

SHARING



Hohenwald United Methodist Church

(January) – (February) 2018

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From the Pastor's Desk



Lent: The Journey Inward

Jesus began his ministry by spending 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. There he fasted. When he was at his weakest, the devil tempted him. We gain clarity about who we are by resisting the temptation to become something else. Jesus solidified his commitment to obey God's voice by saying NO to the voice of God's adversary.

Lent is the Christian's 40 days and 40 nights of journeying inward. We all have evil spirits residing within us. We are tempted to give in to their determining who we will be. Lent invites us to recognize that, though they make big promises, what they always deliver is some sort of dying. The cross of Jesus shows us what happens when the evil spirits are allowed to have their way.

Lent asks us to look inside and be honest about what's there. We cannot be healed of past hurts, if we're pretending they don't exist. We cannot become whole, if we are denying that parts of ourselves are so

separate from us they seem to have a will of their own and are out of control. We cannot be free to love, if we're being held captive by anger and resentment.

The Journey Inward is not one we eagerly travel. It's scary. It's exhausting. We wonder if we'll come out alive. We wonder if we'll come out the same person who went in—of course not. Thank God.

Your Church is offering several spiritual disciplines to assist you in your Journey Inward. Some will be most beneficial if you do them along with some journey companions. Be assured that all will be done with Christ, who will lead the way because he's traveled this road before.

—Drew

From Gloria Jones, Lay Minister

Greetings Beautiful Children of God!

I am happy to be a part of such a loving family of God. As your Lay Leader, it is my privilege to report to you on matters of the church within our local church and events and programs from our Tennessee Conference.

The Discipline is very specific about the responsibilities of this office, and I feel honored to carry them out to the best of my abilities. I am a part of each committee and

the heartbeat of our church that grows our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the coming months, there are decisions being considered from the General Conference that will affect aspects of our church pertaining to how we love and accept one another. Debby Campbell and I, along with our pastor, Rev. Drew Brewer, attended a meeting from Bishop McAlilly regarding the consolidating of the Tennessee Conference and Memphis Conference. The other component is referred to "A Way Forward." The 2016 General Conference appointed this commission to help our churches understand how to deal with issues of same-sex marriages and ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

We welcome all persons of faith seeking to follow Christ. Our faith that makes us who we are also makes us stop to understand our love for each other as Christians.

Please be in prayer for our church leaders and the catholic (universal) church to become as Christ, who came to deliver us from our sins and show the greatest love of all.

In the words of Bishop McAlilly in explaining what is taking place, he asked that we "hold steady;" words to live by today and every day. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation, but more importantly, blessed to be blessed by our Holy Father.

(Respectfully, Gloria Jones, Certified Lay Minister)



Committee on Christian Witness

The Committee on Christian Witness met Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in the church library. Brother Drew Brewer started the meeting by stating the purpose of the committees at the First United Methodist Church and revisiting the focus of this committee. He ended with an opening prayer.

The chairperson of the committee, Sue Brown opened the meeting with a preview of old business. Mark Warrington gave an outline and update of the radio ministry, which airs on WMLR 1240 at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday.

The chairperson then gave an overview of the porch ministry, which involves members of the church family making a brief visit to visitors to the church, taking them a dessert. These names are taken from the visitor cards available in the pews on Sunday mornings. Visitors are asked to put them in the collection plate. Cards and offering envelopes are replaced by member, Donna Hood, who also straightens up the cards, hymnals, and Bibles weekly.

This committee is also responsible for two people to be greeters every Sunday. If you are interested in doing this, please see Mrs. Brown.

Sally Thornton commented on the church newsletter and the change to one due date. Gloria Jones, Lay Minister of the Church will begin to submit an article for each newsletter.

Gloria Jones, Camille Kelley, and Sally Thornton volunteered to redo the bulletin boards in the building. The church foyer display with pictures of new members

continues to be updated and added to by Mrs. Sue Brown and Suzie Cullinan.

