

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: humc@hiawasseeumc.org
Website: www.hiawasseeumc.org
Phone: 706.896.2818
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hiawassee United Methodist Church

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

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m. Prayer
9:30 a.m. 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*

HUMC Mountain Messenger



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



A LASTING LEGACY



Over the Memorial Day weekend a few years ago, my family traveled through Kentucky and Indiana. Many people were heading toward the coast as the summer break began, but we were heading inland. The previous year my grandmother passed away and my parents and siblings gathered in the southern Indiana community where she is buried, to place her headstone. Since my parents moved from that area to Georgia a couple of years before I was born, I did not realize the rich family history I have in that area. The cemetery where my grandmother is buried is now a United Methodist cemetery, but dates back to a much earlier German Methodist Church. I was amazed when my father began showing me several graves of grandparents and other family members that dated back to the mid 1800s. One of those family members was part of a group of families that moved from North Carolina and eventually ended up establishing a nearby town in Indiana. He was instrumental in forming the layout of the town and establishing a church in the community. Needless to say, this trip grew an interest in me to go back and learn the details of my family's history.

Before we returned home, we visited the small Kentucky community where I served as the pastor of two small United Methodist churches while I was in seminary. We left six years earlier and had not been back since that time. I was blown away by the reception and the hospitality of the people as they welcomed us back. Both of the churches had grown in the time since. It was hard for me to hold back tears as one of the church leaders came to me and said, "Remember when I told you that you were planting seeds?" She went on to explain how God had been blessing their churches and the labor that we participated in had produced fruit. It was as though God had prepared her to speak words of His grace to me that day. Those were words I needed to hear.

The events that took place over the Memorial Day weekend really caused me to think a lot about the legacies left by others and the legacy I will leave behind. Many people sacrificed their lives so that this nation could continue to be free and spread freedom to others. Their legacies compel us to leave a lasting, positive legacy for future generations. My family heritage and history reminded me that many people are responsible for my faith and community as they helped build towns and established churches for worship. My visit to those small churches out in the country also confirmed to me that God is faithful and that fruit comes from our labor when we are faithful to His call.

Each of us could ask ourselves a simple question for self-examination. That question is, "What kind of lasting legacy am I leaving?" As we consider the focus of our lives and the list of priorities we are living out, will these things leave a lasting legacy that continues to produce fruit for Christ? If the legacy you are leaving is not one that God can bless or that you could be proud of, what do you need to change? Many have come before us and many may come after us. If that is the case, are we leaving a legacy that shows them Jesus Christ?

Blessings,

Sam

Pastor Sam





From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

There are some special worship opportunities in the month of May as we finish the Easter Season:



May 13th is considered Ascension Sunday, commemorating Jesus' ascending into heaven to send the Holy Spirit and to sit at God's right hand and intercede for us.



May 20th is Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to all who believe and call Jesus our Savior and Lord!

WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST!

Jesus said, "But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid." John 14:26-27

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

Hallelujah! He is risen, indeed!

HIAWASSEE PART-TIMERS

We are always happy to have our **summer friends** return to worship with us! Whether you are here for a few weeks or a few months, we encourage you to participate as much as you can. Join the choir, praise band, usher, greet, pray with one of our prayer teams ... whatever the Lord lays on your heart to do, we will do our best to honor!



All of the Bible Points to Jesus!

From Genesis to Revelation, the whole Bible is about Jesus. Take a look in Leviticus 23, the instructions about the spring feasts. "Feast" means appointed time, or holiday, set apart by God for His worship. What do they have to do with Jesus?

PASSOVER: the first feast commemorates God saving the Hebrew slaves in Egypt by the sacrificing of a lamb and its blood applied. Passover speaks of *redemption*. Jesus the Messiah, the Passover Lamb, was slain for us on Passover.

UNLEAVENED BREAD: the second feast on the day after Passover; all leaven (representing sin) is meticulously removed from the Jewish household. Left undealt with, sin will permeate and decay everything. Unleavened Bread speaks of *sanctification*. Jesus was set apart. His body would not decay in the grave.

FIRSTFRUITS: two days after Passover; the first sheaf of the first barley harvest is cut and presented to God. FirstFruits speaks of *resurrection*. Death could not hold her Foe. On that third day, Jesus rose triumphantly from the grave! 1 Cor 15:20

WEEKS or PENTECOST: 50 days after FirstFruits, the Jews bring the firstfruit of the wheat harvest: two loaves of freshly baked leavened bread before God. This speaks of *origination*. The coming of the Holy Spirit inaugurated the New Covenant which Jesus instituted in the Upper Room (Mt.26:28-29). Jesus broke down the wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles!

Going Solo Ladies Supper May 4th 6 pm to 8 pm

All single ladies plan to attend and bring an **APPE-TIZER** 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 work on the Guest Bag Project and will take a look at the some of the women of the Bible to learn to follow Jesus better.



