



# *Hawkins United Methodist Church*

*3736 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS*

*www.hawkinsumc.org March 2025 info@hawkinsumc.org*

Sermons can be heard on:

River 101

<http://www.iheart.com/live/river-101-6582/>

K-Hits 104.5

<http://www.iheart.com/live/khits-1045-6584/>

Greetings, Beloved Congregation!

Have you ever watched someone walk into church for the first time?

There's this moment - right as they pause in the doorway - when everything hangs in the balance. Their hand might linger on the door handle just a second longer than necessary, like they're gathering courage.

I've learned to recognize these moments from my spot by the door. The couple who showed up ten minutes early, carefully dressed, trying not to look lost. The single dad with three kids spinning around his legs, looking simultaneously apologetic and determined. The woman who's been sitting in her car for fifteen minutes, finally ready to step inside.

Seven minutes.

That's all it takes for someone to decide if they belong here. That's what the research tells us. Seven minutes to move from stranger to welcomed. From outsider to seen. From nervous to at ease.

Standing here by these doors, I've discovered something profound about Sunday mornings: Church doesn't begin with worship. It begins with welcome. Sometimes it's a smile that says, "you're in the right place." Sometimes it's walking someone to the nursery. Sometimes it's just being a familiar face on an unfamiliar morning.

I used to think greeting was just about being friendly. Now I realize it's about being present for holy moments disguised as ordinary ones. Because every Sunday, I get to witness small miracles: Shoulders relaxing. Tentative smiles growing wider. Seven minutes to help write the beginning of someone's story with God.

Think you might want to be part of these first-impression moments? I think the team would be better with you on it.

## **>>> Check out the Hospitality Team**

Contact Mrs. Nancy Renfroe, Hospitality Team Leader at 601-529-1921 and become one of the shining lights of Hospitality in our congregation.

Blessings to you all,  
Rev. Harrell Moore

## **P.S.**

Not sure if greeting is your thing? Come shadow our team this Sunday. No pressure - just watch what happens in those first seven minutes.

Fair warning though: once your eyes are trained to see these moments, you'll never see Sunday mornings the same way again.



You are invited to a Wedding Shower for  
Brittany Fowler & Blake Whittington

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Come & Go during the Sunday School Hour  
from 9:15 to 10:15 AM  
in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of gifts, please consider leaving them  
a gift card on the gift card tree that will be  
at the shower.

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*Thank  
You!*

To Our Hawkins Family,

Thank you for the love and kindness you  
all have shown to our family during our loss of  
Bob. Thank you for all the food, cards, phone  
calls and visits. Your prayers were felt in our  
hearts every day. We love our Hawkins Family!  
You are the best!

Love, The Walters Family



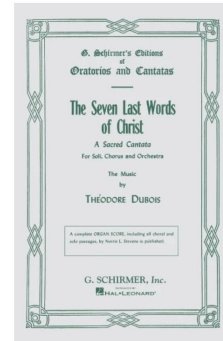
### District Laity and Clergy Leadership Meeting

Laity and Clergy Leadership Training will occur  
**Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at St. Matthew's  
UMC, 7427 Old Canton Road, Madison, MS,  
from 8:00 – 11:45 a.m. Registration will begin  
at 8:00 a.m. To register, please contact Teresa  
in the church office at 601-636-224.

## Music Notes



Holy Week Community Cantata  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 7 p.m.  
Crawford Street UMC



Want to be a part?

Join the Hawkins Choir  
for Wednesday Night Choir Practices in  
February, March, and April.

Got questions? Reach out to Mallory Pickering at  
ripvanpickering@gmail.com or 601-850-3760.



## Church Council Meeting

Administrative Council will meet Monday,  
March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



**Join us for the  
Ash Wednesday Service on  
Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**



United Women in Faith announce the approaching Garage Sale, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please begin gathering your items for the sale. We will start bringing items to the church March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks for helping make this fundraiser a success.