New business included discussion and suggestions for a new slogan for our church. We will continue to discuss this at the next meeting. Also the committee decided to take advantage of the present church bell. The bell will begin to be rung five times each Sunday morning. A church wide cleanup day is set for March 17th at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be April 24, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

(Submitted by Sue Brown, Chairperson)



Committee on Christian Outreach

It's the coldest time of the year, and we are blessed to have a warm home and warm clothes. Please remember those who are less fortunate and need help fighting the elements. Help us fill our collection baskets dedicated to the Nashville Rescue Mission. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

The Lewis County Food Bank still need volunteers during the week. If interested, please see Joyce McCutcheon. Please continue as a church family to support other families in need in the community with donations to our county food bank.

For our White Christmas food collection this year 160 pounds of food equivalent to \$270 was collected and sent to the local food bank. Also for White Christmas, our church donated \$3,195 to Little Swan Hunting Club to assist in providing Christmas gifts and food for families in need in Lewis County.

Free non-perishable food items in Lewis County are available in the Sweetwater Church, every Wednesday, with distribution beginning at 3:30 p.m. See Retha or Jerry Tibbs for more details.

The Cherokee Children's Mission is in need of warm clothing and appropriate shoes for infants and children to age eighteen. A container is available in the back Sunday school building in the UMW workroom, or you may leave donated items in the church library or office.

(Submitted by Members of the Outreach Committee)

Thank you for helping support our mission. Your gift provides items for delivery to the children. We work directly with Cherokee Children's Services and the Children's Home. May you be blessed. Gary and Kathy Collier, Paris UMC



Committee on Christian Nurture

The Committee on Christian Nurture met January 25, 2018, at the church. Brother Drew Brewer laid out the duties and purpose of the committee and welcomed new members.

Jerry Tibbs reported that the Sunday school program currently has 2 adult classes and 2 children's classes. The committee is always open to starting new classes if the need arises. Brother Drew announced the Lenten study for 2018, (article mentioned in this newsletter). This Wednesday night study averages about 12-15 people and follows the Common Lectionary.

Our church is currently averaging from 80-120 persons in worship each Sunday. Due to the leave of absence of choir director, Kenny Graves, Brenda Duncan, and Adam McKinnis have been filling in. Kenny is presently back as director. Currently 6 liturgists serve on a rotating basis.

Mark Warrington reported that a new lapel microphone is needed for the worship service, with the cost being \$300-\$500. The committee recommends that the board approves this purchase.

Brother Drew Brewer announced that Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th with a worship service. There will be special services during Holy Week, on Thursday, March 29th at 6:00 p.m. and also on Good Friday, March 30th at 3:00 p.m. Easter Sunday is April 1st with Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m., breakfast at 7:00 a.m., and late worship at 10:30 a.m. Our next fifth Sunday is April 29th.

Cora Criss reported on the youth and children ministries. We currently have 15-17 young people on Wednesdays. Brother Drew will be leading them in a Baptism/Confirmation class for 7 weeks beginning February 7th through Lent.

The UMW and UMM continue to meet monthly. The women's group has 27 active members; the men's group has 25. Joyce and Larry McCutcheon continue to host a grief support group meeting each month in their home.

Our financial giving continues at a healthy pace. We paid 100 percent of our Apportionments in for 2017. Our special Christmas offering helped us with that. We will sponsor, along with the Outreach Committee, UMCOR Sunday on March 11th.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met Monday, January 8, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library with 19 members present and Monday, February 12, 2018, at a new meeting time of 3:00 p.m. with 22 members present.

During the January meeting the group discussed what to do with the remaining money left from 2017. Suggestions were

made, voted on, and plans were approved to purchase an ice machine for the CLC and provide money for work on one of the church's restrooms.

President Cora Criss led the discussion about new service and/or outreach projects the group wanted to be a part of during 2018. Making another trip during April or May to the UMCOR facility in Decatur, Alabama was one suggestion upon which the group agreed. Other discussions involved helping with the local food bank and continuing to contribute to the Nashville Rescue Mission. Other possibilities mentioned were the Ronald McDonald House and Monroe Carell Children's Hospital. During the February meeting, Cora had researched each of the facilities' programs listed above. The group decided to set up a visit to the UMCOR facility tentatively set for April 10th and to participate in outreach programs at Monroe Carell. If anyone is interested in either of these projects, please see Cora.

