

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



Email: humc@hiawasseeumc.org
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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



General Conference and Itching Ears



Last month, Laura and I became parents for the eighth time. I must say, while I am a more seasoned dad than I was when our first child was born, the experience was just as amazing! Our beautiful baby girl is just as special and needs just as much care and attention as any of our children. Holding our daughter in my arms reminded me of a special verse of scripture for our family. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." A child must be taught from God's Word and have living examples of godliness in his life in order to be trained up in the way he should go. It is very important that a child be influenced from an early age to know God's Word and learn to walk in the ways of the Lord.

The Church is supposed to be the "body of Christ." The body of Christ is comprised of the children of God that have trusted Jesus Christ for Salvation and seek to know God and make Him known to others. In the same way every child needs to be trained in the way he should go, the children of God need to be trained in the way we should go. In order to accomplish this, the Church must know God's Word, live God's Word, and teach God's Word. For nearly 2000 years, the Church has had God's Word revealed to us through the Old and New Testaments, with the Old Testament scriptures given many, many years before that. We have every opportunity to be trained in the truth of God's Word and conform to the ways He has laid out for us. It is very important for us as God's children to remember that God's Word is for our training and to change us, not to be changed by us.

Living in the latter days and awaiting the return of our Savior, it is so critical that we know God's Word and uphold it. The United Methodist Church (denomination) will have a special General Conference session in February to make decisions for the denomination concerning our understanding of God's Word. We read in scripture about things that will take place in these latter days concerning the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy about standing firm on scripture in the latter days. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says, "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." It is important that the children of God draw from our proper training during this time so that we will go the right way and not depart from it. We must pray for all the delegates to the General Conference that they be children of God, trained in the right way to make the right decisions.

Following the outcome of our denomination's General Conference session, we will sort through the decisions made. No matter what other congregations and conferences desire to do concerning God's Word, our congregation has no human-made reason to keep from following God's Word. We live in this community and God has called us into commitment with this congregation for His sake. We don't need our ears tickled. We don't need to follow worldly passions. We don't need to wander off into myths. We do need God's Word that leads us to truly embracing our Messiah, Jesus the Christ. Our recommitment to God and His Word should be the focus of the UMC's General Conference and the focus of Hiawassee United Methodist Church.

Please pray for our denomination's General Conference as well as our congregation's renewal and commitment to God's Word!

Be Blessed,

Sam

Pastor Sam





From Our Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

When it was first printed, this hymn was simply called "Scripture Promises." In a 1787 hymnal, the words of 2 Peter 1:4 were printed above the first stanza: "Exceeding great and precious promises" (KJV). Each stanza of the hymn emphasizes a different promise in God's Word. The second stanza is based on Isaiah 41:10; the third on Isaiah 43:2; the fourth on 2 Corinthians 12:9; and the fifth on Hebrews 13:5, which concluded "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

The final lines of the hymn are among the most memorable in the hymnal: "That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, / I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!" If it still isn't clear, you can add a couple more "no nevers" to it.

From *The Complete Book of Hymns* by William J. Petersen, p102

*How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
'Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."*

*"When though the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of woe shall not you overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress."*

*"When though fiery trial your pathways shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."*

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no never forsake!"*

As we enter the new year, with concerns for the upcoming general conference vote, we need to be praying for our conference representative, District Superintendent Dr. Alice Rogers, and to all the representatives for Godly wisdom and courage. Pray for the leadership of our congregation that we will make wise decisions concerning our fellowship as we look to the Word of God for answers.



JANUARY MINISTRY FOCUS: THE MINISTRY OF BENEVOLENCE



We are going into the cold season and many local people have already been coming to HUMC looking for help with their power bills. For the month of January, we will be looking to increase our coffers so that we can meet the growing community needs. As you have the funds, please give to the church's benevolence/altar fund.

Do you remember the Christmas tree by the sanctuary door with gift suggestions for our local family of a mother and her three children? All the gift tags were taken and these gifts and more were purchased for each member of the family. The SOLO ladies wrapped them on Friday and Saturday.

