

# Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: [humc@hiawasseeumc.org](mailto:humc@hiawasseeumc.org)  
Website: [www.hiawasseeumc.org](http://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

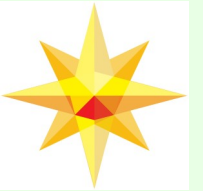
## *Our Mission:*

*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](http://www.hiawasseeumc.org)



## A Season of Anticipation



We have entered the season of Advent. This is a time in the life of the Church when we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. We wait expectantly with anticipation for our Lord Jesus to enter into our lives, ultimately fulfilling God's salvation and restoration of creation. This is a season filled with hope for what God is already doing and what God is going to do. We know that something amazing is going to happen and we don't want to miss it.

As I write these words, I can't help but anticipate what is going to happen in the life of my family. We are expecting a baby girl any day now and it's hard to keep from being excited. Our home has been buzzing with excitement for a couple weeks as we wait for her arrival. My prayer is that she arrives safe and healthy so she can thrive in her new life. Hopefully, by the time you read these words, her arrival will have come and all will be well.

As I think about our anticipation over our little girl, I can't help but consider the advent of our Lord Jesus as God's people prepared and anticipated his arrival for many, many years before Christ's birth. The prophet Isaiah wrote about the coming Messiah in Isaiah 40 saying, "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned. Yes, the LORD has punished her twice over for all her sins." Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, "Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" While these words speak of preparing and being ready for the coming King, Jesus was born more than 700 years later. Can you believe that many faithful Jews waited their entire lives and never saw the Messiah in their lifetime? They prepared and anticipated his arrival and died anticipating the coming Lord. They were blessed because they had hope and they will participate in God's continuing plan of salvation.

We are also blessed because we know that Christ has come! Our anticipation and hope is for his glorious return to fulfil God's promise of eternal salvation. Just like a parent preparing for and anticipating the arrival of a child, we should be prepared for and anticipate Christ's return. During this season, we celebrate his birth and his mighty acts of salvation. However, we know he will come again and fulfil his promise to those who believe. Don't miss this season of anticipation. Be watching, waiting, and ready!

Be Blessed,

Pastor Sam





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

### Advent and Christmas Seasons

Advent is the first season of the church year, a time to prepare to welcome the Savior in a fresh way into our lives once again. It leads up to Christmas, when we celebrate the arrival of Jesus the Messiah!



**December 2** First Sunday of Advent.

**December 8** (Saturday) HUMC Christmas Luncheon, 1:00 pm. Entertainment by Cottonwood. Sponsored by HUMM. Free and Open to All!



**December 9** Second Sunday of Advent

**December 16** Third Sunday of Advent; HUMC Choir Musical at 10:45 am

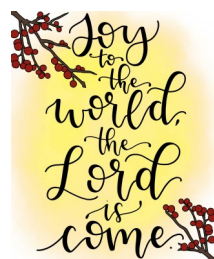
**December 23** Fourth Sunday of Advent



**December 24** (Monday) Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service at 5:00 pm. Prepare your heart for this most precious arrival.



**December 30** Christmas Service. Celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world!



**January 6, 2019** Epiphany Service.



Celebrates the visit of the three kings or wise men to the Christ Child, signifying salvation being extended to the Gentiles (that's us!).

### Reflection and Celebration

This Christmas, between parties, shopping and wrapping presents, carve out some quiet time when you can re-read (or perhaps read for the first time) the Christmas story found in Matthew 1:18-2:23 and Luke 1:26-40. Because the story is so familiar, you may need to read it in an entirely different manner than you have in the past.

◇ Read slowly and carefully, stopping when necessary to picture the scenes described. As you do, imagine what some of the original characters might have been thinking and feeling as the miraculous events unfolded about them. Try to put yourself in their place.

◇ Imagine how you might have responded to what Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna experienced.

◇ Imagine what it might feel like to be suddenly face to face with an angel or to see one in a dream.

◇ Walk outside at night and try to imagine what the shepherds experienced when the dark sky lit up with the presence of hundreds, perhaps thousands of angels praising God. Would your rejoicing have been loud and boisterous like the shepherds, or would your praise be solemn and quieter like Simeon?

