



SHARING

January/February 2019

First United Methodist Church

firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net

200 Court Street, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Phone 931-796-2681



Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night Studies TBA
UMYF/Children
Wednesday 3:00 p.m.
Children's Choir Practice 4:00 p.m.

Announcements

*Choir Practice each
Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.
in the church Sanctuary

*Adult Bible Study is at 6:00
p.m. on Wednesday nights.

*UMYF and Children's Groups
meet every Wednesday after
school from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
in the CLC, with refreshments
provided, followed by youth
choir practice from 4:00 to
4:45 p.m. Transportation
provided.

*United Methodist Men meet
the first Tuesday night of each
month in the CLC at 6:00 p.m.

*United Methodist Women
meet the second Monday of
each month in the church
annex. New start time 10:00
a.m.



From the Pastor's Desk

"A leper came to Jesus begging him, 'If you will, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I will! Be made clean!'" (Mark 1: 40-41)

The Italian poet Dante imagined these words over the final doors of hell: "Abandon hope, all who enter here!" "Abandon hope!" "Nothing can be done!"

To be a leper in NT times was to live every day of your life under the motto, "Nothing can be done." The disease of leprosy changed its victims into grotesque, disfigured creatures. Everybody avoided them. Usually they were separated from other people and forced to live in colonies. And the worst thing about the disease is that it was hopelessly incurable.

When Jesus encountered the leper that day, he was face to face with the most hopeless and untouchable of all people. To the Jew, not only was the leper unwelcome at worship—he was beyond the care even of Holy Scripture. D. E. Nineham writes, "The Jewish Law could do nothing for the leper; it could only protect the rest of the community against him". "Even the community of faith had to wring its hands and say, 'I'm sorry; nothing can be done.'"

* Please take a moment to make sure that you have filled out and turned in the contact form that was in the Sunday bulletin. Even if nothing has changed, please resubmit as we need to know that information. Thanks for the forms already received. If you have questions, please call Rebecca McClain in the church office.

*You may receive your newsletter through regular mail or email. Please call the church office and let Rebecca know which you prefer.

"Sharing" is the newsletter of the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, Tennessee, 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 her at sjt2017fmc@gmail.com You may also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.



The Next Deadline for the Newsletter Will Be

April 21, 2019

All of this makes what the leper had to say to Jesus absolutely astonishing. "If you will," he said, "you can make me clean."

It seems to me that real faith often begins at the outer limits of human resources. Real faith often begins when nothing else can help. The leper had nothing left. He had no friends, no strategy. He was cut out of all the plots, all the possibilities. All he had was leprosy...and that damning verdict ringing in his ears, "Abandon hope!" "Nothing can be done!"

I believe that it is here at the very boundary of human hope, the deepest part of the well, (wherever and whenever that time might come to you in your life) –it is here that our choices are narrowed to only two: Either we can be resigned to our fate and accept it the best we can, or else we can reach out to the mystery of grace that somehow transcends all our hoping.

This leper refused to accept the verdict. He refused to accept his fate. Something deep inside him reached out toward the mystery of grace which he somehow saw in this man, Jesus. His was an amazing profession of faith—one of the most amazing in all of scripture.

With all his pain and rejection and discouragement, he was able to say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed," and that made all the difference. He refused to accept his fate, and he found grace in the person of Jesus Christ.

The terrible words, "Nothing can be done," are abolished by the merciful words, "I will." And the Christ waits there for each of us, when we hope against hope, when the world says, "I'm sorry," and walks away, whenever we are at the end of our resources. He is there. Waiting for us to say, "If you will, Lord, you can make me clean."

Drew

Special Announcement

The Congregation is invited to attend our 2019 Lenten church-wide study, *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, beginning on **Sunday, March 3rd**, and continuing through **Sunday, April 4th**. We will meet at **5 p.m.** each Sunday evening in the Sanctuary for six weeks. Study books will be available for purchase (**\$14**) on **February 24th** during the worship service. If you would like to attend and are unable to afford the cost, scholarships are available. Please talk to the pastor. Join us **March 3rd** for this exciting study as we walk our Lenten journey together.

Christian Nurture Committee

The Christian Nurture Committee met on January 31, 2019, in the church annex. There were 11 members present. The group discussed several items of old business which included Sunday School attendance, the Bible Studies on Sunday nights, and upcoming events, including Ash Wednesday the first week of March and Easter Sunday on April 21st.

