



Sharing

May/June 2019

First United Methodist Church

Firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net

200 Court Street, Hohenwald, TN 38462

Phone—931-796-2681

"Come unto Me, all ye that...are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Worship Hours

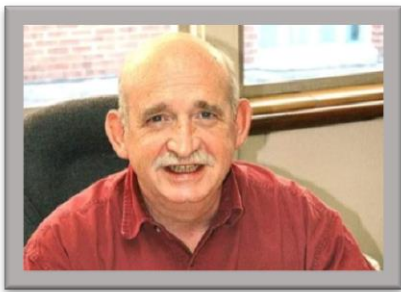
Sunday School—9:30 a.m.

Morning Service—10:30 a.m.

**Sunday Night Studies—TBA in Bulletin
UMYF/Children**

Not Meeting During Summer Months

From the Pastor's Desk



I have a friend in the ordained ministry who, like me, is retiring this year. Last Wednesday night he called me on the telephone. We were both up to our ears in boxes to be unpacked. I remember we laughed because neither one of us could remember in which box we had packed our tennis shoes. About midway into the conversation, he said to me, "Drew, now remind me again—why did God call us to be Methodist preachers?"

I knew what he meant. Change is never easy, is it? It isn't easy to give up the familiar for the strange. It isn't easy to say goodbye to people you have come to love, or situations in which you have grown comfortable. Surely John Wesley realized this when he was developing his

idea of an itinerating, preaching ministry! So what was Mr. Wesley thinking about?

Well, maybe he was thinking about the way God works in the world. God is always working to bring new life from old situations, new possibilities from old problems, new hopes from old frustrations. And all God really wants from us is to trust that, in the midst of the change, we are never really alone.

The people of Hohenwald UMC have already reminded me that, although change is inevitable in our lives, God's love remains constant. Thank you for reminding me that, even though the faces and names may change, the spirit is very familiar. For all your acts of kindness, your words of encouragement, and your patience during the last 13 years, I give thanks. I have rediscovered something I guess I knew all along: the journey may have many twists and turns, stops and starts, but at the beginning, at the end, and all along the way, God's grace is there.

I would ask that all of you be in prayer for your new pastor, Tom Gibson and his family. I know he is eager to be your pastor, and to come to love you as I have. The faces may change, but the ministry continues. Let God lead the way, and all will be well. I pray that you will all see this change in pastoral leadership as an opportunity to respond to God's call in

new and exciting ways. I have been very grateful to have been your Pastor.

Drew

Happy Retirement, Brother Drew

On Sunday, June 23rd, Brother Drew Brewer preached his last sermon before his retirement to his congregation at Hohenwald First United Methodist Church. It was a special day with extra treats for him including two piano solos by Hadley and Christopher Spitzer, a duet by Jerry and Jan Turner, and a beautiful anthem, one of Brother Drew's favorites, "For What Earthly Reason," by the church choir. After the service he received many hugs and well wishes from all, many who have known him since the beginning of his 13 years at our church.

Afterwards the congregation treated him to a delicious potluck, furnished by members of the church. All enjoyed the love and fellowship during this event. Brother Drew also received many cards, gifts, and well wishes toward his retirement. We all wish him many years of happiness with his family and his grandson. We thank him for the grace, wisdom, love, and support he has given to each of us during his tenure at our church.



The choir sang "For What Earthly Pleasure" for his last church service. He always loved the choir's anthems. This was his time of inspiration for the sermon he was about to deliver.



Left—his last sermon to us—"Thankful for Your Partnership" Right—the Potluck in his honor.



He loved "Small Talk" time with the children—the children always made him smile.



Jerry and Jan Turner honor him with a duet—"Take My Hand, Precious Lord."



Christopher and Hadley Spritzer honored him with piano solos of "Amazing Grace" and "Jesus Loves Me," respectively.



