

SHARING



Hohenwald United Methodist Church

(August) – (September) 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk

Bible verse: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

(Matthew 13: 44)

Some people absolutely love surprises! These folks wouldn't dream of trying to find out where the gifts are hidden, and they certainly wouldn't shake a present before opening it to try and guess the contents. People who like surprises read mystery novels, buy anything that advertises: "**Free Surprise Gift Inside,**" and believe a birthday hasn't been properly celebrated unless a surprise party has been planned and executed.

Other people absolutely hate surprises. They need to know the when, the where, the how, the what, and, if possible, the why of everything that happens. They would not think of simply hopping into a car and letting a map take them on vacation without knowing in advance exactly what they are going to see and do. They write gift-suggestion lists for their families and friends, and tend to exchange the things they received but didn't ask for. They often

read the end of the book before the middle, and are uncomfortable in any ambiguous situations.

In the parables of Jesus, the spirit of God is seen as being continually unleashed, continually providing opportunities and instances in time's fullness to sense God's presence and God's grace, often when and where we least expect it. In fact, there is a sense in which God's grace ***must*** be a surprise. When we begin to expect it, it is no longer grace.

Do you ever feel the need, as I feel the need, to be drawn by purposes beyond the range of my own ego needs . . . to simply rest in a blind trust that God, and not me, knows what I best need at any given moment?

A boat pilot who skillfully guided his craft into a difficult port was once praised by an observer: "***You know where all the shallow places are, and you avoid them so well!***" The pilot replied, "***You are wrong about that. All I know is where the deep waters are to be found.***" It is easy to know the shallow places of life. We spend most of our time there. But God often calls us to the deeper waters, waters

that are quiet, and sustaining, and unknowable . . . far beyond the ripples of the shallows.

The amazing worth of the kingdom of God, given root and substance through Christ our Lord, provides for us the courage and the trust to live our lives not knowing, or even wanting to know, all the answers—but instead simply seeking, believing, responding—surprised by joy. According to Jesus, it is only in this attitude that our peace of mind can at last be found!

—Drew



As a roe on the mountain
Like a dove on the wing
My heart leaps to greet Him
It dances and sings

I have nothing to offer
I have nothing to bring
But the love that He gave me
My brother, my King

Arise from your bed now
Arise now and walk
Mouths that were muted
Now open and talk

Ears hear that were deaf now
Eyes blind that can see
From prison impounded Jesus Christ set me free

(Submitted by Gail Soncrant)

Outreach Committee

Baskets marked Food Bank are placed in the front and side entrances to our sanctuary for food donations. Mac and cheese, tuna, and canned meats are

especially needed. Items are delivered to the Food Bank as needed.

A basket is also placed outside the church library for clothing and bedding donations which support Nashville Rescue Mission. All items assist homeless and addiction recovering individuals.

Free perishable food items are available to everyone each Thursday at Sweet Water Church beginning at 4 p.m. Please spread this information to anyone in need of perishable food. Jerry and Retha Tibbs can answer any questions.

The Food Bank needs volunteers to help Tuesday through Saturday weekly. Please see Joyce McCutcheon or call her (931-796-5909) for more information.

(Submitted by Joyce McCutcheon, Chairperson)

A Special Thank You to the Prayer Shawl Ministry

“It’s sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thanks for being such a special reminder. I love my prayer shawl. In God’s love, Anita Jones.”

Christian Witness Committee

Have you noticed “our newest members” pictures in the narthex? Thanks to Larry McCutcheon for taking the pictures and Susie Cullinan for displaying them.

Bakers and Porch Visitors are as follows:

Bakers—Rose Fricot, Sally Thornton, Jill Richardson, Martha Edwards, Joyce McCutcheon, and Susie Cullinan.

Porch Visitors—Larry/ Joyce McCutcheon, Wanda Creasy/Sue Bouldin, Sue Brown/ Cora Criss, Retha Tibbs/Donna Hood, Donna Inman/ Joyce White, Barbara Lewis/ Betty Stilts. If you wish to serve or be taken off this list, please contact Sue Brown at 796-3385 or the church office at 796-2681.

We would like to thank the individuals who function as greeters each Sunday. Keep up the good job!

