

November 30, 2025



Jesus as Messiah

I want to introduce you to a Scripture you've probably never seen or read. It is called the Testament of Levi. This Jewish text was written about 100 years before Jesus and was being edited during Jesus' lifetime. Read this text carefully. Some scholars think it may have influenced the Gospel of Mark. Regardless, the Testament of Levi represents a first century Jewish perspective on the Messiah. Many first century Jews believed the Messiah would come from the tribe of Levi, as a priest, a royal priest. John the Baptizer was of the tribe of Levi. Joseph, Jesus' father, was of the tribe of Judah, however, Jesus' mother, Mary was of the tribe of Levi...hmmm? Anyway, here is part of the Testament of Levi, the part that pertains to the Messiah.

This one will shine forth like the sun in the earth; he shall take away all darkness from under the heaven, and there shall be peace on earth. The heavens shall greatly rejoice in his days and the earth shall be glad; the clouds filled with joy and the knowledge of the Lord will be poured out on the earth like the water of the seas. And the angels of glory in the Lord's presence will be made glad by him. The heavens will be opened, and from the temple of glory sanctification will come upon him, with a fatherly voice, as from Abraham to Isaac. The glory of the most high will burst upon him, and the spirit of understanding and sanctification will rest upon him in the water. For he shall give the majesty of the Lord to those who are his children in truth forever. And there shall be no successor for him from generation to generation. Forever.

Messiah (meshiach in Aramaic/Hebrew) means anointed one. The synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew

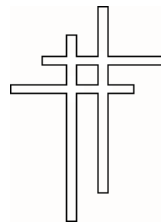
and Luke attempt to introduce Jesus as God's Messiah. Matthew and Luke even tell us of remarkable events that occurred at the time of Jesus' birth: star, angels, magi, shepherd. We celebrate those accounts every December 25 and the 12 days that follow. The hardest thing to do is to be patient through the season of preparation: Advent.

Despite the importance of the designation of messiah, Jesus evades those who would rush to make him king and he refuses to answer when he's asked whether he is the Messiah. Maybe the Gospel writers were reminding us that it isn't who Jesus says he is that answers our questions, it is who *we* say he is that ultimately matters. Only then does he have real authority in our lives. A blessed Advent season to you all, and Peace on earth.

*Grace and Peace,
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 Church Is Called
to Worship"**

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.*





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 30, 2025, is "The Light Comes Into the World." The focal passage is John 1: 1-18. The background text is Genesis 1: 1-5; Proverbs 8: 22-23; John 1: 11-18. The purpose statement is "to celebrate and welcome the Light that has come into the world."



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 gflincb@gmail.com



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!

Joy of Crafts

During 2025, Joy of Crafts has created and donated almost 900 comfort items for distribution to nursing homes, hospitals and shelters through the local group From the Heart. We have also sent almost 75 dresses to needy girls in the world. This Christmas, we will provide handmade gifts for the patients and nurses at the Children's Hospital long-term nursing facility, as well as providing tactile quilts and toys for blind children through the American Society for the Blind.



We raise funds for supplies for this ministry through the Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar, going on now through Dec. 14 in the Fellowship Hall. Your support is much appreciated. You are also welcome to participate in creating the comfort items. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.



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



United
Women
in Faith

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.

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 THIS 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.



Happy Birthday to

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

Judy King

Amy Mateer

Steve Peretzman and Family

Jon Smith

Judith Westerhouse

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



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.



Sunday, November 30 – 1st Sunday in Advent

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

Friday, December 5

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

Sunday, December 7 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

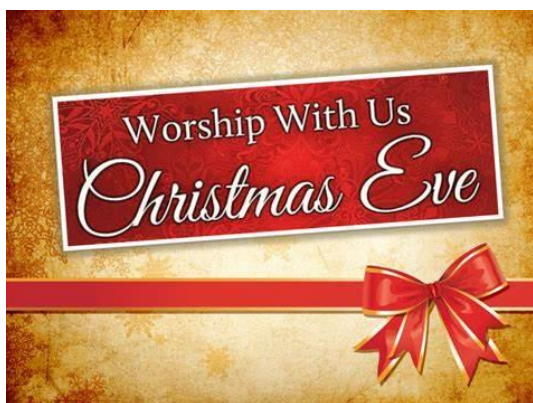
- 10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
- 11 a.m...Worship
- 12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship (FH) *Please join us!*
- 12 p.m...Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar (FH)

Poinsettia order forms are due today!

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



- Sun., Dec. 7 – 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.



Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.

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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