*To you, Pastor Drew, we give you
unending praise
For all you have accomplished here.
For thirteen years, your messages
have lifted us up
And helped us understand always,
that God is near.*

*You were meant to speak the word of
God
That we, your people, have been so
lucky to receive.
You have enlightened us with your
own life's truths,*

*Which has helped us even more to
believe.*

*You've never put yourself above us.
Like Jesus, you are but a man.
But oh, how the power of your
leadership
Has given us faith on which to
stand.*

*Into our lives you've brought
courage
When life has seemed hard to bear.
All we had to do was reach out to
you,
And your compassion has proved you
care.*

*The injection of humor into your
sermons
Has kept your congregation on their
toes.
Not only has it enhanced your
messages,
But it has helped us forget our woes.*

*So thank you, Brother Drew
For your strong spirit and good
heart.
We wish you much happiness in your
retirement,
We give hugs and tears as you part.*

*Your devoted and loving Hohenwald
FUMC family.*

Submitted with love by Cindy Graves



Vacation Bible School 2019

Vacation Bible School was held June 13th thru June 15th from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The theme this year was **Let the Children Come Unto Me**. There were nine children and 15 hands-on volunteers in attendance. With many more volunteers in the background, donating money, food, time and/or prayers, along with the dedicated hard work of coordinator, Teresa Drum, the event was a great success. We thank Teresa for her time and hard work.

During the three days the children enjoyed music, led by Christopher and Hadley Spitzer, games with Sydney Thompson, and lessons with Joyce McCutcheon and Jan Turner.



The students also enjoyed crafts taught by Kellie Spitzer and Charlotte Morgan.

On Saturday the 15th, the children were treated to a bounce house, water

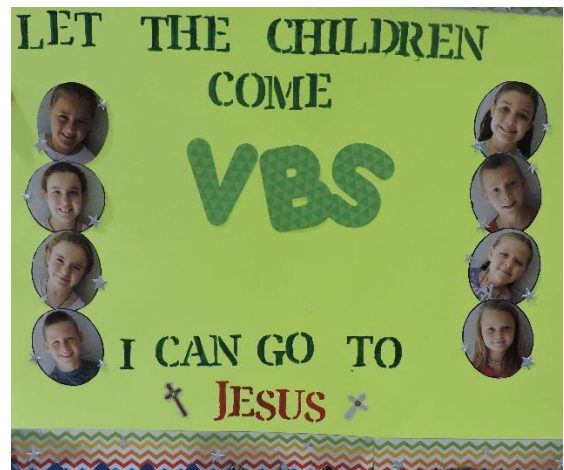


slide, a cookout, and an ice cream social to finish out a memorable occasion.

At the morning service on June 16th, the children performed the theme song of this year's event "Let the Children Come Unto Me," under the direction of Hadley and Christopher Spitzer.



Teresa would like to thank all who had a part in this event. None of this could have happened without a love for God from wonderful people who care so much for children. A special thank you to the men who took time out of this week to be the muscle of the operation. We look forward to next year.



Junior-Senior Sunday School Class

The Junior-Senior High Sunday School Class has completed the work on the Max Lucado study entitled: *God's Story/Your Story*. We even worked through most of the review section at the end discussing

the questions Rev. Lucado put to the reader after reading all main the portions.

We are currently studying the various sections of the *Bible* learning the names of specific sections. The first 5 books of the *Bible* are, for example, the “*Torah*.” These books are the oldest books of the *Old Testament* and are still the basis of the Jewish religion. The latter portions of the *Old Testament* are the books of the minor prophets. The first 4 books of the *New Testament* are the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and the first three of these gospels are known as the synoptic gospels because they all treat the same subject matter in much the same way, namely: the life, ministry, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

We are now also attempting to memorize in order the titles of the books of the New Testament, for they represent Jesus’ promised New Covenant. This will be very helpful to the class whenever they find themselves wanting to search for specific New Testament books that are the subject of devotionals or passages they want to memorize. We have practiced looking up various books as an exercise in finding unusual names and titles. The classroom is equipped with enough copies to allow each class member to look at same Bible.

(Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jerry Turner)

Christian Witness Committee

The Christian Witness Committee met on April 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the church annex.

The Radio Ministry continues to run smoothly and is enjoyed by many members unable to attend the regular service.

Bulletin boards are updated by Susie Cullinan. We will continue to keep the church foyer neat and straightened up weekly. Seasonal items such as flowers need to be changed as well.

In the sanctuary, Donna Hood is still responsible for replacing visitor cards, money envelopes, prayer request cards, and pencils each week. We can all make an effort to straighten up hymnals and throw away trash and keep the pews looking neat.

This committee continues to provide porch visits to visitors when needed, providing them with a baked good and invitation to come back to church. Sue Brown continues to keep up with the visitor cards and follows up with keeping records of new visitors and the need to reconnect.

A future project will be to update the brochure for the church as it is outdated. Secretary Rebecca McClain may update the church directory with the help of a couple of members from this committee. When the directory is published, extra copies will be published for visitors and additional new church members.

Greeters are an important component of the church service. Those participating are encouraged to be on time and find a replacement if not being able to fulfill this duty.

This committee needs a new individual to do the church newsletter as Sally Thornton will be resigning at the end of August. If you are interested, please give your name to Rebecca McClain in the office.

Rebecca is currently updating the church web page; she also posts the bulletins for each Sunday and bi-monthly newsletters so that members and visitors can have access to them.

Barbara Lewis requested an alternate for doing communion on any Sunday that she cannot be there.

Sue Brown suggested that the committee sponsor a "Fill the Pew Sunday," encouraging all attendees to bring a friend or guest on the Sunday chosen for the event.

The meeting closed with Kathryn Kozlinski telling the group about the efforts of her and Rebecca McClain to update the church roster from 1902 to the present. At this time, they have recorded 1,411 names. We all look forward to seeing this document and appreciate the hard work these two ladies have put into this industrious project.

No new meeting date was set and will be announced at a later date.

Christian Outreach Committee

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues expanding the ways persons needing prayer and comfort are served. The latest handmade item is available as chemo caps for persons who experience hair loss during chemotherapy.

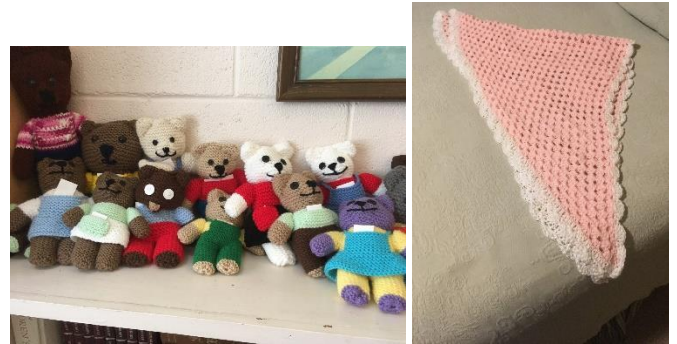
The Outreach Committee recently changed the name of the Prayer Shawl Ministry to **PRAYER COMFORT MINISTRY**, which includes various ways available for anyone needing comfort to receive help. Included in this ministry are: **Prayer shawls** (available church library—Please sign out) **Prayer cloths** (available in church library) **Prayer bears** (available in church library) **Stuffed animals** (available front row in church sanctuary) **Chemo caps** (available church library)

A notice will be in church bulletin announcing work dates for making these items. We meet the third Monday of each month at Piney Baptist Church from 1-4.

Contact Joyce McCutcheon (931-628-6948) for any clarification.

The Committee members would like to encourage each of you to take these items to individuals who may have a need. That is what the ministry is all about. These items are always available to comfort others.

(Information Respectfully Submitted by Joyce McCutcheon)



Made with Prayers and Tender Loving Care



Thank You for the prayer shawl you brought me. I use it every day.

Thanks to all the ladies who make this ministry possible. I personally can tell you that it makes you feel loved when it is wrapped around you!

Thank you again for such a loving gift.

