

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"So now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world." (John 17: 5-6a)

In Arthur Miller's moving drama, *The Crucible*, the central character is forced to sign his name to a false confession. He then crumples the document in his hands, preventing it from being posted where all could see his signature. In anguish he cries, *"I have given you my soul; please, leave me my name!"*

Intentional or not, it is a line with Biblical roots. In the Bible, one's name means one's essence, one's nature, or one's identity. To sacrifice one's name would be to lose something essential regarding who one really is.

Fredrich Buechner once wrote this about his name: *"Buechner – It is my name. If someone mispronounces it in some foolish way, I have the feeling that what's foolish is me. If someone forgets it, I feel that it's I who am forgotten...When I tell somebody my name, I have given him or her a hold over me that they didn't have before. If she or he calls it out, I stop, look and listen whether I want to or not."*

In the Book of Exodus, God tells Moses that his name is Yahweh – and God hasn't had a peaceful moment since!"

To know the name of someone, even if that someone is God, also involves a relationship with that person. It involves the responsibility of being known. The Biblical names for God, such as I AM, Father, Spirit, Love, tell us something of God's nature. So, too, with Jesus – his name denotes his nature. And to call upon that name and believe in that name is, in some mysterious way, to ally oneself with that name and that nature. To be called by God's name is to be God's possession and therefore to come under God's authority and protection.

The value of our individual lives have much more worth when the life is **"backed"** by God through Jesus Christ. To be truly his, is to share his name, also.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

. Drew



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are preparing to attend our annual meeting and leadership update on Saturday, [September 19th](#) at Columbia Riverside UMC. We will leave Hohenwald at 7:30 a.m.

Our slate of officers for next year:
President - Debby Campbell
Vice President - Judith Lindquist
Secretary - Gloria Jones
Treasurer - Sue Brown

We continue to prepare for our upcoming Bazaar in November. Don't forget our Bazaar Work Days each [second Wednesday](#) of the month at 9 a.m. in the sewing room. There is always something for each and every attendee to do.

UMW meetings are held the [second Monday](#) of each month at 6 p.m. in the church library. It costs nothing to join other than your commitment to mission, love of God, enthusiasm, and willingness to work.

- President Debby Campbell

C'MON AND CHOOSE TO LOSE!

Our newest group, **Choose to Lose**, has been meeting for several weeks with great results. We are now co-ed, and our steadfast core group of five meets weekly on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the library. We weigh in privately and celebrate our losses while encouraging one another whether we lose or gain. We are a support group, and our weight loss and exercise programs are as diverse as each of us. We share tips, recipes, literature, and whatever we can do to support one another positively. Slowly but surely is the name of the game -- and it seems to be paying off. Come join us.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our group hosted a "Fishing Rodeo" for the young people on July 18, with David and Regina Roberts hosting. Every one of the youth caught at least one fish. Prizes were awarded by age group for the biggest and the most fish. The morning concluded with a wiener roast. We have voted to make it an annual event.



It has been reported that the astronauts aboard the space station have asked NASA to identify the new bright light in the southern portion of the USA. Of course, we at the HUMC know that it's our **new sign** when lit at night! Thanks to all who helped to make this possible!



The men are once again gearing up for our "Pancake Brunch" on Sunday, September 20 in the CLC following morning services. Tickets will be on sale after September 3rd. The price for adults will be \$6 each or 2 for \$10. Children 12 and under will be \$3 each or 2 for \$5, the same as last year. We hope you will invite some friends.

- Jim Darden
President, United Methodist Men

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Christian Outreach Committee designated August as the Lewis County Food and Clothing Bank month. The congregation was asked to bring in food, cleaning goods, and monetary donations to assist the Food Bank in providing for our county's needy. As of [August 24](#), our church had provided over 400 pounds of food, 20 pounds of cleaning goods, and \$150. Thank you for your generosity! And remember, the need is ongoing in our

community, so we need to do all we can throughout the year.

