



Hohenwald First United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Church Contact Info
931-796-2681
Firstunitedme680@
bellsouth.net
200 South Court St
Hohenwald, Tn 38462.

Worship Hours
Sunday School
9:30a.m.
Morning Service
10:30 a.m.
UMYF/Children
3:00-4:00 p.m. with
Optional choir practice
afterwards from 4:00
To 4:45 p.m.

Pastor
Tom Gibson

“Can We Have a Shower?”

Recently, I was with a group of preachers sharing tales of church life, confessing mistakes we've made along the way in our work. One recalled when he was very new at a church, someone called and asked if they could have a shower at the church. He replied that the church bathrooms were not equipped for showers. After a pause, she asked, “What are you talking about?” He responded, “What are YOU talking about?” She was wanting to hold a baby shower. He was still thinking down another path – babies don't take showers. You bathe them in the kitchen sink. Between one's mouth and another's ear, words sometimes change directions. Now, what am I talking about? Let me explain.

First, I'd like us to have a baby shower. On the Sunday before Christmas, Dec. 22, we will have a birthday party for Jesus in the CLC, with cake and punch, during the Sunday School hour. You can bring you “White Christmas” gifts then (or any time until then, food items can be placed under the tree in the sanctuary) and exchange Christmas cards as well. We will be putting out bags in the CLC to receive cards between members. The postage you save can be donated to a good cause, and you can enjoy seeing others opening your cards in person.

We hope this gathering time as a church family will be a great start to the Christmas season which we celebrate for 12 full days (French hen, gold rings and all) right up until Epiphany, which will be observed this year on Sunday, Jan. 5. Epiphany is the traditional day for recalling the visit of the Wise Men bearing gifts for the Christ child, in other words, a baby shower.

I propose we be wise too, and bring baby gifts to the manger, which will be passed along to Miriam's Promise, our Tennessee Conference





From the Pastor's Desk Continued

Live Nativity Presented By Youth

A live Nativity will be presented by youth and children during worship Sunday morning, Dec. 22 at 10:30 a.m. All those wanting to participate should gather in the CLC at 9:30 a.m. that morning for costuming, instructions, and brief rehearsal. Adult helpers will be needed after Small Talk during worship to help with costumes. See Vickie Gibson (615-479-4427) for more details. Children and youth should sign up on clipboard list at church or call if able to participate Dec. 22.

Crisis Pregnancy and Adoption Agency. These will be supplied to new mothers and adopting couples to aid them into beginning family life with children. You may bring blankets and clothes, diapers and wipes, bottles or bibs. Even money donations will be appreciated and put to good use by this vital ministry of our church.

Secondly, could we have the other kind of shower too? We received a call not long ago from a homeless person seeking a place to shower and clean up. Like my clergy friend above, I had to say no, that we were not equipped for such. In times of disaster, the Red Cross and UMCOR will bring in shower trucks for folks who have lost homes to use temporarily. Homelessness is a quieter, less noticed disaster, experienced by the few, not the many, so is often not noticed. If we installed 1 or 2 showers in the church, we could meet the needs of both large and small scale disasters. If the Gospels are true, Jesus both fed his disciples and washed their feet as a show of his Grace to be carried out into the world as a witness to God's love and care for all. What would it take to make our building a welcoming refuge for this weary world's travelers who often find no access to an inn? 'Tis the season to consider such concerns.

Peace, Tom



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women had their yearly Fall Bazaar on November 9, 2019, in the Christian Life Center. The ladies served chili, broccoli cheddar soup, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages for the luncheon. Attendees enjoyed browsing handmade sewn items, handmade crafts, and yard sale goods. The group had sold raffle tickets on a quilt handmade by member, Gloria Jones. The pattern was called, "Everyman's Shirt." Member Cora Criss also made a quilt, which was sold through silent bid. All kinds of baked goods were sold as well. The UMW made a total of \$4,077.25 from this yearly project. Monies are used during the year for donations to various charities and donations to other organizations that benefit our county and community.

The next monthly meeting will be January 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. All ladies of the church are urged to attend. **Make it your New Year's Resolution to get involved.**

The United Methodist Women also had their Christmas meeting at Gloria Jones's home on Monday, December 9th. After a short business meeting, we shared finger foods and fellowship.

The UMW sponsored Mrs. Tina Walton's 4th grade class a Christmas party on Friday, December 19th. Pizza and Sprite were delivered along with gifts for the students and Mrs. Walton



The UMW granted a check to the Lewis County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to purchase Christmas gifts for the patients.