**June 2-6, 2025 Hawkins UMC**

Hawkins will, again, be partnering with Crawford St. UMC and First Presbyterian Church to hold Marketplace VBS this June. This year marks thirteen years of this program in Vicksburg and we celebrate God's followers reaching the promised land!

Please take a look at your schedule and let us know if you can participate in any way. We will need tribe leaders, marketplace shops, bakery chefs, snack suppliers, and much more. There is a place for everyone – even if it is supplying materials beforehand or cleaning up afterwards.

Please contact Jennifer McAlpin (601-218-3494) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



**Children's Council Meeting**

Who: Children's Council Members and Their Family (children are welcome)

When: March 2<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the Sunday morning service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Pizza will be served so please RSVP to Teresa in the church office the total number of people in your family who will be there for lunch to make sure we have enough pizza.

This is an important meeting where programming for the year will be discussed.



**January**  
Income: \$39,525.53  
Expense: \$37,373.42  
\$2,152.11



Our preschool is already gathering items for their summer camp this year. If you have large brown paper bags or boxes about the size of copy paper boxes or a little larger, please drop them off at the church office. Our preschool can put them to good use!

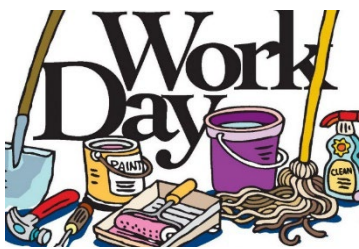
Preschool will be out for Spring Break will be March 10-14.



Prayer Partners will have their next event on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> during WOW. Supper is at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall and at 6:00 pm we will begin our Prayer Partner activities. The theme is *Jesus is the Bread of Life*. Adult Prayer Partners please invite your Prayer Partner children to this event. If you are not able to attend or need more information, please contact Elizabeth Ballard at 601-145-1016.

## Son-Lighters

Son-Lighters will meet Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We will have a pot-luck meal and lots of fun.  
Hope to see you there!!



We will have a Work Day at Hawkins on **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.**

There will be something for everyone to do so please join us as we get our church looking great for spring and Easter Sunday!

For questions or information, contact Teresa in the church office.



To members of the Administrative Council and Ministry Teams of Hawkins UMC & Anyone in the Congregation Who Would Like to Attend,

You are invited to join us for Missioninsight on **Tuesday, February 25, at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall.** Missioninsight is the innovating standard in Church Demographics. Rev. Dr. Jazon Zeibert, Assistant Director of Faith Communities of the Mississippi Annual Conference, will lead our session.

Join us to Unlock the Secrets to Our Community

- \*Determine the best ministry opportunities
- \*Answer strategic ministry questions
- \*Understand population trends BEFORE they happen
- \*Identify and reach households in a ministry area
- \*Gain relevant and strategic information on the past, present and future populations and changing demographic patterns
- \*Discover Gaps in Church Presence of services

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. Harrell Moore at 601-508-8960.

*This meeting is open to everyone, but we especially want the people who are serving on the Administrative Council and the people serving in any ministry area of Hawkins UMC to attend*

# You're Invited

*Join us in Fellowship and Spiritual Growth*

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to you to join our Church Membership Class. This class is designed for those who wish to learn more about our church, deepen their faith and become part of our vibrant and welcoming community.

This class is for anyone who wants to explore the beliefs, values, and mission of our church and anyone considering church membership or simply wanting to know more about what it means to be part of our congregation.

The class will be held Sunday, March 16, following the morning worship service. The session will begin with a fellowship meal and last approximately 90 minutes and will be held in the fellowship hall.

Contact Teresa (601-636-2242) if you will be attending by Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.



- 2 - Vickie Hickman
- 6 - Mike Biggers
- 7 - Jane Hanes
- 8 - Delane Killgore
- 9 - Karen Lambiotte
- 18 - Heather Tate
- 25 - Bob Athow
- 30 - Steve Jones  
Jered Lambiotte
- 31 - Beth Jones  
Mary Ann Cordrey

A Memorial Service for Angela Cotton will be held Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at Hawkins United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the hour of the service at 12:00 p.m. Please remember Angela's family in your thoughts and prayers.

