

First United Methodist Church

January/February 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

"It Isn't Winter Because It's Cold"

CHURCH CONTACT INFO

931-796-2681
200 SOUTH COURT ST
HOHENWALD, TN
38462

[Firstunitedme680@
bellsouth.net](http://Firstunitedme680@bellsouth.net)

Worship Hours

Sunday School 9:30 am

Morning Service 10:30

Wednesday Afterschool

Ministries 3:00 -4:00 pm

with optional choir practice

afterwards from 4:00 to

4:45 p.m.

Pastor

Tom Gibson



We love complaining about the changeable weather. One day it is bitter cold, and the next day warm and stormy. What gives!? After a sunny day of mild temps, the bottom drops out again and the heavy coats come out of the closet once more.

"I thought Winter was over," someone snuffles, shivering in their shorts. No, that's not how the seasons work. I noticed something last week that only today gelled as the thought I take for my title. Last Wednesday we were in another round of rain. As I walked to church for Bible Study in the evening, I noticed that in spite of the cloudy foreboding sky overhead, it was still noticeably lighter than the week before, for the same time of day. So, it isn't Winter because it's cold, and if tomorrow is warmer it still won't be Spring.

Winter happens when the days grow shortest. It will only be Spring when day and night become equal, at the Vernal Equinox. Seasons are as predictable as the sun and moon. The weather comes and goes with the winds.

Some folks also confuse weather with climate. Here is the sciencey definition; weather is the day to day state of the atmosphere (determined by temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, winds and visibility, etc.) whereas climate is the weather of a region or area averaged over a long period, 30 years or so.

If you know how trends repeat, you can make some pretty accurate guesses at what will come 'round again. I think that is how almanacs work. We marvel at how they dare to predict the weather a year or more ahead, when a TV meteorologist

District and Local Training

At the district training event Feb.9, we learned the acronym V.I.T.A.L. describes the qualities of a vital congregation. The letters stand for Visionary, Inspirational, Transformative, Adaptive, and Loving. At our local training the following Saturday, Feb. 15, we decided, as a group, to recommend to the next Administrative Board/Church Council meeting that we adapt this into our local congregation's mission statement. As it was agreed on by that group, the current wording is –"Hohenwald 1st UMC's mission is to be a V.I.T.A.L. congregation; Seeking VISION from God, and INSPIRATION from the Holy Spirit, we aim to TRANSFORM the world into Christ's Kingdom, beginning here, through ADAPTIVE and Loving ministries." Your input is invited between now and the next Administrative Board meeting (March 22).

is wrong, usually, about tomorrow. It seems the almanac is really describing climate. If it rained this week in more years than not, predict it will again. If your prediction is broad enough, a country or continent, then probably somewhere it will be true.

Why do I point this all out? Is there a spiritual analogy? I think so. We often let our minds and hearts be swayed and tossed about by the storms of life that come and go daily, without paying attention to the steady, measured, movement of God toward building the Kingdom. We run hot and cold, sweat then shiver, and bemoan any lack of visible progress. If we would take note from time to time, of the growing light, the lengthening day, we might have, and give, more hope for the coming day.

In Jeremiah 31, during turbulent times, God gave the prophet a word of hope for the people; "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant...not like the covenant I made with their ancestors...(but)...I will put my law in their minds, and hearts." For that time it was a promise offered. Later it would be seen as a promise fulfilled, establishing a climate of promises kept by a dependable God. The prophet goes on to say to his peers, that this promise is made by the God "who appoints the sun to shine by day, and the moon and stars by night." God's record is better even than The Old Farmers' Almanac!

If we have the promise of God's Word in our hearts, we ought to be able to read the signs better than our forebears. Jesus marvels at his peers, in Luke 12, that they "can see the cloud rising, and say 'it is going to rain'...or feel the South wind and know it is going to be hot. If you can read the weather signs, he asks, "How is it you don't know how to interpret the times?"

With the Bible as our almanac, of human folly and Godly faithfulness, and the living Word in our hearts to interpret the present age, let us with clear minds perceive the work of God going on in our midst, and gladly point out the brightening light of God's glory, and sing with the old hymn, "The Kingdom is coming, o tell ye the story, God's banner exalted shall be; the earth shall be full of His knowledge and glory, as waters that cover the sea."

Tom Gibson

Please remember to fill the food bank basket. Check food expiration dates!! Thank you for your donations! Information about perishable food for families in need can be found on Facebook at ALL THINGS COMMON OUTREACH. Distribution is usually held every other Wednesday. God smiles on his workers, Retha and Jerry Tibbs as we give them a special thank you for continuing to do their part in the mission against hunger in Lewis County.



Feeding the Community

Thank you Jerry and Retha Tibbs!!!

Jr. – Sr. High Sunday School

During the last several months, the Jr. and Sr. High School Class has been working its way through a book entitled: "The Jesus Link" by Ellen Caughey. The subtitle of the book is: A Bible Trivia Challenge, and it is comprised of various questions concerning relatively well-known topics of the Old and New Testament. Some of the questions were very familiar and some were quite esoteric and difficult to recall out of context. At any rate, the boy and girls got anywhere from 30 to 75 percent of the questions in each chapter correct, and there were a total of 30 chapter all told. The class is going to decide which direction it will take and what subjects we shall pursue at our next meeting. Jerry Turner, teacher

UM Youth Choir

Our UM Youth Choir has performed three times as of this date, with December being the last one. They are to be highly praised for their enthusiasm and commitment, and how well they work together for a good outcome. It is evident that the congregation always loves it when they speak of their Lord and Savior through music. They are preparing for another presentation Sunday, the 23rd, and when April comes around, they will pay tribute to all moms and dads with a special song. A big shoutout to Kenny Durham for joining them at times with the accompaniment on his guitar. Also, a big thank you to Lorrel Sood and Rebecca McClain for running the sound system when needed. Last, but not least, kudos to the parents and our church family for their support throughout the school year.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Graves, Director