Trainings for individuals, young or adults for the jobs of liturgists or acolytes may be offered in the future if anyone is interested. The group also discussed making sure shut ins were offered Communion to be taken to them on the 1st Sunday of each month.

The next 5th Sunday will be March 31, 2019, in the Christian Life Center so there will be a lunch after the church service. The congregation is encouraged to invite others.

The Dutch Treat Breakfast at the local restaurant *The Southern Skillet* continues to be a success with anywhere between 15-20 in attendance. The group discussed asking for a \$1 donation from each person attending to pay for newcomers' breakfasts and birthday breakfasts.

Teresa Drum reported that approximately 13-15 youth have been attending the after school MYF program. Plans for the next few months include a visit to the local nursing home around Valentine's Day and a bowling trip on President's Day. Plans will soon be made for the Summer Camp offered each year.

Debby Campbell, who is in charge of the prayer chain, has begun to communicate via text messages. If you are currently not receiving them and would like to be added, please see her and provide your cell phone number.

Both the United Methodist Women and Men continue to have good attendance with an average of 15-20 each meeting. Both groups work hard to plan ways to serve in Lewis County by supporting the local nursing home, the Senior Citizens Center, the Lewis County Food Bank, public school classroom teachers and students, etc. If you would

like to join, the women meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the church annex while the men meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Other groups provided by church members are the Grief Group, which meets every 1st Monday at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Larry and Joyce McCutcheon and the Choose to Lose group which meets on Monday mornings also at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

When you see Glenn and Janice Pancake and Sam and Rita Grow, please thank them for the beautiful job they are doing with the upkeep of the Prayer Garden.

There was no new business discussed and the next meeting date and time is to be announced.

Christian Witness Committee

The Christian Witness Committee met on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in the church annex. The group discussed old business, which included the issues dealing with the audio system for the church. The committee voted to recommend the purchase of a new recorder as the old one needs repairs. Presently, the church is using one that Michael and Rebecca McClain are providing.

The committee also discussed how the church newsletters are currently being issued. Mr. Kenneth Mauck volunteered to pay the postage for every family represented in the church to have a copy of the newsletter mailed to them unless they prefer email. This will begin as soon as possible. All members felt that this would be a better way to reach more individuals with news and aid in availability of the newsletter. The newsletter will continue to be posted every two months on the church website

www.firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net)

Susie Cullinan will be sending out postcards to visitors thanking them for attending and encouraging them to please come again. These postcards have been used along, but the group discussed using them more for various announcements and encouragements. At some

point as the supply gets low, the group may redesign the cards before the next printing. Larry McCutcheon brought a sample with the most recent United Methodist Church logo on it.

The group also examined the present system of assigning jobs within the church service. An article appears in this issue as a reminder of the responsibilities of the liturgists, greeters, and ushers. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Rebeca McClain in the church office, or contact Sue Brown, chairperson of this committee. Mrs. Kathryn Kozlinski volunteered to be at the side door entrance to greet people twice a month.

The group was again reminded that Rebecca McClain, secretary, now has access to add or make changes to the church website.

Bulletin boards will continue to be updated with new members' pictures.

The next Christian Witness Committee meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2019, at 10 a.m. in the church annex.

The Christian Outreach Committee

The Christian Outreach Committee met on January 22, 2019. As of February 17th, Ashley Garner reports having collected several items for the Cherokee Children's Orphanage. The committee will be giving the donations to Gary Collier, contact person for this special mission, when he visits our church on March 31st. On that day he will take a few minutes to speak to the members of this committee and tell them more about what they do at the orphanage. Members are excited to have him as a guest on that day.

Member Jerry Tibbs reported to the committee that over 100 pounds of food was taken from our church to the Lewis County Food Bank for the holidays. The next meeting date for this committee is to be announced.



UMCOR: Giving Time is Nearing reports Cora Criss. 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 across the world. When a disaster strikes, UMCOR is prepared and ready to respond 24 hours a day to disasters and needs both large and small. **UMCOR Sunday for our church is tentatively set for April 7th.** This special donation goes to cover the operating costs, so all additional monies go straight to disaster 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 we can make a difference across the globe.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on January 14th and February 11th in the church annex. Seventeen members were present during the January meeting, while 13 members attended in February.