*In Loving  
Memory*

Memorials have been given in Loving Memory of **Bob Walters** by:

Jane Hanes & Zach Cotton, Susan & Bob Athow, Beth & Steve Jones, Elizabeth Ballard, Delane & Jack Killgore, Joy & Rick Graham, Cheryl & Mac Montgomery, Bill Miller, Lucy Young, Sue & Bruce Phillips, Cathy & Dan Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chaney, Sandra & Horton Struve, Edna Richardson, Mary Frances Warren, Pat & Burkett Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fleming, Pam & Lanz Dorrell, Emily & Daniel Averett, Mary Ann Cordrey, Marilyn Wienke, Linda Parker, Sandy Berry, Rodney McHan, Shelley Plett, Linda & Ronnie Herrod, Georgeann & Dan Leavell, Faye & Herb Wilkinson, Suzi & Steve Wilhelms, Debby & Tommy Miller, Cheryl Lloyd, Stan Kline, Teresa & Victor Cain, Shirley Martin

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A Memorial was given in Loving Memory of **Pete Dionne** by Shirley Martin.

## *In Honor of*

An Honorarium has been given in Honor of **Meta Watkins** by Lucy Young & Linda Parker.

*Meta has a new phone number at The Orchard. It is 601-427-9428. She would love to hear from you.*

## *Hawkins History Corner*

No. 2025-01

This is the first article in the new *Hawkins History Corner* series which will be published monthly in the Hawkins UMC Newsletter. This series will present short articles of Hawkins' history since its founding in 1951. We will cover biographical sketches of former pastors, church volunteer leadership, evolution of church buildings, various church ministries, youth and children's activities, and support of missions' activities. The *Hawkins History Corner* is an effort to educate and inform people about our church history over the next few years, leading up to the celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Hawkins UMC in June 2026. This article begins a series on "Pastors of the Past."

### **Pastors of the Past**



Rev. Joseph William (Bill) Carroll was the first pastor (interim) to serve the new Hawkins Street Methodist Church from June through August 1951. He was a ministerial student associate pastor at Crawford Street Methodist Church in downtown Vicksburg. He was loaned to Hawkins as interim pastor until a full-time pastor could be appointed by the Conference Bishop.

Rev. Carroll was born on December 10, 1928, in Montgomery, AL, to Joe and Evelyn Hardin Carroll. He lived in Jackson, MS for many years as a boy before moving to Tupelo, MS where he graduated from high school in 1946.

Feeling a call to the ministry during his freshman year at the University of Mississippi, Bill transferred to Millsaps College and joined the Pre-Ministerial Society and the Kappa Sigma fraternity, graduating with a BA in History in 1950. After serving a year of church work in Vicksburg (Crawford Street and Hawkins), Bill married Evelyn Newman, and the

newlyweds rode the train to Atlanta, GA, in the fall of 1951, where Bill studied at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, earning a Master of Divinity in 1954.

After divinity school, Bill was ordained as an Elder in the North Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. While serving local congregations, Bill felt the call to care for "God's older children." In 1964, he accepted a position as director of what would become Methodist Senior Services and began the early planning stages for the faith-based retirement home that became Traceway Manor in Tupelo in 1967. He served as pastor at Oxford-University UMC, established a retirement facility in Athens, GA, and then moved back to Tupelo, where he served as president of Methodist Senior Services, expanding its reach across the entire state of Mississippi, until his retirement at the end of 1993. Bill and Evelyn had two sons, William Pearson "Bill" Carroll and David Wesley Carroll.

In retirement Bill and Evelyn moved into a cottage at Traceway Manor, reaping the fruits of his life's work and enjoying life together until her death in 2006. For his compassionate, novel work with aging populations, Bill was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree from his alma mater in 1989, named Millsaps Alumnus of the Year in 1994, and Candler School of Theology's Distinguished Alumnus in 2006.

