

December 17, 2023



## Christmas Gleaming

In these last weeks of Advent and as Christmas approaches, I am noticing a gleaming quality of everything about us. It glows all around us. When we're truly in the spirit of the Holy, living in the Spirit's presence, there is brightness everywhere – an incandescence that doesn't die but gathers us all into its overwhelming mystery. Soon poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary, the trees about the church campus, the ever-present geese, the sun caught in the sanctuary's stained glass, the frost on the grass – all beautiful. Stop soon and let it quench your soul's thirst.

All this beauty is part of the garment adorning our deity, and can trip the fuses of our sanctum sanctorum, propelling us toward an ecstatic awareness of something other than the self. On Christmas Eve night there'll be the glow, wonder and excitement worn by the faces of our children. I'll muse on how it doesn't seem like too many lifetimes ago that I wore that glowing, soft flesh. Now I wear the face of an aging pilgrim whose face is wrinkled by a million smiles.

Huguenot Lovelies, as our pilgrimages continue along the Way toward the place where all our roads converge, let's continue to look for God everywhere, in everything there is, and know that our very matter is in the process of becoming spirit. We may already be spirit. Regardless, may the Spirit of Christmas snuggle up tenderly in your hearts in the days ahead. And, may Peace become you.

*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

*"Theotokos"*

*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.**



## Assisting Families of Inmates

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts you contributed to the children of AFOI (Assisting Families of Inmates). As usual you exceeded all expectations. It was fun collecting the gifts and exchanging comments with "gifters." We learned what young people are interested in and now know what Takis are!



Thank you!  
Your Mission Team

## 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 17, is "A Spirit Filled Blessing." The focal passage is Luke 1: 24-25; 39-45. The background text is Luke 1; 3. The purpose statement is "To discover ways God blesses others through us."

*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  
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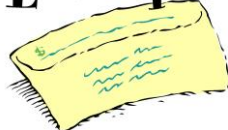
## Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

Our preschool has an on-going fundraiser with Marco's Pizza. Just use the code: **HUMCPSAF** when ordering over the phone or online and the school receives a portion from each sale all year long. Participating locations include the Marco's Pizza on Sheila Lane and on Midlothian Turnpike.

## 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



Thanks to everyone who helped make the **Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar** a big success! We were able to raise more than \$1,200 for the purchase of fabric and supplies for our projects in 2024. Just this month, we donated fleece hats for homeless residents on a work project, holiday pillowcases for patients at Children's Hospital, and chemo port shirts for cancer patients. Next month, a box of dresses will be on its way to needy girls. Thanks again for supporting Joy of Crafts. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at [mollysprouse@gmail.com](mailto:mollysprouse@gmail.com).

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will start back on January 4, 2024, and resume our study of Chapter 9 in the book, *Never Alone*, by Max Lucado. *Join us!*



## 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](mailto: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





## Happy Birthday!

Sam NeSmith (Dec. 21)

Judy King (Dec. 23)

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.



# Pray For...

**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.

Dear HUMC Family,

Thank you for the support, cards and prayers for the passing of my mother. You are truly a Community of Faith in the good times (like Katie's Baptism last July) and during the difficult.

God Bless!

Cheryl Reynolds



## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday, Dec. 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

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

11 a.m...Worship

### Wednesday, Dec. 20

7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

### Friday, Dec. 22

10 a.m...Library Work Session

### Sunday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

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

## Upcoming EVENTS

- Sun., Jan. 7 – Coffee Fellowship following worship
- Tues., Jan. 9 – United Women in Faith Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.
- Fri., Jan. 12 – Feed the Homeless @ 10 a.m.
- Fri. and Sat, Jan. 19-20 – Cub Scout Pack 861 Pinewood Derby (FH)

### 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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