

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



General Conference 2019: A Call to Prayer

As many of you are already aware, The United Methodist Church is nearing the special session of the General Conference that is scheduled for February 23-26 in St. Louis, MO. This special meeting was called for by the Bishops of the UMC during the last quadrennial session of the General Conference in order to deal with the paragraphs in the denomination's Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality. A Commission on a Way Forward has met and studied these issues over the last three years and proposed 3 different plans to be considered at this Special Session of the General Conference. The 3 plans are the *Traditional Plan*, the *One Church Plan*, and the *Connectional Plan*. While the majority of Bishops have endorsed the One Church Plan, any of these plans, adaptations, or combinations might be approved by the delegates at the General Conference. It is also possible that none of these plans will be approved and the Book of Discipline will continue to retain the same language it currently has. Obviously, this is a time of shared concern over the future of the United Methodist Church. Different people want different outcomes, and so there is much anticipation, if not anxiety over this pending meeting.

What does God want? What does His Word (The Bible) say concerning who God is and what He desires for humanity? While there are a few hundred delegates representing conferences around the world that will be gathering for this General Conference to make these decisions for our denomination, most of us are not among those delegates. So, our tools are God's Word and prayer. Prayer is our opportunity to speak to God and to listen to His response. As we pray for the future of our denomination and even our local congregation's place in its future, let us remain humble servants of God ready to do His will. Below is a snapshot that I believe simplifies the outcomes of each of the 3 plans that have been proposed:

The Traditional Plan **reaffirms** our denominational teachings on marriage.

The One Church Plan **redefines** marriage in our denomination.

The Connectional Plan **restructures** our denomination based on different understandings of marriage.
(borrowed from peopleneedjesus.net)

Will you join me and many others around the world in prayer this month leading up to the Special Session of the General Conference? Pray that God will have His way with us. Pray that we will understand His Word properly and be obedient to His Word. Pray that the UMC will choose to be a faithful witness to God's amazing truth and amazing grace. Also, pray that God will lead and guide all the delegates that will assemble in St. Louis next month for this historical conference session. No matter what takes place, God is good, Jesus is Lord of all, and we can continue to choose Him above all else!

Be Blessed,

Sam

Pastor Sam





Director of Music & Worship.....Hope Horkavy

STRETCH YOUR CREATIVE MUSCLES IN 2019!

We have two great opportunities to share our God-given creativity in the next couple of months! One is within our congregation and one is to help the community. Take a look at the details below and start thinking about what you want to do! The sky's the limit!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY #1:

Home Grown Devotions:

Since Easter falls late in the season this year, we have time to write our own

HUMC Lenten Devotions!

Everyone is invited to prepare a short inspirational message and we will compile them into a booklet to pass out to the congregation.

You might want to include a Scripture verse and/or a simple sentence prayer.

Those with artistic tendencies might want to illustrate your message. You might want to put it in the form of a story or poem or even a word game!

Submissions will be due February 18th to the church office. Completed booklets will be passed out to the entire church on March 3rd, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, so that we can

Going Solo Ladies Group

ATTENTION ALL SINGLE LADIES:



Mark February 1st as Going Solo night! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00PM to 8:00PM for fun, fellowship, and encouraging living for Christ as single women. Bring a Vegetable Dish or Casserole to share. It's Movie Night!

Growing Christlike, Having Fun and Serving Others!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY #2:

Servant Fifth Sunday:

In 2018, we successfully began Fifth Sunday Coffee and Donuts Fellowship Times. Folks are really enjoying gathering in the Welcome Area to talk and laugh with others in the congregation that they might not have a chance to greet otherwise.

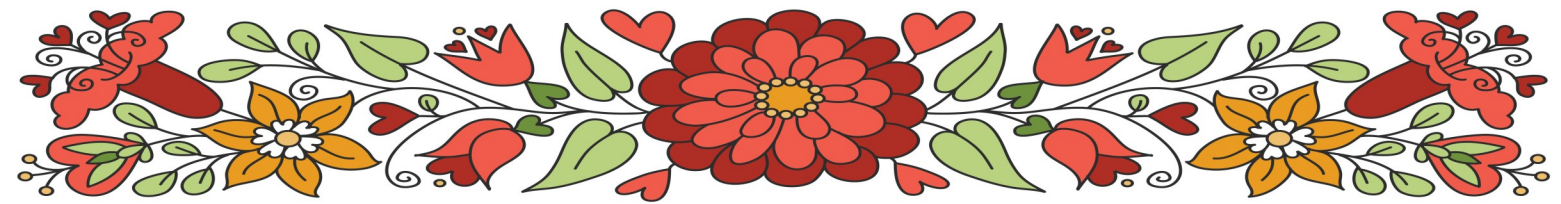
In 2019, we are going the next step, outside our HUMC walls! Either individually or with a friend or as a group, plan and implement a community service project