Happenings on the Hill



We are on Facebook as
Hiawassee United Methodist Church.

Come see the 2018
Be Filled Tour
Esangelo Children's Choir
from Uganda

Wednesday, May 30th @ 6 PM

Invite your friends & neighbors!



We are excited to announce the return of The Esangelo Children's Choir from Uganda. The energy, excitement and exuberance of a live Esangelo Choir performance cannot be described—it must be experienced. It's more than just a performance; for these children and adults, it's a sincere celebration of powerful life-change that comes from the Gospel.



Bulletin Boards

Have you noticed the new Bulletin Boards? Lera Rexroth has volunteered her time and talents to give our Bulletin Boards a well needed facelift. We now have a board highlighting our military. If you have a family member serving in the military, please bring a photo to the office, or send via email, along with his/her name.



Jan Bush has created a lovely album for Children's Ministries from 2007–2016, Stop by the Library and take a look.



- 5/4 @ 6 pm Going Solo Ladies Supper
- 5/5 Emmaus
- 5/9 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 5/12 Emmaus
- 5/16 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 5/17 @ 2 pm Admin Council Meeting
- 5/19 @ 9 am HUMM Breakfast
- 5/20 @ noon Fellowship Luncheon
- 5/26 @ 2 pm Simpson Party
- 5/28 Memorial Day; Office Closed
- 5/30 @ 6 pm Esangelo Children's Choir from Uganda



Coming in May!
Online Photo Directory
More information coming soon!



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: If you would like to donate a flower arrangement for a Worship Service, sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk. Please add if it is in memory or honor of someone special and it will be announced in the bulletin. Call Carol's Florist or Young Harris Florist to order an arrangement between \$45 - \$65 for HUMC. To keep costs at a minimum, plan to pick up the arrangement yourself and deliver it or bring it with you into the sanctuary before service on your Sunday. Help make our worship space beautiful!

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. R.S.V.P. 706-896-9295 or
Email: simpdc@windstream.net
Dan and Carol Simpson





Finance: Joan Whitaker



**Financial Report as of
April 18, 2018
Year to Date Figures**

	<u>General Budget</u>	<u>Debt Retirement</u>
Beginning Balances as of 1/1/18	\$ 25,544	\$ 26,932
Total Income from Tithes & Offerings	55,159	37,666
Total Expenses as of 4/18/18	55,907	51,117
Account Balances as of 4/18/18	\$ 24,769	\$ 13,481

We still have \$2,735 in general expense bills due this month and our mortgage payment of \$3,851 due April 30th. We do have 2 more Sundays of tithes this month.

Financial Highlights for April

- ◆ The current balance in our Checking account is \$66,527. This includes \$24,769 for our General Expenses and \$41,758 for expenses which are designated for specific use including Debt Retirement/Mortgage expenses. The Debt Retirement/Mortgage account still has a little more than three months Mortgage payments.
- ◆ We are still in a net gain position as of today by \$376.
- ◆ We forwarded to the Food Pantry a total collection of \$1,140 for the collections on Good Friday and at the Easter Sunrise Service.
- ◆ Noted expenses incurred this month are new check charges for our new account with United Community Bank, maintenance service on our fire extinguishers, and light replacements in welcome area and sanctuary.



- ◇ **James Fagin** graduating from Union County High School
- ◇ **Chase Adams** graduating from Young Harris College

CONGRATULATIONS!

www.hiawasseumc.org

**Coming Soon!
ONLINE GIVING**



In May, we will begin a trial period of online giving. Watch for more information!

*To our church family,
Thank you so much for the food, cards, phone calls and prayers during the time of my mother's death.
With love, Michael and Sarah Henderson*



Library News: Dawn Lamade



The library has several books on prayer that offer guidance during these turbulent times, and as we continue to pray for guidance for our church. These can all be found in the Devotional/Prayer section of the library. Check these out:

E. M. Bounds, ***On Prayer***. E. M. Bounds knew the secrets of prayer and that God has established divine principles and promises for our every need. He reveals these principles and illustrates how God has answered the prayers of men and women since the beginning of Bible times.

John Maxwell, ***Partners in Prayer***. Prayer is the bridge that allows pastors and lay people to partner together effectively in ministry. Maxwell describes how this method of support has been proven time and again in churches of all sizes.

Bill Hybels, ***Too Busy NOT to Pray***. This popular book challenges you to take time to pray, to listen to God, to respond to what God is saying to you, and to overcome prayer barriers.

Philip Yancey, ***Prayer: Does it Make a Difference***. In theory, prayer is the essential human act, a priceless point of contact between us and the God of the universe. In practice, prayer is often frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. Explore prayer.