During the January meeting the program was provided by Debby Campbell who relayed a message and scripture on "Kindness." This year the UMW will celebrate its 150th year of Christian mission work. President Debby Campbell encouraged all attending to volunteer to provide a monthly program, either by following the one given in the UMW Book of Programs or by bringing in a guest speaker. The February program was provided by Martha Edwards.

The group briefly discussed the success of the last year's November bazaar and ways to improve with this new year.

Members voted to change the meeting time to 10:00 a.m. the second Monday of each month, starting in February.

An announcement about the upcoming Faith Lift at the Coleman Memorial First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceburg was made for anyone interested in attending. The four officers attended this meeting on February 2nd.

Treasurer Betty Stilts gave an extensive report on the ending budget for 2018. Vice President Barbara Lewis made a motion to open a

“miscellaneous” fund for the money left from last year’s funds. This money will be used for expenses that might come up during 2019. Betty then discussed the new budget for 2019. Changes were made to the Adopt a Classroom Program, moving money from one facet of this program to another.

The Shelter, in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, a center for victims of domestic violence, will continue to be supported by the group. Dogs for Veterans will be added to the budget as well. The group will continue to support additional charities as reflected in this year’s budget.

Barbara Lewis gave the February meeting devotional on how spring renewal can be viewed also as a Christian renewal each year, where we make changes in our lives. Guest presenters were Ann English and Brenda Cox from the Lewis County Food Bank. These ladies said that many improvements continue to be made at the Food Bank including a new building and drop box. Their purpose is to serve the Lord by helping those in need. Everything is donated and monies donated are used to run the facility. They explained how items, including food are distributed. The Lewis County Food Bank is well supported by the community and continues to be a model for surrounding counties. The facility continues to need volunteers to work and stated that the UMW has continued to be one of its supporters.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on January 8th and February 5th with President John Fricot presiding.

During the January meeting Jim Darden reported that a total of 14 Christmas baskets were taken to individuals during the holidays. This was very much appreciated by the recipients. Mark Warrington made the motion that the group continue and expand this tradition next Christmas.

The devotional for the January meeting was given by Kenny Durham, and Jerry Turner provided the devotional for February. Brother Drew Brewer announced that John and Rose Fricot recently donated two green slate boards for the church. These have since been installed by Jerry Tibbs.

Jerry Tibbs reported that on behalf of the church and Christian Outreach Committee, he had taken 100 pounds of food to the Lewis County Food Bank during the holidays.

During the February meeting, the men discussed ideas for fundraisers. Many ideas were tossed around and considered and will be discussed further during the March meeting.

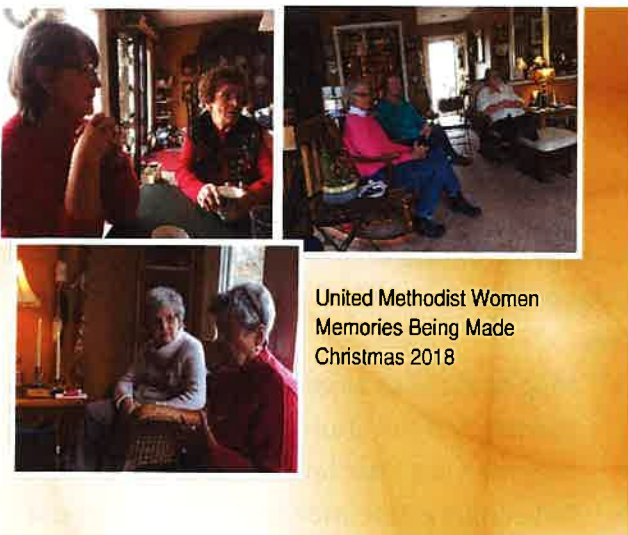
Members continue to be encouraged to call, visit, or send a card to individuals who have been sick and to continue to invite other men within the church to come to monthly meetings.

Children and Youth Group News

The combined Children’s and Youth Ministries meet weekly on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 and have an attendance ranging from 12 to 15 or 16.

We have been studying Jesus’ healing powers this new year. As part of our time together, we have been creating Get Well and Wishing You Well cards. We delivered them to the Lewis Manor Nursing Home on February 6th during our usual meeting time.

On President’s Day, February 18th, 17 children and youth, and five adults took a trip to Tenn Pin Alley in Columbia for a day of bowling, laser tag, arcades, and unlimited pizza. Everyone had a terrific time.