Don't just read the story. Put yourself into it.

From *In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas* by Dan Schaeffer, p19

### Going Solo Ladies Group



Monday, December 3rd, a dozen of the ladies are traveling to the Jasper area to enjoy a Christmas Luncheon and Tour of the Tate House Mansion!

We will also be taking part in the Gift Wrapping Service and Bake Sale later this month.

*Having Fun and Serving Others!*



You can purchase poinsettias in Honor or in Memory of your loved ones. Order Forms are at the Welcome Desk.

HUMM are hosting a Christmas Luncheon on Saturday 12/8 @ 1:00. Music, Food & FUN! Invite your friends & neighbors and plan to come! Sign up sheets are at the Welcome Desk, to help with planning enough food for all.



Thanks to Coordinator Pat Lee and to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! This year HUMC delivered 52 boxes. God is Good!

### Let's Pamper and Huggies Our New Blessing to HUMC!



We are going to be receiving a new blessing from Laura and Pastor Sam with the birth of a baby girl, and yes, her name begins with an "A". Allison Charlotte Hamby will be arriving very soon – sometime around the first week of December is her anticipated birth. Sam says she will likely be called Allie for short.

Many of you have asked whether we will again have the opportunity to Pamper and Huggies little Allie by helping Laura and Sam with a supply of diapers. A table is being set up on December 2nd outside the Fellowship Hall for the purpose of collecting your gift packages of Pampers or Huggies.

To help you in your shopping, the needed sizes include Swaddlers or Newborn for the earliest months; then she will grow into Size #1 and Size #2. Size #1 and #2 will probably be used the longest, depending on how quickly she grows. No gift wrapping is necessary. Any of these sizes would be greatly appreciated.

While speaking with Laura to see what was needed, she asked that, if possible, the purchase receipt be attached to the gift. This will allow her to know where to go to make an exchange for any unopened packages for another needed size. This would be a great help if an exchange is necessary.

We are excited about God's new creation and want to celebrate little Allie's arrival by helping Laura and Sam with getting started with the exciting task of changing diapers on a regular basis! The gift table will be up for two weeks to allow enough time for everyone to bring their gift.

Irene Kirchner



- 12/2 1st Sunday of Advent
- 12/3 Going Solo Group Event
- 12/6 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 12/8 Holiday Luncheon & Musical
- 12/9 Advent Week 2
- 12/14 & 12/15 9 am—3 pm Gift Wrap & Bake Sale
- 12/16 Advent Week 3; Christmas Musical
- 12/23 Advent Week 4
- 12/24 @ 5 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 12/25 Office Closed

#### Weekly:

- Tuesdays @ 11 am Bell Choir
- Wednesdays @ 11 am Ladies Prayer
- Wednesdays @ 6 pm Bible Study
- Wednesdays @ 7 pm Choir Practice
- Thursdays @ 9 am Men's Prayer
- Thursdays @ 10:30 Bible Study

### To Our Bakers:

Would you contribute to this HUMC fundraiser by donating your excellent Christmas goodies on December 13th & 14th? We will be advertising this to the public and need lots of goodies! Want to help more? Contact Pam Allen or Dawn Lamade.

### Gift Wrapping Service and Bake Sale



A fund-raising outreach for HUMC Friday 12/14 & Saturday 12/15 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Hate to wrap gifts? Bring your Christmas gifts to be beautifully wrapped by some of our Going Solo Ladies! While you are waiting, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, a Christmas cookie or other goodie. Other baked goods will be available to take home for Christmas! All for a small donation to the church.