Your friend,
Lovada Burkelow

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met Monday, May 13, 2019, and June 6, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

There were 13 members present for the May meeting and 10 present for the June meeting.

Barbara Lewis, in Betty Stilts's absence, gave the treasurer's report at the May meeting, and Betty Stilts, Treasurer gave the report at the June meeting.

Kathy Knight read the scripture at the May meeting, while Sally Thornton presented a program called "The Power of Women in the Bible and Women in the UMW Group." The program centered around our names and identities and how important it is to build a good reputation of being a loyal church worker and dedicated advocate for our church.

Phoebe from the book of Romans and Paul's view of women were discussed as well as other great women from Biblical times. Items from the Prayer Calendar for May were also shared with the group. Due to cleaning the CLC kitchen, there was no program at the June meeting

Planning for the Lewis County Manor Nursing Home birthday party was completed at the May meeting. This party occurred on June 19th and was enjoyed by all who participated. Debby mentioned a trip to the UMCOR facility, which will now more than likely be in September or October.

Retha Tibbs gave an update on the Quilt Show for the fall bazaar. She said they were looking at ideas from other churches and organizations to decide how to proceed. More details will be forthcoming, and any suggestions will be considered.

Several ladies volunteered to make cookies for Vacation Bible School. The group also discussed the food group lists. They are presently being redone by Kathryn Kozlinski. She will notify members to update the present list. All UMW members should be notified to see if you want your name to remain on the list

or to be taken off. Call Kathryn if you are not notified.

The next meeting date is July 8, 2019, at 10:00 in the church library.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on May 7, 2019, and June 4, 2019, in the Christian Life Center at 6:00 p.m. There were 19 members in attendance for May and 17 in attendance for June. Kenny Durham and Steve Richardson provided the May meal, and John Fricot and Ron Thornton provided the June meal.

Treasurer's reports were given at both meetings by Tony Kozlinski.

The group provided a Pancake Brunch for the congregation on May 19th. Everyone who attended enjoyed pancakes, eggs, sausage, drinks, and ice cream. The group continues to discuss their plans for fundraisers, which tentatively includes selling ribs. Look for details in the church bulletin or ask one of the men of this group. They also plan on having a "Walking Taco" booth at the local area fair in August. There will be more details ahead.

The Fishing Rodeo, which was to be held June 8th was cancelled due to rain.

The Men's group planned on helping Brother Drew move on June 25th, while other plans are being made to help our new minister Brother Tom Gibson move.

Hoping All Dad's Had a Happy Father's Day

This Father's Day we celebrated all men who fathered us or have been or are a father figure to us. These men have enriched our lives and given us strength and courage to face obstacles before us. We celebrate these men and thank God every day for including them in our lives.

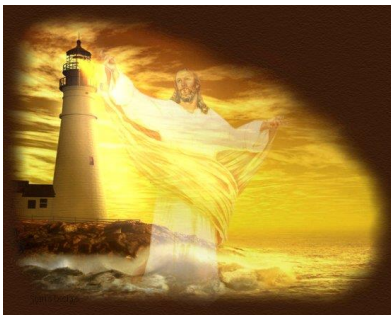
My dad loved to sing in the church choir at the Dyer United Methodist Church. Below was one of his favorite songs, which may explain my love for lighthouses. I never hear it what I don't think about him and miss him so much. Here's to all FATHERS!! May you know how much you are loved or were loved.


**There's a lighthouse on the hillside
that overlooks life's sea.
And when I'm tossed it sends out a light
that I might see.
And the light that shines in darkness
now will safely lead us o'er.
If it wasn't for the Lighthouse
my ship would be no more.**

**Everybody that lives around us
says tear that Lighthouse down.
The big ships they don't sail this way
anymore.
There's no use of it standing round.
Then my mind goes back to that stormy
night when just in time I saw the light.
Yes, the light from that old lighthouse
that stands there on the hill.**

**And I thank God for the Lighthouse
I owe my life to Him.
For Jesus is the Lighthouse
And from the rocks of sin.
He has shown a light around me
That I could clearly see.
If it wasn't for the Lighthouse (tell me)
Where would this ship be?**