Also, the group discussed plans for the Lewis County Nursing Home birthday celebration slated for March 28th. The group provides cake and ice cream for all nursing home residents and staff to celebrate all birthdays for the year. This is a fun and enriching event for all involved.

Guest speaker for the February meeting was Becky Carroll, Lewis County Senior Citizens Coordinator. Becky discussed available programs at this facility and how the UMW could help.

The UMW is having a garage sale Saturday, May 12th in the CLC to help raise funds for projects. Anyone in the church family interested in donating items for this sale, please ask any UMW member. We would like to have slightly used items but will not be selling clothing. We appreciate your help in gathering items for this event as well as items for the outreach project for

Monroe Carell. (This is described in a separate article.)

The next meeting for this group will be Monday, March 12, 2018, at 3:00.

(Info. Submitted by Cora Criss and Cheri France)

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met January 2, 2018, and February 6, 2018, for their monthly meetings. The group elected new officers as follows: Mark Warrington, president; Larry McCutcheon, vice-president; Tony Kozlinski, treasurer; and John Fricot, secretary. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

(Submitted by Mark Warrington)

UMCOR: Giving Time is Near

UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It was started in 1940, to help meet the needs of people suffering overseas during World War II. They continue this mission today all across the world. When a disaster strikes, UMCOR is prepared and ready to respond twenty-four hours a day to disasters and needs both large and small. This response is funded by the upcoming UMCOR Sunday on March 11th. This special donation goes to cover the operating costs so all additional monies go straight to disaster response and recovery. After the operating costs are covered, 100 percent of the remaining donations go to relief efforts in over 80 countries. This is one small way that our church can make a difference across the globe.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible Study (6 wks) will be February 11th thru March 18th. The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that

readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.”

Our church can experience a Lenten season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton’s six week, DVD series, *John: Gospel of Light and Life*. We will follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. Come join us for this special Lenten Study.

Paws of Worship



Sunday, January 28th, Gloria Jones from the Committee on Christian Outreach introduced a new ministry to the children of the church, which they named Paws of Worship. Our church is so proud of our Prayer Shawl Ministry and other acts of compassion. We ask that you bring a stuffed animal (new) that would feel good and cuddly as we reach out to all ages. Each animal will sit on the front pew in the sanctuary to be a blessing during church. There will be a basket on the pew to tag each animal.

After services Sunday, there were two requests for an animal. THESE ARE NOT TOYS!! You are welcome to take one to someone in the nursing home, homes, or hospital. Stay tuned as we demonstrate how to spread the love of Christ to a hurting world.

(Submitted by Gloria Jones)

UMW Outreach Project for Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital

The United Methodist Women voted to take on a new outreach project of which

they are asking for the help of the church family. As a nonprofit hospital, Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital depends largely on communities and giving to help make a child's stay there as comfortable as possible. The UMW group is asking for monetary donations in order to buy supplies for projects designed for these children. If you are interested in making a donation, please see Cora Criss or Betty Stilts. Your donation could help make a child's hospital stay a little brighter and help with his/her recovery.



Hope You Had a Lovely Valentine's Day

- ❖ “**Love** is patient and kind.” **Love** is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude.” “**Love** does not insist on its own way.” “It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.”

1st Corinthians 13: 4-5

- ❖ “The second is this, ‘You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12: 31

- ❖ “So faith, hope, **love** abide, these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.”

1 Corinthians 13: 13

- ❖ “O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast **love** endures forever.”

Psalms 136: 26

- ❖ “For God so **loved** the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.’

John 3: 16

New Church Members



Twanette Nickell



Johnny Fox



Jackie Miller



Fay Lynch

If you haven't gotten the chance, please make these new members feel welcome.

Getting to Know Church Family



“Some people make the world a better place just by being in it.” What a

wonderful quote by an anonymous person! This quote makes me think about a special person in our church family, Cheryl (Cheri) France. She is one of those unique individuals whose smile is contagious and her personality makes you feel comfortable around her during the first encounter. Cheri believes in living life to its fullest and treating others the way you would want to be treated. After getting to know Cheri, one finds that she will do anything she can to help others and to serve the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald.

