

Hohenwald First **United** SHARING Methodist Church

August 2021 newsletter

COVID-19 Update: At this time, we are going to continue to meet on Sundays and we want you to feel comfortable when you come so we strongly encourage wearing masks and doing those things to keep each other safe. At this time, we are not mandating anything. We understand if you feel uncomfortable attending in-person and we will continue to offer worship on Facebook Live. If you need help watching please let me know and we can figure that out. We of course are on the Radio as well. **Please let me know** if you become ill or test positive which I will hold in confidence and not share but I need to know to make the best decisions for our church.

In Christian love. Pastor David



Welcoming Pastor David

Summer Sunday mornings



Our first order of sharing should be to welcome our new Pastor, David Lay, along with his wife & daughter.

The Pastor began leading our worship on June 27th. He and his family still need **our prayers and support** during our transition. It takes **all** of us and GOD to make this church strong.

Moving day stretched into moving week with Tom & Vickie leaving one day early and David & family arrived on Friday. In between was a lot of effort and love given by cleaning crew and repair crew. Libby & Rebecca shampooed the carpet while Sally, Donna & Martha scrubbed the kitchen and bathrooms. Cora, Glenn and Billy K, laid water-proof flooring and repaired plumbing. Several people also gave additional gifts to offset the cost. Bless you all.

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“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

Matthew 25:35

I thank God and I thank you that you welcomed my family and I in such a radical way. The practice of Radical Hospitality is so very important for churches according to Bishop Robert Schnase in his book *Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations*, and that is what you have shown us as we have been appointed as your pastoral family. I was, we were strangers and you welcomed us as our Lord calls us too. Thank you for all you have done. Yes, we have had some issues getting settled in but we are getting there, getting past any problems with the parsonage. I have been welcomed as a preacher and teacher and I give the glory to our Lord.

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us” 2 Corinthians 9:11

I was told that Hohenwald First was struggling financially before I arrived and I assure you that has been true for many churches this past 16 or so months. But I praise

God that is not what I have found, I have found you to be very generous persons. Giving towards the General Fund has increased during this month and it has helped greatly ease some of the struggles. I want to encourage to continue your generosity, especially towards the General Fund which helps us to not only pay bills but to be in ministry in this community. Generosity also increases our faith growth or growth as disciples of Jesus Christ and as Paul said it will produce thanksgiving to God through us. Let us join Jesus in ministry through our generosity. I don't know about you but I genuinely desire to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ and align my life with higher purposes as Bishop Robert Schnase says about Extravagant Generosity of those growing in Christ. Extravagant Generosity is another of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations and also in Five Practices of Fruitful Living. The others along with Radical Hospitality and Extravagant

Generosity are The Practice of Passionate Worship, The Practice of Intentional Faith Development and Risk-taking Mission and Service. If there are any who which to grow in their faith by learning about these practices, please let me know and I would be glad to lead a study on them. If you are interested, Bishop Schanse's books are entitled *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (I suggest the Revised and Updated Edition) and *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* (which I can't recommend enough for disciples).

Thank you again for your loving welcome and your generosity to Christ's Church.

Grace and peace in Christ.

Pastor David

We Strongly encourage the entire congregation to wear masks – even during the worship service or anywhere we gather together.



PRESCHOOL

Our preschool/nursery is currently unused. We encourage you to invite Moms and Dads with small children. Let them know we want them here. Noisy or quiet they are God’s children.

CHILDREN/youth group

We consider all our school age participants as youth. Help us to Help you. What can the church do to help you walk in the way of the Lord? Talk to the Pastor, often.

Pray about leadership and membership for this group

MENS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Jerry Turner is leading the Men’s Fellowship and things are almost back to normal. July’s meeting was on schedule in spite of the holiday with a meal being provided.

HOHENWALD METHODIST WOMEN

Officers have been elected and meetings will be held the second Monday of every month at 10am

Retha Tibbs – President

Rose Fricot –

Secretary/Treasurer

The HMW successfully held their 1st fundraiser: a Bakeless Bake Sale. Thanks to all who participated

Upcoming events include CLC clean-up and 5th Sunday WELCOME Luncheon for Pastor David Lay & Family

COUPLES INDIVIDUALS

All are invited to attend Wednesday night Bible Study. We meet in the “Parlor” until our numbers exceed capacity. We hope this occurs very soon.

- Ideas are needed for activities for all ages.

How can you help? You tell us.

Two Adult Sunday school classed meet in the office bldg.

SENIOR ADULTS

The Methodist Church encourages special programs for the more experienced members whether they are young in faith or grew up in the church. If you have suggestions for activities, let the office know so we can help get the ball rolling.

State of the Church

“Special thanks to Janice Pancake and Cora Criss for stepping up to keep us afloat “

During the Pandemic many things occurred. Not only were we not allowed to have face to face meetings, but several members have moved or changed churches.

We also lost a few to the Heavenly congregation leaving a gaping hole in our own congregation. It’s time to fill that spot with love and compassion.

One thing that did not change much was our daily expenses. While we were able to reduce or stop some spending, our buildings had to be heated and insured. The office adjusted the thermostat as far as we could and minimized everything possible.

Our FINANCE Committee is working hard to maintain the integrity of this church, keeping the lights on and our regular bills paid

The first quarter of the year was still marred by the pandemic but we are gradually returning to our giving ways:

Stewards Report: July 2021

*Average weekly giving
\$1797.42*

*Average weekly needed to
make budget \$2981.34*

*Average weekly shortfall
\$1183.92*

STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US

200 S. Court Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462



Follow us on Facebook

CALL US

(931) 796-2681

VISIT US

www.hohenwaldumc.org

OUTREACH

Wednesday Afterschool Ministries needs planners and leaders to start-up programs when school begins again.

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings every week:

Hohenwald N.A. group meets in the basement at 7:00 pm

Fourth Friday Community Breakfast at the Skillet: meets "Dutch Treat" at 8:00am: July 25, Aug 27, Sep 24

Fifth Sunday occurs in August – Welcome Potluck lunch is being scheduled

Sunday,
9:30 am—Sunday School
10:30 am—Morning Worship
7:00 pm—NA Meeting

Monday
10:00 am - HM Women meet (2nd Mon. monthly)

Tuesday
7:00 pm—Al-Anon
7:00 pm—NA Meeting

Wednesday
6:00 pm - Evening Bible Study
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Thursday,
6:00 pm – Men's Fellowship Meal (1st week, monthly)
7:00 pm—NA Meeting

Friday,
7:00 pm—NA Meeting

Saturday,
7:00 pm—NA Meeting

YOUTH GROUP

We are very proud of the leadership shown by both Hadley and Christopher Spitzer. We are very blessed to have two such young men working so hard for our church. Special thanks to MOM Kellie, too. Our Facebook live is the result of their hard and faithful work.

We would like to see more youth active and learning in our church. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us.

WORD of the day

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Radio Broadcast WMLR, AM 1230, at 11:00 each Sunday morning

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