



Hawkins United Methodist Church

3736 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS

www.hawkinsumc.org July 2025 info@hawkinsumc.org

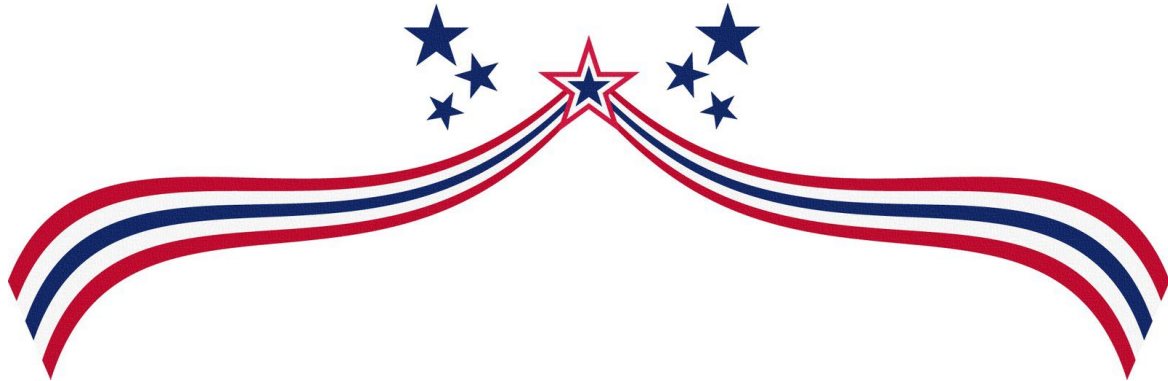
Sermons can be heard on:

River 101

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

K-Hits 104.5

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



Dear Church Family,

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. –
Psalm 118:24

249 years ago, a new country was born out of a collection of colonies desiring freedom. We enjoy that freedom to this day. As we gather to celebrate our country's beginnings, let's not forget the sacrifices those early revolutionaries took upon themselves. For some, it cost their wealth and status, and for others, it cost their lives. During this time of celebration, don't forget what it cost.

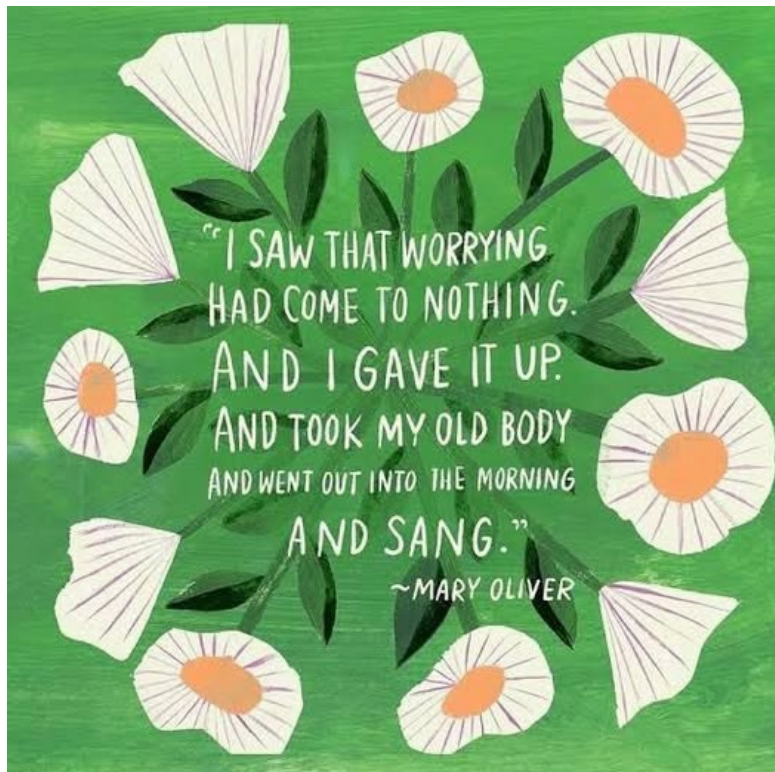
July also marks a new chapter in the life of Hawkins United Methodist Church. God's wisdom has placed us together at this time to fulfill His purpose. Romans 8:28 says, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Betty and I are excited about becoming a part of the Hawkins family. It may take a while to learn everyone's name and life situation, but that is one of the many blessings of being an itinerant pastor. There's a new adventure around every corner.

Don't miss Sunday worship on July 6, as we explore how God brought us together. We will examine the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) and its impact on us as we join together in this new day. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you over the coming months. "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Mike Evans

Music Notes



*Something I saw on the "Mary Oliver fans" Facebook page.