Front L-R Xavier Shook, Shawn Grinder, Gabriel Shook, and Cindy Graves

Second Row L-R Rissa and Nonna Grinder

Top row L-R Hadley Spitzer, Charlie Grinder, and Christopher Spitzer



HOHENWALD METHODIST MEN

The Hohenwald Methodist Men met Thursday, Feb 6. A meal was prepared of chicken cacciatore, egg noodles, salad, and rolls with a dessert of pineapple pudding. After dining for 20 minutes, the men gathered for a short passing of the gavel ceremony from past President, John Fricot, to new President, Jerry Turner. In addition, Sam Davis was installed as the new Secretary of our group, replacing Ron Thornton. Turner took the opportunity to thank John and Ron for their service in directing the men for the last years and in particular for maintaining their very detailed records during their time in office. Pictures were made of this short even, and the men proceeded to carry out their business meeting. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed and approved along with a treasurer's report provided by Tony Kozlinski. After the formal report, the men proceeded to discuss the possible income projects for the coming year including: a fish fry, a pancake breakfast, a fishing rodeo, a Fourth of July rack of ribs sale, and the gumbo project at the Oktoberfest. Various people were assigned to follow up on the details and plans for these projects and to report their findings at the next meeting on Thursday, March 5. Larry McCutcheon led the group in a devo period before the end of the meeting. We concluded with the Kenneth Kistler prayer.

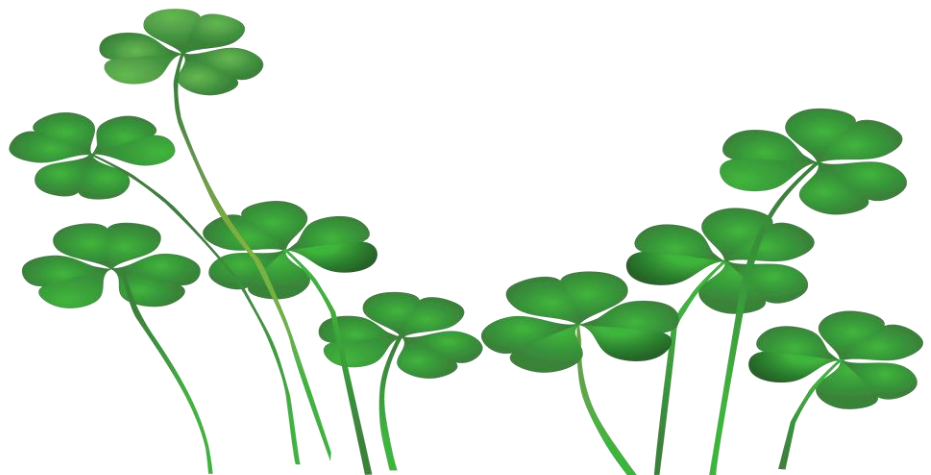
Jerry Turner, President

Hohenwald Methodist Women

The Hohenwald Methodist Women met on January 13th and February 10th in the church library with President Debby Durham presiding. The group continues to explore ways to support the community using HMW funds. A new budget was finalized and included many worthwhile charities. The Women's Shelter in Lawrenceburg, TN, which also serves Lewis County continues to be important to the group. Others which have continually been supported each year are the Lewis County Food bank, the Senior Citizens' Center, UMCOR, Little Swan Hunting Club, Lewis County Schools Adopt a Classroom, our church's Benevolence Fund and Radio Ministry (on an as needed basis), and others. New projects include Kids and Cops, Her I Am, and the Lewis County Schools Clothing Closet. The group continues to explore ways to enrich the lives of others in our church and community.

At the January meeting, the group voted to drop the Charter with the Unite Methodist Women, which will give the group more funding for local projects. The group will be referred to for future reference as the Hohenwald Methodist Women. It will function much the same it always has with exception of pledges. Pledges will continue to be encouraged either directed to the funding of the group's local projects, or individual members may still pledge to the United Methodist Women's Chartered group, which is global. The group also appreciates any donations and/or memorials made for future endeavors by any in individual.

Upcoming plans include a Garden Bazaar to be held on April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The group is still putting together ideas for items to sell like flowering plants, house plants, vegetable plants, and spring craft items as well as baked goods. Anyone wishing to donate to this event please see Debby Durham or Barbara Lewis.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Kairos Prison Ministry

Our congregation has participated in Kairos Prison Ministry for several years. Cookies are baked, paper placemats are decorated and paper strips are inscribed with inspirational messages. information regarding the date for these items will be forthcoming soon. Your support for these incarcerated men who have a weekend Christian retreat in the Nashville maximum security facility is very appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce McCutchen

CHEROKEE ORPHANGE



If a picture is worth a thousand words, then this picture says it all. This is a picture of one of the children from the orphanage. From this picture, you can see how your generous donations are helping these beautiful children have a chance for a bright future. Renee and I took a car load (probably more than we have ever taken) to Gary Collier on Feb. 2nd. We were able to take many items, such as baby clothes, formula, books, and so much more. Thank you all so much for your continued support in this outreach effort.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Duncan and Renee Thompson

Hohenwald Methodist Women Present

THE GARDEN BAZAAR

Where: United Methodist Church of Hohenwald

When: April 25, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For Sale: Flowers, House and Garden Plants, Spring Craft Items, and Baked Goods.



First United Methodist Church
200 South Court Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462