

November 23, 2025



Candles

NIV John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

I love seeing the candles on the communion table at Huguenot Church, and the beautiful green paraments. In two weeks, we'll enter the season of Advent – color violet, and all the candles on the Advent Wreath. What is it about tranquility, candles and candlelight that go together? Think about candles today and the special place they have in our worship of God. There are candles in the home, at church, on tables and on family mantles. Candles are used to signify the presence of God's Spirit in church. There is something uniquely warm and welcoming about the golden glow of candlelight – the flame flickering with the slightest breeze or stirring of the air. A candle is our reassurance that light overcomes darkness. Candles also symbolize hope and presence. During this time in the lives of our church families when anxiety and agitation are daily companions, we need the hope that God is present with us.

When the writer of the Gospel of John says *the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it*, the word translated *understood* is better translated *overtaken or seized*...picture a person reaching with their hand to extinguish a candle and you've captured John's image. *The light shines in the darkness, but the*

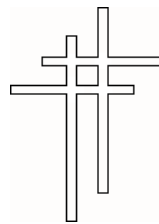
darkness has not overtaken (seized / extinguished) it. When all the evil in Jesus' day threw its weight against his great light, it was not able to extinguish him...the light and glow of his presence live on in the hearts and minds of Christians everywhere. Jesus is our light – the candle we may always hold up against the world's darkness.

Candles are indeed reminders of a Presence whose strength and vitality far exceed our own, and who sustains us in our times of greatest loneliness and despair. As for this season of anxiety, which will pass – transition through it with the glow of a candle in a window – or a candle at the table where you eat your meals – or one by your bedside at night, and close the day watching its warm flame hold back the darkness.

*Shalom,
Jim*

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

"The Peaceable Kingdom"

We hope you will join us!

HUMC Nursery

Our nursery caregiver, Rosalie Koch, is at church every Sunday and ready to welcome children in the nursery during worship from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. *A nursery assistant is needed this Sunday. Please consider volunteering.*





DECORATE the Church

THIS Sunday, November 23

Advent is almost here and the sanctuary needs to be decorated so that we can prepare for Christmas. During Advent, we will be contemplating the gift we are to receive when Jesus is born. Alleluia!

Now we need a beautifully decorated sanctuary. Help is needed to install wreaths and candles in the windows which might involve climbing on ladders, hanging the Advent wreath, perhaps refurbishing the gifts that go under the Christmas tree, hanging paraments and preparing the altar, and a few other things. We need people with all kinds of abilities, abilities to climb ladders, adjusting decorations and paraments on the walls as well as the altar, strong people to help hang the Advent wreath. YES, just show up and you will be given a job with instructions of what to do. We will meet after the church service **THIS Sunday, November 23**, to decorate the sanctuary. You can take a little time to check out Molly's display of her beautiful creations in the Fellowship Hall, after which, return to the sanctuary ready to help. *Thanks in advance!*

-Sarah Coffey



STEWARDSHIP

I would like to thank all those that have turned in their pledge cards. The response up to this point has been excellent. This is just a reminder to all that intend to pledge for next year but have not yet done so, it is not too late. We are in the process of wrapping up our campaign for next year's Stewardship pledges. I am asking, therefore, that if you intend to pledge for 2026, that you please get your pledge cards into the church office at your earliest convenience. As always, we appreciate your support and help with this Stewardship campaign.

-Wayne Taney

Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study / Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The title of Unit 3 is "Letters for Living." The title of our lesson for Sunday, November 23, 2025, is "Pray with Confidence." The focal passage is 1 John 5: 13-21. The background text is 1 John 5. The purpose statement is "to manifest a greater confidence in prayer and the power of God to transform hearts and lives."



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 gflinchb@gmail.com

The United Women in Faith

were so thankful to have Jill Gaynor as our speaker at the November meeting. Jill shared her experience as a Virginian Conference Delegate to the 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Our December meeting will be held on **December 9, at 11:30 a.m.** at Dolce Vita Restaurant. Dolce Vita is located at 2401 Colony Crossing Place in Midlothian. **We invite all of the women of HUMC to join us for this special time of fellowship.** Please RSVP to Nancy Flinchbaugh or Beth Woodall by December 5, so that they can make a reservation for our group.