In 2010, Bill married former classmate Sue Kenney and continued to enjoy life at Traceway and in the Tupelo community, surrounded by family and friends, even in the face of an Alzheimer's diagnosis in 2014. He treasured this time with his new extended family, as well as travelling with Sue at home and abroad.

Rev. Carroll, at the age of 90, passed away January 8, 2018 at his home at the Traceway Retirement Community in Tupelo, MS, the very place he oversaw constructed many years before and where he spent 25 years in retirement before his death.

Although Rev. Carroll served only as an interim pastor to Hawkins, he will forever be remembered as its first pastor. Also, we will see in the coming months a trend in the pastors who served Hawkins that many would go on to become district superintendents and prominent leaders in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

*(Information excerpted from Rev. Carroll's obituary, 2018.)*

Larry Holman  
Church Historian  
February 2025

**2025 Officers for Hawkins UMC**

**Position**

Lay Leader..... Ann Perrier  
Chair Administrative Council..... Keith Renfroe  
Secretary of Administrative Council..... Beattie Williams  
Lay Member of Annual Conference..... Karen Lambiotte

**Board of Trustees**

**Class of 2025**

1. Victor Cain
2. John Newton
3. Nancy Biggers

**Class of 2026**

1. Dian Anderson
2. Nancy Renfroe
3. Timothy Ricard

**Class of 2027**

1. Cade Walters
2. Steve Jones
3. Lanz Dorrell

**Finance Committee**

**Class of 2025**

1. Jered Lambiotte
2. Bob Walters
3. Shelley Plett-Chair

**Class of 2026**

1. Shelia Katzenmeyer
2. Sonny Jones
3. Mike Biggers

**Class of 2027**

1. Cathy Walters
2. Merrill Zimmer
3. Jack Killgore

Keith Renfroe (Admin. Council Chair)  
Ann Perrier (Lay Leader)  
Stephen Spangler (Treasurer – no vote)

Karen Lambiotte (Lay Member to AC)  
Jennifer McAlpin (SPRC Chair)  
Teresa Cain (Financial Secretary – no vote)

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

**Class of 2025**

1. Jennifer McAlpin-Chair
2. Will Carruth
3. Joe Tom

**Class of 2026**

1. Mark Walters
2. Sandy Berry
3. Jimmy Fowler

**Class of 2027**

1. Beth Jones
2. Linda McGowan
3. Melanie Allen

Ann Perrier (Lay Leader)      Karen Lambiotte (Lay Member Annual Conference)

**Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development**

Chairperson-Harrell Moore

**Class of 2025**

1. Tommy Miller
2. Kay Holman
3. Merrill Zimmer

**Class of 2026**

1. Joe Tom
2. Cathy Walters
3. Rick Graham

**Class of 2027**

1. Amanda Cunningham
2. Lin Cheslek
3. Dwain Butler

Ann Perrier (Lay Leader)

## Ministry Area Chairpersons

Sunday School Superintendent.....	Jimmy Fowler
Children's Council Chair.....	Elizabeth Ballard
Nursery Coordinator.....	Karen Lambiotte
Children's Moment & Kids Own Worship.....	Lindsay & Will Carruth
Preschool Steering Committee Representative.....	Debbie Tate
Youth Ministries Coordinator.....	Haley Bell
Son-Lighters.....	Teresa Cain
Communication Ministry .....	Shelley Plett
Worship .....	Joy Graham
Gratitude Team.....	Sandy Berry
Hospitality Team.....	Nancy Renfroe
Memorial Coordinator.....	Teresa Cain
Emergency Shelter Committee.....	Richard VanDenAkker
Mission Coordinator.....	Richard VanDenAkker
Membership Care.....	Meta Watkins/Janet Chisolm
Church Historian.....	Larry Holman
Wedding Hostess.....	Renee Chouccoli
United Methodist Men.....	Merrill Zimmer
United Women in Faith.....	Beth Jones
College & Career Coordinator .....	Heather Tate
Sound & Audio Coordinator.....	Mark Walters
Prayer Team Coordinator.....	Lin Cheslek