<https://www.hymnlyrics.org/newlyricst/thelighthouse.php>

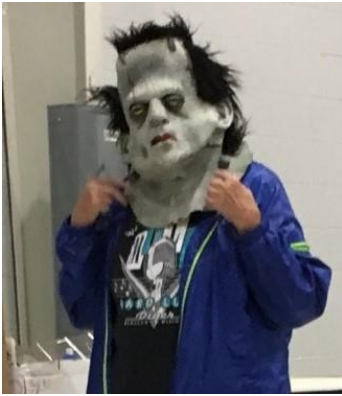


In Memory of

Elaine Bromley
April 27, 1929-May 21, 2019

Getting to Know Church Family



We've all heard the clichés "in every life a little rain must fall," or "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." The person interviewed for this issue of *Sharing* has experienced many obstacles in her life but has always made the very best of everything that life has given to her. Evangelist Billy Graham once said, "A keen sense of humor helps us to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable." Donna Hood has certainly done all of these things and more. She brightens any room she walks into with her keen sense of humor and her contagious smile. My first encounter with this humor was at a yard sale, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, a dreary, rainy, stormy day, which yielded very few customers but lots of bonding and humor among this special group of ladies. The high point of this day was exploring the countless unusual items people had donated to our cause. As Donna sauntered around, looking through the items we had for sale, she found a mask of Frankenstein, which she quickly put on.



Her small body with the enormous monster head made us all hold our stomachs with laughter. It was at this time that I knew that I needed to get to know this lady better.

Donna Sue Killingsworth was born to Fanny Mae Woodlee Killingsworth and Glen Austin Killingsworth, who was a butcher, on October 24, 1948, in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended Eakin Elementary School, Cavert Junior High School and West End High School. Donna's childhood dream was to be a cowboy. She loved to camp and fish and had many adventures with her brother who was her best friend. Some adventures she fondly remembers were selling pork skins at the flea markets on 3rd Street in Memphis, selling Christmas trees, and taking pictures at the indoor flea markets. She loved taking Spanish lessons and playing the harmonica, which made Donna a "colorful" young lady.

In 1964, she married Jerry Hood, and they were married for eighteen and a half years. They had four children; oldest Phyllis Dancy, then Laura Robinson, followed by Sharon Butler and one son, Jeff Hood. Much of this time she spent as a single mom. She has lived in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee; El Paso, Texas; Houston, Texas; South Haven, Mississippi; and Memphis, Tennessee. After moving to Memphis in 1977, she worked at entry level for Audiotronics and worked her way up to plant manager. She worked there for eighteen years. Then she was hired by Aluma Form as a customer service representative and worked there for twelve years. Donna moved to Hohenwald,

Tennessee in 2010, and loves the small town because it was easy to make new friends and settle down to a slower lifestyle.

With four children, thirteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren, she laughingly says her favorite time of the year is Christmas because she likes to kid her family about not being able to remember their names for gifts and assigning them a number. I can assure you that Donna knows each of them well and loves them as much as life itself, as she mentioned that family meant the world to her. She is a kidder as many of the grandchildren have found out. She once told a granddaughter that she was a werewolf, and that she came from a family of werewolves. The child was intrigued and went to school and bragged to her teacher about her notorious grandmother, which quickly prompted a call home. Donna always finds time for humor.

In 1988, Donna founded GF Designs, she lovingly calls Granny's Fanny Designs. Via this internet site, she offered many items, much like a flea market. She has always loved graphic art and offered silk screening using the program Print Master. When asked if she was an artist, she said that from youth, she could mimic most pictures and graphics, which led to an interest in graphic design. On this Internet site, she also offered primitive art items—little figurines of people made of mud from the Mississippi River. You will see a picture of one of these unique creations below, along with other items Donna has created. Donna made and painted these herself.

