

HARVEST HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 19, 2025

2025 Ministry Theme: Illuminating the Darkness

No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all. (Luke 11:33, NLT)

Contribution Statements for 2024: Please check the mail box in the foyer for your 2024 contribution statement. Questions? See Teresa Elkins.

Ladies Annual Brunswick Stew: Help get the word out to your neighbors, coworkers, and family members. The cost is \$9.00 per quart. Pre-orders will be filled first so get your orders in early by calling 336-227-4441 or 336-512-6263. You can also sign up on the information wall in the foyer. Last day to place your order is Jan 22nd. Volunteers are needed for Thursday Jan 23rd 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & Friday Jan 24th 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pickup Saturday Jan 25th beginning at 8:00 a.m. Questions? See Linda Jordan.

Quarterly Elder's Meeting: Tuesday, Jan 21st, 7:00 p.m. in the conference room

Annual Church Conference: Monday, Jan 27th, 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

"Soup"er Bowl Chili Cook-off: SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday Feb 16th immediately following the morning worship service. Join us for a delicious line up of chilis, soups, salad, rolls & dessert. Then cast your vote for the BEST of the best!! Cake auction & prizes for winners. Tickets are \$10. Children 10 and under eat free. All proceeds will go to help cover the cost of Rooted Young Adults attending the Winterfest 2025 conference in the Smoky Mountains. Scan QR code on information wall for Competitor/Donation sign up. Questions? See Angela Williamson or Matt Auton.

Winterfest 2025: March 7-9, Pigeon Forge, TN. For Youth & Young Adults. Final payment due Jan 26th. Questions? See Angela Williamson or Matt Auton.

Reading the Bible to Meet God

It is important to read the Bible to meet God, to read it relationally and as sustenance for the soul. Reading to meet God sounds like a great idea and the ideal for a Christian, but how do we actually do it? How can we change our mindsets to view Scripture as a living, rich revelation instead of a religious tome of instructions and history?

Many of us learned to read God's Word from children's Bible storybooks made up of individual stories—Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, Jonah and the big fish (of course it was Jonah and the whale back then), the boy's five loaves and two fish, and so on. We learned to look for stories, snippets of Scripture. And usually these came with a moral lesson about trusting God, making the right decisions, being honest, serving others, or something else.

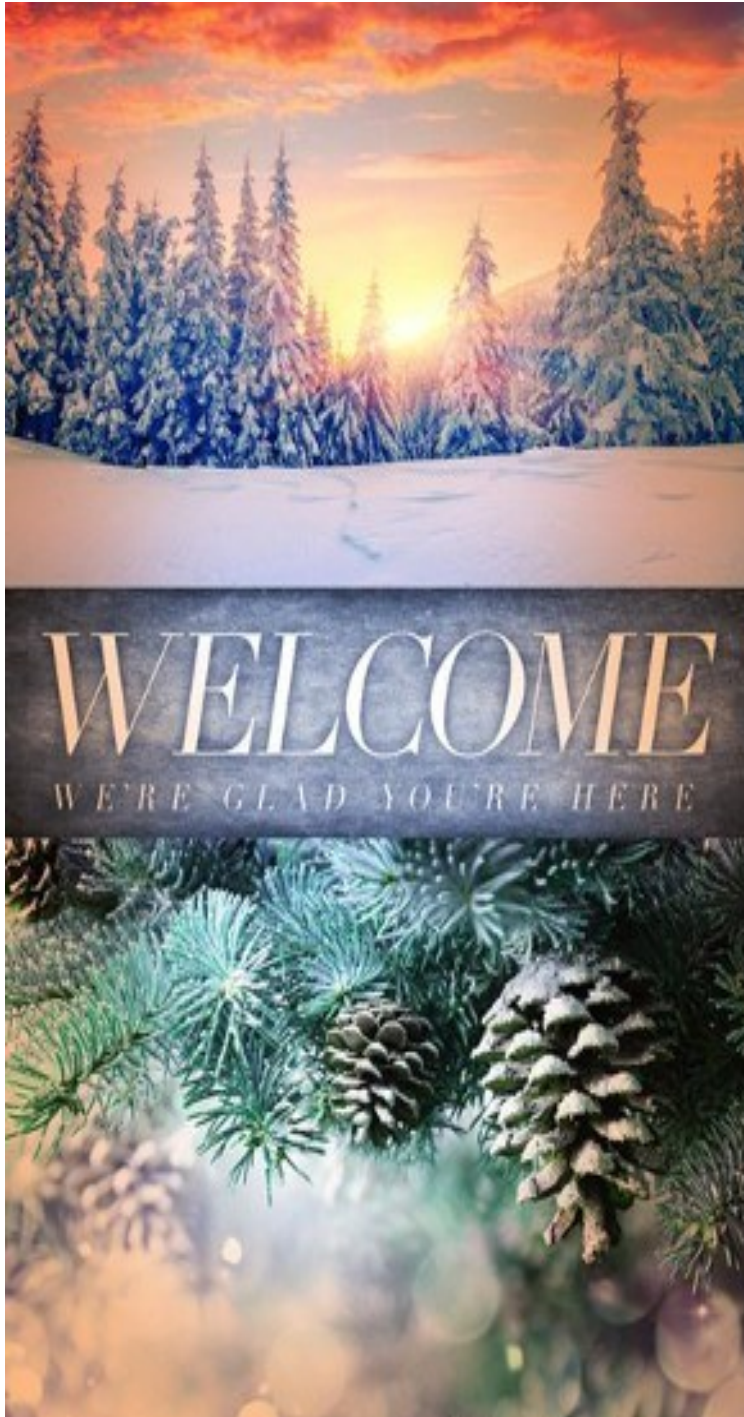
The other main way we heard the Bible taught was character centric, like a series of mini-bios. We studied the lives of Abraham, Joseph, Ruth, Saul, Solomon, Esther, Peter, and Paul. We were taught about their shortcomings and their faithfulness. We learned that they were examples for us to follow, just not perfect ones.

