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Dearest Young Harris,

Recently, I saw someone I hadn't seen since attending my old church. They told me that they don't attend any church anymore. The reason they don't go to church is because they not being fed by the church. They also tell me I left because so-n-so left or the Pastor I liked left. I asked "who are you there for? God or so-n-so? If I am honest with myself, sometimes I don't feel feed. Most people assume, because I work for a church I am all about church. It can be a challenge to work at one and attend another. Especially when they are different denominations.

I asked them as you might ask yourself next time you think you are not being feed by the church:

**1. Do you know the way(s) you might best connect with God?** I suspect that many of us don't know how to personally connect with God. Is it through prayer, reading Scripture, writing, drawing, singing, sharing with a small group, being in solitude, hiking, acts of serving others, like me-sitting on the balcony at the beach, etc. If you're not experiencing something that will help you connect to God, Let your Pastor know what that might be! He and many others are there to help guide you. You are never too old to learn more.

**2. What are you bringing with you to church?** Perhaps your lack of being feed is due to whatever baggage you're bringing with you into church. I know everyone here is in a different place. Some are having the best days of their lives, some are in deep mourning. Some trust the church, while others have deep wounds and/or scars from the damage the church has caused... the list could go on and on. I find that the times my "what am I getting out of this?" kicks in, is when my heart and mind are somewhere else. Is the life that is happening outside the sanctuary something that you're praying about inside of the church – or is it something that is preying on you and keeping you from being present?

**3. Is Sunday morning worship your sole form of sustenance?** Please, quit making the Sunday service your sole form of sustenance! Believe me, I understand that not everyone is as lucky as I am to work for a church and be feed every day. But I encourage you to also: Attend a Bible Study/dinner that we hope to have started in the Fall Season. Come have Wednesday Breakfast with our group of men in the Fellowship Hall every week or attend the UMW Prayer Breakfast once a month. Volunteer in a local school. What we do on Sunday as "the church" is about half (maybe not even that) of what we need to be about as Christians. In the beginning the Church was a place where people deeply engaged with one another's stories, shared life and food, prayed, and invited new people to be a part of the journey. It was the original Community Group! The worship service on Sunday morning is not everything! To get everything, you have to diversify your investments and examine what it is you expect Sunday to be.

If you are feeling "not feed" at church, and you're a part of the church you are not using the gifts God gave you to fulfill yourself and others. Remember to Share, Connect, Serve, and Grow everyday on your faith journey!

## What's Happening at Young Harris UMC

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### Mother's Day This Sunday!

May 13 is Mother's Day. Don't forget to wish a mother a Happy Day today for all they do. At Young Harris, we will be honoring the oldest mother and the youngest mother in our church service on Sunday.

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Fruit,  
Chicken,  
Pasta, and  
tossed.....  
just a few of

the salad choices you can enjoy with your church family. Sunday, May 20th sponsored by the Nicaragua Mission Team. Lunch is \$5.00. Thank you for supporting Young Harris' international outreach project.



Children's Ministry is connecting with the Missions Committee on Sunday, May 20, and we are excited! The Nicaraguan lunch is still going on and after we eat some good salads and possibly some chicken nuggets for the kiddos, Children's Ministry is rocking the afternoon with an OUT OF SCHOOL BASH on the front lawn! There will be dry games, wet games, and some bouncy house fun! Please stay after church and join us for a great day of family fun!

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### A Thank you

Thank you so much to the women of Young Harris for showering our family with love, delicious treats, and gifts for Asher. Our family is so blessed to have found a home here, and to have a church family to come alongside us in this new chapter of our family life. thank you for celebrating with us, and overwhelming us with your kindness and generosity. Love, Don, Jenn, Philip, and Josiah, and of course baby Asher.

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### Lifetouch Pictures Retake Day May 23, Wednesday

We will have a retake picture day. If you did not make it to the April taking, please sign up for May 23.

If you have not signed up for a time to have your portrait taken, please call the church office to schedule a time!

## Picture Day



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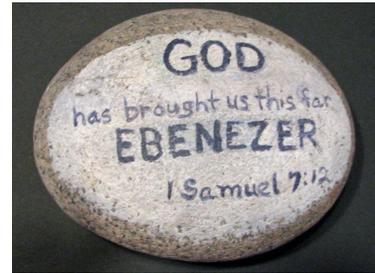
### Ministerios Ebenezer during 2018

We will be continuing our Sunday services at 11 a.m. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. in the Whittemore Building.

On Fridays we meet to worship and praise the Lord at "Preparing Your Lamp," beginning at 7 p.m.

You are invited to participate at EACH of our gatherings!