before March 31st, our next Fifth Sunday. In addition to our pre-service Coffee and Donuts Time, during that morning's worship service we will take time to share briefly what we did to be the "Hands of Jesus" in our community and what the response was! In a small way or a large way, be Jesus



Dust off that old instrument or warm up those vocal cords and join in the music and worship at

HUMC! Need singers, instrumentalists, dramatists to help lead worship. Call Hope at 706-994-3892.



The HUMM invite all Ladies to a special *Valentine Breakfast* on *Saturday, February 16th @ 9 a.m.* Great food, special program and gift

for the ladies. Plan to come and bring a friend! Please sign up at the side table in the Welcome area.



How was your money for Benevolence spent in 2018?

HUMC distributed \$5600 in assistance to 27 families in Towns County. This included \$ 4284 for electric bills, \$552 for rent, \$350 for gas, \$286 for water and \$130 for motel room.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION by **Kevin Tharpe, Elder Law Attorney** **Thursday, February 21st @ 2 pm** **HUMC Fellowship Hall** *Please sign up by 2/14 at the Welcome area or call the office.*

Many areas of law are confusing. The myths and misinformation surrounding elder law, special needs planning and estate planning are even more complex. At this presentation Kevin will cover:

- ◆ Estate Planning, including Wills, Trusts, Guardianships & Conservatorships.
- ◆ Special Needs Planning, including Health Care Directives, Long Term Care & Alzheimer's Planning.
- ◆ Government Benefits Programs, including Medicare, Medicaid & Veterans Benefits.

Kevin can explain your eligibility for benefits programs and ensure that you do not make costly mistakes that may disqualify you or deplete your assets.

With 25 years of experience, Kevin also maintains professional membership in the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and serves as an accredited advisor of the Department of U.S. Veterans Affairs.



- 2/6 @ 10 am Spring Fling Planning Meeting
- 2/7 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 2/10 @ noon Fellowship Luncheon
- 2/16 @ 9 am HUMM Valentine Breakfast
- 2/17 Scout Sunday
- 2/18 President's Day
- 2/21 @ 2 pm Kevin Tharpe, Elder Law Presentation
- 2/23 Mt. Top Emmaus

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

Scout Sunday is February 17th

Churches have had a long relationship with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Recognizing scouts and their leaders on a particular Sunday gives everyone present a boost. Scouts' participation in a worship service is evidence that many youth are on the right track.



Mark your calendar...

Lent begins on March 6th. Ash Wednesday Service @ noon

Church Member Services Directory

Massage
Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting

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

Quiz Answer: Aaron

REMEMBER THE HOMEBOUND

Please remember those in our church family who are Homebound or in Assisted Living or the Nursing Home. They love to hear from you through phone calls, cards and visits. Maybe they would like a ride to church.

Ann Adams
Orene Adams
Gerri Baker
Darlene DeVore
Laura Desrosiers
Elizabeth Edge
Sharon Hooper
Margaret Sawada
Bill Scoggins
Connie Wilson



Remember
— Our —
Shut-Ins



Sick and Hospitalized



Big Thank You!

Many thanks to all who participated in Blueberry Sunday. In spite of the weather we had muffins, cupcakes & pies and collected over \$200, which we will deposit into the Benevolence/Altar Fund.



A separate Financial Report is available after the end of the month. If you want a copy, please call the office.

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.



LOVE in ACTION

FEBRUARY MINISTRY FOCUS: The Ministry of Community Service

What are you doing in our community to be “the Hands of Jesus?”

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better. What can you do to serve in our community?

