

Hartsville United Methodist Church

224 River Street, Hartsville, TN 37074

615-374-2400 ♦ www.hartsvilleumc.org

Methodist
Messenger
December 2022

A Word from Pastor Tim:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” Micah 5:2

For more than a thousand years, Israel was looking forward expecting a messiah to come, a savior to be born. They looked forward to his coming not really knowing what to expect or what he would be like. Every year at Advent, we look forward to Christmas re-anticipating the coming of Christ. The biggest difference is that we know much more about what we’re expecting than they did.

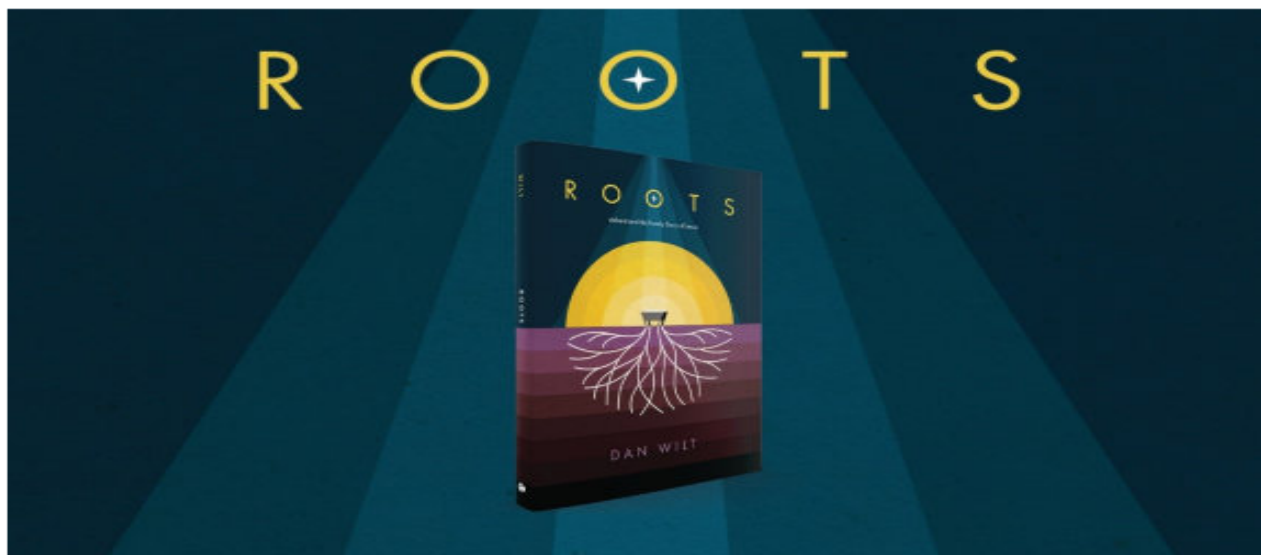
This year I am inviting you on an advent journey with the church. Normally, we re-anticipate the birth of the Christ child by focusing on his divinity. This year, I’m going to ask that we break the tradition, and look forward with expectation while focusing on his humanity. During our time together this season we will look at ways in which Jesus comes to us in a package with which we can relate. We will look at how similar our background is to his.

First, Jesus comes to us from a people. Not a perfect people but flawed in every way. A people that struggle with their neighbors, with each other, and even with God. Many people are ashamed of the ways in which they struggle with God or their understanding of him. Perhaps it is that very struggle that God can use the most to get our attention.

Secondly, Jesus comes to us from a place. A small, obscure, hidden, powerless place. Do you come from a place of powerlessness? Is that how you often feel in life? If God can change all of eternity with someone that comes from such a place, what might he be able to do with your life if you allow him?

Lastly, Jesus comes to us from a story. Jesus comes to us as, simultaneously, the fulfillment, the culmination, the renewing, and the continuation of the greatest love story ever told. And he is inviting you and I to recognize our role as recipient in this story.

I hope you will engage in this advent journey with me. I hope you will devote yourself to reading the book, *Roots*, in your homes and as a family. I hope you’ll join me here each week. I hope you make your way here on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service. And even though that will conclude advent, it would be crazy to walk forward with all that expectation and then not be here Christmas morning! I pray that we will all be here, and it will be a celebration of our Lord and Savior like none before it!



Get your Advent devotional book and join us in walking this journey of expectation together. It is not too late!