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



It seems as if all we hear about are "mass killings". The most heated discussions center around those killings that are in or around schools. It is not that they are more horrific than other mass killings but the concern over child safety is more compelling. A "mass" killing is one in which there are four or more victims. Recent articles and electronic media news coverage as well as some scholarly studies hold up 2017 as the deadliest year in US history. All of this has led to vigorous debate centered around "gun control."

Various "solutions" have been advanced that are designed to protect children in the classroom. Some, perhaps all, have varying degrees of merit as well as varying degrees of cost. But, in my opinion, none of these proposals address the cause or causes of this violence.

Although there are exceptions to mass shootings at schools, notably in 1764, 1891 and 1927, the current rash of these shootings began in the 1950's and increased every decade (except the 1980's) until 2017, which has been called the deadliest year in US history. I wondered why?

Could it be, the Supreme Court's decisions in 1962 (Prayer) and 1963 (Bible) to remove prayer and the Bible from public schools has had an effect on our youth? I don't know, but statistics in other areas lead me to believe it may very well be one, if not the major cause. For example: STD's in the age group of 10 -14 rose from 14 cases per 100,000 in 1963 to 64 cases per 100,000 in 1990, and birth rates for unwed girls from 15-19 rose from about 14 cases per 1,000 in 1963 to about 50 in 1990. And the 7 top public school problems before 1963 ranged from talking (1) to failing to put paper in the wastebasket (7). After 1963 the top 17 problems range from rape (1) to murder (7) to venereal disease (17). (Statistics from CDC, HHS and USA today).

Now, I don't know if putting prayer and the Bible back in the schools would reduce these mass shootings and other killings or behavioral problems. It does, however, raise the question: Is this really a good time to keep God out of the schools?

Answers: 1. Joy - Philippians: church - Colossians 2. False - Colossians 3. A Roman prison 4. 4 5. True Bonus - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

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





Missions MinistryRobin Broom

Many times here in Uganda I experience things and my heart longs to share them with the ones I love back in the states. A visit with some friends last week was no exception. A peaceful stroll around a lake reminded me of my father. Any time I am near water - a river, a pond, and especially a lake makes me think of my sweet daddy. Our family spent most warm summer days during my childhood on the water fishing, swimming, skiing, tubing, etc., and they are some of my fondest memories with my dad and family. As I strolled around the lake that day, my eyes fixed on the sparkling water, my heart was filled with warmth and love from my Heavenly Father.

Many of you read about my sweet little friend Jamilla who passed away. God allowed me the privilege of being a part of her life for a short time. But I don't think that was all God had in mind. Maybe it is more about her family and the relationships that were formed during that time. Last week I went to visit Jamilla's family with one of our youth named Geoffrey. When we arrived the grandmother and grandfather were near the home, both hard at work. The grandfather had been gathering reeds from the lake to dry and sell and her grandmother was collecting wild mushrooms and firewood to prepare lunch for the family. Unfortunately, Jamilla's mom was not around. She had gone for another burial in a nearby village. This family never missed a beat after their loss, they were all very steadily working, gathering reeds and digging for survival.



The grieving process is very different here. When someone dies, you will hear the bone-chilling wails of most women as they arrive to the home to sit with the family around the body of the deceased. The wailing will continue into the night and for a few days as each person arrives and expresses their grief. But after the burial, there is not much more talk or activity regarding the loss. Life must go on! A simple life lived from gathering and digging for daily sustenance must continue or crops will die and people will starve. I often wondered if that is why they wail, cry and grieve so deeply during those few days, because that time is all they get.

That day we sat and talked to the grandfather for a

bit, all the while gazing upon the lake in the distance. I was asking questions about the lake and their life adjacent to it. He asked if I wanted to go and see the lake. Of course I did!!!! So grandpa, Geoffrey and I went for a walk around the lake. He shared many stories and showed us the borders of his land that he has been working to purchase for his grandchildren. He said he stopped school in Primary 4 because his parents passed away and there was no money. He has been working hard to survive ever since. He bought this land because he wanted his family to have more than he did. Sounds familiar to me, I have heard my father say this many times, and he worked so very hard and we had more than we ever needed.

As we continued walking, there was less translation from Geoffrey and more discussion between him and grandpa. Geoffrey listened intently as he shared stories and was even given some life lessons by this grandpa. Geoffrey lost his father not too long ago and he was soaking in this quality "father" time. Truth be told, I was too, as I am missing mine. I listened and could pick up on enough of the conversation in the local language to know that Geoffrey was now asking this grandpa about his faith. Here was a young man who just a little over one month ago was struggling so that his choices could have cost him everything. **But God!!!** God had a firm grip on Geoffrey, a young man whom I know God is grooming up for His Kingdom purposes. And then Geoffrey began to encourage this man in the Lord.