## Voting Members of Administrative Council

Administrative Council Chair	Susan Athow – At Large
Pastor	Bob Athow – At Large
Lay Leader	Victor Cain – At Large
Secretary of Administrative Council	Eugene Perrier – At Large
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Ann Walters – At Large
Finance Chair	Bob Walters – At Large
Trustee Chair	Meta Watkins – At Large
SPRC Chair	Larry Holman – At Large
	Heather Tate – At Large
Children's Council Chair, Preschool Steering Chair, Youth Coordinator, UMM President, United Women in Faith President	

**Gratitude Team** – Sandy Berry (Chair), Nancy & Keith Renfroe, Kay Holman, Susan & Bob Athow, Bob Walters, Lucy Young

**Missions Committee** – Richard VanDenAkker (Chair), Lin Cheslek, Cheryl Lloyd, Beth & Steve Jones, Debby & Tommy Miller, Kay & Larry Holman, Pam Dorrell, Debbie Tate, Lucy Young, Cedrick Shili

**Youth Council** – Haley Bell (Chair), Melanie Allen, Cade Walters, Zach Cotton, Cathie Newton, Betty Grant, Andrea Weaver, Amanda Cunningham, Mark Walters, Karen Lambiotte, Brittany Fowler

**Children's Council** – Elizabeth Ballard (Chair), Cathie Newton, Shelley Plett, Nancy Biggers, Debbie Tate, Jennifer McAlpin, Karen & Jered Lambiotte, Lin Cheslek, Pam Dorrell, Mary McCraine, Rose & Cedrick Shili, Lindsay & Will Carruth, Elizabeth & Jason Berry, Vickye Dailey

**Ministry Safe** – Harrell Moore (Chair), Haley Bell, Jennifer McAlpin, Elizabeth Ballard

**Worship Committee** – Joy Graham (Chair), Harrell Moore, Debbie Tate, Sue VanDeAkker, Shelley Plett, Nancy Renfroe, Kathy Mahloch, Mallory Pickering (Music Director)



# March 2025

March 2025							April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1 12:00pm Memorial Service
2 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Children's	3 9:30am Sewing Group 10:00am CFF	4 1:00pm Memorial Committee 2:00pm Pickleball	5 12:00pm Homeschool 4:15pm Handbells 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Ash Wednesday	6 7:00am Kiwanis Club 9:30am Bible Study 11:00am Drive-Thru 2:00pm Pickleball	7	8
9 8:00am Trustees 9:15am Shower 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	10 Spring Break Week 9:30am Sewing Group	11 10:00am CFF 12:30pm SonLighters 2:00pm Pickleball	12 12:00pm Homeschool 4:15pm Handbells 5:30pm No WOW 6:45pm Chancel Choir	13 Boy Scout Troop 7:00am Kiwanis Club 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Pickleball	14 Boy Scout Troop	15
16 8:00am UMM Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Membership	17 9:30am Sewing Group 10:00am CFF 4:30pm Finance 5:30pm Administrative	18 10:00am United Women in Faith 2:00pm Pickleball	19 12:00pm Homeschool 4:15pm Handbells 5:30pm Prayer Partners 6:45pm Chancel Choir	20 7:00am Kiwanis Club 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Pickleball	21	22 6:00pm Riverside Prom
23 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	24 9:30am Sewing Group	25 10:00am CFF 2:00pm Pickleball	26 12:00pm Homeschool 4:15pm Handbells 5:30pm WOW 6:45pm Chancel Choir	27 7:00am Kiwanis Club 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Pickleball	28	29 8:00am Work Day
30 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	31 9:30am Sewing Group	Apr 1	2	3	4	5