Respectfully submitted by

President Debby Durham and

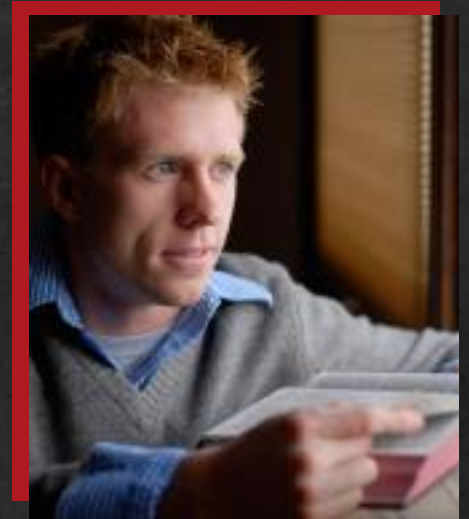
Sally Thornton

United Methodist Men

During the November meeting, the UMM voted to make the following contributions to these organizations, most all within Lewis County – Little Swan Hunting Club (\$300 for Christmas for children), Senior Citizens' Center (\$300), Lewis County Food Bank (\$300), High Forrest Humane Society (\$300), Cops and Kids Program (\$300), and Bibles for Soldiers (\$50).

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on November 7, 2019, in the Christian Life Center. No meeting was scheduled for the month of December. The group has had a busy year with several projects. It continues to support Lewis County School's Adopt a Classroom Program. The UMM gives a Lewis County teacher's classroom a monetary donation to be used in the classroom for students.



The men's group is presently working on fruit baskets for shut-ins and nursing home members for Christmas. These will be delivered either the week before or the week of December 25th. It is important to the group that the people who are unable to attend church know that someone is thinking of them during this holiday season.

New officers for the group will be finalized during the January meeting. The United Methodist Men look forward to a new year and plan to work diligently so that their projects can continue to grow in 2020. According to President John Fricot, the hard work and dedication of members has been greatly appreciated.

Children's Choir



Pet smart and Hohenwald Animal Shelter has donated these blessings to be distributed for Christmas. They have enjoyed being in church and need homes. Be sure to help make someone's holiday bright.



Kairos Ministry

Our cookie bakers showed up again to provide 90 dozen cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry. Thanks for all the homemade agape (Christian love) provided for inmates in the Nashville Maximum Security Prison.

The children and youth participated in blessing the inmates who are selected to attend the Kairos Christian weekend. Colorful scripture strips and placemats were designed as a blessing to these incarcerated men. Tim Zumbrecher, coordinator for the weekend, said tears come to many of the men's eyes as they see the work of art from children and youth as an offering of God's love for them.

Special thanks to Janis Floyd for getting the information to the congregation. Teresa Drum, Sally Thornton, Jan Turner, Janis Floyd, and Joyce McCutcheon packaged the cookies for delivery. Pastor Tom graciously sampled a few cookies.



Advent 2019 Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday in Advent
Open House at the Parsonage 2:00-4:00 pm
(First Baptist Christmas Special 4:00 pm)

Friday, December 20
German Chorus – 7:00 pm - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 21 6:30pm
Cantata Dress Rehearsal – Anyone not able to attend on Sunday may come – remember it is a rehearsal

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent
BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS 9AM-10:15AM
Live Nativity – youth during worship
Christmas Cantata 7:30 pm
“Let There Be Christmas” - Reception following

Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**
Christmas Eve Worship :
Communion and Candle Lighting – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day!!!!



Sunday, January 5 – Be one of the “Wise Men” – bring a baby shower gift to the Worship service.

Youth Ministry

The Afterschool Youth Ministry on Wednesday's is growing since it began this past fall. More than 35 youth have participated with an average of 22 each week.

Thanks to each and every person who has provided snacks of sandwiches, chips, pizza, hot dogs, chili, cookies, drinks, and many other goodies every Wednesday afternoon. We will be needing more volunteers for snacks in January. Many thanks to those who volunteer their time on Wednesdays to help support our youth program. We could not do it without much needed help.

The youth have been busy making things for nursing home residents, Kairos prison ministry, and Christmas decorations for the birthday party for Jesus (Dec. 22).

Deliveries to the nursing home, a bowling trip, and Christmas caroling (Dec. 18) are outings undertaken by the group.

The Youth Choir is going strong with two performances for church services already. A Puppet Troupe is beginning also with several skits in rehearsal.

Anyone interested in youth ministries can join on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Vickie & Tom Gibson and Teresa Drum



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Pastor Tom and Vickie Gibson invite you to
an Open House at the parsonage at
118 W 2nd Avenue, Sunday Dec. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Come see the work that has been done on the house and
visit our new parsonage family. Refreshments will be served.



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