

December 10, 2023



Brilliance All Around Us

Proverbs 25: 11 Word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear.

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Martin Luther: This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified.

Think with me today about the gleaming quality of everything around us during this Christmas season. Regardless of the season when you or I are genuinely in the Spirit of God, living, breathing in God's holy presence, there is a brightness about everything, an incandescence that doesn't die but gathers in an overwhelming mystery that is God. Crocuses pushing up through the snow, birds gently perching on the evergreen branch, a solitary pine tree on a distant hill, geese honking in flight overhead, a rainbow trapped in a drop of

dew...it's all stunning and can transport and transform our spirit.

Suppose all this glorious beauty is one of the garments God wears, changing with the seasons and offering daily variations on creations themes. Maybe God wears the smiles on our faces when something wonderful is happening to or around us – simply observe the glow on parents' faces as their child smiles during our puppet ministry, or scores a goal at a soccer match, or comes home announcing they've been selected to sit first chair cello.

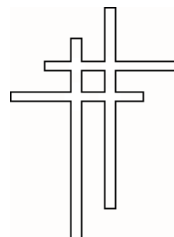
For communing with God, I am a sunrise/sunset kind of person. I love watching the ebb and flow of light and how it changes the appearance of everything. I rise while it's still dark every day, and have my first cup of coffee and breakfast staring out our picture window waiting for the first birds to arrive at the feeders. Some mornings I am greeted by a family of rabbits, some by a beautiful red fox. This little time I commune with God and creation is the most peaceful part of my day. What's your best time for catching the gleam in God eye, and a deep satisfaction with all that is?

If you look - you will see God everywhere, in everything that is. All human matter is in the process of becoming spirit - may even indeed *be* spirit. It's all part of God's great plan for all of creation. And unless you and I are reborn in the Spirit, as Jesus once told Nicodemus, there are so many parts of God's kingdom we'll not be able to see well enough to enter.

*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

Please Celebrate Sunday's Message

Huguenot United Methodist Church is inviting you to our Sunday Morning Worship Service. This in-person service begins at 11 a.m. Please join us and take part in our worship and praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Pastor Jim Sprouse will provide us with the message

"A Global Vision"
We hope you will join us!

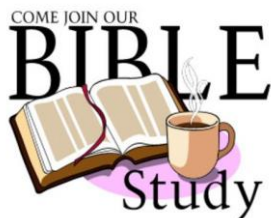


HUMC Nursery

Our nursery caregivers, Rosalie Koch and a volunteer, are at church every Sunday morning and ready to welcome toddler children in the nursery! **Childcare is provided from 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**



Adult Bible Study/Sunday School



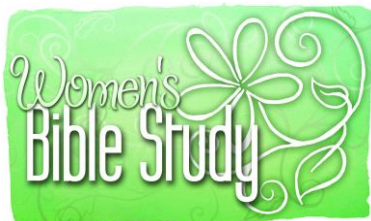
Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins gathering around 9:30 a.m. for a time of fellowship. Our lesson begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall.

The title of our lesson for Sunday, December 10, is “Mary

Says Yes!” The focal passage is Luke 1: 26-38. The background text is Luke 2. The purpose statement is “To believe that with God nothing is impossible.”

We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Flinchbaugh (804) 314-4817
gflinb@gmail.com



Women's Bible Study

This past Thursday, Dec. 7, was the last Women's Bible Study for the year. We will start back on January 4, 2024, and resume our study of Chapter 9 in the book, Never Alone, by Max Lucado. *Join us!*



United Women in Faith

We are having our annual Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. **ALL the women of the church are invited!** Just call Cissy Hope and let her know you are coming. We usually bring a dish to share! Being together at Christmas is always a special time, so please join us if you can. Hoping to see some new faces!



United Women in Faith

Cissy Hope
(804) 272-6980

2024 Offering Envelopes

Our 2024 offering envelopes have arrived and are on the credenza near the entrance. Please pick yours up so you can start using them in January. The new boxed sets include an Initial Offering envelope to help defray the envelope cost, so you can include a donation for them with your January offering. The boxed envelopes for 2023 included some extra envelopes so please discard them at the end of the year since the envelope numbers have changed for some of our members. A few extra sets of envelopes were included with our order. If you did not receive 2024 envelopes and would like a set, please see our church treasurer, Chip Woodall.

Offering Envelopes



Poinsettias for the Church



Our congregation looks forward to having our church decorated with poinsettias during the Advent season. Flyers will be available this Sunday for you to order a poinsettia to be placed in the church in honor or memory of family or friends. The cutoff date for ordering poinsettias will be **THIS SUNDAY, December 10.** Please place your order form and your check for the poinsettias in the offering plate or the church office. The cost of each poinsettia is \$15.

