



Hartsville United Methodist Church
224 River Street, Hartsville, TN 37074
615-374-2400 ♦ www.hartsvilleumc.org
**Methodist
Messenger
December 2023**

A Word from Pastor Tim:

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2: 41-42

A desire I constantly hear among believers in the church is a yearning to experience the Christian life in a way that is similar to that of the early church. The early church, in the first and second century Rome, witnessed revival on a massive scale. The number of Christian believers in the world rapidly escalated from 12 to over 1 million. One person would stand in the town Square, give a testimony, and thousands would be begging to be baptized. Miraculous healings were taking place everywhere you turned, even people being raised from the dead.

I often hear people ask why the church is not like that today. What changed? I am sure there are more complex nuances and explanations, but all things being equal, the simplest answer is normally the right one. And to me, this scripture is the simplest answer. When new people came to Christ, they devoted themselves to fellowship, the teachings of the apostles, the breaking of the bread, and prayer.

Do we do that today? Sadly, no. It has been my experience that most Christians neglect all of these. And of those that attend to some of them, very few devote themselves to the teaching of the apostles and prayer. To put it more bluntly, how can we ever be like the early church when we refused to gather for Bible study and times of corporate prayer?

I know I have room for growth in this area. How about you? Do you want to grow? If so, I have an opportunity for you. We are starting a midweek evening Bible study that will be on Tuesday night at 6 PM. Our first night will be January 9. We will be meeting at the Goose Creek coffee shop on River Street. Would you consider joining us?

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
John Wesley Class	18yo and up	John O.	Upstairs Class rm

*Sunday School
For All Ages*

Handbell Choir

Would you be interested in being a part of a handbell choir? We would like to start a handbell choir after the first of the year. To do so we will need to help purchasing the handbells. If this is something you would find meaningful, please consider donating towards this project. But first we must make sure we have people wanting to participate. Is that you? Please talk to Seth and let him know of your interest.

Community Bible Study

January 9th will kick off the start of our new bible study. We will meet each Tuesday evening at 6PM. We will start out by meeting at the Goose Creek Coffee shop on River st. Please make plans to come join us.

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.

Alice White	Curtis Butcher (Cancer)
Maxton Hawkins	Rosemary Denham
Alice Livingston	Jenny Bradshaw (Cancer)
Jim Hunt	Bert Gammons (Multiple Health Issues)
Eddie Taylor	Beth Rolin (Cancer)
Bill Berkeley	Richard Robertson
Zoe Rose (Heart Condition)	Ann Thurman (Cancer)
Local Church Partners	Flo Dunavant
Helen & Don Voss (Health)	Jill Harper (leukemia)
Jennifer Summers	David Parker
Ashley Warwick	Josh Milton
Jon Hare	Ashly Hare
Amanda Garey	Levi Owen
Tonya Arnold	Joe Fergusson
Michael Oliver	Tom Gibson

Churchwide Christmas dinner

We will have our annual Christmas dinner on December 21 at 6pm at Farmers Harvest. Make sure to sign up ahead of time so we can give an accurate count to the caterer.

Christmas Eve

Don't forget to invite your family and friends to our Christmas Eve service. We will have a service at both churches that night. Chapel Hill will be at 5 PM and Hartsville will be at 7 PM.

Ham Breakfast and bazaar

Don't miss all the fun on December 9. We will have the men's country ham breakfast first thing in the morning followed by the women's bazaar.

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

“All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost.” ~J.R.R. Tolkien

Winter begins: Thursday, December 21st

BIRTHDAYS:

Anthony Beasley	December 8 th
Bonnie Grandstaff	December 9 th
Tom Shackelford	December 24 th
Mack Draper	December 29 th

“Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance – each beautiful, unique, and gone too soon.” ~DW

*Mrs. Wilma Draper December 12th

*Betty Elaine Adair Henry December 15th

“Her absence is like the sky, spread over everything.” ~C.S. Lewis

Sunday, December 3, 2023: Please bring non-perishable food items to church with you for the Smith County Help Center, Carthage, TN. Linda McDonald will deliver them.

Christmas Eve Service at Chapel Hill UMC will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Many words of thanks go out to God and everyone who participated in Chapel Hill's Chili Supper event on November 18th. It was a great success. We are inches away from our new roof. We love and are thankful for our cooks and workers, promoters, customers, deliverers, contributors, friends and neighbors... All involved helped do a job that was so well done, and the money raised will keep a lovely, little church on a hill sound for the community of God. Come on in and be with us anytime. This roof is for you.