United Methodist Women
Memories Being Made
Christmas 2018

We would love to have even more join our Wednesday group for lessons, snacks, basketball, and Christian friendship.
(Respectfully submitted by Kenny Durham, Debby Campbell, and Teresa Drum)

Welcome New Church Members



Crystal Shook

Betty Fox

Safety Meeting Scheduled

There will be a Safety Meeting before the church service on April 7th to go over the details of the safety plan for the church. This includes plans for fire drills, severe weather, and an imminent danger to church safety procedures. If you are interested, please make plans to attend. In the March/April newsletter more information will be shared with the entire congregation, including a map and further directions of what to do in case of one of these emergencies.

Would You Like to Offer Your Services?



During the church service each week, there are several jobs that are very important to the overall success of the church service. These include the

jobs of liturgist, greeters, and ushers. If you have an interest in volunteering for any of these jobs, please contact Rebecca McClain at the church office at 796-2681 or see Mrs. Sue Brown, chairperson of the Christian Witness Committee.

A Liturgist

- Begins the church service by welcoming those in attendance and asking for cell phones to be silenced during the service.
- Makes announcements.
- Provides the invocation, leads in opening hymns, guides the congregation in the Affirmation of Faith
- Introduces the person providing the Children's Sermon.

A Greeter

- Extends a hand of friendship to attendees.
- Assists others into the church who might need help going up steps or help in finding a seat.
- On a rainy day may stand outside with an umbrella to assist anyone who might need help.
- Needs to arrive and be at his/her station by 10:00 a.m.
- Check the foyer/narthex for tidiness before people arrive.
- Locate and hand out bulletins to those who want one. Show them what other papers are available to be picked up if interested.
- Make conversation with attendees if it will not hold up others.
- **SMILE!!**

(Remember greeters may leave lasting impressions on visitors.)

Ushers

- Help seat those who need to find a seat especially if the church is crowded or the attendee is a little late.
- Aid congregation members who may need assistance.
- Take up the morning offering.

- Be aware of all going on before, during, and after the church service as safety requires.
- Need to be flexible during the service to attend to anything that happens.

To follow this up, we all have many responsibilities as attendees of our church. We should always make a point to introduce ourselves to those who are new to make them feel welcome. Offer to answer any questions they may have. And make a point to tell them we are glad they are with us and hope to see them again.

Message to the Congregation

Let Us Pray!! I have been asked many times about the new pastor, such as what do I know, and will anyone get to meet him/her. The Methodist Church has a process to match pastors and congregations that has worked for years. Knowing the process is important, but knowing **GOD** is more important.

Brothers and Sisters, let's keep Brother Drew and our incoming pastor in prayer. Drew is at the end of his time at our church and beginning a new chapter in his life. We are also beginning a new chapter but always with **GOD's** help. Pray for all things including yourself that **His** will be done. Let's pray for our church as well as any church where **GOD** is praised and worshiped. **AMEN**
(Submitted by Gloria Jones, Lay Representative)

Getting to Know Church Family



Some people choose books by the caption written inside the front cover or by the size or number of pages that a book might possess. I have always chosen them by what is on the cover, the color, the pictures, the uniqueness of the display of the book. This is very similar in my judgment of

people. It has never mattered to me if a person dresses the finest, speaks most eloquently, or if he/she lives in a castle. I am drawn to them by what they say, how they act, how they present themselves, and how they relate to others. I judge people by what is in their heart and their compassion for others. The *Cambridge Dictionary* defines "unique" as "**being the only existing one of its type or, more generally, unusual or special in some way.**" This is the way I perceive the person interviewed for this issue, Janis Christian Floyd. You all know her very well; as a matter of fact, most of you know her much better than I do. But it doesn't take long in being around Janis to know that you have met one "**unique**" person.

Janis Floyd was born on June 6, 1947, to parents McFarren Floyd (Mac) and Lucyle Christian Floyd. She had one sister Rosemary Floyd Hinson, and she also has another person presently in her life whom she referred to as her sister because they are so close, Kathryn Kozlinski.