- ◆ Help alleviate loneliness. Visit someone in a nursing home. Visit the sick.
- ◆ Lift the spirits of an elderly person. Take them out to eat or bring them a meal. Pick up groceries. Offer a ride to doctor appointments.
- ◆ Turn a favorite pastime into a ministry. If your passion is reading, help out in an after-school program.
- ◆ Volunteer at the Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, or the Prison Ministry.

We are all gifted and sharing our gifts brings great joy to ourselves and to others.

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV)



Library News: Dawn Lamade



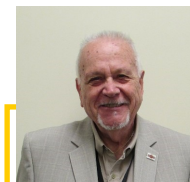
New in the HUMC library is the **Mysteries of Martha's Vineyard series**. (Published by Guideposts). This series follows the adventures of a new widow, Priscilla Latham Grant, who inherits a lighthouse on Martha's Vineyard. Each book in the series is written by a different author but follows the events that shape Priscilla's new life on the Vineyard where she meets three cousins she didn't know she had and gets involved with various residents and tourists and mysteries that crop up with surprising regularity. These are an easy and entertaining read in the Fiction section of the HUMC library. Enjoy!

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.”



From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner



January has come and gone along with all (or most) of the well meaning resolutions. So, here we are in February, which is black history month as well as a month of other celebrations (some notable, some innocuous); Groundhogs Day, Valentines Day, Washington and Lincoln's birthdays (now celebrated as Presidents Day) as well as Super Bowl Sunday (where two teams line up to do battle for a piece of hardware).

I wonder how many of you make (except for Presidents Day) a connection between the celebrated day and the Bible.

Groundhog's Day is a day on which we celebrate the prophetic genius of a rodent, which on each year, has a 50% chance of being right. Ironic, when we consider how many prophets of God's Holy Word were persecuted or ignored, and when 100% of these prophecies are accurate. Kind of scary though when we study the prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled, especially if we have eyes to see that some are in the process of being fulfilled right now.

Then we consider Valentines Day with it's icon of love, a small cherub with wings and a bow and arrow matched with the symbolic color of

red for the heart and roses. Strange! Jesus shed his blood on the cross to show his love for us, so, maybe red is the appropriate color of love.

Now consider the Super Bowl. No, not the one being played this year in Atlanta to determine the champion professional football team. No, I mean the REAL super bowl, the one you will find in the Bible at 2 Kings 4:1-7. As the story goes the widow, of a man who served God under the prophet Elisha, was unable to pay a debt and her two sons were to be taken as slaves to work until the debt was paid. She was desperate and went to Elisha begging for help. After Elisha learned that all the woman had was a little oil in a bowl he gave her instructions and this is what happened.

She and her sons went door to door and gathered as many jars as they could. When they had all they could find, Elisha instructed the widow to pour the oil from the bowl into the jugs. Amazingly, all the jugs were filled and the widow was not only able to pay off her debt but also sell the excess oil and live comfortably. Now, that is a Super Bowl.



www.hiawasseumc.org



Find us on Facebook as Hiawasee United Methodist Church. Please LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Missions MinistryRobin Broom



They did it ... ALL 4 ... they did it!

In July of last year, 4 young men embarked on a journey. They were all at a huge crossroads in their lives, being in their late teens and for different reasons had not completed even primary level of education. These young men did not have much self-esteem, most of the time their heads were held pretty low. All of them know the Lord, but lacked depth in their walk with Him. Over the past years, these young men have become very dear to my heart. We serve together in our Esangalo Children's Ministry Program. God has given me what I feel is His heart for these young men ... **HE IS NOT FINISHED WITH THEM!!!!** We just needed to press into God together, to discover His plan for their lives. So we began this walk together.



The idea was to expose them to many different trades (see photos of bicycle repair, shoe repair, carpentry) while mentoring/discipling them. We wanted them to discover their strengths, their gifts and talents in hopes they could possibly gain further training in that area and be able to support themselves, and in the future their families. It was a true blessing to be by their sides, simply reminding them who they are and what great purpose God has for their lives. But, of course we faced many struggles too. I remember thinking after the first two weeks, we will **never** make it to the end of the year! And then I began to watch as God worked in their hearts and lives. One time during

this process, one of them met some real challenges with people. His first reaction was to quit, to run — stating he could not work with this person. I encouraged him to communicate with this man, to forgive him, and to work through this instead of allowing it to sabotage this whole journey. Then a few hours later I saw him working and then a few more days passed. He allowed God to work in his heart and I watched God restore that relationship and even use this other man to pour into his life. Another time one of the other young men said he was “just done”, that “this was not for him”, and he left in anger that day. I prayed that evening for his heart to be softened, and God did it again, the young man returned the next day apologizing for his behavior.