Thanks to all who contributed time and treasure to filling these requests.



HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- 1/3 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 1/6 Epiphany Sunday
- 1/9 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 1/17 @ 1 pm Admin Council
- 1/19 @ 9 am HUMM Breakfast Meeting
- 1/21 MLK Jr. Day

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



Thanks to everyone for your kindness and generosity. Your cards and gifts are greatly appreciated!!
From Pastor Sam & the Staff



Operation Christmas Child reports 13,657 total shoeboxes collected in the North Ga. Mountain area. Many thanks for your giving hearts and packing Operation Christmas Child gifts of love.

Don't discard those no longer wanted treasures!
Plans are underway for the
HUMC Spring Fling
May 3 & 4, 2019



January Blueberry Sunday

To liven up the winter blahs after the holidays, there will be a blueberry bake sale on January 20. So dig out your favorite blueberry recipes for Blueberry Sunday (homemade only).



Betty Leduc will supply the blueberries if you will supply the baking. Give Betty a call after January 1 to reserve your blueberries and plan for a delightful taste treat to warm up your January blues. Items will be on sale before and after church on the 20th.

Going Solo Ladies Group



ATTENTION ALL SINGLE LADIES: Mark the first Friday of every month on your calendar as Going Solo night! We meet for fun, fellowship, and encouraging living for Christ as single women. Please note: We will resume on Feb 1st; January meeting is cancelled.

Many thanks to our ladies who spearheaded the Gift Wrapping Service and Bake Sale in December, and to all of you who contributed baked goods.



Our grand total for the event was \$907!

All this went to help the 2018 church budget catch-up project.



Growing Christlike, Having Fun and Serving Others!

Church Member Services Directory

Massage
Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting

Contact: Geri Baker 706-896-6108
Contact: Tayo Leduc 706-896-6001



Prayer Shawl Ministry Irene Kirchner

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to work faithfully on items made for this outreach ministry. It is important for each of you to know how vital a part of this ministry you are. Without your involvement in prayer and communicating any needs for items, we could not be effective in reaching those who may find comfort through being a recipient. Please continue to be active and aware of anyone who may benefit from this ministry.

There are many reasons for receiving a prayer shawl. It can be given as comfort during illness or surgery, as comfort after a loss during bereavement, celebration of a commitment to Christ, marriage ceremonies, birth of a child, or other special occasions.



Presentations have been made in our congregation worship services, private residences, hospitals, nursing homes, private ceremonies at the church and even mailed to someone who is out of town. This is an ongoing ministry and we never know how it is going to touch those we reach out to.

As of the end of November 2018, we had presented 26 items during 2018 and over the years since this ministry almost 15 years ago the Prayer Shawl Ministry has presented 329 items that have been recorded in the Recipient Records. It never ceases to humble me when someone sends a card of gratitude or to hear just how much the item supported them spiritually. God is awesome in how He has used this ministry over the years and we all should be humbled by His using our faithfulness for outreach to others.

Please let me know at any time if you have a need for a shawl, as there is always an available supply of various items. If you identify a need and I cannot be reached, please feel free to take an item out of the small box kept in the back of the Sanctuary. It would be helpful to let me know if you take an item, so I can place it in the Recipients Record and make sure the box is replenished.



Gift Wrapping
& Bake Sale
12/14-15



Sponsored by
Going Solo
Ladies



Thanks to
all who
participated!



Raised \$907!



A Great
Success!

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.

Library News: Dawn Lamade



New books for a new year:

Theodore Epp. **David: A Man After the Heart of God** (Bible Study). Amidst the anguish and crushing trials of life, David chose to behold the Lord in all His beauty and glory, resulting in a life of praise and thanksgiving. From the heights of spiritual victory and fame to the depths of disgraceful and damaging sin, his life displayed the great faithfulness and grace of God.

Phillip Keller. **David I: the Time of Saul's Tyranny.** (Bible Study). Keller deals with the drama and color of David's stormy relationship with Saul, his friendship with Jonathan, his love for Abigail, his interaction with the soldiers he commanded and his respect for prophet, priest, and king in Israel.