For the past month, I have been enrolled in a United Methodist Doctrine class through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Digging back into Methodist history, I was reminded of a story I had read previously about John Wesley. When Wesley was sailing from England to the United States in the 1700s to begin his ministry in Georgia, those aboard the ship he was a passenger on encountered a life-threatening storm. According to Wesley's journal, he and most of the other passengers- particularly the English- were terrified to the point of screaming. Amid the hubbub, Wesley noticed one group of travelers- a group of German Christians called the Moravians- seemed unperturbed by the storm. They sat together and sang hymns until it passed. Afterwards, when questioned, they told Wesley they were not afraid of death.

I wish I could say I handled the storms in my own life like the Moravians did that day. I tend to vacillate between panic and faith and back to panic again all within the span of a few hours. No doubt I would have been one of the "Screaming English." But the example set by the Moravians is instructive for all of us who deal with fear. Their response to the storm was remarkable enough we are still talking about it almost 300 years later.

I was talking with the Best Little Choir about this story of the Moravians recently and the power to be found in singing songs of praise to God. I encouraged them to find a song they could sing throughout their struggles to keep their spirits lifted. But when I read this story again, something else I notice is not just that the Moravians sang but that the Moravians sang *together*. Being together- a part of a community, like the one we have here at Hawkins- also helps us pass through difficult seasons with faith and peace. It can be tempting to withdraw from community when times are hard, but I would encourage you, if you are singing your way through a storm right now, to come to church anyway. Keep participating in activities that connect you with others. (Or find one if you don't have one already- we'd love to have you in choir!).

I am grateful to bear witness to the faith of the Moravians through Wesley's testimony all these years later. May you remember the Moravians when the waves start crashing down in your own life and the path to peace that's found in: 1) singing praises to God 2) together.



Help is needed with Kids Own Worship which takes place following children's moment each week. Training is available. We need teachers and helpers. Please let Teresa in the church office know if you would like to volunteer for this vital ministry.



Preschool Registration is ongoing. For information or to register your child, please contact Pat Hahn at 601-636-7051.



Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School this summer! Whether it was volunteering your time, bringing snacks or saying prayers for the children and adults, it is all so much appreciated! We were blessed to have over 60 children this year!!



Join us Sunday, July 20th as we welcome our new pastor and his wife, Mike & Betty Evans to Hawkins. We will have a picnic potluck lunch immediately following the morning worship service in the Abundant Life Center. Please bring a dish and come enjoy this great time of fellowship! You might even find a watermelon patch!



- 1 - Nancy Renfroe
 - 6 - Victor Cain
Jeanette Berry
Elliott Ann Harper
 - 7 - Brittany Fowler-Whittington
Jane Richards
 - 13 - Richard VanDenAkker
 - 14 - Pat Martin
 - 17 - Mallory Pickering
 - 18 - Nancy Biggers
Hayden Bell
 - 21 - Russell Carruth
Anndrie James
 - 25 - Brenda Koestler
Teresa Jones
-



May Report:
Income: \$27,290.47
Expenses: \$35,786.83
-8,496.39

Hawkins History Center

No. 2025-06

For this month's history note it is a narrative on Service Over Self (SOS) that is currently going on this very week, June 15-20, 2025 in Vicksburg. This narrative was written by Daniel Renfro, who as a Hawkins' youth participated in SOS, and is now an adult leader. It will be used in the Hawkins history book.

Service Over Self (SOS)

Service Over Self (SOS) is a Christian youth mission project focused on community outreach by providing home repairs to impoverished and/or disabled residents of Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi. Participation is open to youth (junior high thru college) of all denominations and backgrounds.

Hawkins Senior High Youth became acquainted with SOS on a July 1993 trip to Memphis to work on houses in under privileged communities as part of an ongoing SOS program. In the summer of 1994, Hawkins' youth joined forces with Crawford Street UMC to remain in Vicksburg to conduct SOS on homes of those in need. Bob Moss, a member of Crawford Street UMC, was the project director and a few other adults conducted a vetting process to determine worthy persons to receive help.

The homes are repaired and/or upgraded to return the house in a state that is more comfortable for the occupant. This mission has expanded over the last 30 years and includes volunteer efforts of several local churches as well as visiting youth and adults from other towns who have been mobilized through their local churches. The mission has benefited hundreds of families during this time. There are no costs to the homeowners. The entire program is funded by fundraising and donations.



Homeowner candidates for this service are procured from lists gathered by the City of Vicksburg Building and Planning Division, Habitat for Humanity, United Way and by "word of mouth." Most homeowners have requested help from these agencies and were not aided due to the agency's mission not covering this level of aid.

