

December 21 and 28, 2025 – Special Two-Week Edition



## Hope Springs Eternal

In hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8: 24-25

The church that carefully reads its New Testament always looks from the present toward the future with anticipation. Indeed, we believe that what we hope for in the future should shape how we live in the present moment. Otherwise, why do we say continually, and on the authority of Jesus: “Your will be done on earth as in heaven?”

Our hope for heaven is neither wishful thinking nor delusion. It is the firm conviction that in spite of all the evils we see around us and beset us, God is in charge, and in the end the triumph of God will be made clear. We’ll all share in that glorious moment. Meanwhile, the one holy catholic and apostolic church is to live out on earth the hope to which it clings. So, as difficult at this may seem, and insofar as humanly possible, the church is to love the world in the same way that “God so loved the world.”

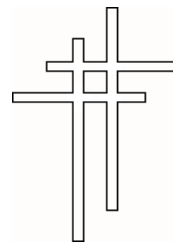
To do so is to avoid two dangerous extremes: dreading the future as a time of punishment and terror, on the one hand, and, on the other, yearning so much for a better future that the present seems oppressive if not lost. Our hope eternal is characterized not by fear and not by escapism. It is founded on the solid rock of divine

goodness and faithfulness that undergirds both the transient life of this world, and the unending life in the nearer presence of God in the here and now. And, every Christmas Season we’re reminded of God’s presence among us: Immanuel. AMEN.

*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!



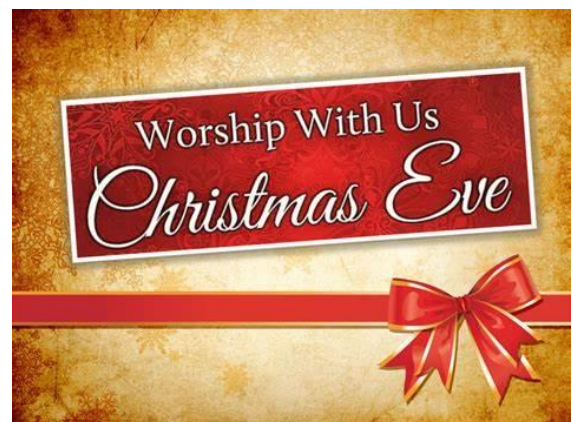
Pastor Jim Sprouse  
will provide us with the message

**“The Story Begins”**

*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.*



**Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.**



**Thanks to all you wonderful HUMC folks** - we have beautifully wrapped packages of warm hoodie/sweatshirts for the gentlemen residing at Liberation Veterans Village, and because of your generosity each will also receive a bag containing socks, gloves and a knit cap. These should help them get through the cold winter months. We ask God's blessing on these gifts, on the recipients, and the donors. Amen.

### UPDATE on Adult Bible Study / Sunday Plans!

The Adult Bible Study will meet next on Sunday, December 28. During the class on December 28, we will review the CD presentations for December 14, December 21, and December 28, 2025. The class meets at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *We hope to see you on December 28.*



Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817  
gflinchb@gmail.com



### Coffee Fellowship: Sunday, January 4

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 4**, for coffee, some light snacks and great conversations. We invite our visitors to join us for coffee fellowship, so we can answer their questions about HUMC and we can get to know them better.

### Future Host?

We have scheduled our Coffee Fellowships for the first Sunday of each month. There is a new sign-up sheet for 2026 on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall to be a future Coffee Fellowship host.



### Joy of Crafts

A big thank you to all who supported this year's Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar. We raised more than \$1,100 from sales, which will go a long way towards buying supplies for the comfort items we create and donate to From the Heart and Dress a Girl Around the World.

During 2025, Joy of Crafts made and donated more than 1,000 wheelchair and walker bags, dialysis mitts, memory mats and quilts, port pillows and drain bags to local hospitals, nursing homes and shelters. We also sent dresses to needy girls in the U.S and around the world. This Christmas, we provided gifts for the children and nursing staff at Children's Hospital's long term care facility, as well as quilts and toys for blind babies. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at [mollysprouse@gmail.com](mailto:mollysprouse@gmail.com).



United Women in Faith

Our next meeting of the United Women in Faith will be held on Tuesday, January 13, at 10:30 a.m. We will begin the new year with the UWF "2026 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." Wenda Singer will lead us as we explore how children are helped by the work of a few of the nearly 90 UWF-supported National Mission Projects.

### 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**  
Sam NeSmith (Dec. 21)  
Judy King (Dec. 23)

**Happy Anniversary to**  
Fred and Mary Schneider (Dec. 27)

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



**Betty Clatterbaugh and Family**  
**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 **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.



**Sunday, December 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
11 a.m...Worship

**Wednesday, December 24**  
5 p.m...Christmas Eve Service

**Thursday, Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas!***

**Sunday, December 28 – First Sunday After Christmas Day**  
10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)  
11 a.m...Worship

**Thursday, December 31 – *New Years Day!***

**Sunday, January 4 – Second Sunday After Christmas Day**  
10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)  
11 a.m...Worship  
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship after worship (FH)

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



- Fri., Jan. 9 – Feed the Homeless at 10 a.m.
- Tues., Jan. 13 – United Women in Faith meeting at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Tues., Jan. 13 – Church Council meeting at 6: 30 p.m. on Zoom

**Newsletter News**

If you have an article for the next *pulse* newsletter, please email it to Elaine by **Wednesday, Dec. 31, 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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