Prayer List

The backbone of a church is prayer. Place this somewhere you will see it often. Then let every sighting be a reminder to pray for these. Please update the church on those on this list and others that need to be added.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Charlotte Dies (home on hospice) | Curtis Butcher (Cancer) |
| Connor Brown | Richard Robertson |
| Maxton Hawkins | Rosemary Denham |
| Eleanor Ford | Jenny Bradshaw (Cancer) |
| Jim Hunt | Bert Gammons (Multiple Health Issues) |
| JoAnne Kelley (Senior Living Center) | Beth Rolin (Cancer) |
| Mary Howell | The People of the Ukraine |
| Zoe Rose (Heart Condition) | Ann Thurman (Cancer) |
| Laura Marshall (Cancer) | Shannon Satterfield (Medical Issues) |
| Helen & Don Voss (Health) | Alice White |
| Lewis Wayne Rankin (Surgery) | David Parker |
| Jessica Spicer (cancer) | Jill harper (leukemia) |
| JoAnn McEvoy Family | Beverly Sullins |

The Chapel Hill Chronicle



Chapel Hill United Methodist Church

92 Beasley Bend Road in Riddleton, TN
Sunday Worship at 9 AM
Sunday School at 10:15 AM

“Millions of people gave their lives fighting fascism and imperialism, but Pearl Harbor was the event that forever changed the course of human history.” ~Sam Graves

Pearl Harbor Day, Wednesday, 12/07/2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Anthony Beasley | December 8 th |
| Bonnie Grandstaff | December 9 th |
| B. Elaine Adair Henry | December 15 th |
| Tom Shackelford | December 24 th |
| Mack Draper | December 29 th |

IN LOVING MEMORY:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Wilma Draper | December 12 th |
| Rickey Woodard | December, 2020 |
| Camile Paradis | 04/1945-10/2022 |

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated and attended our Chili/Soup Supper at Chapel Hill UMC. We are blessed with all of your hard work and love shown. God bless you.

SMITH COUNTY HELP CENTER FOOD DRIVE:

Please bring non-perishable food items to Church on Sunday, December 4, 2022. We will add the bulk of those items to the bulk of items that we have been collecting each Sunday for the past several weeks. Thank you for

your donations. Mrs. Linda McDonald will deliver them to their destination.

PEACE AND LOVE FROM CHAPEL HILL:

I hope this December month and year finds you with Christmas bells ringing in your heart filled with a joy that surpasses any realization other than that little baby boy given to us as the best and most loving gift we could ever want for. That gift equips us to give the best Christmas gifts ever to everyone and anyone.

Our gift of Jesus opens our minds and hearts to sing for the unfortunate, the sick, the incarcerated, those dependent on drugs and alcohol, the abused, the lonely, the frightened, the lost, our neighbors, our world, you, me. These gifts can go out to all and it only costs us our time, effort and prayers/songs.

We can even use this little baby gift to forgive ourselves and others this Christmas Season so that the New Year may start afresh with a pure, unburdened open heart. Take this attitude into the New Year and just think about what fine accomplishments can come from our loving, Christian minds.

Our wrapping paper is the quiet Christmas night skies of blue velvet, highlighted with shades of purple, where from hang the sparkling stars of hope that our God and His Son look down from upon us with love and light and promised eternal life.

Merry Christmas Father and Son, Merry Christmas everyone. ~LH

Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, at 5:00 p.m., Chapel Hill UMC

“He had no further intercourse with spirits, but lived upon the total abstinence principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us everyone!” ~Dickens (A CHRISTMAS CAROL)



Christmas Food Boxes

Donations Needed
Sign up in the narthex

All items need to be in
by December 4th
Monetary donations are welcome.
For more info, see
Beth Crabtree or Connie Dillehay.

Delivery will be on the 17th
Volunteers Needed!

December 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|-----------|--|
| 27 Flowers 4- Kathy Atwood 11- Poinsettias 18- Poinsettias 25- Poinsettias | 28 Prayer Team 4- Leah Satterfield 11- Tina Hielt 18- Betty Gross 25- Kathy Dies | 29 Ushers B. Satterfield Family | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Advent 2: Peace | 5 Last day for Food Donations Office 10am-2pm | 6 | 7 Choir 5:30pm | 8 | 9 | 10 7-10am Bazar Sale Men's Ham Breakfast Choir Prac 1PM |
| 11 Advent 3: Joy Cantata & Kid's Play 4PM | 12 Church Office 10AM - 2PM | 13 | 14 Choir 6pm Pack Food Boxes | 15 Christmas Meal @ Farmer's Harvest 6PM | 16 | 17 Deliver Food Boxes 8AM |
| 18 Advent 4: Love Christmas Caroling | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Service Chapel Hill 5PM HUMC 7PM |
| 25 No Sunday School Service at 11AM | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

NOW EVERYONE HAS AN ACTIVITY AVAILABLE DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME AT 10 AM. THE CHOICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| Class | Ages | Leader | Location |
|-------------------|--|----------|--------------------|
| Nursery | Newborn – 3yo | Gilda | Downstairs nursery |
| Youth Group | 4yo- 5 th grade | Kathy R. | Youth Classroom |
| Brunch and Bibles | 6 th -12 th grades | Kayla J. | Fellowship Hall |
| Epworth Class | 18yo and up | Leah B. | Choir Room |
| John Wesley Class | 18yo and up | John O. | Upstairs Class rm |

Sunday School For All Ages

Building Repairs



Have you noticed all the repairs taking place? For a building this age to be in such great shape requires constant maintenance. We are thankful to be able to continue to take care of all the repairs needed. But we can only do this as a team.

