



Sharing

March/April 2019
First United Methodist Church
200 Court Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462
Phone: 931-796-2681
firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net



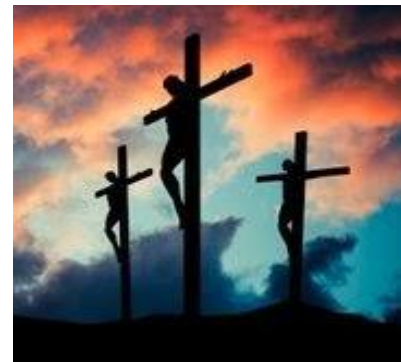
Photo Submitted by Cindy Graves**

Worship Hours

Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
 Morning Service—10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Night Studies—TBA
 in Bulletin
 UMYF/Children
 Wednesday 3:00 p.m.
 Children's Choir Practice—Off
 for Summer

From the Pastor's Desk

"When they came to the place which is called Golgotha, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'" (Luke 23: 33-34)



Calendar of Events and Announcements

- *Choir Practice is 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. (off for summer)
- *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.
- *The church newsletter can be delivered one of two ways: via email or mail. If you do not receive a copy, please contact the church secretary, Rebecca McClain at 796-2681.

Lloyd Douglas in ***The Robe*** tells about the time when Jesus meets Zacchaeus—the tax collector who comes out of the sycamore tree, and whose life is changed. Zacchaeus is a thief, but after meeting Jesus he declares to those whom he has cheated, "I will give back four times over everything I have stolen! I will give half of everything I possess to the poor!"

Lloyd Douglas pictures Jesus asking, "Zacchaeus, what led you to do that?" And Zacchaeus answered, "**Master, when I looked in your eyes, I saw there mirrored the Zacchaeus I was intended to be.**"

At one and the same time, that is what fascinates us and frightens us in Jesus. We look at him and something in us says, "Yes, that's what I want to be." Then we look at ourselves and we say, "No, I can never be that!" That is the reason the words of forgiveness from the Cross are so important. They are expressions of the compassion, the sympathy, of Christ. You see, the Good News is that Jesus is not just our example, our teacher, but more than these things, he is our **Savior**. The keynote is compassion—not the compassion he calls us to, but the compassion he extends to us and then invites us to grow in.

Jesus can be the one who loves us, accepts us, forgives us, cleanses us, and at the same moment so flows **into** us that we are enabled to live more like him than we ever previously believed we could.

Quite frankly, I am sick to death of ideals. I have so many ideals and have been so frustrated by each of them that I really do not care anymore. What I am looking for is a Savior—not someone who will just tell me what I ought to be, but someone who will forgive me for what I already am. And then with his very love will enable me to be more than I ever believed I could be. It is exactly that which Jesus does on the Cross for all of us.

Drew

Sharing from the Congregation

Sharing from my daily devotional in *Daily Guidepost*...

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ..." Philippians 2: 16

Zona B. Davis refers to a yellowed piece of paper that has been posted on her refrigerator for a long time. She is unsure of the author or who gave it to her, but she wishes she could thank the author for what she considers to be "one of her finest treasures." Advice for living— a short course on human relations:

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS: "I admit I made a mistake."

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS: "You did a good job."

THE FOUR MOST IMPORTANT WORDS: "What is your opinion?"

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS: "If you please."

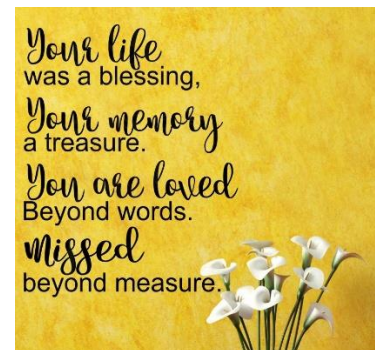
THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WORDS: "Thank you."

THE ONE MOST IMPORTANT WORD: "We."

THE LEAST IMPORTANT WORD: "I."

(Submitted by Mary Jane Ellison)

In Memory



"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people move our souls to dance. They awaken us to a new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom. Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same."

— Flavia Weedn

Over the last few years the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald has lost many bright stars from our congregation. Death is never easy, and those who remain behind must learn to cope with loss. But we all must face death some day with courage and faith. These individuals did so and will always be remembered for their contributions to our church and the legacy they left behind.