#### Church Member Services Directory

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



### Administrative Council ...Tom Ramsey

#### COMMITMENT and SERVING



Early in my relationship with Jesus, I thought just going to church and showing up on a Sunday or a Sunday night, I was doing my duty as a "Christian". Maybe even working on some project to help in some way. But since then I've grown to realize Christianity is all about a personal relationship with **Jesus, the Son of God**. I learned that "Christians" didn't change the world (that name is only mentioned 3 times in the New Testament). The World was changed dramatically by the **disciples of Jesus** – just 12 men who were not perfect at all, but learned about and experienced the personal ministry of Jesus. They saw miracles were mentored and corrected by our Lord. They saw Him after the Resurrection along with hundreds of other **eye witnesses**, they knew **He was the Son of God!**

The point I want to make is that those early disciples made a **commitment** to follow Jesus when He asked them to "**come follow me**". They were people from all walks of life, just like us. And likewise, **Jesus set the example of serving** when He said: "**...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...**" Matt 20:28 At the last supper He got down and washed the feet of the disciples (knowing that all of them would forsake Him at the cross) – that's what I call **servant leadership** by the **Son of God**.

The dictionary defines commitment as: "being dedicated to a cause – devotion – faithfulness - responsibility". What better cause than as **disciples/followers of Jesus**. We need to **make that same decision to follow and to serve Jesus – the Son of the Living God – the Creator of the World**. We all need to prayerfully consider about taking this step to **trust God and to use our gifts serving others** here in our church and community! God **will use** our commitment. God **is looking for** willing and responsible disciples to **serve others** and to **tell others** about what **Jesus is doing in your life**.

Commitment and serving requires the giving of our whole self, body, soul, and heart which needs to be followed by an act of the will to follow through, **regardless** of the difficulty or the cost. **Jesus made that commitment to You when He died on the Cross**. Commitment to God can be costly, but **God promises** to help us and bless us when we are **faithful to Him**. Ask yourself, **what** is my level of commitment to God. **Am I willing** to step out of my comfort zone and seek Gods will for me to serve?

**God promises** that commitment to Him leads to productive service:

**"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing...You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."**

John 15:5, 16 NLT

### Library News: Dawn Lamade



New titles in the HUMC library:

Bereit, David. 40 days for Life. A powerful combination of prayer and persuasion, aimed above all at serving women in crisis pregnancies and helping rebuild a culture of life. (Ministry)

Lamb, Wally. The Hour I First Believed. When high school teacher Caelum Quirk and his wife, Maureen, a school nurse, move to Littleton, Colorado, they both get jobs at Columbine High School. In April, 1999, Maureen is in the library when the shooting begins. (Fiction)

Dean, Kenda. Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church. Offers a compelling new vision of effective youth ministry. Its uniqueness lies in its relocating youth ministry in practical theology rather than in educational theory. (Ministry)


Blomberg, the Craig. Preaching Parables. A guide to preaching the parables that shows how to first interpret the parables, then proclaim their significance. (Theology)

MacArthur, John. The Truth War. Christians are caught in the crossfire of alternative Christian histories, emerging faulty texts, and a cultural push to eliminate absolute Truth altogether. As a result, many churches and Christians have been deceived. MacArthur reclaims God's unwavering truth. (Theology)

Johnson, Abby. Unplanned. The dramatic true story of a former Planned Parenthood leader's eye-opening journey across the life line. (Biography)

*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."**

Remember the church as we approach the end of the year. Donations can be accepted until December 31, either by check or through the online donation icon on the HUMC website.

A separate Financial Report is available at the Welcome Desk after the end of the month.

Be sure to pick up your copy.




Online Giving now available for

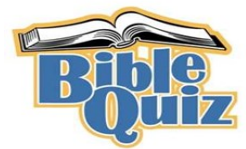
- ◆ Credit Card
- ◆ Debit Card
- ◆ ACH transactions

### URGENT PRAYER LINE

We are setting up a **One Call group for urgent prayer requests**. This will only be used when you have an **immediate, urgent prayer request for you or a family member**. You will need to sign up to have your phone number added to this group. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or you can send an email to the office.

Thanks to the many workers who contributed over 90 gallons of chili and hours of hard work to serve many individuals a delicious meal.



This December's quiz focuses on angels. It is a good month for it since they figure prominently in the "Christmas story". Our quiz however, does not consider the meetings with Mary and Joseph. More about that in my article for December. Let us see how much we know about angels as they appear in the Bible.