To complete the current renovations, we need \$30,000. Of which, \$20,000 has already been raised. We pray you will consider giving to support this work. Check the thermostat graphic in the narthex to stay updated on our financial progress.



Chapel Hill @ 5pm

HUMC @ 7pm

Join us for our

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
DINNER**

Everybody is Welcome
December 15th @ 6PM
Farmer's Harvest Restaurant
Adults \$18 Kids \$8
See Kathy Dies to RSVP

A photograph of silverware (a spoon, a knife, and a fork) tied together with a white ribbon. The silverware is set against a background of green pine branches and red holly berries. The entire scene is set on a white, textured surface that looks like snow or a white tablecloth.



**MEN'S COUNTRY HAM BREAKFAST
DEC. 10 @ 7-10AM \$5 PER PERSON
IN HUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Christmas
BAZAAR

DEC 10 @ 7-10AM
CHURCH BASEMENT

GENTLY USED HOLIDAY DÉCOR
BAKE SALE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT UMW



Join us for

“THE REASON FOR THE SEASON”

**CHRISTMAS
CANTATA**

And don't miss the kids in

“JOURNEY TO THE MANGER”

**BEGINS AT 4PM
DEC 11 @ HUMC**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Church Bazaar

The UMW are asking for your gently used Christmas decoration and baked goods that they will sell at the Bazaar December 11th. Please see Kathy Lindsey for more info.

Christmas Caroling

Make plans to join us as carol our way through the community on the evening of December 18th. See Paul for details.

Advent Class

Don't miss the Advent Sunday School class! Downstairs, Leah Brown will be leading a class with videos and discussion that will help you take the sermons and services deeper as well as the devotional book. Take this coordinated opportunity to enrich your faith this season. Each Sunday through Advent at 10AM.

Christmas Day

Christmas day falls on a Sunday this year. What better way to celebrate than to come together as a church! There will be no Sunday school classes that day, but we will have service at 11AM. Here's an idea – let your kid's come in their Christmas pajamas! We will worship together, celebrate communion together, and Pastor Tim has a surprise! Don't miss this special day.

Food Boxes

Want to help deliver these to people in need? Delivery starts at 8am on December 17th. See Beth to volunteer.

New Website

Have you seen our new website? It is still being tweaked, but it is up and running. Check it out. You can find it at the same address as before, www.hartsvilleumc.org



I don't know about you, but I love Christmas movies. Pretty much all of them. If you were unaware, *Home Alone* is about a young kid that gets left at home by himself on Christmas while his whole family goes on vacation. There are even a couple sequels.

It's a comedy that opens with the young boy, Kevin, being frustrated with his family and wishing he could be left alone. Then this happens and he instantly regrets it. The movie follows his antics as he stays strong and only has passing moments of missing his family. But in each movie, he meets someone that is alone all year long. And through that relationship he gets to see just how blessed he is to have family and those that care for him.

Maybe you have a neighbor like Kevin does. Someone whose family doesn't visit much, someone who spends a lot of time by themselves. Maybe they're elderly, maybe sick, maybe their family doesn't live locally. maybe they do have family around that care for them, but during the holiday season, that family is extra busy, and they are left alone more.

Maybe it's someone you meet in the park. Maybe at first, they seem a little scary, and you don't want to get too close. But that is exactly what Jesus asks us to do. To step into their world and remind them they are not alone.

Will you do that this year? When you gather for Christmas dinner or your other celebrations, will you invite someone that doesn't have another place to go? Will you take special care to make sure they know you are inviting them as a friend, not a charity case? Will you pack up a to go plate from your meal and bring to a neighbor that turned down your invitation, but you know would enjoy some food and 20 minutes of your time that day?

If you are not home alone this year, how will you make sure others don't feel that way either? Involve your kids, make it a family tradition. Build a connection with someone locally that doesn't have the same blessing you do. Then foster that relationship all year long.

Don't know anyone like this? Then go shopping for a new friend. Every time you are out, be on the lookout. Start conversations with everyone at the store, at work, the gas pump, etc. And pray. God will lead you to them. Don't let Christmas be a time you retreat to your clan. Let it be a time that you branch out and make new friends.

“Merry Christmas ya’ filthy animal!”

Hartsville First United Methodist Church
224 River Street
Hartsville, TN 37074

George M. Draper, Jr.
107 AmberGate Drive
Madison, AL 35756

Mission Spotlight

Community Help Center



Did you know that Hartsville has a help center? And we do all we can to help them help the community. They are open Monday through Thursday and operate a thrift store that runs off of your donations. You donate gently used items, they sell them at thrift store prices, and use the funds to help people in emergency situations and to provide food boxes for families and need weekly.

They also need your canned food donations too! The more they have, the more they can give away. In the narthex is a brown basket. Bring canned goods every week and place them in the basket. We will make sure they get to the right place. You can also volunteer and donate your time. Just stop in one day and talk to them.