

Hiawassee United Methodist Church



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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
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Visit us online at www.hiawasseumc.org



God Can Use You

When we think of the Bible, we often believe the characters in its stories were righteous saints that were special enough for God to notice and find favor with them. We consider people in the Bible such as Noah, Abraham, David, Ester, and Elijah to be some kind of special people that possessed qualities far greater than us. With that approach to the characters of the Bible, we tend to think that God used them in special ways, but doesn't look at us the same way. "How could God use me? I'm nobody special," we might say.

Consider the character of Moses in the Old Testament. He was born during a difficult time for the Hebrew people serving as slaves in Egypt. Some time had passed since Joseph died and the Israelites no longer found favor in Egypt as they once did. In fact, when Moses was born, the Pharaoh in Egypt sought to kill new male babies born to the Hebrews. However, Moses' family put his fate in God's hands when they placed him in a basket on the river. Instead of being killed, Moses was found by the Pharaoh's daughter who chose to save his life.

By God's divine hand, Moses was given to his birth mother to be nursed until he was weaned. Based on the cultural norms for nursing children, Moses would have been at least five, if not six or seven years old when he was given back to the Pharaoh's daughter to be raised as an Egyptian within the Pharaoh's household. Can you imagine being bonded to your family and being settled into your childhood only to be ripped from them at that age to experience a total life change? Moses' new life really meant that his identity was ruined. He would not have been acceptable to the Hebrews because he lived in Pharaoh's house, and he would not have been acceptable to other Egyptians because he was viewed as a Hebrew by them. Can you picture the frustration and anger that would have been brewing underneath the surface in Moses' life?

When Moses was older, he witnessed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. Moses must have seen this happen many times before, but this time he snapped and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. Later, Moses tried to break up a quarrel between two Hebrews and they called him out on the murder of the Egyptian. He knew he was in trouble because killing an Egyptian carried the death penalty. In his frustration and anger, Moses ran far away fearing for his life. He landed in Midian where there were no political ties to Egypt and tried to forget his prior existence for many years. Are you getting the picture that Moses was an ordinary person with many problems just like you and I?

One day, when Moses was tending his father-in-law's herds, God appeared to him in the form of a burning bush that was on fire, but did not burn up. Moses' life would forever be changed as God called him to go back to Egypt to lead the Israelites out of slavery and into the land God had already promised their forefather, Abraham. Moses' response to God's call is telling about whether or not he felt worthy of the task. In Exodus 3:11 Moses said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Moses' story can be a lot like our own stories. His life was messy and sinful, yet God came to him and called him to things only God could accomplish through Moses. God can use you too and He wants to use you for His glory. Don't let what you lack be a barrier to the relationship God wants to have with you. God is speaking. Are you listening?

Be Blessed,

Sam

Pastor Sam





Director of Music & Worship: Hope Horkavy

What in the World is Passover?

We know a lot about Easter, don't we? Jesus was arrested after the Last Supper, tried and convicted, crucified and rose from the dead all in just a few days. Hallelujah! But why was He in Jerusalem in the first place? And what does it mean for us, 2000 years later?

The Passover season is made up of three holy days or feasts instituted by God: *Passover* (one day); the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* (next seven days); and the *Feast of Firstfruits* (one day on the second day of Unleavened Bread). Together, these feasts outline the steps of Jesus the Messiah from arrest to resurrection and beyond! Knowing the meaning can enhance our worship of our Great God and His Son, Jesus!

PASSOVER: Per Exodus 11 and 12, it was the time of the final plague sent by God when the Israelites were still enslaved in Egypt. The Israelites were instructed to take a perfect lamb and keep it for four days. The evening of the last day, the lamb was publicly killed, the blood applied to the doorposts as a visible sign of their faith in God. The innocent lamb was roasted with fire (portraying the judgment that would fall on the lamb rather than Israel's firstborn) and eaten that night. The sacrifice was personal and costly, but spared them from God's judgment. Every year the feast is a memorial of God's incredible saving of His people.

The Last Supper, which we remember annually as our Maundy Thursday service and monthly as Holy Communion, was the observance of Passover that night by Jesus and His disciples. Our Passover Lamb, Jesus, allowed the judgment of our sins to fall on Him. Oh, what a Savior!