 *Mildred Rodgers*

September 28, 1925 - April 24, 2017

 *Wesley Jackson*

November 16, 1931- February 12, 2018

 *Hazel Jackson*

June 15, 1935 - April 7, 2018

 *William Rodgers*

February 20, 1928 - January 11, 2019

 *Katie Sue Johnston*

October 6, 1922-January 30, 2019

 *Kenneth Kistler*

December 6, 1926 - February 28, 2019

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women's group met on March 11, 2019, and on April 8, 2019, in the church annex. Fourteen members were present in March, and thirteen members were present in April.

Karen Niedergeses, Executive Director of The Shelter, Inc. in Lawrenceburg, TN presented the March program. The UMW are asked each meeting to bring an item to donate to this worthy cause and also gives a monetary donation from the UMW budget each year. The Shelter, Inc. also serves Lewis County residents.

The group planned for the annual birthday party for The Lewis County Manor Nursing Home. This party, however, was cancelled because of illness at the facility. It has now been rescheduled for June 26, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. Members who would like to participate should be there by 2:00 p.m. The group treats residents to cake, ice cream, snacks,

and drinks. Money was also collected at the March meeting for Birthday Bucks.

Deanna Darden-Carroll, Child and Family Advocate for the Davis House presented the program at the April meeting. April is National Child Abuse Awareness month. Deanna shared with the group signs of child abuse, our responsibility as citizens to report suspected child abuse, and the severity of the problem by giving some startling statistics. The Davis House is a non-profit child and family advocacy center whose purpose is to "combat child abuse by coordinating services to children and their families in crisis and providing community education focused on prevention and early intervention."

The group discussed the Christmas Shoe Boxes and planning a possible trip to the UMCOR facility. Kathy Knight gave the devotion while Martha Edwards spoke on being "ambassadors for Christ," and how Easter presents a time for Christian rebirth.

The next UMW meeting will be May 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's group met on March 3, 2019, and on April 2, 2019. Delicious meals were served at both meetings compliments of some of the members.

John Fricot, the group's president led the March and April meetings. Old business included Glenn Pancake volunteering to repair the double doors leading into the annex, and Jerry Turner offering to paint them and the trim. Both were completed before the April meeting date.

The yearly Pancake Brunch is scheduled for May 19, 2019, in the Christian Life Center.

During the March meeting the group discussed the following: exit signs in the sanctuary; a men's work day set up by the Board of Trustees; hot water in the women's restroom in the annex; and several ideas for raising money for the group to use for Christian endeavors.

Mr. Sam Davis, from Oak Grove United Methodist Church, announced the date for that church's annual fish fry on July 12th and asked for the group's and church's support by attending.

During the April meeting the group further discussed the installation of exit signs in the church sanctuary as proposed by the local building inspector. Many voiced concerns about the cost, while others voiced concerns about safety liability. Also discussed further were the ideas pertaining to fundraisers. The group is considering having a food booth at the Southwest Area Fair in August, a "Coffee Express" at OktoberFest and possibly having a "Fiddler's Contest" event. Committees have been formed to discuss the feasibility of these ideas.

The next United Methodist Men's meeting will be May 7, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

The Children of the church enjoy a Children's Sermon provided by various individuals including Brother Drew Brewer, Cindy Graves, and Kellie Spitzer. We encourage all youth at any age to join this special part of our service each Sunday.

(Respectfully Submitted by Teresa Drum)



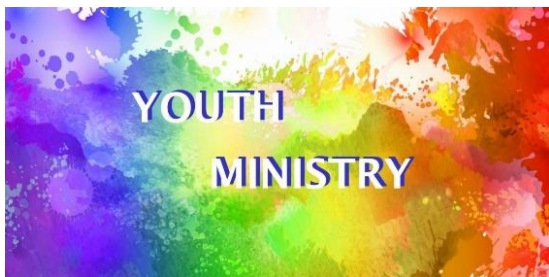
News from the Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School 2019
Coming Soon
June 13-15 9-11:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School is coming soon. The event is set for **June 13th thru June 15th** from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The theme this year will be **Let the Children Come to Me**. If you are interested in volunteering your time, it would be very much appreciated. Just contact Teresa Drum for more information.



