

Hawley United Methodist Church Newsletter

November and December 2023



Pastoral Letter: Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!



Dear Hawley UMC Family,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is with a joyous heart that I write this letter to you and invite you to an exciting new class I will be teaching during Advent. As we embark on the sacred season of Advent, we invite you to join us for a special class in the church library at 11:15 AM on December 3, 10, and 17. Together we will be exploring, "What does it mean to be United Methodist?"

Advent, a traditional season of reflection and preparation, is the perfect backdrop for this exploration into our United Methodist identity. The class is open to everyone, but it will also double as our "new membership class" for this season. New Members will be welcomed into our Church family on January 7, 2023, as we celebrate Baptism of Our Lord Sunday together. It is my hope that both experienced Christians and new believers will join us for this class so that we can all learn and grow together.

Bring your burning questions and let us embark on this journey together. Whether you've been a Methodist your entire life or are new to this denomination, we all have something we can learn together. We will explore fundamental aspects of our beliefs, addressing questions such as:

- What does the UMC believe about Heaven and Hell?
- What is sin?
- Who makes the rules in the UMC?
- What are sacraments?
- What happens during Holy Communion?
- Why is baptism important?
- Why is there suffering in this life?
- And just who was that John Wesley guy, anyway?



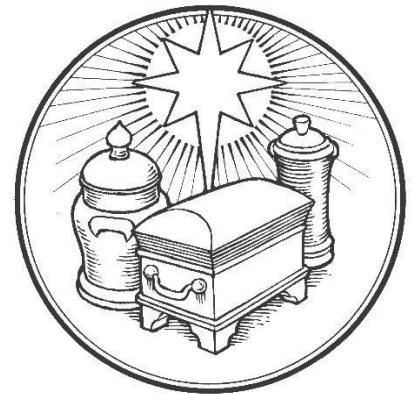
This class not only provides a learning opportunity but also serves as a space for spiritual growth and fellowship. I hope you will join us on this meaningful journey, as we seek to deepen our connection with each other and with God. Hope to See you there!

God Bless,

--Rev. Rebecca

P.S. You're invited!

We are having an Epiphany Party/ Open House at the Parsonage! Stop by anytime between 2 PM-6 PM- Friday, January 5th to share in some cookies and check out Jeff's holiday train layout!



Fall Stewardship Campaign & Consecration Sunday



Fall is the time for Stewardship Here at Hawley United Methodist Church! As I sit down to write this, I am humbled by a sense of gratitude because we have just completed our Fall Stewardship Campaign. Our Stewardship Campaign concluded yesterday with a very special Consecration Sunday Service, but it is not too late if you would also like to participate in this sacred act of stewardship. If you would still like to complete a commitment of giving card, please contact the church office.

November 12, 2023, was a joyous day on which we came together to celebrate our first Consecration Sunday since the pandemic! We gathered to consecrate our Commitments of Giving, tithes, and offerings to Christ and the mission of the church for the coming year. We shared in a special service that began with a processional that included acolytes, a cross bearer, the liturgist, the pastor, and our bell choir.



Our service included special music from our Bell Choir with a talented soloist, Rick H. on soprano saxophone. We gave thanks together for the selfless service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families. We are so grateful for the religious freedom to worship God every Sunday at Hawley UMC. Thank you to ALL of our veterans!



We also rejoiced together, because our Honduras mission team has returned safely! On November 19th, they will share their stories and experiences with us at both our 8 am and 10 am services. During our service, Barbara graciously shared her testimony of how giving to God and the church has impacted her faith. We talked about how the story of the widow's mite teaches us that every mite matters. Parishioners were invited to take a replica widow's mite home with them to keep as a tangible reminder of how even the smallest gift can make the greatest difference.



After the service, we shared a delicious Victory Brunch with food provided by generous-hearted members of our congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this very special consecration Sunday and Victory Brunch happen!

THANK YOU to everyone who answered the call of the Holy Spirit and made a commitment to support the mission of Hawley United Methodist Church for the coming year. Every mite matters and every little bit helps!



Celebrating the Feast of All Saints at Hawley UMC



On November 6, 2023, we celebrated our All Saints Service at Hawley UMC at both our 8 AM and 10 AM worship services. We also recognized the third week of our fall stewardship campaign. During the service, we lit candles in loving memory of those who have passed away in the last year. The red carnations in the chancel area symbolize the blood of Christ, and the white ones represent purity. As we reflected on the Feast of All Saints, we remembered the saints known and unknown who have gone home to be with God.