CHRISTMASTIME is such a pretty word.

It's meaning is when people begin to prepare for the day of Christmas, which celebrates the most important event for humanity, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Since childhood I have always celebrated Christmas at home with family. My Christmas church life was always in little, country Methodist Churches. For a time, I lived down the road from my beloved childhood Welborn United Methodist Church, on Welborn Church Road. Most years, because of snow I would walk to church for the annual Christmas program. It was a lovely walk under dark, starry skies which took on a purple effect, I guess, because of the glistening white snow. Soon you could see the lights in the windows of the church and hear the Christmas music coming from within rejoicing Jesus Christ's birth. Looking back on those memories of that church (at present the building approximately 200 years old), I feel the Thomas Kinkade paintings of such scenes. How they warm your heart and make you feel loved, happy and safe.

That little church, my church home, was a mainstay in my life. At the time of my childhood and beyond, I took it for granted that it would always be there for me to attend. I mean why would it not? Well, since childhood, and since beyond, we all mature into the "Why would it not?" answer. Welborn UMC closed less than two years ago. The objects of family's memories were collected, stained glass windows were taken out and distributed, and the church of area family's generations was no more.

This Christmastime I cherish the existence of my adult mainstay. I thank Him for the opportunity to worship Him each week inside His loving and beautiful house of worship, that has sat on a hill overlooking a beautiful Bend for well over the last 100 years. He GIFTS us the strength needed, the help needed and otherwise to keep His house open and available to all. Besides the birth of His Son, that is the best Christmas gift I could receive. ~LH

Merry Christmas everyone from Chapel Hill UMC

“Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas.”

~Peg Bracken



Christmas
BAZAAR

DEC 9 @ 7-10AM
CHURCH BASEMENT

GENTLY USED HOLIDAY DÉCOR
BAKE SALE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT UMW



MEN'S COUNTRY HAM BREAKFAST
DEC. 9 @ 7-10AM \$5 PER PERSON
IN HUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Reader 3rd Hadley Boswell 10th J MacCrabtree 17th Robbie Jones 24th Morgan Robertson 31st J Mac Crabtree	27 Ushers Bobby Satterfield Family	28 Flowers 3rd Kathy Atwood 10th Poinsettias 17th Poinsettias 24th Poinsettias 31st _____	29 Prayer Team 3rd Betty gross 10th Kathy Dies 17th Kathy Robertson 24th John Oliver 31st Kathy Atwood	30 Kid's Message 3rd Leah Brown 10th Beth Crabtree 17th Kayla Jones 24th Morgan Robertson 31st Beth Crabtree	1	2
3 Communion 1st Advent	4 Church Office 10am-2pm	5 Church Office 10am-2pm	6	7	8	9 Ham & Bazaar 7am-10am
10 Christmas Special 2nd Advent	11 Church Office 10am-2pm	12 Church Office 10am-2pm	13 Pack Food Boxes 9AM	14	15 Church Office 10am-2pm	16
17 3rd Advent	18 Church Office 10am-2pm	19 Church Office 10am-2pm	20	21 Church meal @ Farmer's Harvest @ 6pm	22 Church Office 10am-2pm	23
24 4th Advent C. Eve service C.H. 5PM HUMC 7PM	25	26	27	28	29	30

Join us for our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Everybody is Welcome
December 21 @ 6PM
Farmer's Harvest Restaurant
Adults \$17 Kids \$12
See Kathy Dies to RSVP



Chapel Hill @ 5pm

HUMC @ 7pm

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

Recipe Corner

Sausage Cornbread Bake
By Linda McDonald

1Lb Bulk Sausage
2 Eggs, slightly beaten
1 can Creamed Corn (17 oz)
¼ c Oil

1 Large Onion, chopped
1 ½ c Self Rising Cornmeal
¾ c Milk
2 c Sharp Cheddar, Shredded

Preheat oven to 425°. Grease a cast-iron skillet and place in the oven while preheating. On the stove top, brown the sausage with the onion and drain well. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, cornmeal, corn, milk, and oil.

Remove the skillet from the oven and pour half of your cornmeal mixture into the hot Cast-iron skillet. Sprinkle the sausage mixture and cheese over top of it. Pour the remaining batter on top covering all that you can. Return it to the oven and bake for 30 to 40 minutes.

Want to submit a recipe? Send it to Pastor Tim!