Phillip Keller. **David II: the Shepherd King.** (Bible Study). Takes the reader event by event throughout the rest of David's life, his years as king in Israel. David not only shaped his own time, he also transformed Israel's sense of national identity and made her aware of God's purpose in choosing her as His people.

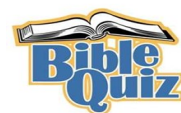
Charles Ryrie. **Balancing the Christian Life.** (Inspiration). A modern-day classic on the spiritual life, dealing with subjects such as true spirituality, using your spiritual gifts, confession and forgiveness, and how to know you are filled with the Spirit.

Walter Wangerin. **Wounds are Where Light Enters.** (Inspiration). A collection of true stories about God at work in each of us.

Bruce Wilkinson. **A Life God Rewards.** (Inspiration). In this book, you're going to discover that God's son Jesus revealed a direct link between what you do today and what you will experience after you die.

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."

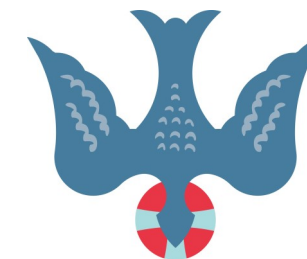


This month our quiz will cover the last five, yes 5, books in our Bible. Four of these five books are very short (three contain only one chapter) and four of them are traditionally thought to be written by the same author (an apostle) and the other author did not become a believer until after the resurrection of Jesus. Let us begin:

1. Of the books John 1, 2 and 3 only one has more than one chapter. Which one?
2. Who was Jude? The brother of Jesus, an apostle, a converted Pharisee or all of these.
3. How many chapters in the book of Revelation? 16, 22, 31 or 44.
4. What positions in the bible are held by Jude and Revelation? 63-64; 65-66; 67-68 or 69-70?
5. How many churches does Jesus address in chapters 2-3?

Bonus: What other two New Testament documents have the same general style and theme as 1, 2, and 3 John?

Super bonus: What (or whom) does Revelation allude to or quote hundreds of times; Greco-Roman writers, the Old Testament, the four Gospels, Plato, or the Apocrypha?



Descending Dove

A dove is a prominent symbol of the Holy Spirit. When the dove is shown flying downward, it reminds us of Jesus' baptism, when, the gospel writers tell us, the Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. Doves also symbolize baptism in general, because many Christian denominations teach that the Holy Spirit and its gifts are bestowed at baptism. Sometimes a dove is depicted with a three-ray nimbus around its head, indicating that it is a member of the Trinity. Doves are also commonly used as a sign of peace.



www.hiawasseumc.org



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From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner

Happy New Year! May 2019 be filled with Hope, Peace, Love and Joy as we celebrate with anticipation the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

You may recall that in last month's newsletter our quiz was on angels and in the penultimate paragraph of my article I mentioned a hierarchy of angelic beings and left it for another time. This is that time.

Psalm 148:1-2 says, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!". Angels are mentioned over 300 times in the Bible and heavenly hosts are mentioned numerous times as well. We do not presently know everything about heaven or its residents but we have been given certain glimpses of what these "heavenly hosts" are and there appears to be several "ranks". In Ephesians and Colossians Paul mentions the existence of principalities, powers, dominions and authorities in both the visible and invisible universes. In Romans he ties angels to these ranks of invisible beings and, again, in Ephesians he mentions demonic angels. (Those angels cast out from heaven for following Lucifer [Satan]).

Scripture does not define the ranks or status of angels but we can infer some of the ranks:

Michael - the archangel (Daniel 10:13; Jude 1:9).

Gabriel (and others) who stand in the presence of God and carry out critical missions for Him (Luke 1:19, 26-27).

Seraphs - function in the courts of heaven. They fly and speak and attend the throne of God. (Isaiah 6:1-7).

Cherubim - stationed, with a "flaming sword", to guard the way to the tree of life after Adam and Eve were expelled; two gold ones adorned the top of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies; and images of cherubim adorned the walls of the temple.

