

Sharing

November/December 2018

First United Methodist Church

firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net

200 Court Street



Hohenwald, TN 38462

Phone 931-796-2681



From the Pastor's Desk



"And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2: 7)

A certain little boy was very impressed when told he had a new baby brother. **"Aren't you excited to have a new baby in the house?"** asked his father. **"I guess so,"** said the boy, **"but there were a lot of things we needed more."**

I am sure that when some people hear the Christmas story for the first time, their initial reaction is that what the world needs most is not another baby! They are wrong. Someone has said that when God wants something done in this world, he has a baby born. We know that was true of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The prophecy concerning the coming of the Savior of the World was fulfilled in him.

But who would think to look in a stable for the incarnate of God? Only a few frightened shepherds and some weary travelers had any idea what was happening that night. No one else heard the angels; no one else saw the star. The rest of the world saw only a helpless infant, born in a cattle stall.

Of course, Mary knew, too—an angel had made sure of that! In amazement Mary sang, **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."** Mary knew the significance of the child.

There is an old story about a skeptic who asked a local pastor, **"Tell me this: what is the difference between Christ's mother and my mother?"** **"I don't know, Sir,"** replied the pastor, **"but there is a very great difference between the sons!"** Mary knew that within the plain circumstances of a stable and a manger and a crying baby, the world had been forever changed.

A young family was going home for Christmas one year. The car was all packed. The mail and newspaper delivery had been stopped. A neighbor would keep an eye on the house and feed the dog. All the gifts were somehow fitted into the trunk of the car. They were finally ready to go. The husband started out of the driveway, when

suddenly the wife said, “**Honey, where is the baby?**” In all the excitement, the packing up of luggage and Christmas gifts, they had forgotten their most precious cargo—their child!

We can forget the baby, too, if we are not careful. It’s easy to do this time of the year. The world might cynically imagine that all it needs is one more baby. But, in fact, that is its greatest need. Why? Because, as the poet Christina Rossetti has said so well, “**Love came down at Christmas, Love so lovely, so divine. Love came down at Christmas, star and angel gave the sign.**”

This Christmas, don’t forget the Baby!

Merry Christmas, Drew

A Christmas Prayer



By Robert Louis Stevenson (1900)

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

<https://www.loveliveson.com/christian-christmas-poems/>

The Outreach Committee

Beginning in January, we will be collecting again for the Cherokee Children’s Orphanage. There are about one hundred children from ages birth to eighteen years old. Some items that are needed include: toboggans, gloves, hoodies, tennis shoes, and hygiene products. All items donated must be new, however, they need not be expensive. We appreciate how generous the people at Hohenwald First United Methodist Church have been in giving to these children. Any items or money donated for this service will be greatly appreciated.

(Respectfully Submitted by Ashley Garner)

United Methodist Women

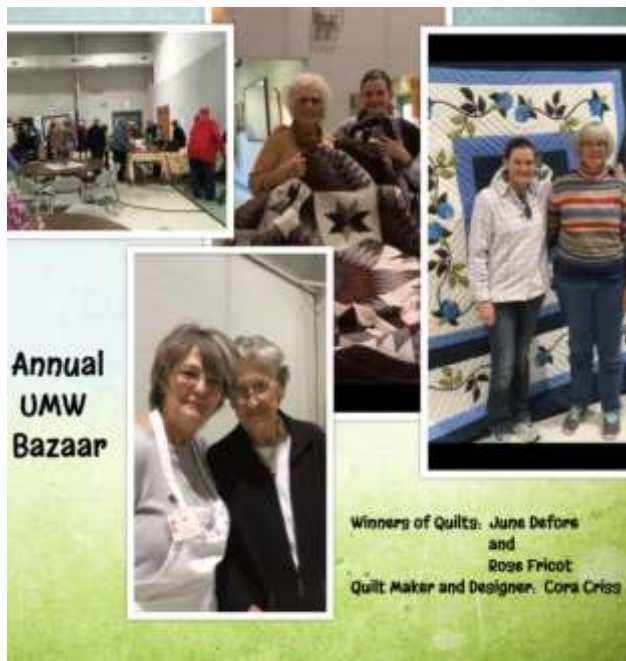
The United Methodist Women’s group met on October 8th to plan for the annual UMW Bazaar. Before plans were made, the group discussed the following business: cards were sent to various individuals who were sick or going through a difficult time; the treasurer Betty Stilts gave a report of a donation to the Lewis County Food Bank, and future expenditures of money to be sent to UMCOR, the Radio Ministry, the Lewis County Senior Citizens, Christmas for the Lewis County Nursing Home residents, and others in the near future.

