

SHARING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HOHENWALD



MAY - JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered..." (Hebrews 6:20)



There is a very beautiful word in the Greek which the writer of Hebrews uses in verse 20. A very interesting word. The writer calls Jesus our "prodomos," our **forerunner**. This is the only place it's used in the New Testament.

You see, in those days when a heavy ship was coming into the harbor, a smaller ship would go into the harbor first to check out the conditions: the depth, the strength of the currents, the positions of the rocks. All the hidden dangers would be revealed so that the larger ship could come in safely. That little boat was the "**Prodomos**," the guide, the forerunner. That is the word used here

to describe the Christ. He is the one who has gone before us.

The point is, of course, that we have a Christ who **can** be touched with feelings of our infirmities, our trials, our temptations. We have one who can be touched with everything we know because, in every way, Christ has already walked where we walk. As Fred Craddock has said, "Sure, he is **from** God and **can** help us; but he is also **like** us, and **will** help us!"

I am both encouraged and challenged by this thought. Whenever I hurt, whenever I feel alone in my moments of confusion or grief, whenever I feel that no one really understands me, this image of Christ encourages me to remember that I am never really alone...there is one who always understands. But this thought also challenges me to consider that the best witness I can make to others is often at the point of my own pain and struggle. The hope we bring to others depends, in large part, upon the pain we have been through ourselves. It allows us to speak their language, to become one of them...as Christ became one of us. Don't hide the scars! They may be the best way to show someone else the extent of God's love for us all!

Drew

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Don't forget: UMW meets at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 9. Our June meeting will be on June 13.

Also, the time and place for the Prayer Shawl Ministry have changed. Meetings are held from 1- 4 p.m. on the **third Monday** of each month at Piney Road Baptist Church.

If you would like to participate in creating the gifts, please contact Sue Brown (931-796-3385), Retha Tibbs (931-796-5562) or Joyce McCutcheon (931-796-5909). Classes are available if you want to learn to knit or crochet.

- Debby Campbell,
President, United Methodist Women

UNITED METHODIST MEN



Our United Methodist Men's organization will sponsor its annual **Fishing Rodeo** for kids in grades K- 12 on **Saturday, June 11**. The event will start at 9 a.m. and go through

noon at the home of David and Regina Roberts. All children are invited to come and have fun catching fish with us. You must bring your own role or fishing pole, if possible. All parents are encouraged to attend, and kids under 6 year of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There will be prizes awarded for the biggest fish, biggest catch, etc. Those would like to ride the church bus must be at the church no later than 8:30 a.m.

TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 2016 Tennessee Annual Conference will meet at the Brentwood United Methodist Church in Brentwood June 12 – 15.

The theme of this year's Conference will be "Offering Christ: One Neighborhood at a Time." Billy Edwards will represent our church as Lay Delegate, and Gloria Jones as Alternate Delegate. Everyone is welcome to come and participate at this year's event. If you have never attended an Annual Conference before, this would be a good year to check it out. Each evening of Conference will end with a powerful and exciting worship service, including music and speakers from many different United Methodist churches in the Middle Tennessee area. Please be in prayer for this important event in the life of our church.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH-WIDE BREAKFAST



Members of Hohenwald United Methodist Church's turned out in record numbers for the April 29 Dutch-Treat Breakfast Fellowship. Although those attending were too busy enjoying their bacon and eggs to get a firm headcount, extra tables and chairs had be brought into the full dining room to accommodate the 30-plus HUMC members who came to enjoy breakfast and good fellowship.

If you have not attended one of our breakfast fellowships, you are missing a special time we share together. Be sure and watch the bulletin for announcements about the next one!

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN NURTURE

Since many of you have asked about our church policy regarding the sending of flowers for funerals of members and their immediate families, the committee met last month to discuss this issue and to set a policy. We have decided that, due to the high cost of flowers in today's market, we will instead send memorial gifts on behalf of our church to the charity or organization of choice of the member or immediate family member. Gwen McVickers will represent our committee as facilitator of this ministry. Please notify her if a situation arises.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION



Thank you all for the many prayers, cards and calls. We have such a wonderful loving, caring church!

Love you,

Wanda Creasy

To the United Methodist Women:

My anointed sisters,

On behalf of the scholars, staff, parents and board of the Nashville Freedom School Partnership, I am writing to express my gratitude for your April 4 gift of \$500. I am also so grateful for the much-needed books that we received from Kathryn and others working in the local library and feeding program. Y'all have blessed us with your prayers and interest and, now, with these much-needed contributions to our ministry of literacy and enrichment for at-risk children who are struggling academically and otherwise. I'm glad that the Prayer Calendar brought us together.

Sincerely, M. Garlinda Burton, President - Nashville Freedom School Partnership

MEMORIAL DAY – A DAY TO HONOR AMERICA’S WAR DEAD



Americans have lost their lives in some 83 wars and assorted military action in the past 241 years (1775-2016). Most of the casualties occurred in a dozen or so major wars. But that does not lessen the sacrifice of those killed in the numerous and mostly forgotten minor expeditions in the far-flung corners of the globe. Whenever any American in uniform is killed by hostile enemy action, it is meaningful, and that loss must be remembered and forever recognized. (Excerpt from May 2016 *Veterans of Foreign Wars* magazine, “America’s War Dead”).

This Memorial Day, take time to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to pray for soldiers who continue to fight for our nation.

- Thanks to Billy Edwards for this timely reminder

UMCOR UPDATE

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently responding to natural disasters and offering humanitarian aid in 11 countries. This includes the earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador, the Fiji cyclone, the Syrian refugees crisis, the flooding in Houston, TX and the tornadoes in Dallas.

They provide flood and health buckets, food, water and support for thousands of people affected by these disasters. The outpouring of support for UMCOR during the One Great Hour of Sharing was so great that the surplus funds have been redirected to fund the response to these disasters. Currently, UMCOR is able to meet all their present needs because of these donations. Thank you for your tremendous outpouring of support. This is a way that our little church has helped countless people around the world.

“Sharing” is the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Hohenwald, TN, published six times a year as a service of the Christian Witness Committee. To submit news for “Sharing,” please contact Deborah Baker at 931-285-0058; email her at deb.baker@wildblue.net, or leave your news or a note in the Newsletter mail slot in the hall outside the church office.