

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



UMC Special General Conference 2019

As many of you know, The United Methodist Church held a special session of the General Conference in St. Louis, MO in late February. While the General Conference is not supposed to meet again until 2020, this session was called by the Bishops of the denomination in order to find “A Way Forward” concerning human sexual ethics. In particular, the General Conference was given the task of deciding the denomination’s stance on whether United Methodist clergy are allowed to preside over homosexual wedding ceremonies, whether such ceremonies could take place on UMC property, and whether “self-avowed and practicing” homosexuals are eligible to become United Methodist clergy.

Our denomination has been divided over human sexual ethics for several decades as the divisions have sharpened in the United States in recent years contributing to church membership decline. At the same time, The United Methodist Church has continued to grow around the world, especially in areas such as the continent of Africa and the Philippines. The denomination in much of the world outside the US remains biblically traditional on human sexual ethics while the US has continued to grow more progressive concerning human sexual ethics. While the General Conference is a time for “holy conferencing” over matters of church polity, it is also the only decision-making body that can make changes to the UMC Book of Discipline. Those things, combined with passionate positioning over sexual issues led to a time of tense struggle and agenda-driven politicking on the floor of the General Conference.

By the end of the General Conference, the United Methodist Church approved the “Traditional Plan” concerning matters of human sexual ethics. This plan retains our Book of Discipline’s language that “marriage is between one man and one woman,” and that “self-avowed and practicing” homosexuals are not eligible to become clergy in the denomination. The plan also contains disciplinary language concerning defiance of the church’s polity on human sexuality. The General Conference also approved a minority report concerning the denomination’s “Trust Clause” that would allow some paths for congregations to leave the denomination with their property. Both of these approved items will be sent to the Judicial Council in April where they will decide if these changes are constitutionally sound according to church discipline.

While the denomination has decided to reaffirm a traditional biblical stance concerning marriage and homosexuality, the church will continue to struggle over these issues as they are issues being dealt with in the mainstream of our society. We understand from Scripture that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” God created all human beings, born and unborn, and the church should be a place where all persons can feel welcome to be introduced to a loving and gracious God that desires our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, and wants to transform and sanctify our lives through His Holy Spirit. Let us continue to pray that God will help us to stand firmly on His Word and be a greater Christian witness to the world. We know that God is good! Now, let’s show the world that He is good!

Be Blessed,

Pastor Sam



Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy



Season of Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 6th marks the beginning of the season of Lent and is known as Ash Wednesday. At NOON that day, come for a brief service of worship and receive ashes on your forehead in the shape of the cross. It is such a great visual testimony to those who see you for the rest of the day with this powerful symbol of your faith.

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. It reminds us of the message of pardon and cleansing set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and the need which we continually have to renew our repentance and faith.

Many of us have contributed devotional messages for this time; these are being collated and will be passed out for our daily use.



Dear Friends, my sister Dawn Lamade and I are traveling to Israel on a David Jeremiah tour for 10 days beginning March 19th. Please keep us in your prayers for safety and that the Lord would teach us much as we "walk where Jesus walked."

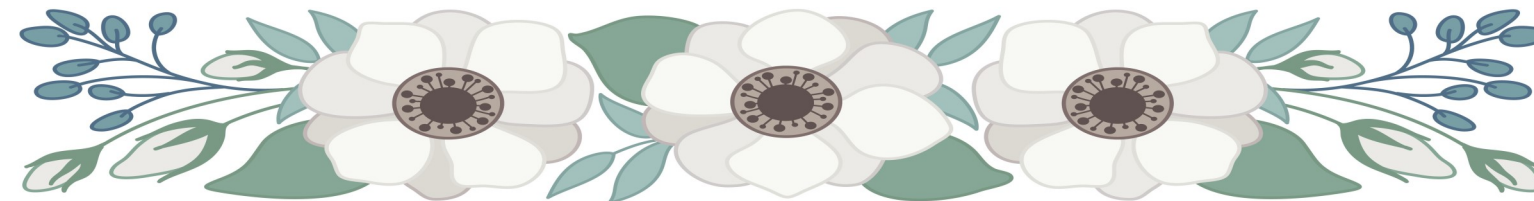
Servant Fifth Sunday:

Let's use the month of March to share our love for God in the community. Either individually or with a friend or as a group, plan and implement a community service project before March 31st, our next Fifth Sunday. The sky's the limit!

Maybe you are already doing visitation or working at the Food Pantry. Perhaps you have recently shared the Gospel with someone. You could take some baked goods to the neighbor you never talk to, or do a random act of kindness for someone. In a small way or a large way, be Jesus to someone!