News from the Youth Ministry



Our Youth Ministry group continues to grow each week with new faces. Several activities are in the planning stages. We are waiting to hear from several church members who have requested yard work. In addition, we want to have a car wash in April as a fund raiser. As a year-end finale, we are hoping to have an overnight trip to the Ark in Kentucky the first week of June. More information will be shared soon, including how church members can also participate.

This is a last call for any child or youth interested in attending church summer camp. Please contact Debby Durham immediately.

Finally, Youth Sunday will be June 30th and the youth will be assisting with our church service that

day.

Most of all, we thank you for so graciously supporting us this school year with your snacks, monetary donations, and positive comments. Our year would not have gone as well without you as we build a community of young Christians.

(Respectfully Submitted by Debby and Kenny Durham)



Hadley Spitzer

Christopher Spitzer

During the 5th Sunday Service, the youth took over responsibilities of the Liturgist, Ushers, and Acolytes.

Junior Senior Sunday School Class

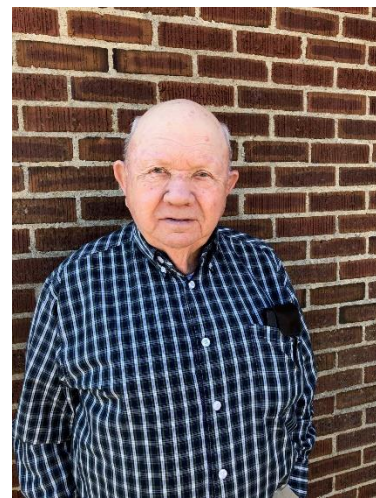
The Junior-Senior High School class is now working through Max Lucado's book for high schoolers entitled: ***God's Story Your Story – When His Story Becomes Your Story***. Each chapter is based on a topic citing what happens "When God's Story becomes yours ..." with the first chapter being: "Ordinary Matters." Then, chapter 2 is: "You Know Satan's Next Move." Then comes 3: "...When God's Story becomes Yours You Find Your True Home." Then comes chapter 4: "...You Hear a Voice You can Trust." Chapter 7 is: "...Power Moves In;" and we just finished chapter 8: "...The Right Doors Open." The coming chapters are: 9 "...All Things Work for Good;" 10 "...God will Come for You;" and 11 "...You Will Finally Graduate." Each of these various chapters explore the process by which we grow into full Christians and what is to

be expected "when God's Story becomes our story."

Some subjects that we have also begun to focus on are the first books of the Old Testament, the Torah, and the first 4 books of the New Testament, the Gospels. It may well be that we shall attempt to award members of the class in some way if they memorize the books of the entire Bible in order.

(Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jerry Turner)

Welcome New Church Member



Ray "Tut" Brown

Thanks for Giving



April 7th was UMCOR Sunday at the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald. According to spokesperson, Cora Criss, \$1,506 was donated by the congregation through a special offering. This money is greatly appreciated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief to be used in helping families globally as they deal the loss and devastation incurred by catastrophic events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, etc. **Thanks to all who so graciously contributed.**

Security in Church

Efforts to keep us secure while in church have been an on-going process for some time now. Whether it is escape planning in the event of fire, sheltering in place during weather events or other emergencies, the safety and security of our members is a priority. With that in mind we have added another layer of safety by installing an advanced camera system to monitor important areas in and around the church. It was decided that the entry doors to the church were our #1 concern. All entry doors to the church have a camera to monitor suspicious persons who might approach during our worship services. There will never be cameras inside the church looking at the congregation. There is a TV monitor in the sound booth that enables any operator to scan these doors for activity that might be suspicious. We presently have a total of 6 cameras around the facility, and all cameras are recording to a computer hard drive 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In the event of a break in, we can review the recorded video for evidence. This information can be transferred to a thumb drive or a CD and given to the police to be used as evidence. All recorded video can be stored and reviewed for more than 30 days before it is automatically erased to free up space for more video. This whole system is upgradeable, and we still have room to add 2 more cameras when needed. This camera system was installed and has been operating for more than 8 months.