For our next Christmas project, we are providing sweatshirts/hoodies for residents at Liberation Veterans Services. We have a good wholesale source and will purchase them in bulk, after we get the sizes needed. Then we will "sell" them to those who would like to wrap them and bring them back in time for us to we get them to their Christmas party.

Details soon!



Poinsettias Inspire the Christmas Spirit

This Christmas it will be lovely to decorate the sanctuary with red poinsettias. There is a beautiful old Mexican legend about the poinsettia and it talks about a Mexican girl who did not have a present to give to the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve service. She was very sad as she walked to the chapel, so her cousin tried to cheer her up. He told her that he was sure that even the smallest gift given by someone who loved Him would make Jesus happy. Not knowing what to do, she gathered some weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She was embarrassed because she only had these few flowers to give to Jesus. As she approached the altar in the chapel, she remembered what her cousin had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers and as people saw the miracle, they began to call the weeds poinsettias, also called "Flowers of the Holy Night."



Order forms will be shared with the bulletins on Sun., Nov. 30, and Dec. 7. If you would like to donate one in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form. The cost of each poinsettia is \$13 each and you can put your check made out to HUMC and order form in the offering plate or in the church office. **The cutoff date for ordering is December 7.**



Nursery Volunteers

There is a sign-up sheet for nursery volunteers on the church bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall.

The protocol for volunteers: Arrive around 10:45 a.m. and let Rosalie know you are present. You may join the worship service sitting in the back of the sanctuary. If no children arrive for care, remain in the sanctuary. Rosalie will retrieve the volunteer when children are present. This follows our Child Protection Policy requiring two people caring for children.

Please support us as we strive to offer a nursery while being fiscally responsible with our resources. Please consider volunteering for an occasional Sunday if you are able.



Joy of Crafts

Joy of Crafts has an active partnership with From the Heart to provide comfort items to nursing homes, hospitals and shelters. Our most recent projects: tactile quilts and crinkle toys for blind babies, wheelchair bags for children in a long-term nursing facility, and fidget mats for Alzheimer's patients. It's a joy to participate in this vital local ministry. If you have any interest in sewing, knitting or crocheting for this purpose, contact Molly Sprouse at Mollysprouse@gmail.com.



Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar starts this week and runs through Dec. 14, on Sundays after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



Happy Birthday to

Christian Podolny (Nov. 29)
Stephen Podolny (Nov. 29)
Connie Salmeri (Nov. 29)
Judy Smith (Nov. 30)

Happy Anniversary to

Bob and Claudine Pavlik (Nov. 30)

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



Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining the Usher Team.



John and Betty Clatterbaugh
John S. Currie
Peggy Harris
LaVerne Jones
Judy King
Amy Mateer
Steve Peretzman and Family
DeDe Ross
Jon Smith
Judith Westerhouse

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



Sunday, November 23 – 24th Sunday After Pentecost

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
 11 a.m...Worship
 12 p.m...Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar (FH)
 12:15 p.m...Join us in decorating the Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 26

10 a.m...Preschool Chapel Time with Pastor Jim (S)
 7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, November 27 - *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Friday, November 28

10 a.m...Library Work Session (L)

Sunday, November 30 – 25th Sunday After Pentecost

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
 11 a.m...Worship
 12 p.m...Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar (FH)

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



- Sun., Nov. 30 – Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar continues through Sun., Dec. 14
- Sun., Dec. 7 - Poinsettia order forms due.
- Tues., Dec. 9 – United Women in Faith – Dolce Vita Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.



Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **November and December** 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.



Newsletter News

If you have an article for the next *pulse* newsletter, please email it to Elaine by **Wednesday at 10 a.m.**

Please know that submitted articles may be edited to provide clarity and increased inclusion. This newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin are posted on the church website by Friday evening.

Church Office Hours:

Pastor Jim is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Elaine is in the office every Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These hours are subject to change on occasion.

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