If you are unable to attend church on Sunday, our Radio Broadcast is on WMLR AM 1230 each Sunday at 11 a.m. or available on the church website: hohenwaldumc.org

We want to welcome two new members to our committee: Jackie Miller and Sally Thornton. Sally will be doing our church newsletter since Debby Baker moved. Thank you, Sally!!

(Submitted by Sue Brown, Chairperson)

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women have begun preparing our Christmas boxes due in Decatur, Alabama by the end of August. Our goal is 50 boxes. The United Methodist Men are graciously supporting this ministry with costs. Members of the congregation are encouraged to assist as well. If you would like to donate, please see Cora Criss, Sherri France, Barbara Lewis, or Betty Stilts. Donations are needed by September 30th.



(Submitted by Debby Campbell, President)

United Methodist Men

The July Fishing Rodeo was a success. We had 14 kids, who caught 93 fish. The event was held on the property of Jack and Gwynn McVickers. All participants and volunteers had a great time.

The United Methodist Men met July 11th at 6 p.m. at the home of John and Rose

Fricot who provided a pleasurable and delicious meal.

The men's group began making plans for the Annual Pancake Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 24th in the Christian Life Center. Lunch will include sweet buttermilk pancakes, sausage patties, and scrambled eggs with choice of coffee, sweet or unsweetened tea, or fruit punch. Tickets can be bought from any member of the Methodist Men's Organization. Adult tickets are \$6.00 each or two for \$10.00, and children's tickets are \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00 (12 years and under).

(Submitted by Mark Warrington, President)



Annual United Methodist Church Conference

Business Highlights—2017 Annual Conference



Cabinet Resolution

1. Redistricting Resolution

Consolidating seven districts to five, each after a river: Caney Fork River; Red River; Stone River; and Harpeth River. We are in the Harpeth River District.

2. Charge Line Changes

Example: The Bethel UMC be removed from the Lobelville/Bethel/Warren charge and joined with Chappell Memorial to

become the Chappell Memorial/Bethel Charge, etc.

3. Resolutions for Discontinuance

Nine church closures and one merger

Closures: Mt Zion (Columbia District); Pleasant Grove (Sumner County); Paran UMC (Cookville District); Salem UMC (Cookville District); Pleasant Ridge (Cookville District); Lost Creek UMC, Ernest Newman UMC (Davidson County); 61st Ave UMC (Davidson County); Bonnertown UMC (Wayne County)

Merger: East End UMC with Coleman (Lawrence County).

Conference Resolutions

1. APSU Wesley Building Sale
2. Conference Advance Specials
3. Welcoming the Migrant in our midst
4. Retired Housing Allowance

Constitutional Amendments

- Amendment 1—updated Book of Discipline to recognize that women and men are equal. Present constitution addresses racial justice but not gender justice.
- Amendment 2—Nor shall any member be denied access to an equal life, worship, and governance of the church because of race, color, gender, natural origin, ability, age, martial status, or economic condition.
- Amendment 3—General Conference delegator shall be elected by the body of annual conference.
- Amendment 4—Episcopal elections in central conference shall be held at regular, not an extra session of the central conference.
- Amendment 5—The Jurisdictional Conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to review the work of the Bishop ect.

All of these amendments were adopted at the General Conference in Portland, May 2016, but needed approval at each annual conference. Each amendment basically involved housekeeping and updating of the Book of Discipline.

If you want the complete information on all the business highlights as well as all reports and actions of the 2017 conference, go to TNUMC.org/annualconference2017.

**(Submitted by Billy Edwards,
Representative from First United
Methodist Church of Hohenwald)**

Junior/Senior Sunday School Class News

The Junior/Senior Sunday School Class continues to study the story of King David as portrayed in the book: *DAVID* by Beth Moore. We spent fully half the book in a lead up to the time when David actually became king, as his first 15 or more years after being anointed king by the prophet Samuel, David spent largely in hiding from King Saul who wanted to kill David.

In the 42nd day of our study, Saul was finally killed by the Philistines, and David was allowed to come out of hiding and set up his seat of government in Hebron.

In day 44 David and his army attacked the city of Jerusalem and, after subduing the Jebusite inhabitants, set up David's government there. After that time, Jerusalem began to be called the City of David instead of the previous Zion or Jerusalem tags.