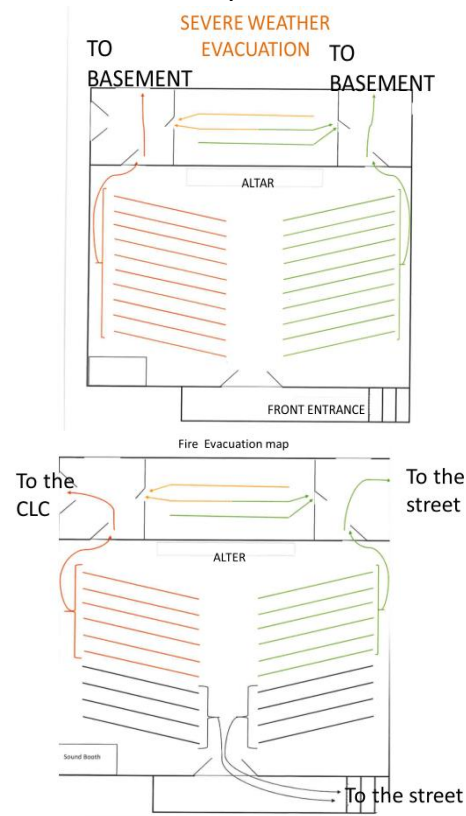
Installation of the cameras, computer/processor and other system hardware was done by Glen Pancake, Cora Criss and John Fricot. There was no cost to the church for this system as it was purchased and donated by a member of the church.

(Respectfully Submitted by John Fricot)

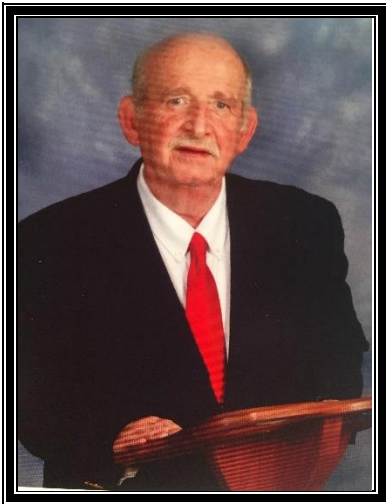


Do You Know the Emergency Safety Drills?

On Sunday, April 7th, member Cora Criss discussed with the congregation the plans for emergency situations including fire and severe weather. Diagrams were passed out to each member in the bulletin, and Cora, with the help of other church members pointed out where to go in the case of each of these situations. The diagrams are printed below, but if you would like to have a larger version, please see Cora. Members are encouraged to study over these diagrams so you will know what to do and where to go if bad weather or a fire occurs while you are in the building sanctuary. Knowing what to do is important to your safety as well as the safety of others around you.



Thanks for the Memories



In his novel *Look Homeward, Angel*, author Thomas Wolfe said, "You can never go home again." People may think this is not true because they return all the time to where they grew up and where their families still live. Some have lived there all their lives. However, in examining the greater meaning the statement is so very true and relevant to everyone's lives. When you do go home, you find that things have vastly changed, including the person that you have become. The journey along the way has changed you, matured you, and made you stronger. Even the physical existence of the town has changed and transformed into something else, maybe even something unrecognizable. But it is still home.

On the day that I met Brother Drew for lunch for this interview, I asked him if he was excited about his retirement. He smiled shyly and said that it was "bittersweet," meaning that as an old chapter of the life he had grown accustomed to for the last 13 years was about to come to a close, leaving behind a congregation he has grown very fond of, was sad for him. However, starting a new phase in his life in the familiar surroundings of Jackson, Tennessee and going back to his roots and family made him very happy. He would be spending more time with his daughter and son-in-law and precious grandson Abram in the house that held so many memories for him, his mother's

house, where the foundation for the early part of his life began.

Drew Brewer was born to parents Allen Sidney Brewer and Betty Wells Brewer on June 5, 1950, in Jackson, Tennessee. He has two siblings both brothers, Jim and Mike Brewer. When Drew was five years old, his dad, who worked at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, passed away unexpectedly, leaving his mother to raise three boys on her own. The youngest was less than a year old. Mrs. Brewer got her Certified Nurse Anesthetist degree and was able to send all three sons through college, which says a great deal about her determination to make life as normal as possible for her sons and to see to it that they had every opportunity to do well in life.