Hosts of Heaven - innumerable in number.



Michael and those following are "good" angels but, there are others that follow Lucifer (Satan) a high ranking angel (on a par with Michael) who because of pride was cast out of heaven. A group of angels with a similar mind set were expelled with him. This group is no longer identified as angels but demons.

There is perhaps another class of angel that we have not touched upon. That is the guardian angels. This title appears nowhere in the Bible; yet, the idea of personal guardian angels have a long history in the church. Some verses like Matt. 18:10, Acts 12:15 and Hebrews 1:14 seem to support the idea. And, we frequently pray that God place "a hedge of protection" around us while we travel or engage in some type of high risk activity (See Job 1st and 2nd chapters). Largely the idea of guardian angels have been made popular through art and music and because the Bible does portray angels as guards and protectors as well as messengers.

I know this discourse only scratches the surface on the subject of angels and we could spend weeks searching the reference material for more information on these majestic, mighty, mysterious, missional messengers of God. But, I suppose the most important thing to remember about angels is that angels are God's messengers, not ours. They serve His will, not ours. His angels are another powerful expression of His love for us. They are watching over us. Be thankful.

Primary reference: "Angel's"; Dr. David Jeremiah, multnomah, c.1996.



Jail/Prison MinistryElaine McEver

We are closing out the year with continued visits to Clay and Towns County jails. We have collected enough Christmas Cards to give to each inmate (male and female) at both jails. In addition we add 4 postage stamps to a sandwich bag for distribution. There are some regulations that have to be followed so it takes a while to get them ready but for this year it is done. The Executive Board elected to give the house mother and each of the women at Ms. Elaine's House a small gift so it has been both rewarding and interesting to make sure each one knows the joy of the season. We also collected more cards to go to the prisons through another ministry.

Statistics from the book Beyond Bars shows that in the US, more than two million men and women are behind bars. Another five million live under the control of the criminal justice system. When their debt to society has been paid, the world does not meet them with open arms. Dealing with community, family, especially spouses and children, finding a job, and a place to live is especially challenging. Our attempt at a transition house is a new experience for us as well as our families and community. Churches in Towns County as well as Com-

missioner Cliff Bradshaw have been especially supportive of our efforts. This month we received a generous and anonymous donation through the Commissioner's Office and the insurance was paid by a Sunday School Class from McConnell Baptist Church. So many churches and charities are struggling now and we are no exception. My family has invited the housemother and the women at Ms. Elaine's House to have Christmas with us at our home on Lake Chatuge. It is our way of welcoming them back into a life of freedom. The women at our house and the people involved in the accountability courts are well aware that they could not succeed without everyone's help. I attended the graduation for the drug court participants who completed two years of sobriety and numerous classes to have all their charges expunged from their records. We congratulate all of them with anticipation for the next court session in February. Thanks to all those who pray and help us follow Christ's command to visit those in prison. To my church family at HUMC, God loves you and so do I.

Merry Christmas, Ms. Elaine



Administrative Council ... Jane Carter, Chairperson

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

January 2019 begins a new year for HUMC programs, missions, social events, worship events, committee meetings and of course – Administrative Council. The Council meetings are open to ALL who have an interest in "What's Happening" at HUMC. It's the place where reports are given, decisions are made and friendships are strengthened.

Our first meeting of the new year will be January 17th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be "The State of Our Church". You will hear brief reports from work area chairpersons highlighting the activities and events that were accomplished in 2018 and what we hope to achieve in 2019. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at all that was accomplished last year with many service hours and limited financial resources.

We will begin our time together with a light dessert and end with prayer time in the sanctuary. We MUST pray for leadership, guidance and unity for the coming year. I hope I can count on your support and participation in the Council for 2019. I value your opinions, comments, ideas and most of all your fellowship. God will be my guide and strength and you will all be my helpmates.



A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Answers. 1. Book 1; 2. The brother [actually half-brother] of Jesus; 3. 22; 4. 65-66; 5. seven; Bonus: The Gospel of John and Revelation; Super bonus: The Old Testament.

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