The Annual Bazaar was held November 10th with lunch of homemade soup and chili, sandwich, dessert, and drink. Handcrafted items made by various members of the group were also for sell, along with two quilts made by Cora Criss. One quilt was auctioned off, while people bought raffle tickets for the other. Other items included White Elephant sale items, jewelry, books, and baked goods. The group made over \$4,000 and would like to thank all who participated.

The UMW Christmas party was held at the home of Barbara Lewis and Betty Stilts. A brief meeting

pertaining to current budget items preceded the enjoyment of food and fun.

The next meeting of the group will be January 14, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in the church annex. At this time the officers for the new year will conduct the meeting. All ladies are welcome to attend.



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's group met on October 2nd and on November 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Good meals were enjoyed by all at both meetings. During the October meeting the group discussed the Pancake Breakfast and its success. The group discussed whether the right amounts of foods for the breakfast were the correct amount and/or ways to improve the next time. The nomination committee recommended John Fricot as president of the group for 2019 as well as Mark Warrington, vice president; Ron Thornton, as secretary; and Tony Kozlinski as treasurer.

During the November meeting, President John Fricot reminded members to continue to give generously to the Lewis County Food Bank during the holiday season. The group voted to give money to the food bank as well as the Senior Citizen Center and Little Swan Hunting Club for their annual gift drive for children in Lewis County. It was announced that there would be no meeting in

the month of December. The next scheduled meeting will be January 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Fall Church Activity



Youth Group News

The First United Methodist Church offers activities for youth every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Christian based lessons and activities as well as refreshments are available. Please contact Teresa Drum or Debby Campbell if you know any children or youth who might be interested. Children's Choir practice follows immediately afterwards in the Christian Life Center and dismisses at 4:45 p.m. Transportation is available for those who need it. Come join the fun.





UM Youth Fall Fun



Junior/Senior Sunday School Class

The Junior and Senior High School Sunday School completed the viewing of the entire tv series: *Religions of the World* on Sunday, November 21st. This DVD, by Adam Hamilton, is the same DVD program used by Brother Drew Brewer to cover this subject about 6 months ago.

We are now entering a period when we shall read various scriptures and discuss them after reading. This will be an interactive exercise and should lead to a better understanding of some of the more well-known passages in the Bible. The discussion will be open without limitations as to what the participants in the class think and/or believe.

To summarize the past accomplishments of this class, we read the entire Bible, cover-to-cover over a period of 3.5 years; watched the entire series of the DVD *The Bible* followed by the DVD *A.D. the Bible*, over about a year, then we covered the Beth Moore books on David and Daniel, and we have just finished the DVD about the religions of the world. This has been a very interesting and beneficial class for the teacher and, hopefully, for the students. **(Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jerry Turner)**

United Methodist Youth Choir

Our Hohenwald United Methodist Church Boy's Quintet, aka Youth Choir, showed up and showed out on Sunday, December 9, 2018, as they presented an uplifting message through song to our church family. This message spoke loudly, giving us all "food for thought," for living our lives in service to our Lord and Savior. These words are taken from the song entitled, "That's What I'll Do:" *"Your love is simply amazing. Every word, every promise stays true. Help me to discover my purpose. Give me a heart that follows You. Created us all differently. We are called to all work together, as part of God's one big family. AND THE ORDINARY, TURNS EXTRAORDINARY, WHEN OUR LIVES ARE LIVED FOR YOU."*

As the youth worked on this song for several Wednesday afternoons, we discussed how God works through each of us in a myriad of ways, not only to help those around us, but also to build our own spiritual foundation for living life on life's terms. Their responses were EXTRAORDINARY! Thanks to you, our church family and the parents of our youth, for your support and encouragement. Thanks also to Rebecca McClain for running the sound system for us. Youth Choir practice will resume the first Wednesday after school Christmas break. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! **(Respectfully submitted by Cindy Graves, Youth Choir Director)**

News from the First United Methodist Choir

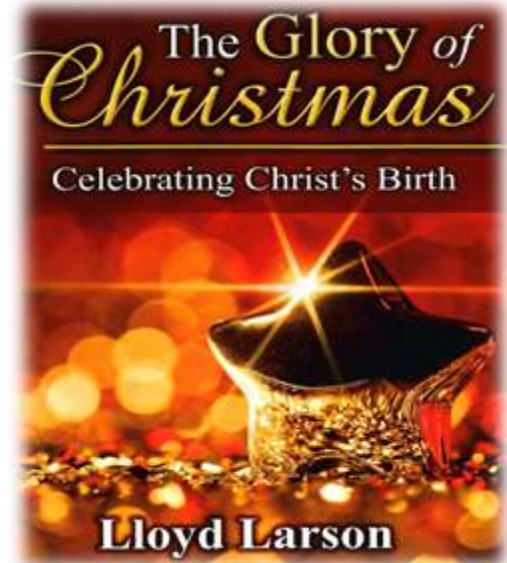
The annual Christmas party for members of our choir, their spouses, and friends from other churches was hosted by Jim and Joyce Darden at their lovely home on Saturday, December 8th from 5-7 p.m. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Gifts of Christmas aren't always wrapped in a nice package with a big red bow on top, and this time of fellowship was certainly proof of this quaint cliché. Not only was there an abundance of finger foods brought in for expanding waistlines, but this wonderful fellowship presented a time away from the usual weekly music rehearsals for us to get to know one another on a more personal level. This occasion always draws us closer as a choir and the level of spiritual camaraderie is extended to another level.