UNLEAVENED BREAD: When Israel left Egypt that night, there was no time to allow their bread to rise. God commanded this be remembered annually (Deut. 16:3), with special sacrifices (Jewish men were required to present themselves to God at the Temple) and the forbidding of leaven for seven days. The word leaven literally means "sour," the first stage of decay, and represents sin. This feast is a picture of the burial of the Messiah. Jesus was honored in His burial because He was a pure, sinless (without leaven) sacrifice. Instead of being tossed in the garbage heap with other criminals, Jesus' body was placed in a rich man's tomb. By the way, Unleavened Bread is a good reminder to us to honor God by staying away from sin (leaven)!



Christ
FOR EVEN
OUR PASSOVER
IS SACRIFICED
FOR US.
1 CORINTHIANS 5:7, 8

FIRSTFRUITS: This feast marked the beginning of the grain harvests in Israel. Per Leviticus 23, before the harvest was used, the first of the harvest was offered to God. Jesus rose from the grave on the very day of Firstfruits! His resurrection was the beginning (firstfruits) of the final harvest or resurrection of all followers of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:20-23)!

Because of the differences between the Jewish calendar and our calendar, Passover and Easter don't always align perfectly. But understanding the significance behind God's feasts brings greater clarity and depth to our worship. The easter bunny is a meaningless (and fattening!) tradition, but the death and resurrection of Jesus Messiah is world- and eternity- changing! To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Going Solo Ladies Group

ATTENTION ALL SINGLE LADIES:

April 5th 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 Springtime Salad to share and hear Tammy Haight share her incredible story (we got to know her at Tate House).

Growing Christlike, Having Fun and Serving Others!



Thanks to all those who contributed to our Lenten Devotional Book. It is a blessing! If you have not picked one up, copies can be found at the table in the Welcome Area. There's still time to enjoy!



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!

Spring Fling Sale Special Pre-Sale, For our church family



Thursday, May 2nd
6 to 8 pm

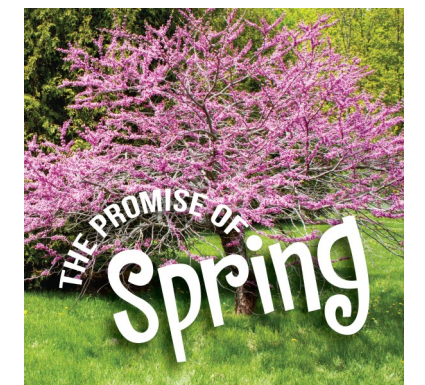
Workers are needed for:
Cashiers, Bagging of sold items, Other miscellaneous jobs. Sign up sheets will be on the table in the Welcome Area.



- 4/3 @ 10 am Spring Sale Planning Meeting
- 4/4 @ 2 pm Finance Meeting
- 4/5 @ 6 pm Going Solo Ladies Meeting
- 4/10 @ 2 pm Worship Meeting
- 4/14 @ 10:45 am Palm Sunday Worship Service
- 4/18 @ 5:45 pm Maundy Thursday Fellowship Dinner
- 4/19 @ noon Good Friday Service
- 4/20 @ 9 am HUMM Breakfast & Meeting
- 4/21 Resurrection Sunday
 - 10:00 am Coffee and Donuts Fellowship
 - 10:45 am Worship Service
- 4/27 @ 9 am Emmaus Meeting
- 4/29-5/2 Set-up for the Spring Sale
- 5/3-4 Spring Fling Sale

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



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 14th 10:45 am: Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 18th 5:45 pm: Fellowship Dinner followed by Holy Communion to commemorate the Last Supper

Good Friday, April 19th Noon: Worship with Sharp Memorial and Union Hill UMC's participating

Sunday, April 21st 10:45 am: Resurrection Sunday Worship Celebration including our Choir's Easter Musical



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 Member Services Directory

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



HUMC Spring Fling Sale

Friday, May 3
8 am to 2 pm

Saturday, May 4
8 am to 12 pm

Listed below are items we are looking for, to include in the sale:

- ◆ homemade BAKED goods,
- ◆ gently used household items,
- ◆ furniture,
- ◆ tools,
- ◆ jewelry,
- ◆ sports equipment,
- ◆ books,
- ◆ picture frames,
- ◆ collectibles & antiques.
- ◆ **NO CLOTHING!**



Positions needed:

- ◆ cashiers,
- ◆ packing of sold items,
- ◆ selling baked goods,
- ◆ floor monitors,
- ◆ hall monitors,
- ◆ setting up of tables,
- ◆ sorting of goods,
- ◆ displaying of goods,
- ◆ clean up after sale and other misc jobs.