While we gleaned a lot of truth from these lessons, the teaching method actually misguided us. We learned to read the Scripture similar to how we skim through a magazine: a story here, skip the boring bits, a profile there, and some good info throughout if you know where to look. But the Bible is not like that at all. It is a narrative made up of different parts. It must be read in full.

We must learn to read the whole story of Scripture from beginning to end. The Bible is God's story of redemption, the revelation of Himself and His plan for the world. All those stories and all those characters are parts of the whole, characters in the drama, but none of them are the point. They all point to the point: Jesus Christ came, lived a perfect life, died an innocent death to save sinners and kill death and sin, and will one day return to right all the wrongs. Sure, some parts of the Bible are confusing and dry, but they fit in the whole too. And when we understand that there is a whole narrative, even those parts start to make sense in their context.

Reading the Bible this way may seem like a tall task, especially if you haven't been in the habit of reading it much at all. If so, start small, bit by bit. Take notes. Ask questions. Piece by piece, little by little, you'll begin to see the big story of the Bible and it will become so much greater than you thought possible in Sunday school.

-Barnabas Piper



Mission Statement

Harvest Hills Church of God is a life situation, worship centered, Spirit-filled congregation committed to Exalting Christ, Equipping believers and Expanding the kingdom.

Today's Sermon

Title:

Scripture:

Main Ideas:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

How can I apply today's sermon in my daily life?

Food Pantry Ministry: Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry. If you can volunteer your time to pick up food, stock shelves, deliver food, or if you know someone in need of food, please call Bill or Pat Brown at 336-222-9034.

Through the Bible in 2025: Our Bible emphasis this year focuses on listening to the Word. Apps are available at no cost for phones or computers that will allow one to listen to God's Word; e.g., BibleGateway.com. Of course, you may read as well. 2025 schedules are available in the foyer.

Ministry Workers Needed: If you are interested in working in our nursery, please contact Andy Carter or Dr. Morris for more details.

LIFE Sessions: Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for an in-depth study of the Bible. Handouts available each session.

Rooted Young Adults Bible Study: Join us for a small group Bible study for high school grads - 30s. First & Third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. See Angela Williamson or Matt Auton for more information.

2025 Ministry Calendar: Now available on the church website and in the church app. Calendar is fully digital, no paper copies available.

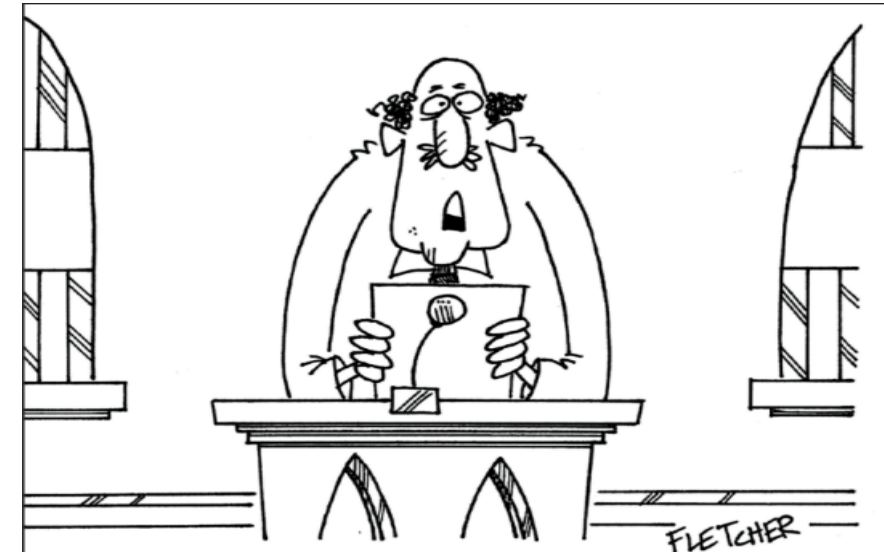
PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-Service Prayer
Each Sunday, 10:00 AM, Church Library

War Room Prayer Service
Each Sunday, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM



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"... and the church unity workshop has been postponed until the deacons can agree on the date, time, and color of the participant's name tags."



"I downloaded them from a cloud."