YOUTH NEWS

Our fabulous youth group had a great summer. We played a lot of basketball and had quite the adventure floating down the Buffalo River with a marvelous lunch afterwards prepared by Jim Darden. We tried to have a car wash but I think we got wetter than the few cars we washed due to the storm that blew in. We are excited to have three young people moved up from the children to the Youth this year -- Keziah Boardman, Lorrel Nicholes, and Conner Sood. We are back on our regular schedule of meeting on Wednesdays at 3. Currently we are studying John Wesley's Three Simple Rules.

- Jennifer Bowen, Director
of Youth Ministry

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

I am pleased to announce that we have two new [Sunday School](#) teachers beginning this Fall.

Judy Ford will be taking over the Elementary class formerly led by Deborah Baker and Monet Boardman. The Preschool class, formerly led by Hazel Jackson, will be taught by Judy's daughter, Maya Ford. With exciting changes in the lives of our former teachers, we wish them well and thank them for their valued time and effort. Now we want to support the Fords by bringing in more children to fill their classrooms.

Both the Preschool and Elementary classes will be studying the Old Testament this Fall. Topics included are the formation of the Earth, Adam & Eve, Jacob's

ladder, Elizabeth & Zechariah, and everything in between.

Jerry Turner continues to lead his Senior High class through the Bible. In an effort to read the entire Bible in one year, the students have completed the Gospels and hope to finish the New Testament in December. There will be awards for all who accomplish this marvelous goal.

Through the study of Acts, our Adult classes will "rethink church." We will see how the first-century Christian church paved the way for us [today](#) and how we might act differently in order to live most effectively as Christians.

If you haven't done so already, please choose to join us, as well as your family and friends, in one of our classes. We meet from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. every [Sunday](#) prior to Church.

IMPORTANT NOTES & NEWS



Each school year, the UMW sponsors a class in the Lewis County School System. This year, they are sponsoring Jeff Hinson's 4th Grade classroom, which currently has 17 students.

The 2015 Charge Conference is set for Sunday, September 13 at the Linden UMC. If you are a church official, please plan to attend.

Ways to Keep the Faith When the World Seems Wicked

*A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino**

The news can bring us down. There is so much wickedness reported, we struggle to find that which is uplifting. As Christians, we assert that God has created the world to be good, even as we struggle to find the positive.

In times like these we need to remind one another of the **hope we know in Jesus Christ**. If you find yourself caught in a swirl of negativity these days, here are several suggestions of ways to keep it from becoming all consuming:

Find some good news. While it may *seem* that there is nothing but bad news, that is rarely the case. Look for positive stories to lift your spirits.

Read *the Good News*. Our faith is a story of hope even in the midst of dark times. Spend some time reading Bible passages about hope and resurrection such as [2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#), [1 Peter 1:3-9](#), and [Jeremiah 29:10-14](#). Or read through one of the gospels to be reminded of how Jesus brings hope in our struggles.

Give thanks for what you have. In the midst of difficult times, there are still things for which we can **be thankful**. Take a few minutes to consider all the wonderful ways God has blessed you.

Serve someone. While we may not be able to do much about world issues like disease or terrorism, there are problems in your community where you can be part of a solution. Find places in your community to serve people in need.

Get more deeply connected with your United Methodist Church. One of the best ways to combat negativity is to surround yourself with positive people. Finding a group within your church will help keep you grounded in the hope we know in Christ.

Pray. Not only will conversations with other people help elevate our mood, so will a conversation with God. You may struggle to find things for which to pray. That is OK. Today may be a time to sit in God's presence and listen.

Get some exercise. Take a walk around your neighborhood. Get on your treadmill. Moving your muscles releases endorphins that help you feel good.

Indulge beauty around you. We need beauty and goodness in our lives each day. Recently, there was a trend on Facebook where people shared pictures of flowers to add beauty to what they felt was a barrage of negativity. [Find your beauty](#) – flowers, art, music, etc. – and insert it into your day.

Take a break. We live in an age where we can stay connected to the news constantly. Be sure to get away from it for **a period of time**. Turn off the alerts on your computer or smartphone, and do something else. There will be plenty of news when you return.

As John Wesley preached, "Against hope, believe in hope! It is your Father's good pleasure yet to renew the face of the earth. Surely all these things shall come to an end, and the inhabitants of the earth shall learn righteousness" (Wesley, John. "[Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, 2](#)." III.18). In the midst of all we are hearing, we believe in hope.

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