1. The literal meaning of the word angel is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. True or false. The Bible has, at least, one story of an angel helping a man find a wife.
3. Hebrews 1:14 tells us that angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit (which of the following) Heaven, Christ, Salvation or the promised land).
4. One of the apostles mistakenly fell down and worshiped an angel; was it Peter, James, John or Thomas.
5. Only two good angels are mentioned by name in the Bible. Who are they? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Bonus: Which book of the bible mentions angels more than any other?
7. Super extra bonus: Only four angels are mentioned by name, the two good ones you named in #5 above and two evil ones; Abaddon - the angel of the bottomless pit and \_\_\_\_\_.



## Missions Ministry .....Robin Broom

### Unseeing Trees

Have you ever stopped to think that trees cannot see? Well until this morning, me either! And yet my favorite verse, one I aspire my life and journey with Christ to resemble is likened to that of a tree. *“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”* Jeremiah 17:7-8 I even wear a charm of a tree on my necklace as a reminder to myself. And yet, my walk seems nothing like a tree. Trees seem to grow so steadily toward the sky and well, lets just say my journey seems less than steady. If you like rollercoasters, you should read my journal. There are so many highs and many lows. Am I the only one? There are seasons of merely survival, trying to keep from drowning and then the next day it feels like the best day of my life. Of late, the rollercoaster car tipped its face and headed down a rapid plummeting descent.

I am reminded of something I wrote in April of this year ... *“Not sure when or how it began this time, but my tree has been in a long season of winter. In taking my eyes off of You, looking to other things—people, things, tasks, hurts, an organization, my successes/failures in ministry and relationships, everything but You, my tree has become barren. My roots have stopped reaching into the deep, instead they have started creeping up to the surface of the soil in search of life. As a result, the roots have been trampled by the things of this world, damaged, my leaves have fallen off—no longer providing shade or shelter for anyone, much less security for my own protection. And now I find myself fearing in the storms, even at the very threat of rain.”* As I look backwards I can identify MANY seasons like this in my life. I even texted many of my closest prayer warriors this past week and asked them to pray fervently. In retrospect, that text was probably more of a huge personal pity party. I doubted, I questioned, and if I’m honest, I was asking for a reason to run. I wanted out, I wanted some relief! I know they prayed, many of you reading prayed.



I am studying the book of Jeremiah (only in chapter 10 so far). I came across verse 2 in chapter 9 where Jeremiah said the same thing I felt, *“Oh, that I could go away and forget my people and live in a travelers’ shack in the desert.”* There are a lot of days when I question who I am, where I am, what I am doing, if this path is really God? And when I focus my eyes on all of that, looking for fruit as a confirmation, I want to run for the hills! I wonder how many times I search flights back to the U.S. and never book one or how many times I think that being back in my home country would bring this relief? But, on this journey of reaching the lost, we must not quit for our own personal ease. As I grow closer to the people here in Namuwombi, I find myself rejoicing greater, but also grieving harder. I grieve as people (or myself) make choices based on what they see. I look around me at people’s successes, my successes and look at their failures, my failures (looking for fruit) and it makes me tired. Trees cannot see their fruit. They can’t even see the water or the sun, and they still seek them out. This tree described earlier is not bothered by the heat nor worried in months of drought.

That tree knew its source. It was planted by the river and its roots knew where to find the source of life. I desperately want to know my source, my God. He created me, He knows what will sustain me and He even provides those very things. My deepest heart’s desire is for my core, my roots to reach into the deep, into Him—my very source of life. I don’t want my roots to be shallow and creep to the surface in search of rain drops when He has a river of living water available for me. I want the trunk of my tree steadily reaching for the Son. As I wrote this today, I thought about a picture of a tree that has been floating around my Facebook feed. It is a tree with a caption that says, *“Fell years ago, never gave up.”* I shared that picture at the top of the page for you. Maybe it will encourage you as it did me. Let us not grow weary of doing good ... HE is worth every tear, every disappointment, every season of intense heat, every bead of sweat, every hour of sleep lost to pray for someone, He is worth it. HE IS WORTH IT!