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Get your calendars ready it is Vacation Bible School time! Children's Ministry is putting on a 3 day, 8:00-11:00 a.m. morning VBS on June 27, 28, 29 and a special VBS Children's Service on Sunday July 1. This year we will be going down deep in the belly with Jonah and the Big Fish! With help from our underwater and Bible friends we will be learning about being OBEDIENT! Registration will be opening soon for our rising K-5th grades so look for more details to come and some volunteer spots that have your name written all over them!

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### All The Fun Happenings....

Whoo hoo this year is flying past fast and school is getting ready to end. Summer will have begun! Last month we had a good family time of BINGO. Ellie and Autumn were our big winners. They went home with a nice goodie bag. This month not only are we celebrating Mothers on May 13, but we are celebrating this school year coming to an end... already!?!? With help from the Missions committee we are teaming up together on Sunday, May 20 with the Nicaraguan \$5.00 salad lunch but after that we will be bashing it out on the front lawn for our Out of School Bash! We will have dry games, wet games and bouncy house fun. It will be a day of great family fun and fellowship!

We are sad to announce that our beloved Jenee in the Nursery will be leaving us the end of July to get ready for her new career and the wonderful blessings that God will be bestowing on her and her family! With that being said we are on the lookout for special

person to fill in Jenee's shoes. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Dawn either through the office phone or her email: [dchurch@yhmumc.com](mailto:dchurch@yhmumc.com)

## youth MINISTRY

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### **Summer Activity Calendar 2018 Events for MYF!**

Sunday, June 2, Summer Kick-off: Grilling out, stickball game and movie night!

Friday, June 8- Athens Y Camps Ropes Course!

Sunday, July 15- Grilling out, treasure hunt and movie night!

Sunday, August 5- Bowling night! (bring food \$)

Friday, September 28-30- Camp Glisson confirmation weekend retreat!

One of the most effective ways to impact the life of a youth in our congregation and our community for Jesus Christ is to offer them your real presence. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Pastor David or with Blake.

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### **MYF Collecting Donations for Athens Animal Shelter**

Our MYF are collecting items needed at our local Athens Animal Shelter. This is a project that the youth have chosen to raise funds and goods themselves. Some of the items they are requesting include:

- PVC Dog Beds
- Canned Kitten Food
- Canned Dog Food
- Non-clumping Cat Litter
- Dry Puppy Food
- Munchy Sticks for Dogs

For more information, contact our Director of Youth Ministries, Blake Tabb at [btabb@yhmumc.com](mailto:btabb@yhmumc.com).

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### **How Can You further Support MYF?**

Here is a short list for how you can be a part of the excitement that is our RENEWING Youth Ministry to Athens:

- Become a Prayer Warrior and Encourager of our Youth. If you are interested in Praying for one of our youth and encouraging them in various ways.
- Volunteer to COOK a meal on Sunday nights! Contact Erin McElroy at [ERINBAILEY20@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ERINBAILEY20@GMAIL.COM) to get plugged in.
- Support Your Church with funding for each youth to attend events throughout the year.
- Volunteer to be a Sunday School teach or a small group leader for youth. We will soon be creating age & gender specific small groups. WE NEED YOU! VOLUNTEER TODAY!
- Spread the word about our MYF! If you know a youth who may like to join in the

fun, we'd love to have them come along!

Thanks for being a valued part of MYF at Young Harris UMC during 2018!

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**NO MYF on the following dates:**

May 13 (Mother's Day)  
May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend)  
June 17 (Father's Day)  
July 1 and July 8 (July 4 Weekends)  
September 2 (Labor Day Weekend)

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## Music Ministry

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Spring and Summer are wonderful times to lift our voices in praise! If you've been on the fence about joining our choir, now is a great time. We will be singing choir favorites from the past year over the next month or so, and will turn to choir requests over the summer. Jump in and sing along with some of our favorite songs! No prior experience or music reading ability required-- just a desire to make a joyful noise before the Lord!

If you have questions, please see Jenn LaRue, or email her at [jarue@yhmumc.com](mailto:jarue@yhmumc.com).

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## Women and Men at Young Harris UMC

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United  
Methodist  
Women

**Women's Circles** for UMW are held the 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Em's Kitchen for Circle 1 and 2:00 p.m. for Circle 2 in the Family Life Center. The 2nd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Circle 3 meets in the Family Life Center. For more information contact Linda MacKean at [lindamac@gmail.com](mailto:lindamac@gmail.com) or 404-556-0361

The first Monday of the month at Em's Kitchen, 11:00 a.m. there is a Women's prayer Luncheon. All Women are welcome.

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**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meets each Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the FLC, Dining Room. We promise a great breakfast and a good Bible Study. All men are welcome. We continue to see robust numbers each morning and we are grateful for that! We still have a chair and a plate for you!



