you need a copy they are always available from our office. Our next meeting is **Thursday April 19th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall** – we look forward to seeing you next month.



Jail/Prison MinistryElaine McEver



On a Monday evening, at the Towns County Jail, a woman from Oklahoma prayed to receive Christ as her Savior. It changed her so much that on Thursday evening all the other women prayed to rededicate their lives to Jesus. It was a day of rejoicing. While we see many women return many times for making wrong decisions I have found if they can learn enough to change their "world view" they can be healed. Almost all of them have a history of abuse of some kind that causes them to continue in a cultural lifestyle in which they cannot escape. Lately I have reflected on the question "What is your world view?" and trying to teach them what that means. Once I was asked on a final exam to answer that question and I did not even know what it meant. We often sense that things are headed in a destructive direction by the answers to the question. The root causes are all encompassing of who we are, what we are and who God is. Those of us who have lived in the Bible belt have seen and heard many concepts of what these words mean but often do not see them applied to every day decisions. It is our hope that when we give them a bible it can give them a different way to view the world around them. It takes time to change a person's world view. Hopefully we can help reduce recidivism at the Towns, Union, and Clay County Jails.

There have been four women at Ms. Elaine's House this month and one living with me in Young Harris. The programs at Family and Drug Courts take two years which is the length of time it takes for the brain to heal enough to say no to an addiction. Celebrate Recovery, AA, and NA measure the time that one takes on the path for change. I have visited all of these programs and find that they all help because of the accountability. It is similar to the Christian life of attending church. Eccl. 3:3 there is a time to heal. The born again experience is just that. I have often said that church is the hospital and Sunday School is the emergency room. When a baby starts to walk it may fall many times but will get up and try again. We all support each other as we see a different way to view life and walk together. Recently I have heard Pastor Sam mention the words world view so I am thinking it is something the Holy Spirit would have us review and reflect on what we really think about who we are, what we are, and who God is. Romans 1:17 For in it (the gospel of Christ) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.

Thank you for all you do to encourage me in the ministry.
.....Ms. Elaine