I know these may seem like minimal triumphs, but if you knew these young men, you would think differently. For them to have completed this program, that has pushed them, challenged them and taught them something completely different is HUGE! During this program these young men have been mentored, loved on, and given a renewed hope for the future. This is something that only our God can do. He truly fights for us, even when we do not know how to fight for ourselves. I recently gave a report on this new internship program to our leadership here at Helping Hands. And this is what I reported: *“I do see some growth in the interns in many areas and spiritually. I see a maturity in interacting with people, communication, working through issues/conflicts, and some growth in their perseverance. I do see a greater confidence in them. If nothing else, they do seem to hold their heads a little higher, maybe some greater self-worth. I thank God for that, if only for that. They had ups and downs, but overall, I do believe that they WILL take away some positive influences and have learned some valuable life skills as a result of this time.”*



After all, we are all on this journey called life. I celebrate this success and I thank you for those who have been praying for this new program and for them. (Please continue as they are making choices for their next steps). Thank you for praying for me as I walked on this journey with them. Pray for the next few that God might bring. It was my absolute blessing to be by their sides, cheering them on!!! I know in my life there have been countless many standing beside me, cheering me on along my journey. Probably even you!

May God bless you this day of your journey! Much love, Robin

I APPRECIATE YOU!!!
Thank you for your love and for standing alongside me in this most beautiful journey called life.
May God bless you!



Mail Tax-Deductible donations to:
Answer God's Call Ministries
215 W. Mesa Ave.
Gallup, NM 87301

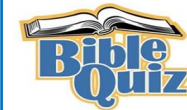
(Please include a note for Robin Broom-Africa)

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



**CHURCH
YARD
SALE**

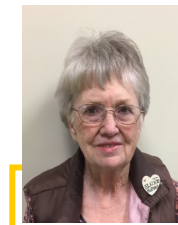
Save the date and start saving those no longer wanted treasures! Plans are underway for the **HUMC Spring Fling** May 3 & 4, 2019



We have finished the quizzes on the books of the Bible. For the next series of quizzes we are going to play “Name that Biblical Character”. I will give you some information, either as a list or in paragraph form and based on these clues see if you can name the biblical character.

This man's name means “mountain of strength” or “enlightened”. He was from the family of Kohath, who was the second son of Levi. His wife was Elisheba and by her he had four sons all of whom followed this man's calling from God. He was a gifted speaker. He had an elder sister and a younger brother who distinguished himself as a “friend of God”. Alphabetically, his is the first name in the bible. He was the first high priest of Israel. Who was this man?

Jail/Prison Ministry Elaine McEver



Some people ask me how I can go to the jails every week, keep in touch with those in prison, and help with housing women at Ms. Elaine's House. The most important reason is that “But for the Grace of God go I”. After I accepted His will for my life, it took me two years to make peace with myself and with Him. With the problems that I had to deal with, I cannot imagine what young people today go through to become a practicing Christian. My heart breaks when I hear the stories from women in jail who try but fall back into the same old problems time and time again. My prayers often start with, “Lord, I knew better. Please forgive me. She knew better, help her.”

We get lots of help through the churches and the community as shown by Christmas morning at Ms. Elaine's House. There were two trees, large gift filled stockings, gifts, and money from the Almost There Board. The Housemother and two of the girls came to my sister's Lake House on Christmas day where we enjoyed a great meal of shepherds pie and all the trimmings. There were gifts, a piñata, other games, prizes, and lots of laughter.

When I stayed with the girls while the Housemother was gone we had some excitement. I picked up a girl on Wednesday at Union County Jail. The next day, while she was being interviewed at Drug Court, she had a heart attack and spent that night in the hospital. At midnight the next night I found a girl watching TV in the common area who had not been approved. Our beds are full so she was asked to leave the next morning. The Drug Court Administrator found her a place to stay until we get a vacancy. Homelessness is not uncommon in the Towns County community.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Ms. Elaine



Are you using the new Online Directory?
If you need help installing the AP on your smartphone, please come by the office for assistance.