Janis has lived in Hohenwald, Tennessee all her life and was born in the old Boyse Clinic on Park Avenue across from the school. Her father passed away at age 59 when Janis was twelve years old, which explains that through so much of her life her mother was her rock. She spent most of her childhood up and down the streets of Hohenwald because that was where many in her family owned businesses. Her father owned a restaurant called **Floyd Brothers Restaurant**; later it became her sister Rosemary's flower shop. This building is the present sight of the diner, **Hanks**. After building that restaurant, Mr. Floyd over time built several more buildings on that block, one which now houses Janis's beauty shop business. She also had family members that owned the old **Piggly Wiggly**, which is now the Chinese restaurant and others that owned and operated a dress shop and men's clothing store, what Janis called a "federated" store. Therefore, Janis's family was instrumental to the history of downtown Hohenwald's successes. If you ask Janis what she loves most about Hohenwald, she will tell you the "freedom." She grew up walking up and down the streets, visiting

the businesses and her relatives and making memories. She knows everyone and that is no lie. As we met for lunch at *Hanks*, we stopped talking many times as she would see someone she knew and offer a hug and conversation. It was evident that everyone knows and loves Janis, and her knowledge of this town's history is remarkable.

At 28 years old, Janis moved from downtown to renovate her childhood home. It was in this home that she lived and cared for her mother until she passed away. One thing true to any Southerner is a vivid and dedicated memory to the old "homestead," no matter where it is or who may now occupy it. Janis is one of those lucky individuals who gets to continue her life in the house she was raised in, located on the corner of 4th and Pine Streets.

Janis became a beautician and worked in a location for two years behind what used to be the old barber shop that belonged to another individual. However, after this she moved to her own location. She has been a hair dresser for 66 years and at one time sold Merle Norman cosmetics for 38 years. Janis also taught at a beauty school in Columbia, Tennessee for two years.

Although Janis has never been married, she has been friend and confidant to many in community. Her best friend growing up was Mr. Mac McLemore. They have been friends since age two. As Janis talks about Mac, she gets this gleam in her eyes as if there are many stories there that we didn't have time to get into. They have always been close friends, and it is because of this friend that one of the most special rooms in her house is a "music room." Even though Janis doesn't play any musical instruments and doesn't read music, Mac instilled in her a love for music of all kinds.

In her spare time, Janis likes to read, travel, and watch professional sports. Her favorite NFL team just got cheated out of a Super Bowl appearance, as she is a true New Orleans Saints fan. She has traveled many places... Mexico, Canada, and Hawaii to name a few. One of her favorite cities has always been Chicago, which growing up was mine too. We

talked about places we loved in this city such as the numerous museums, Four Corners (the old downtown shopping) with the old Woolworth and Sears stores, and the Magnificent Mile, a shopper's delight.

Lastly, Janis has a profound knowledge and dedication to the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald. It was her grandmother, Myrtle Christian who was the reason for her starting to church. She recalls fun times with junior choir and Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) on Sunday nights. She listed 18 ministers at Hohenwald First, beginning with Brother Jones who christened her and ending with Brother Drew. She also recalls a couple of events where Kenneth Kistler's presence meant the world to her. She and Kathryn recalled an Easter Sunday where they decided they were old enough to dress as women and not children, with a story of wearing hosiery for the first time that was way too funny to tell. Next time you see one of them, maybe you can get them to tell you this memory.

When you move into a new town, there will always be a small group of people who epitomize the town's history, those who know what the town used to be like. Janis Christian Floyd is one of those people. She is a plethora of stories, knowledge of people, places, and rich history that makes this town what it is. I asked her in the interview what she would want others to know about her that she might not feel free to share with them at first. Her answer, like so many of us feel, was that it is hard to remain optimistic in the world we live in. Well, to be truthful, for me, as long as there are Janis Floyds in this world, it won't be too hard to regain that optimism. The past will always leave behind remnants of knowledge for the present and future. Janis will always be that colorful, intriguing, beautiful book I choose from the shelf and admire for its "unique, unforgettable" qualities. Thanks for all the memories, Janis, and God richly bless you.

P.S. Enjoy some of the photos Janis shared with us from her life.



Above: Rosemary, age 9 and Janis age 4 months; Janice and her dad, August 1961

Below: Women of Janis's family at family reunion at Merriweather Lewis State Park



Above: Janice and friends at birthday party;

Below: Bernice Brownlow and Brother Jones, First Methodist Church, Hohenwald, 1930



HONORABLE BROTHER JONES
 300 SOUTH COMBEE STREET
 FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

HONORABLE BROTHER JONES
 300 SOUTH COMBEE STREET
 FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 SOUTH COURT STREET
HOHENWALD, TENNESSEE 38462