Then on March 31st, in addition to our pre-service Coffee and Donuts Time, during worship we will take time to:

1. share briefly what you did to be the "Hands of Jesus" in the community and
2. how it impacted you on your walk with God.



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th @ 2 am



- 3/1 @ 6 pm Going Solo Single Ladies
- 3/6 @ 10 am Planning Meeting for Spring Fling
- 3/6 @ noon Ash Wednesday Service
- 3/7 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 3/10 @ 2 am Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/13 @ 10 am Worship Meeting
- 3/13 @ 1:30 pm Kevin Tharpe Elder Law
- 3/16 @ 9 am HUMM Breakfast
- 3/19 @ 7 pm Almost There Meeting
- 3/21 @ 2 pm Ad Council Meeting
- 3/31 Fifth Sunday Coffee/Donuts



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

Donate your change for Lent!
For the season of Lent, beginning March 6th, as an act of service, add your loose change and small bills to the change jug in the Welcome Area. All money donated will be added to the Benevolence Fund to help the needy in our county. Watch our small change add up!

- 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



Going Solo Ladies Group

ATTENTION ALL SINGLE LADIES:
March 1st is Going Solo night! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00PM to 8:00PM for fun, fellowship, and to encourage each other to live for Christ as single women. Bring a Finger Food or Appetizer to share.



Growing Christlike, Having Fun and Serving Others!



1. ASSISTANTS FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Periodically, we have youngsters, too old for the nursery, who prefer a Children's Church format during the sermon time. We have a leader, but we need assistants to help occasionally as we have need.

2. CHURCH CRIER: Are you good at noticing what is going on around the church? Maybe you are the one to do a little monthly article for the newsletter, sharing what our folks are doing!

Call the church office to help!



Plans are underway for the **HUMC Spring Fling May 3 & 4, 2019**

This is a very important fundraiser for our church and will require everyone to participate.

You can bring your items to the church beginning Monday, 4/29. We cannot accept anything before that date. So start now to de-clutter and put aside your no longer wanted items for this sale.



Shawna Hamby

Church Member Services Directory
 Massage Contact: Geri Baker 706-896-6108
 Coin Collecting Club and Stamp Collecting Contact: Tayo Ledue 706-896-6001



Administrative Council Jane Carter, Chairperson

Well Guess What!!!! It's almost that time again. The Administrative Council will meet March 21st, at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you missed the one in January, SHAME ON YOU!! We had a wonderful meeting: food, fellowship, singing, and the very informative (reminder) reports of the 2018 year in review given by our chairpersons of committees, ministries and leaders. Best of all was our prayer time in the sanctuary at the close of our meeting. The reports given by the chairpersons were amazing and enlightening. You forget, as the year goes by, just how much work was accomplished during the year. There would be no way to calculate the number of volunteer and staff working hours that contributed to the success of 2018. "Thank You" seems so little to say to these dedicated people for their many hours of planning, implementing and servicing.

When the Council minutes for the January meeting are distributed in a couple of weeks, PLEASE read them. These minutes are an abbreviated version of the entire meeting. The complete reports are on file in the church office should you like to read them. I believe you will be amazed at the dedication, competence and productivity of our church leaders. We should be thankful and appreciative for their dedication to HUMC.

A reminder to any or all chairpersons who will be making reports at the Council meetings, your reports are verbal and written. Please give your written reports to Joan Crothers, our secretary for council, to be sure the minutes are accurate.

Our theme for this year is: "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only", James 1:22. This scripture was on the top of the pledge card last fall. That was Finance's theme for their Fall Stewardship Campaign in 2018 and I want to continue with that theme for our church in 2019. As Doers of the Word, HUMC will be involved in projects and events that carry HIS WORD outside our walls for this year. The WORD must not stay inside our walls. So let's carry HIS WORD out into our community by our actions and deeds.

PLEASE come to the Council meeting on March 21st at 2:00 pm. Who knows what kind of surprise there may be!! Your attendance shows love and support for all of us. Any church member is welcome.

See you there!