*As this year comes to a close, please allow me to express what a treasure it is knowing you share each step of my journey. Thank you for your faithful prayers and love! I am truly blessed to be right where He called me, doing what He created me for. May you have a wonderful holiday season and may you remind yourself of just how much you are loved.*

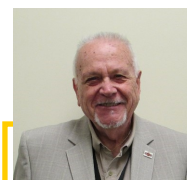
*Blessings, Robin*



**Thank you for your generous financial contributions that have enabled me to be here this year and to sow into the lives of countless many!!! Tax-Deductible donations can be mailed to:**

**Answer God’s Call Ministries  
215 W. Mesa Ave.  
Gallup, NM 87301**

## From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner



December already! It seems as though we just had a period of thanksgiving (and we did) and now (on December 2) we enter a period of anticipation. Advent is the beginning of the church year and indeed it is a period of anticipation. We anticipate a future event, the second coming of Jesus, and we celebrate what the folks so many years ago anticipated, the coming Messiah. And, we know that past anticipation was rewarded because we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Messiah during the Christmas season.

We are pretty much all familiar with the Christmas story as it appears in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. In verse 26 we read of the angel Gabriel delivering a message to Mary. Some believe this to be the beginning of the Christmas story, but, I believe the story has its beginning a bit earlier - when (in the 11<sup>th</sup> verse) the “angel of the Lord” (also identified as Gabriel -NKJV) appeared to Zechariah and told him his aged wife Elizabeth would bear a son and directed they name him John. If we follow that story we find interesting relationships between Elizabeth and Mary and between both babes; John (the Baptist) and Jesus (the Christ); a relationship and knowledge that takes place even before either was born.

As the story continues we find (in chapter 2) the “angel of the Lord” along with a heavenly host appearing before shepherds and delivering the good news of Jesus birth to them. It may be inferred from verse 15 that more than one angel was present at this event.

In Matthew we find that the angel of the Lord visited Joseph. First (in chapter 1) to tell him not to reject Mary, and later, after the wise men visited. God, in a dream, warned them not to return to Herod, and the angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream to take his family to Egypt because Herod meant to harm the baby Jesus. After Herod’s death an angel again spoke to Joseph basically telling him it was safe to return. Joseph obeyed, eventually ending up in Nazareth.

I find these angelic events to be interesting, but even more so is the fact that while most of us will admit angels exist we actually know very little about them and we probably should know more. For example, the Bible does not specifically tell us when angels were created. It does, however, tell us they were created by God (Col. 1:16), and Job 38:7 tells us they were present when God created the heavens and the earth. They “shouted with joy” (NCV) at His creation activities.

Angels must be important for the word “angel” appears 290 times and the plural, “angels”, appears an additional 93 times. They are referenced 72 times in the book of Revelation - more than any other book of the Bible. And, there is apparently a hierarchy of the angelic beings, but that is for another time.

Enjoy the Advent season. Journey with Joseph and Mary as they travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfil the prophecy of Jesus’ birth. Merry Christmas to all!

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



This month I was invited to Lee Arrendale prison for graduation exercises for 6 inmates in the RSAT program. The state started this a few years ago to keep those who have addiction problems from serving time in the regular prison system. It saves state money and reduces recidivism. One of the girls who had lived at Ms. Elaine's House graduated and I saw several others from Towns/Union Counties as they marched in step into the auditorium. The minute I saw their approach I began to cry. The program is not easy as they march everywhere they go and abide by very strict rules. I brought one of the graduates back to North Georgia

where she moved in with a friend and works at one of the chicken plants. I fill in for the House Mother at Ms. Elaine's House 3 days a month so she can take care of personal business. This month I also spent the day with one of the girls who was celebrating her birthday. I took her to Walmart, to visit a friend in Blairsville, and to lunch at Huddle House. The most rewarding part of this ministry is when I see one of them in town and they tell me how much they appreciate our visits to the jail and the Bibles. Please continue to pray for them, especially for health issues. I love you all and thank you for your caring and attention.

*Ms. Elaine.*

**Answers:** 1. messenger; 2. True (Gen. 24:7); 3. Salvation; 4. John (Rev. 19:10 and 22:12); 5. Michael and Gabriel (Dan. 9:2 and 10:13); Bonus: Revelation; Super extra bonus: Lucifer (Satan is technically a title given to Lucifer the fallen angel mentioned by name in Is. 14:12).