We also lit a large candle in honor of all the saints who have joined the Church Triumphant. Each smaller candle represents a friend or family member who has gone home to glory in the past year. We also discussed the significance of leaving a legacy, much like the Reverend Marty Cox, whose legacy gift allowed us to purchase new white paraments and green paraments that will arrive in about six weeks.

We explored how designated gifts can support our ministries and how undesignated gifts can fuel ministries we haven't even imagined yet. In the Parable of the Foolish Rich Man Who Built Bigger Barns, Jesus teaches us to be good stewards, not hoarders.

As we give thanks for the saints who came before us, let's reflect on how we can use the blessings God has bestowed upon us, for we can't take earthly treasures with us. Instead, let us lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven and be rich toward God.



November Special Offering:

Disability Ministries

Our special offering for November is the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church. The Disability Ministries Committee of the UMC works throughout our worldwide United Methodist connection to make the church and society more inclusive and accessible for ALL of God's children. Donations to Disability Ministries Committee help to provide grants to local churches in our conference and throughout the world. In the past, grants have been used for elevator projects, to add ramps and accessible restrooms, and to provide hearing loops for church sound systems. To support the work of the Disability Ministries Committee of the UMC, you can donate online at HawleyUMC.com or in person by clearly marking

Disability
Ministries Committee

of the United Methodist Church

your gift as DISABILITY MINISTRIES. Thank you so much for your support!

Thank you to ALL of our veterans!



This Veterans Day and always, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in the defense of our nation. Their selfless dedication and sacrifice have ensured the preservation of the freedoms we hold dear, including the right to worship freely and openly express our faith.

We thank God for our veterans and their families. We are grateful for their unwavering service. May the United States always be a land where we are safe to worship and honor the Lord. May Jesus Christ always be worshiped here in our land, and may the church endure and flourish until Christ comes once more.

THANKSGIVING MINISTRIES HERE AT HAWLEY UMC!

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who donated to support our Thanksgiving Ministries here at Hawley United Methodist Church! Our food drive this year will feed over 36 families. Families will be provided with a box of food, a gift card to the local IGA that can be redeemed for a turkey or ham, and a pumpkin pie! Your



generosity has made a huge impact on our community. **If you would like to help pack boxes of food for local families in need, please join us after the second service on Sunday, November 19th.**

We are also pleased to announce that we will once more be hosting Thanksgiving with Friends. We will be hosting a free community meal on Thanksgiving Day from noon until two in the afternoon. We are especially grateful to Colleen Simpson, who has graciously agreed to lead this ministry again this year. If you are interested in helping with Thanksgiving with friends, please contact Colleen directly.

Welcome Back to our Honduras Mission Team!

Welcome back to our Honduras Mission Team! Our Honduras Mission Team did wonderful work this year building a home and building connections within the community. They will share a presentation about their experiences on November 19th at both our 8 AM and 10 AM worship services. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Honduras mission team!



Birthday List: November & December

November

Cathy Fennell Nov 4

Brenna Kelly Nov 7

Dave Boogertman Nov 9

Richard Betz Nov 9

Lauren Tintle Nov 10

Rich Wright Nov 16

December

Holly Maurer Dec 5

Cathy Kelly Dec 16

Shannon Pugh Dec 24

Carol Ulmer Dec 29



Anniversary List: November & December

November

Tom & Jeannette Bates Nov 11

John & Bonnie Carney Nov 30

December

John & Lauren Tintle Dec 1

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES!

Advent Study: What Does it Mean to Be United Methodist? Sundays at 11:15AM on December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th

December 9th: Road to Bethlehem: We are doing a walk-through version again this year! If you or your little ones would like to be in Road to Bethlehem, please meet at the church at 4:15 PM. You will be assigned a part in one of the scenes. The festivities officially begin at 5 PM and continue until 6:30 PM.

Sunday, December 10th: Bell Choir Concert at 2 PM

December 3rd: Hanging the Greens: Join us after our second service for a potluck and decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

December 24th: Christmas Eve Services: We will be celebrating the fourth week of Advent at 9 AM and have a traditional Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM with candle lighting.

Christmas Eve: December 24, 2023, 9 AM Advent 4 and Evening Candlelight Service at 7 PM

Lessons and Carols: December 31st at 10 AM at First Presbyterian Church (815 Church St. Hawley PA 18428). Join us as we ring in the new year together!

January 5th: Epiphany Party & Parsonage Open House: We are having an Epiphany Party/ Open House at the Parsonage! Stop by anytime between 2 PM-6 PM- Friday, January 5th to share in some cookies and check out Jeff's holiday train layout

January 7th: Welcome New Members! We will be receiving new members and celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday at both our 8 AM and 10 AM service