As a youth, Drew grew up attending the old Hays Avenue Methodist Church in Jackson, which over time became Aldersgate United Methodist Church. He was very active citing two of his favorite activities being singing in the choir and being active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship group. The men at the church were very kind and generous toward the three Brewer boys. He referred to their kindness as that they "adopted them." Drew remembers many times that individuals in the group would give them money to go out and eat or for other things they might otherwise need. One man, named Mr. Adron McAlexander told Drew, "Since your dad died, the men of this church have been looking out for you boys." "I prayed you would end up a minister." Drew attended Southern Methodist in Dallas and Lambuth College in Jackson where he received an undergraduate degree. Later he went to Memphis Theological School where he would be ordained in 1986. Drew said that Mr. McAlexander would be so very proud of him and the fact that he has served the Lord for 35 years.

During his early years, Drew had many interests. He sang professionally in a soft rock band in the early 70s on into the 80s for 15 years. He had several jobs including being a high school English teacher for five years and served also as president

of the Poetry Society from 1974 to 1980. During his life he has lived many places including Jackson, Memphis, Henning, and Hohenwald, all in Tennessee, Fulton, Kentucky, and San Francisco, California. He became ordained as a Methodist minister in 1986. He was married to Elaine Blanchard Brewer for 20 years, and they had one daughter Jennifer. Jennifer and her husband Dalton Kilburn have one son Abram and live in Jackson. It is obvious that Drew is looking forward to spending more time watching his grandson grow up and teaching him to love many of the same things he has grown to love so much.

As a former English teacher, it is no surprise that Drew is a voracious reader. Other interests include sports, mainly football and baseball. He is a huge fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Green Bay Packers. In the early part of his life he spent a lot of time fishing and camping. His favorite Tennessee campground from years ago was the Fall Creek Falls State Park, but he states that it has changed so much and become very crowded and commercialized, taking away its appeal. He has been camping in 23 National Parks and loves the Smoky Mountains. Upon retirement, he plans to get back into Lifestar Duplicate Bridge. Playing bridge with others is something he uses to really enjoy and feels that it would be a fun activity again and would help him meet new people. Presently he is remodeling his mother's home, a home built in 1922 by his grandfather, which is where he will be moving in June.

Drew is drawn to people who are authentic and is impressed by the traits of humility and hospitality in individuals he has met over time. Those are the traits that encouraged him to accept his appointment to the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, where he has spent 13 years— learning the town, its people, and enjoying the culture and beauty of Lewis County. He is very grateful that God led him to UMC of Hohenwald, and it has been a pleasure to serve here. He will always treasure the many friendships that he has

made and feels like he has made important contributions to the church and its congregation. Spending his last years here have been the best memories he could have ever hoped for.

During the interview, I asked Brother Drew his favorite childhood memory. He said that when he was three years old, his father took him to the Memphis Zoo. As families do, he and his dad posed at one of those photo booths often found at vacation spots. He remembers sitting on his dad's shoulders as children love to do; it was the only picture he was to have of him and his father. He kept it in his wallet until his wallet was stolen, along with the picture. Even though someone took away that tangible evidence of father and son bonding, Drew would forever have its memory etched into his mind. He feels like it metaphorically speaks to him as representing the many adult shoulders that would support him over the years through the many tough times. God's shoulders have been the broadest and most sturdy through both good and bad times. He is looking forward to a new chapter in his life and hopes that anyone visiting the West Tennessee Jackson area will come by for a visit. You will be most welcome.

On behalf of the First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, we wish you (Brother Drew) a life filled with love and happiness. Enjoy time with your family, make new friends, but never forget that you have many friends in Hohenwald who will never forget you. We appreciate your years of service, hard work, and dedication to the church. You will be greatly missed.





My last edition of the *Sharing* will be the July/August edition. I appreciate the support over the last two years and the compliments. If interested in serving the church in this capacity, please contact Sue Brown, chairperson of the Christian Witness Committee, Brother Drew Brewer, or Rebecca McClain. Thanks again for your contributions to the newsletter.



**The Next Deadline for the Newsletter
Will Be June 24, 2019**

“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.