Isn't that just like our Redeemer? To take us out of our misery and trouble to speak life to the hearts of others who might be walking through tough times of their own. I am, once again, in awe that God would use us, such broken vessels, to shine His beautiful light into the world. I love those days—when I get to see His hand so clearly. I loved watching Geoffrey hold his head a little higher after our visit that day. I loved hearing how much our visit meant to an older man and woman whose days were not so bright as of late. They have buried two grandchildren in the past two months and were pleased that someone cared enough to just come and pay a visit. Please continue to pray for them and for their whole family as we continue to share God's love with them. I am praying for a time to go and visit Jamilla's father soon. He is Muslim so please pray for his heart to be softened to the Gospel of Christ. *But God ... His love can break through the toughest of hearts ... it did mine.*



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

Your Church and You

Your Church is a company of people who confess their faith in, and loyalty to Jesus Christ, and unite in a covenant for the purpose of Christian growth, worship and service and observance of the Sacraments He has appointed.

Your Church is more than an organization – it is an organism through which flows the life of the living Christ.

Your Church is a family – a society of brothers and sisters whose highest privilege is mutual helpfulness.

Your Church offers the finest opportunity for a happy fellowship and the forming of the most worth-while fellowships

Your Church is a school for Christian instruction. It was begun by Jesus, who was the world's greatest religious teacher. Its textbook is the world's best book – the Bible.

Your Church is a spiritual power-house, distributing its energy through its members to redeem the world.

Your Church is engaged in a world task. Its founder commissioned it to go into all the world and preach His gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Your Church rightfully expects its members to contribute according to their ability of their time, money, talents, energy, and thought to carry out the Divine mission of its Master.

Your Church believes that public worship is a socially and spiritually constructive act, and urges its members to be habitual attendants at its regular services.

Your Church seeks to cultivate in the lives of its members private devotions through daily Scripture reading, prayer and meditation.

Your Church is a social body of a distinctive type. It welcomes all classes and conditions of people into its fellowship, regardless of race or color.

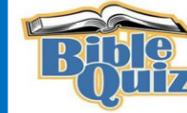
Your Church offers the largest opportunity for helpful human service, and the promotion of good will and Christian brotherhood, which Christ came into the world to establish.

Your Church is commanded to proclaim the social teaching of Jesus, and its members are to be living examples of those teachings.

Your Church teaches that wealth, unearned and unshared, is wrong. Christians should acquire money in ways that do not harm but positively help their fellows.

Your Church is the conservator of the moral and spiritual values of the past, the creator of ideals in the present, and the inspirer of progress for the future.

Your Church and You was included in the Certificate of Membership material given to new members during the 50's by Methodist Pastors – thought you might enjoy.



This month we will be focusing on two epistles written by Paul to two more churches he started; Philippians and Colossians. Each of these letters has a theme - one is joy and the other is the church.

1. Which church letter has the major theme of Joy? Which has the major theme of "the church"?
 2. True or false: Both churches were European churches.
 3. Where was Paul when he wrote these letters; the temple in Jerusalem, Arabia, the Athens Hilton or a Roman prison.
 4. Both letters contain the same number of chapters. How many?
 5. True or False; "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," is found in Colossians 3:16.
- Bonus: Quote Phiippians 4:16.



Jail/Prison MinistryElaine McEver

This morning I am thinking about the Walk to Emmaus teaching on priorities. Suffering from some congestion and "maybe pneumonia" have kept me at home and in my rocking chair while I watch my neglected house suffer too. This week I received a letter from a woman that we helped several years ago. She is serving her third sentence in prison. She said, "When you retire from Jail ministry, I will retire as inmate." It would definitely be worth it. When she was arrested again, one of the guards said to me, "See, you did not help her at all." I reminded him that considering her back ground we did. She was sober for two years, had a good job, connected with her children, went back to school, got her CNA license, and married the man she had been dating for many years. In ministry, you do what you feel God has asked you to do. The results are up to Him and I love Him for that. So happy that my righteousness does not depend on me but on the Blood of Jesus.

"Ms. Elaine's House" has been one of the blessings that have resulted from Almost There, Inc. ministry. Several

volunteers have come out to stay at the house while the house mother takes her needed time off, and others have joined the Executive Board as advisers. Experienced people with backgrounds in business, taxes, grants, and counseling have volunteered their services on the Board. The new house mother has survived the entries and exits of several women. At one point there were 5 women there with one of them sleeping on the couch, now another of them AWOL. Two women are still living there, working, and attending classes with Family and/or Drug Court. The Union County Community, through the Chamber of Commerce, has added additional support there and we are praying the Towns County Chamber will catch hold of some of their ideas. The men now have a place that is bigger than Ms. Elaine's House and plenty of room for expansion.

Special thanks to my family, the United Methodist Men, the Friendship Sunday School class, the prayer teams and the inclusive support of Hiawassee United Methodist church. I request prayers for wisdom as I set priorities in my personal life as well as ministry.