By the next newsletter, the class will probably have reached day 64 of our study, and the 20 intervening chapters will include the early rule of David, his conquering of the Philistines and other enemy tribes, the Bathsheba story, and the birth of most of David's children. All of these periods will be covered in great detail and include many of the chapters of the Psalms.

The study is an in-depth look at the life and time of the man who is still regarded as the greatest king in all the history of the Jewish nation. Many of the enigmas surrounding his rule and the perplexing decisions made and allowed by God during David's reign will be discussed at length.

(Respectfully submitted by Jerry M. Turner, Ph.D.)

United Methodist Youth News

Our youth have had a great summer; we met almost every Wednesday. We had a great time of fellowship with one another and played lots of basketball. Our summer ended on Wednesday, July 26th with an "End of Summer Fun Festival." There was a big water slide, bounce house, baseball toss, and dunk tank. The youth raised \$86 with the dunk tank thanks to the fabulous Cora Criss who donated herself to be graciously dunked several times. Drew grilled hot dogs for our lunch. Fun was definitely had by all who came.

The youth have gone back to our regularly scheduled meeting time on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m., immediately following school. We are really enjoying our discussions following the reading for the day.



(Submitted by Jennifer Bowen, Youth Director)

Woman, Where Art Thou

Starting August 10th thru October 12th, I will be teaching a Women's Bible Study. I will give an outline at the beginning of each class and ask that you bring your Bibles and an open heart. I am using a book that is out of print, but the information is wonderful. I expect much discussion and thought provoking questions for a great time together. Time to meet will be 10 a.m. each Thursday in the Wesleyan Class Room. Bring a friend.

(Submitted by Gloria Jones, Certified Lay Minister)

Getting to Know Church Family

I am looking forward to serving the church by doing the church newsletter. As a result, I also look forward to talking to members of the congregation and church through highlighting a person or couple in each letter. To start off, I thought I would let you get to know me and my husband, Ron.

Although we have both lived in the state of Kentucky for the last 33 years, we were both born and raised in Western

Tennessee. Ron was raised in Kenton, Tennessee, and I was raised in Dyer, Tennessee. Ron has one son, Brent Alan Thornton who resides in Nashville.

We are avid dog lovers and have had the pleasure of having several of these four-legged children over the years. Our present one is a loud but adorable Miniature Schnauzer named Razzmatazz, or Razz as we call him. He makes our life interesting.

Shortly after we were married, we moved to Brookhaven, Mississippi where Ron took a job transfer in the garment industry with Kellwood Company (Stahl Urban). I taught junior high school during the almost four years we lived there. Then through another job change, Ron took a job with Lion Apparel, a maker and distributor of fire fighter protective gear. After about a year, I started teaching at Montgomery County High School in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. It was here we stayed most of the 33 years as Kentuckians. Ronny stayed with Lion for 22 years and then after it was sold, he went to work for G and K Services, another uniform company. He stayed there until he retired; then I retired the next year from teaching.

We had always talked about moving back home after retirement; however, with a son in Nashville, and some family still left in Western Tennessee, we started looking at a middle location to both: hence, Hohenwald, Tennessee. We have come to love our new home and community and much of that has to do with the warm welcome by many people from the First United Methodist Church, who made us feel included from the start.

We both would like to travel in the near future and hope that our lives will continue to be enriched by where the Lord leads us. We love to have visitors so drop by some time for a cup of coffee or glass of tea at 105 Parkwood Lane. We would love to get to know each of you better.

Ronny and Sally Thornton



News & Announcements

- **If you would like to support the Radio Ministry, the Committee on Christian Witness would appreciate your help. The cost is \$25 per week, which allows someone who cannot attend church to enjoy our service. See Brother Drew or Mark Warrington if interested.**
- **United Methodist Women meet every second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.**
- **United Methodist Men meet every first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Choir practice resumed on August 2nd and will be each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**
- **If you have someone in need of prayer, please submit the name to Brother Drew or call the church and leave his/her name with Jennifer Bowen.**
- **We welcome any new choir members as our group has recently lost a few. See Kenny Graves, Choir Director.**

“Sharing” is the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, TN, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Program. To submit news for “Sharing,” please contact Sally Thornton at 931-295-3302, or call or text 859-58-2707, or email at slt2017fmc@gmail.com

You can also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.