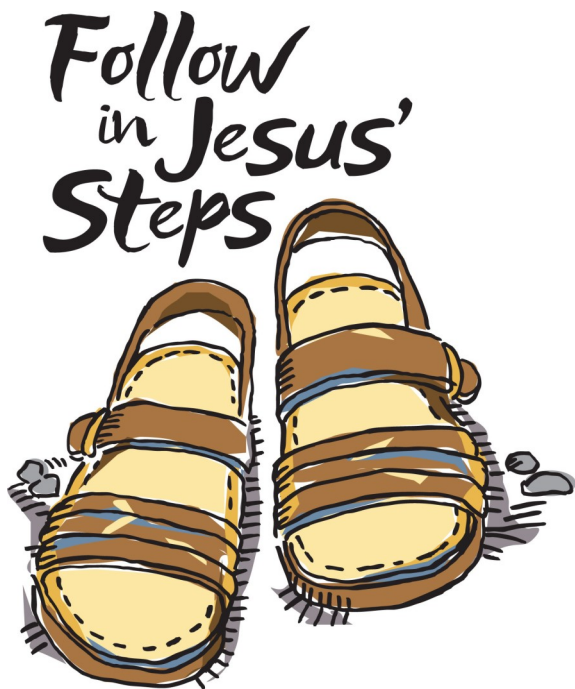
Jane

MARCH MINISTRY FOCUS: The Ministry of Community Service

How does your physical stature — or lack of it — affect your daily life? Maybe you have to stoop under certain doorways. Or maybe you buy shoes that make you taller.

Now consider your spiritual "height." Do you, like young Jesus, strive to grow each day — in wisdom, if not in stature? What "giants" make you feel inadequate?

When "the battle is the LORD's" (1 Samuel 17:47), as young David told Goliath before slaying him, human size doesn't matter. Because we serve a "big" God who lives in us and works through us, we can stand tall and confident in his strength. No matter our physical height, let's use every opportunity to reach up and step out as Jesus' hands and feet.



Quiz Answer: Stephen (Acts 6:5-9; 7:59; 11:19; 22:20)



Library News: Dawn Lamade



Recently I was asked if we have any autobiographies in the HUMC library. Indeed, we do and they are interspersed with the Biography Collection. You might have to scan the shelves for these, but you might also come across some other biographies that would be of interest. Here are just a few of the autobiographies in the HUMC collection:

Deacon Anderson and Robert Richard. *The Way Back; a Christian's journey to mental wholeness.*

Jim Bakker. *I Was Wrong.*

Ben Carson. *Gifted Hands: the Ben Carson Story.*

Leopold Cohn. *To an Ancient People: the autobiography of Dr. Leopold Cohn.*

Billy Graham. *Just as I am; the autobiography of Billy Graham.*

Franklin Graham. *Rebel With a Cause.*

Ruth Bell Graham. *Footprints of a Pilgrim.*

Jennifer Lauck. *Still Waters.*

Dave Pelzer. *A Child Called "It".*

Darlene Deibler Rose. *Evidence Not Seen: a woman's miraculous faith in a Japanese prison camp during WWII.*

Gigi Tchividjian and Ruth Bell Graham. *Coffee and Conversation with Ruth Bell Graham and Gigi Graham Tchividjian.*

David Wilkerson. *The Cross and the Switchblade.*

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."



Are you using the new Online Directory?

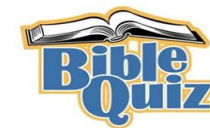
If you need help installing the AP on your smartphone, please come by the office for assistance.

Financial Reports are available after the 1st of each month. Call the office if you would like to have a report.



Online Giving now available for

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



This man was one of seven disciples chosen to serve tables. He was called to supervise benevolences and he exceeded the limitations of his task and became a powerful preacher. Saul of Tarsus witnessed this man's illegal murder (it was unsanctioned by Roman law). He was a man of faith - no room for doubt or fear in his heart; the face and fear of man did not trouble him. He was a man full of love - stones broke his head but not his heart. Grace was his to forgive his murderers. You might know him as the first martyr of the Christian church.



www.hiawasseumc.org



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



From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner

Once in awhile, I stumble across something that piques my curiosity. I suspect that you probably do as well. Recently I ran across a discussion of the Apostles Creed in "The Lost Books of the Bible and the Forgotten Books of Eden." This book, first published in 1926, is parenthetically (The most popular collection of non-canonical literature).

A "creed" is a brief statement of belief and while there are a number of creeds used by various religious groups, the two most common in use by the mainstream church denominations are the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. While the Nicene Creed is not unknown, the Apostle's Creed, along with the Lord's prayer and the 23rd Psalm, is well known and memorized by many Christians.