Please save the following items and bring to the fellowship hall on April 29th: plastic bags, newspaper, boxes.

SET UP for the sale starts April 29-May 2, starting at 10 am, Monday – Thursday.

Large items can be picked up on Thursday, May 2, if scheduled through the office by April 29.

Sign up sheets will be in the greeting area starting April 7.

We need everyone to participate in this fund raiser for our church. We will find a job for you!

Quiz Answer: Melchizedek (Melchizedek)



Jail/Prison Ministry: Elaine McEver

This month I have had several requests for information on how to get approved for visits with inmates in the local jails. First you must complete an application and have a background check. Each facility has its own personality based on the person given the authority to approve or disapprove. At Clay County, NC jail, Chaplin Eddie Duckworth must approve and assign the hours to visit. I am assigned every other week on Tuesday evening. Since he is not always available it takes some time to get approved. These visits are inside the "cell pods" where the inmates are locked down. At Towns County, applications must be signed by a local pastor and sent to Captain James Baldwin. Times are limited because there are many applications to be reviewed and assigned. At Union County Jail, Sergeant Susan Rhodes can be reached almost any time and has been very generous with us but there are also many applicants for this location. At both Towns and Union County we are assigned to a conference room where only those who want "church" can elect to come or not. Our style of ministry is very casual since we are answering what we have heard God say, "Go to the jail and tell the women there that I love them and have not forgotten them" We start and end each visit with a hug and that reminder. No one is asked why she has been incarcerated although they can voluntarily talk about it. An individual inmate may request a personal meeting during the regular visitation times.

At Ms. Elaine's House there are only 2 women and another application has been approved but is waiting the approval of the District Attorney. Joann Wood has been hired as the new house mother. She is from Florida, comes highly recommended by a former employer when she lived here previously. She is a member of Ministries of Grace Church.

One of our residents graduated from Drug Court, had all her charges expunged, and moved to Virginia to live with her daughter. We are very proud of her accomplishments and testimony. There were 5 participants, 3 women and 2 men, who graduated at the last court session.

The men's housing facility, started by Freedom Ministries added residents this month.



HUMC Library Notes: Dawn Lamade



Continuing with the autobiography (story written or dictated of one's own life) theme, I discovered in reviewing all the titles in the "Biography" section that there are a lot more of these than I realized. In order to make it easier to identify autobiographies, there is now a pink dot above the biography sticker on the spine of each book. Here are just a few more of the autobiographies in the HUMC collection:

Luke Bernard. *The Favorite.*

Gracia Burnham. *In the Presence of My Enemies.*

Tony Dungy. *Quiet Strength.*

Joni Eareckson. *Joni.*

Zlata Filipovic. *Zlata's Diary.*

Enuma Okoro. *Reluctant Pilgrim.*

Sandi Patty. *Broken on the Back Row.*

James Clayton Pippin. *A Miracle a Minute.*

Judy G. Ransom. *To be in the Hands of God.*

Jim Walton. *Sent to the River God Forgot.*

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?

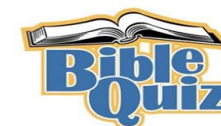
If you need help installing the AP on your smartphone, please come by the office for assistance.

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

Visit our website: www.hiawasseumc.org And click on the icon for online giving.



This man was both the priest and king of Salem. He met Abraham and blessed him. His name means king of righteousness or justice. He is a mysterious figure of great importance. He is mentioned only three times in the Bible: Genesis 14; Psalm 110 and Hebrews 7. In a book of genealogy there is no record of father, mother, birth or death. So far as we know he had no ancestor, no associate and no descendant. His greatness is frequently mentioned because Abraham gave him 10% of all he had. Some call that a tithe but more likely it is tribute from a conquest. Some see him as prefiguring Christ's priesthood. Tradition identifies him as Shem, the son of Noah or as Philitis, the builder of the great pyramid of Egypt. Who is this mysterious Biblical figure?



www.hiawasseumc.org



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From Our Lay Leader: Dale Gardner



I can recall that on occasion when I was feeling down Psalm 121 came to mind. It begins, “I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence comes my help...” and I began feeling more upbeat.