This writer just has to share an interesting moment that happened as our minister, Brother Drew Brewer, began saying the blessing prior to everyone beginning the much anticipated dig into the bounty of food awaiting us. Drew had just begun, when one of the Dardens' German Shepherds lay down on his stomach and put his head between his legs in prayer as well. We could hardly contain our laughter as Brother Drew continued, but we didn't hold back afterwards, as you can imagine.

The choir would like to thank our awesome church family for their continued love and support. Those "pats on the back" for a job well done are appreciated more than you know. It's a source of motivation to continue on. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM THE FUMC CHOIR!! (Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Graves, Choir Member)



The First United Methodist Church Choir and Friends - PRESENT



***Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm
Reception to follow at the
Christian Life Center***





Poinsettias given in Memory of:

“Red” and Hazel Duncan	By: Brenda Duncan
Leon and Alice Langham	By: Brenda Duncan
Gary Morgan	By: Charlotte & Trey
Jack Newton	By: Charlotte & Trey
Ruth Newton	By: Charlotte & Trey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hart	By: Clarice Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jr Ferguson	By: Cora Criss
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Maury	By: Cora Criss
Mrs. Terry Maury	By: Cora Criss
Arthur Stearns (father)	By: Debbie Campbell
Maizel Epley Tilley	By: Jim & Barbara Volner
Al Luther	By: John & Rose Fricot
Ruth and Fred Graves	By: Kenny & Cindy Graves
Alton & Mae McLemore	By: Mac McLemore
Bro. Paul & Mrs. June Thompson	By: Paris, Renee, Coleman, Katie, Sydney & Levi Thompson
Billy Dean Scott	By: Rebecca McClain
Richard Thornton	By: Ron & Sally Thornton
Royce Cartwright	By: Ron & Sally Thornton
Jean Fitzwater Ziegler	By: Susie Cullinan
Roger Luther	By: Susie Cullinan
David L Terry	By: The Stilwell Family
Our Parents	By: Tony & Kathryn Ann Kozlinski
Jack R. May	By: Wanda May & Jackie Miller

Linda Graves	By: Gloria Jones
Our Children	Tony & Kathryn Ann Kozlinski
Our Grandchildren	Tony & Kathryn Ann Kozlinski
Roger Luther	By: John & Rose Fricot
son-Jeff Sloan & mother-Clarice Sloan	By: Bob & Mary Kay Sloan
Tony & Kathryn Kozlinski	By: Rebecca McClain

A Christmas Note from the Editor

The article on church members will appear again in the next issue. Due to a busy time for me and my family, I was not able to interview anyone this time. But I would like to share some thoughts if you have time to read them. As we approach the Christmas season, it is very likely that we all become very sentimental and look at the world in a hopeful way, wishing the new year ahead of us will be better, that our world will have learned from past mistakes, and that we will be better Christians. Here is just one of the many things I would like to see happen.

As many of you have experienced, it is not fun watching your parents grow old and losing them, whether it be through death or through the horrible memory diseases that plague many elders. I lost my dad in 2002, to cancer, and my mother, as strong as she was, battled the reality of being alone, a widow with a home to keep up, bills to pay, and the day to day reality of the changes her new single life brought. In 2015, my mom suffered a stroke, experiencing mainly expressive dysphasia, and being diagnosed with early onset dementia. The last three years have been difficult to say the least and up and down as far as her health. During all of this, I have found that life for seniors who reach a point in their lives where they can no longer live alone can be challenging and frightening, not only for the elderly person but for family members as well.

Much emphasis is placed during the holiday season on taking care to make sure children are not forgotten. I am very much in support of this and try to be giving during this season. But I think that many times we forget another group of people

Poinsettias given in Honor of:

All GOD’s Children	By: Anonymous
Blanche and Terry Shawler	By: Rebecca McClain
Brian Fricot	By: John & Rose Fricot
Chris Hurt	By: Jim & Sue Hurt
Don & Ann Meredith	By: Paris, Renee, Coleman, Katie, Sydney & Levi Thompson
Gianna Lemke	By: Deb Lemke
Gloria Jones and Kenneth Kistler	By: Rebecca McClain
Haroldene Stearns (mother)	By: Debbie Campbell
Jenny & George Fricot	By: John & Rose Fricot
Jimmy Hurt	By: Anonymous
Judge Michael Spitzer & wife Dana	By: Clarice Smith, mother
Kelly Spitzer and Gwynn McVickers	By: Sierra Rayne Green
Kenneth Kistler	By: Anonymous

in our society often overlooked, not so much to buy gifts for, but to acknowledge that they matter, that they are still viable to our community. These are our Elders. Many times they experience holidays alone, depressed, sometimes having suicidal thoughts. I have always been taught to respect my elders. My best friends growing up were the many elderly people who lived on my street. Being like our mom, my brother and I loved to talk and would make our rounds at least once a week up and down the side street where we lived on the corner in Dyer, Tennessee. We loved these people, most who are now deceased. These people were full of wisdom, kindness, and educated us about life and how to treat others.

During the holiday season, make a point to check on an elderly friend or church member. Take him/her to lunch, go have coffee, write a note in a Christmas card, take a small gift of appreciation...any of these could bring back light in the eyes of one who has been living in loneliness and darkness.

I cannot leave you today without sharing something from my **second** favorite Christmas story, "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. Below you will find a link to the full story if you like to read it. The story is written in memoir form from the eyes of a child called Buddy, who is now an adult. He remembers Christmases with an elderly lady in his family, whom he calls "my friend." Through vivid imagery and description, Capote makes us all think about someone from our past who was older and made a lasting impact on our lives. He and his friend made fruit cakes every Christmas with their sidekick dog, Queenie, and lovingly designed homemade Christmas presents for each other, enjoying every minute of being together. But then comes the last Christmas... (next part from the story)

Life separates us. Those who know best decide that I belong in a military school. And so follows a miserable succession of bugle-blowing prisons, grim reveille-ridden summer camps. I have a new home too. But it doesn't count. Home is where my friend is, and there I never go. And there she remains, pattering the around the kitchen. alone with

Queenie. Then alone. ("Buddy dear," she writes in her wild hard-to-read script, "Yesterday Jim Macy's horse kicked Queenie bad. Be thankful she didn't feel much. I wrapped her in a fine linen sheet and rode her in the buggy down to Simpson's pasture where she can be with all her Bones....").

For a few Novembers she continues to bake her fruitcakes single-handed; not as many, but some: and, of course, she always sends me "the best of the batch." Also, in every letter she encloses a dime wadded in toilet paper: "See a picture show and write me the story."

But gradually in her letters she tends to confuse me with her other friend, more, thirteenth are not the only days she stays in bed: a morning arrives in November, a leafless birdless coming of winter morning, when she cannot rouse herself to exclaim: "Oh my, it's fruitcake weather!" When that happens, I know it. A message saying so merely confirms a piece of news some secret vein had already received, severing from me an irreplaceable part of myself, letting it loose like a kite on a broken string. That is why, walking across a school campus on this particular December morning, I keep searching the sky. As if I expected to see, rather like hearts, a lost pair of kites hurrying toward heaven.

Remember all elderly friends, neighbors, and relatives at Christmas or even someone you view from afar. Merry Christmas to All!! Sally

Dedicated to the Memory of All Loved Ones Lost in 2018

<https://faculty.weber.edu/jyoung/English%206710/A%20Christmas%20Memory.pdf> Story Link

Calendar of Events

- ❖ **Advent Sundays—December 9th, Second Sunday in Advent; December 16th, Third Sunday in Advent; December 23rd, Fourth Sunday in Advent; Monday, December 24th, Christmas Evening Worship and Candle Lighting—5 p.m.; and Tuesday, December 25th—Christmas Day!**

- ❖ Chancel Christmas Choir Cantata, “The Glory of Christmas”—Sunday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.
- ❖ German Chorus, Friday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ The Joy of Christmas Caroling has been missed, but it is back! Join us on Sunday, December 23rd at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary to warm up and designate groups. Treats for carolers to follow, at the home of Gloria Jones at 105 S. Park St.
- ❖ Sunday evening Bible Study, “Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph,” meets at 4:00 p.m. This study will conclude on Sunday, December 23rd at 4:00 p.m. before Christmas Caroling.
- ❖ Choir practices are each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- ❖ United Men meet each first Tuesday night of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. The next meeting will be January 8, 2019.
- ❖ United Methodist Women meet the second Monday of each month in the church annex at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be January 14, 2019.
- ❖ Children’s activities and refreshments are provided each Wednesday afternoon after school from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Christian Life Center followed by the children’s choir, which ends at 4:45 p.m. Transportation home is provided.

“Sharing” is the newsletter of the 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 859-585-2707 or email information to sjt2017fmc@gmail.com You may also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.

NOTE: Beginning in January 2019 the newsletter *SHARING* will be available by email and on the webpage. Please let us know how to send it to you. If you do not have email or would prefer a printed copy, please notify the office.