Cheri France was born in Dallas, Texas and was nine weeks old when she was adopted by Van and Darcie France, then moving at 9 months old to Spokane, Washington. This was to be one of many places Cheri would live in her life including the coastline of California from Stockton to Encino where her mom and dad ran a travel lodge. From there they moved to Redondo Beach, Mission Beach, and Pacific Beach in the San Diego area and then moved to Newport Beach. As a result, Cheri became a beach kid with a bay on one side and the beach on the other. Cheri's father, Van, was a man of many talents. Early in his life after graduating from college, he worked in industrial labor relations before being chosen to set up a training program for workers at Disneyland. He became the founder of Disney University, which quickly became the heart of Disney employee training. Cheri's mother was content at the time doing odd jobs and being a mother and housewife.

In 1959, when Cheri was fourteen, her mom decided she wanted to travel to see the Holy Land so they toured Europe seeing almost every country except Spain and the Scandinavian countries.

Her favorite part of visiting Egypt was riding the camels out to see the Pyramids and visiting the Cairo Museum. As they got off the bus in the Holy Land, Cheri was fascinated by seeing the people dressed as they did back in biblical days carrying bread on top of their heads. During her travels, she has also visited Tahiti, Japan, Baja, Mexico and has been numerous times to Hawaii. She had the opportunity to go to Israel again almost 50 years later in 2008.

Cheri had one brother, Ray, who was ten years older than she, but who perished in 1990, in a plane crash in Grants Pass, at the age of 55. He and a partner were trying to clean bugs from a Cessna they were flying for Civil Air Patrol when the plane ran out of gas. Both died doing what they loved the most. Later at the age of forty, Cheri found out she had a half sister who lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1972, Cheri moved to Portland, Oregon where she met her husband who was a firefighter. They were married ten years. She lived in Portland forty years attending the Church of Christ Church and Beaverton FourSquare Church, a Pentecostal spirit-filled church.

In 2012, Cheri had become tired of hectic city life and sought the more serene, calm life of a rural area. Her cousin, Julene, suggested Tennessee so Cheri contacted another cousin, Lanette Williams, who lived in the Volunteer State. After one visit, Cheri became sold on the quaint town of Hohenwald. She moved shortly thereafter and has lived here ever since on Little Swan Creek Road with her 17 year old cat named Jazz.

Cheri says the most important accomplishment in her life has been

getting her father's book republished after fifteen years of being out of print. The book is titled *Window on Main Street: Thirty-Five Years of Creating Happiness*. Cheri grew up at Disneyland, every child's dream, and remembers walking down main street when it was still a dirt road. She had birthday parties there and worked a couple of summers as a main gate ticket seller. This, she decided, was not what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. Her various jobs over her life span have included working for the Orange County Heart Association, the City of Costa Mesa as a computer operator, working for Freightliner and various other places mainly working in accounts payable. Before moving to Hohenwald, Cheri was working at a property management company.

Cheri loves her church family and has served as secretary of the United Methodist Women since June of 2016. She is very efficient in this job and has also worked diligently at the UMW Bazaars as greeter, ticket seller and collector, and cashier each year.

Obviously, I never knew Cheri's dad, but after reading about him on the worldwide web, it is obvious that many of his traits and life philosophies became instilled in Cheri. He put a smile on the faces of the many visitors to Disneyland; "he believed that the best part of Disneyland was the people," according to author, Dave Koenig; and at one point in his life he was quoted as saying, "It's all in your attitude." Being around Cheri makes you smile and laugh and reminisce about old times. It is obvious that she loves people and loves to get to know others just like her dad. And Cheri has one of the most positive, upbeat attitudes, which makes whoever is with her comfortable and happy. I

look forward to getting to know her better, and I strongly encourage all of you to do the same.

(Written by Sally Thornton with notes from Cheri France and Online Obituary for Van Arsdale France— Source, *LA Times*, 15 October 1999)



News and Announcements

- Lenten Bible Study (6 wks), February 11-March 18, *John: the Gospel of Light and Life*.
- 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 3:00 p.m.
- United Methodist Men meet every first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- Choir practice is 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 the office worker or on the answering machine.
- Radio Broadcast of church service every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. on WMLR 1230.
- **Next due date for newsletter information will be April 24, 2018.**

“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.