I thought about Moses and how he must have felt meeting God on the hillside and meeting again with him on the mountain. Surely these events were high points in the life of Moses. Then, years later, in Psalm 23, David penned the line, ... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...” And, continued a growing faith. That is he had no fear of death because of God’s presence.

How good it is to experience the power and the beauty of the Lord’s presence as we live on the mountain top and what a blessing to realize that when we come out of any kind of tribulation God never left us and our faith grows. So, this month of April, I’d like to share with you “[It’s in the Valleys I grow](#)” a poem by Tracy Mayfield:

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble and woe,
It’s then I have to remember,
That it’s in the valleys I grow.
If I always stayed on the mountain top,
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God’s love,
And would be living in vain.
I have so much to learn,
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it’s in the valleys I grow.
I do not always understand,
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing,
My Lord will see me through.
My little valleys are nothing,
When I picture Christ on the cross,
He went through the valley of death,
His victory was Satan’s loss.
Forgive me Lord for complaining,
When I’m feeling very low,
Just give me a gentle reminder,
That it’s in the valley I grow.
Continue to strengthen me Lord,
And use my life each day,
To share your love with others,
And help them find their way.
Thank you for the valleys Lord
For this one thing I know,
The mountain tops are glorious,
But it’s in the valleys I grow.



HUMC and Hospitality- hos•pi•tal•i•ty, noun. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. **UMM Breakfast** is the 3rd Saturday of the month. All men are welcome to gather in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:00 am for breakfast and a business meeting. Fellowship meals are held every other month. All are Welcome!

Walk to Emmaus: Irene Kirchner



MOUNTAIN TOP EMMAUS, CHRYSALIS AND JOURNEY TO THE TABLE

Mountain Top Emmaus is a non-denominational spiritual community affiliated with The Upper Room where there are no barriers and unity is celebrated. The primary goal is to live out the Biblical command to love God, each other and our neighbors. This means worshipping and following Jesus Christ not only through our words, but also through the lives we lead. The mission of Mountain Top Emmaus is clear and simple: to make God known. The strategy for accomplishing this is equally simple - strive to make God known by living in a way that accurately represents his impact in our lives. Every word we speak, every action we take, should be a testament to how God has entered our lives and changed them for the better. By living this way, we can make a tremendous impact even when doing the smallest thing.

Four times each year Mountain Top Emmaus holds a Walk to Emmaus 3-day weekend at the Hinton Center in Hayesville, NC; two for men and two for women. Our affiliates in the area also include Mountain Top Chrysalis for ages 15-19 and Mountain Top Journey to the Table for ages 19-25 that have a differing number of walks and hold their 3-day weekends at Truett Camp in Hayesville. The Upper Room in Nashville, TN created the names and plans the design and materials for all weekends. All weekends are based on the Emmaus experience written in Luke 24:13-33.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and an invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God’s time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups in their local areas to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ known as Reunion Groups. Each participant’s individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work.

Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination who wish to further their development as Christian leaders who:

- Are members of their local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives

- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Understand that being a Christian involves responsibility
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner

What happens on the Emmaus Weekend?

The experience includes three days of worshipful singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy and the talks present the theme of God’s grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed in the world. It enables participants to discover how grace is real in their lives, how they can live a life of grace, and how that grace can be brought to others.

Holy Communion is celebrated daily allowing a deeper understanding of the body of Christ. Throughout the weekend God’s grace is experienced through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community. It is the intent of Walk to Emmaus for each participant to leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip them for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.

The weekends center around 15 progressive talks given by team members and clergy. The talks allow for participants to explore faith through authentic teachings and fosters open discussion where participants can build relationships with a community of peers.



What is the schedule for the weekends?

The schedule remaining for weekends during 2019 is as follows:

Mountain Top Walk to Emmaus,
held at the Hinton Center:
Women’s Walk – April 25-28
Men’s Walk – August 15-18
Women’s Walk – October 10-13

Chrysalis – held at Truett Camp:
Boys Flight – May 25-27
Girls Flight – September 13-15

Journey to the Table – held at Truett Camp:
Men’s Journey – October
25-27



For additional information,
please contact Irene Kirchner at
706-896-4514 or visit the websites
at: mountaintopemmaus.com
or mountaintopchrysalis.org.