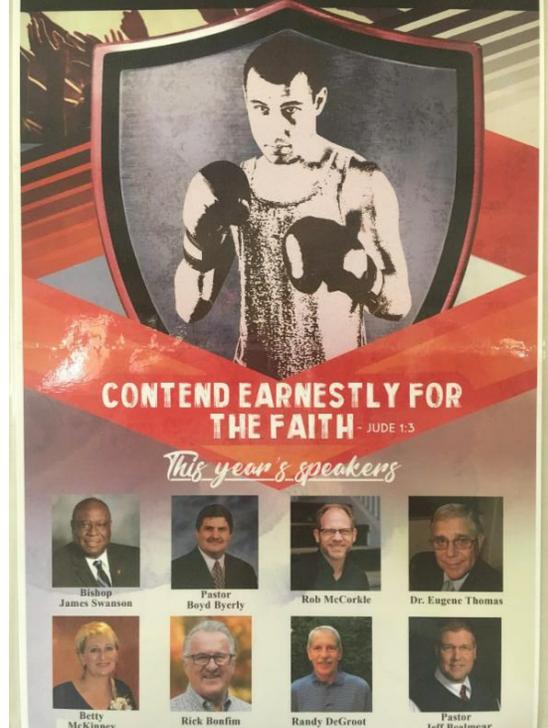
**UMM Chicken BBQ** was a wonderful success. Thank you to all who volunteered, all who sold tickets, and all who bought chicken dinners.

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The UMM of YHMUMC will once again host meals in support of the Rick Bonfim Ministries' **Rekindle the Flame Conference** to be held at **The Classic**

**Center July 11 through July 15.** We will be supporting lunch and some dinners for men who attend from drug recovery programs in Soperton, Georgia and Statesboro, Georgia. We will also be hosting two lunches for three hundred of those who will be attending the conference.

This helps keep the cost of the conference down for each attendee, which is a significant way to support the mission. If you are interested in helping or supporting our ministry, please contact Jack Jones or Fred Wright.



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## Missions Opportunities

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There are several missions emerging and we hope that the entire congregation can be a part of the wonderful ministry happening now!



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As a **Celebration Gift**, the **Nicaragua Mission Team** will be assembling a Praise Banner for Arc de Noah in Salinas Grande. Please pick a favorite scripture, prayers, and/or inspirational message that you would like to share with the congregation in Salinas Grande. Quilting squares will be available at the Sweetheart Lunch for you to write your contribution on. The squares will be assemble prior to our June 23 trip.

**Serve Meals at Our Daily Bread** - If you are interested in volunteering, we would like for you to participate! Every month a group of volunteers get together to serve a meal to the less fortunate of the Athens Community. Praise God for our Young Harris faithful servants.

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**The Following Sundays will include giving opportunities to these organizations:**

- May 13** - Wesley Woods "Mother's Day Offering"
- June 3** - NGUMC's "Bishop's Special Appeal"
- July 15** - Murphy-Harpst's Offering
- August 26** - UGA Wesley Foundation's Offering
- September 16** - UMCH's "Work Day Offering"
- October 21** - Aldersgate/Collinswood Offering
- December 24** - Our Daily Bread's "Christmas Eve Offering"



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**One Community Garden** continues to thrive from the volunteer help of the many University of Georgia students and several others.



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## Maintenance Updates at Young Harris UMC

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The work continues on the Young Harris exterior. The buildings have been pressure washed, the windows have been stripped, sanded, and repairs are being made. It's looking clean!!

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**Please contact the church office with prayers and praises so we may pray! Many members of our church need your special prayers.**

**Prayer for the following:**

Faye Lester, Peg Christian, Mildred Edwards, Betty Mann, Joann Escoe, Gwen Aaron, Pat Osley, Gwen Holmes

- Pray for the ministry and impact of Young Harris UMC to the city.
  - Pray for the Latino Ministry.
  - Pray for our members and friends who are "shut-in" presently.
  - Pray for the Youth Ministry that is happening at Young Harris UMC.
  - Pray for the peace and justice in the world.
  - Pray for our Nation, pray for God's hand to be upon our leaders.
  - Pray for our VBS.
  - Pray for Jenn LaRue and baby Asher.
- 



**April Birthdays**

Sammi Richt 5/4  
Mandy Phillips 5/6  
Ellen Jones 5/6  
Emma Alvivena 5/7  
Sam Ammons 5/10  
Sandra McCarthy 5/15  
Mike McLemore 5/19  
Steve Middlebrooks 5/23

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**This month our special photo is of Tate and Claire Ullrich (with Sam Ammons hiding next to Tate) taking communion. Praise God for our children!**



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Submit your favorite Young Harris UMC pictures to [dwofford@yhmumc.com](mailto:dwofford@yhmumc.com) or [psimpson@yhmumc.com](mailto:psimpson@yhmumc.com). It may just get chosen!

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