Sarah Coffey



Joy of Crafts – Bazaar

THIS is the Last SUNDAY!

The Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar is back again this Sunday with some new additions and plenty of options for gifts. This is the only fundraiser for Joy of Crafts, and your support is very much needed and appreciated. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall on your way out of worship! **The Bazaar will continue through THIS SUNDAY, Sun., Dec. 10.**

Joy of Crafts has recently added a new source for donations - dresses for girls in Haiti, delivered there by a local Baptist church's mission team. We recently donated **51** dresses and plan to make more!

This is in addition to the items we make for nursing homes, homeless shelters and hospitals, including dialysis mitts, fleece hats, drain bags, children's pillowcases, walker and wheelchair totes and dignity bibs. We are still looking for donations of collared shirts to turn into clothing protectors. And we are always looking for volunteers who can sew any of these items - the skills needed range from beginner to advanced. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

Rise Against Hunger

Thank you, thank you to all who participated in our Rise Against Hunger event. We packaged 20,000 meals that will be shared soon with our friends in need throughout the world. We had a very successful turnout. Families from five to ? participated in our event. We had congregations from two churches join with us. We had many helpers to make this event successful. If I thanked everyone individually, I know I would leave someone out. You all know who you are and how important you were to our very successful event.

Again, many thanks,
Judith Westerhouse

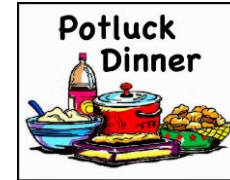


THIS WEEK!

Wednesday Night Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, December 13, at 6 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall



Bring a dish to share and fellowship with your church family and friends.

*Please come early/stay after if you can assist.
Many hands make light work!*

Don't miss it!
PIPS - Puppets in Praise and Service
Holiday Program
Dec. 13



Please note: We will not have a Fellowship Dinner on December 27.

Our Wednesday Night Pot Luck Fellowship Dinners are on the second and last Wednesday of each month. Feel free to email or text Shirley Bradshaw with questions at sbrads2321@gmail.com or (804) 240-1240.

Caregiver Assistant Needed

Our church provides nursery caregivers Sunday mornings during worship and Bible Study / Sunday School for infants and toddlers. We are committed to offering a loving, caring, and safe environment and adhere to the Church Child Protection Policy by providing two adult caregivers. Our Caregiver Assistant recently resigned to return to her home church. Your Pastor / Staff Parish Relations Committee (P/SPRC) is advertising for a new hire. Volunteers are filling in temporarily. Please contact Shirley Bradshaw, (804) 240-1240 or sbrads2321@gmail.com, if you can volunteer in the interim. Additionally, please contact Shirley if you know of a potential candidate.



Make a Joyful Noise!



Choir practice has resumed! New members (or those who might be interested) are **WELCOME!** We meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please contact Connie Salmeri with any questions. (804) 314-6308

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar (FH)
3 p.m...Puppets in Praise and Service Performance at Brandermill Woods

Tuesday, Dec. 12

11 a.m...United Women in Faith Christmas Luncheon
6:30 p.m...Church Council Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday, Dec. 13

6 p.m...Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner and **PIPS Holiday Performance**

Friday, Dec. 15

10 a.m...Library Work Session

Sunday, Dec. 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship

CR – Choir Room FH – Fellowship Hall
K – Kitchen L – Library PR – Puppet Room



Happy Birthday!
Chip Woodall (Dec. 16)

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call, leave a note or send an email to Elaine so she can include you!

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **January and February** edition of The Upper Room are now available on the greeting table at the front entrance. Please consider making a donation in the labeled box.



Nick Anderson

Cheryl Reynolds and Family in the passing of her mother, Mildred Powell

Carmen Hoge

Stuart Joerg

In an effort to keep the prayer requests current, names posted will be removed after 30 days unless requested otherwise.

Upcoming EVENTS

- Sun., Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 11 a.m.
- Sun., Jan. 7 – Coffee Fellowship following worship
- Wed., Jan. 10 – Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner

Church Office Hours:

Pastor Jim is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Elaine is in the office each Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These hours are subject to change on occasion. (FYI-Elaine's hours may continue to vary as she supports family needs. She is checking email daily and will respond to requests for assistance as soon as possible.) If you have an article for the **pulse** newsletter, please email it to Elaine **by Wednesday at 10 a.m.**

Note: This newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin are posted on the church website by Friday evening.

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