Her brother Bill got Donna involved in the Writer's Group, which met at the old Coffee House in Hohenwald. It was here that she honed her skill for writing. He also got her involved in the Buffalo River

Theatrical Group which met at the Commodore Hotel in Linden, Tennessee. She frequently designed flyers for this group and served as vice president at one time.

As time went by, Donna continued to pursue on her own her love for writing. She has had a poem which won an Editor's Choice Award, has written a book and had it published, has written a children's book, complete with graphic art designs, and continues to work on two other books and short stories. The published book is titled *24 Blair Boulevard*, the children's book is titled *My Brother's Chicken*, and one of the two books she is presently working on is about an asylum. I recently had the experience of reading her published book. It contains well developed characters, an intriguing plot with a catchy twist in the end, and flowing dialogue. The cover proudly carries the name of the author D.S. Hood.

When moving to Hohenwald in 2010, Donna, like many who move to a new town, sought out a home church. The first Sunday she visited the Methodist Church, she said everyone was warm and welcoming. She laughingly says that the following Sunday she attended again, but no one said a word to her. As she went to her car after the service, having doubts that this was the church for her, she said a lady came toward her and said that she was so glad to see her again at church and welcomed her. It was Wanda Creasy. Donna has been a faithful attendee ever since.

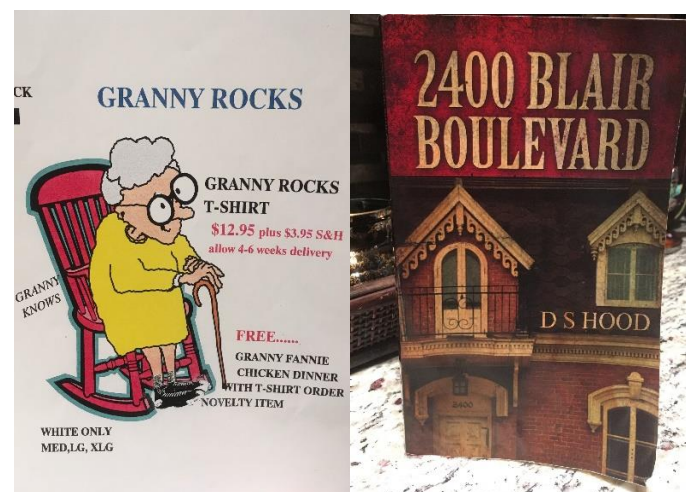
In 2013, Donna suffered a heart attack, a scary time in her life. The night it occurred, she drove herself to her brother's house and had him call for an ambulance, because she was concerned about her dog, Frodo. She describes her experience as a near death one, hearing

her son begging her not to leave as she fought for her life. Recovery was slow, but she quickly found out that it was not God's time for her, and today she continues to touch the lives of each person she encounters.

During her spare time, Donna continues to write and enjoys playing "Fantasy Football." She calls her team "Fat Fannies." She loves her new little dog Silver. And she finds honesty and humor essential to one's existence and says that to be truthful and hard-working, and to find time for humor in one's life are as breathing is to living. If you don't know Donna well, take time to get to know this unique lady; it will be well worth your time. This is a lady who appreciates finding humor in everyday things and occurrences. As author and speaker Anne Wilson Schaefer once said, "When we lose our sense of humor, we lose our perspective on life." Donna Hood epitomizes strength and resilience and lives life appreciating each day and the humor within.

(Inspirational Words of Wisdom,
<https://www.wow4u.com/humor/>)

Donna's Work





Announcements and Reminders

- Choir Practice is each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.
- The United Methodist Men meet the first Tuesday of each month in the CLC at 6:00 p.m.
- The 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 church secretary, Rebecca McClain and provide the necessary information.

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 this newsletter, please contact Sally Thornton at 859-585-2707 or email her at slt2017fmc@gmail.com You may also contact other members of the Christian Witness Committee.

My last edition of *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 Tom Gibson, or Rebecca McClain. Thanks again for your contributions to the newsletter.



The Next Deadline for the Newsletter will Be August 20, 2019.