My curiosity was aroused by the statements that the Apostle's Creed is made up of twelve articles, each contributed by an Apostle. For example, the 12th article, "Life everlasting" is attributed to Matthias and, the 1st article is credited to Peter. This conflicted with my general understanding that the Apostles Creed was structured in three parts; those being the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Many, if not most, of the ancient religious figures disagree with the twelve article theory (that is, that each Apostle contributed one article). It is, however, possible, if not probable, that the creed was developed by the Apostles and served as a statement of faith as it does today. When the Apostles Creed was written down is not known but it probably is older than the Nicene Creed which came out of the Council of Nicene in AD 325. Apparently, the earliest written record (Roman) of the Apostles Creed appears in AD 391 in a letter from St. Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, to Pope Siricius. However, in AD 341 a Greek form of the creed was sent by Marcellus of Ancyra to Julius the Bishop in Rome.

The creed was in circulation as a statement of faith (some form) until in AD 600 it read, according to Mr. Justice Bailey's Edition of the Book of Common Prayer, "I believe in God the Father Almighty: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was born of the Holy Ghost and Virgin Mary, and was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and was buried; And the third day rose again from the dead. Ascended into heaven, sitteth on the right hand of the Father; Whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Church; the remission of sins; And the resurrection of the flesh, Amen."

A later version also found in book of Common Prayer of the church of England and Ireland made some significant changes: added "maker of heaven and earth"; deleted "begotten"; changed "born" to "conceived"; restated to read "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried"; added "He descended into hell"; changed "Father" to "God the Father Almighty"; changed the "holy Church" to read "holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints"; the ending to read "The forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting."

The United Methodists recognize two versions of the Apostles Creed - the traditional version and the ecumenical version; both of which can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal at item 881 and 882. The Nicene Creed is at item 880. An examination of these versions will show other changes have been made to the wording over the years, I believe the basic tenants of our faith expressed in the Apostles Creed have remained rock solid.

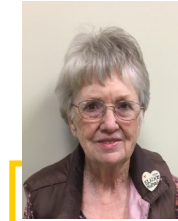


Support the Towns County Food Pantry when shopping at Amazon. Once you sign into Amazon with the following link, Amazon will donate a percentage of your sale to the Food Pantry. This is no additional cost to you. Shop for great deals at [smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0206686](https://www.amazon.com/ch/80-0206686)



Ways to Improve Your Spiritual Health

- Add Listening Time to your Prayer Time (Pray for discernment, and then spend a few moments actively listening for God's reply to your prayers).
- Read the Bible Daily
- Read Psalms Daily
- Listen to Spiritual Podcasts and Music
- Ask God to give you a grateful heart (make a list & thank God daily for your blessings)
- Let Go and Let God (embrace Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.")
- Attend a Silent Retreat
- Memorize Scripture
- Start a Prayer Journal (keep a journal of prayer requests, & answered prayer as a reminder of how God is at work in your life).
- Join a Bible Study
- Seek Forgiveness
- Share your faith (invite someone to worship with you or attend a special church related event).
- Share your welcoming spirit
- View life through a spiritual lens
- Listen more (James 1:19 provides a wonderful reminder that we should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry).
- Shine your Christian light (Do more to help other people. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly).



Jail/Prison Ministry: Elaine McEver

The Housemother for Ms. Elaine's House resigned on Saturday February 2 so I will be staying with the girls until another one is hired. An Interview with a possible replacement has been set up for later in the month.

There are four residents now. All have employment and have been paying rent. Joy will be graduating Drug Court on February 26 and will be moving to her daughter's in North Carolina.

Only one thing of significance from the jail visits was one on a Tuesday evening in Clay County. Only 2 inmates came out for church and after studying together the story of the rich publican in Acts 19, both of them prayed to rededicate their lives to Christ. Both had accepted Him as Savior and been baptized as children. The amazing thing about the evening is that when I arrived home, all of the residents were working in the kitchen and singing "Victory in Jesus." It seemed like a message that angels were rejoicing.

Ms. Elaine

- Alleviate Loneliness (Visit someone in a nursing home. Call a friend or relative).
- Lift the spirits of an elderly person (Create time in your schedule to help an elderly person. Take them out to eat or bring them a meal. Change their fire alarm batteries. Mow their lawn. Drive them to a doctor appointment).
- Commit to a feeding ministry
- Turn a favorite pastime into a ministry. (If you love to quilt or knit, make prayer blankets. If you enjoy cooking, surprise a friend with a meal. If your passion is reading, help out in an after-school program).
- Use your unique gifts to make church ministries more effective (Can you serve on a committee? Can you be part of the Prayer Ministry? Can you greet visitors?).
- Support church missions
- Reflect the fruits of the spirit (which include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).