Most of the sites are in need of general construction repairs to include painting, carpentry, roofing, plumbing and electrical work. The individual job sites vary somewhat as to the level of difficulty as well as general work type. The available volunteer pool and its specific trade qualifications also determine the crew size and skill level assignment.

SOS is a wonderful way for youth from various denominations across the community to connect with each other. Youth are provided with a great learning experience and group activities

that will make for a fun time they will enjoy. They learn valuable life lessons and skills from their week of involvement and see how their positive actions help to improve lives in the community. Youth groups can share their experience within their fellowship groups at church and, perhaps, spark an interest in volunteerism to help others in need.

Adult volunteers are vital to the successful conduct of the mission. Adults are needed for a wide variety of tasks including job site supervision, supply runner, meal preparation, evening activity drivers, and night-time chaperones. As with any youth program, adults are encouraged to volunteer as much time as possible to maintain continuity and consistency with the youth, but any time is appreciated.

The typical SOS experience includes working on a job site with youth of various ages and one or more adults to monitor safety and provide work direction. Youth are encouraged to work an entire 5-day workweek – however youth are permitted to work whenever their schedule permits. Teens are able to have a positive experience by helping others and learn to proactively work in groups. Activities each evening after the workday encourage fellowship and fun.

Traditionally, SOS kicks off on Father's Day of each year. The kickoff includes a Sunday evening potluck dinner, open worship service, job site team assignments, and orientation. The Monday through Friday schedule begins with 7:30 a.m. breakfast followed by dispatch of work teams to the job sites around 8 a.m. Typically, six to eight job sites are active each day and sometimes more. At noon the work teams return to church for lunch. After lunch, the teams return to their job site and continue to work until 4:30 p.m. They return to the church to clean up for dinner which is served at 6 p.m. After dinner each evening, activities are planned which usually includes a scavenger hunt, pool party, and games.



Thursday Night is a special night as it includes a closing ceremony with dinner attended by the homeowners. After dinner everyone meets in the sanctuary to review a pictorial presentation of the work completed to date at each job site. Homeowners have an opportunity to speak to the group and let them know how the work completed at their home will impact their daily lives. Also, this is when everyone involved in SOS receives their t-shirts to remind them of a great week spent pairing faith-based lessons with real life experiences.

Larry Holman
Church Historian

Ways to Give to Hawkins UMC

Ways to Be Generous in the Time of a Pandemic



There are several ways to continue to give your tithes and offerings to Hawkins UMC while we are not meeting together.

You can:

- 1 - Write a check and mail it to the church at 3736 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180.
- 2 - Give online. Visit www.hawkinsumc.org and click on Give then [Ways to Give](#).
- 3 - Give via mobile app. Download the "Give + Plus" app from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).
- 4 - Give via Hawkins' mobile app. Click Give at the bottom of the screen.
- 5 - Give via PayPal located on the right half way down the hawkinsumc.org web page.

Hawkins UMC on the Radio

Sundays at 10:30 am

Hawkins UMC is on the radio! Listen from 10:30 to 11:00 am each Sunday morning on River 101.3 or K-Hits 104.5.
Or listen with iheart radio!

Live Stream Sermons Visit Hawkins' YouTube Channel

Visit and subscribe to Hawkins' YouTube channel to view live streamed sermons online at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWONhu8R0g8Tzzvpe_Cl2Ng

Visit Hawkins' Facebook Page

Visit and LIKE Hawkins' Facebook Page to view live streamed sermons online at

<https://www.facebook.com/hawkinsumc/>

Visit Hawkins' Facebook Group

Visit and join Hawkins' Facebook Group to view live streamed sermons online

at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hawkinsumcvicksburg/>

July 2025

July 2025							August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	1	2
13	14	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	8	9
20	21	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	15	16
27	28	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	22	23
		29	30	31			31					29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1 2:00pm Pickleball	2 6:00pm Chancel Choir	3 7:00am Kiwanis Club 11:00am Drive-Thru Prayer 2:00pm Pickleball	4 Independence Day (United States)	5
6 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	7 Office Closed	8 1:30pm Missions Meeting 2:00pm Pickleball	9 6:00pm Chancel Choir	10 7:00am Kiwanis Club 2:00pm Pickleball	11	12
13 8:00am Trustees 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	14 5:00pm Finance Meeting	15 2:00pm Pickleball	16 6:00pm Chancel Choir	17 7:00am Kiwanis Club 2:00pm Pickleball	18	19
20 8:00am UMM Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Welcome Potluck	21	22 2:00pm Pickleball	23 6:00pm Chancel Choir	24 7:00am Kiwanis Club 2:00pm Pickleball	25	26
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	28	29 2:00pm Pickleball	30 6:00pm Chancel Choir	31 7:00am Kiwanis Club 2:00pm Pickleball	Aug 1	2