

January 4, 2026



## The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2: 1-11

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: 6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew’s account of the birth of Jesus is very different from Luke’s. Luke’s account stresses the common aspect of the birth of God’s Son, setting it in a simple peasant home among animals, with shepherds as attendants. Matthew’s key players are magi and King Herod, stressing the clash of king of the region against the King of heaven, but both accounts tell of a savior for all people. The magi were astrologers from a far-off eastern land. They were probably priests of Zoroaster, the dominant religion in the mid-east from 500 BC to 500 AD. They had no

ties to Jewish religion or history, and yet they recognized Jesus as a king.

Matthew’s story has been embellished, and tradition now speaks of three kings, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, and says that they were of three different races; yet that addition really underscores the point Matthew was trying to make. Jesus came to fulfill the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 22:18 that “all the nations will be blessed because of your descendants.” Jesus was the King of the Jews, but God placed a star in the heavens, which created a supernatural event to guide people of all nations, faiths, and backgrounds to come to him.

So, while we all may begin in different places, in Christ, no one is an outsider. The magi were from lands as far away as the ancients could imagine, believing in astrology, magic and good thoughts, good words, and good deeds. Yet, the doors were opened to them. Every person of every race, religion, or culture is welcome to meet the Christ Child.

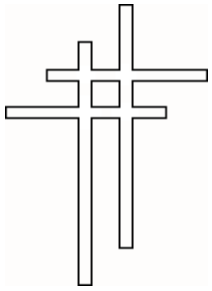
The story also tells us the importance of scriptural study. The wise men learned of Jesus because of the star – that is, a cosmic event visible in the sky and occurring about 10-8 BC. They knew someone of great significance had been born, but they didn’t know where until they conferred with Herod’s scribes, who had studied the Scriptures. The scribes were the ones who told them about Bethlehem. And so this is still true with us – we learn of God’s existence through creation, but we don’t know how to find Jesus and make him part of our lives until we study God’s word. God takes our hand and leads us to Jesus Christ every step of the way – from a mystical star to the Holy Word. God has constructed our path for us so that we too may enter, fall to our knees, and worship the King of heaven.

Prayer: May all the world worship the King of heaven. 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

**“Who Are the People in  
Your Neighborhood”**

*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.*



## Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class will meet next on Sunday, January 19, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



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



**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.



## Coffee Fellowship: THIS Sunday, January 4

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship THIS 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. *Thank you to Judith Westerhouse for hosting us this month!*



## 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.



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.

## 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 facility, as well as quilts and toys for blind babies. All are welcome to participate in this fulfilling ministry. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at [mollysprouse@gmail.com](mailto:mollysprouse@gmail.com).



## 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**  
Carol Cardwell (January 10)

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



**The Clatterbaugh 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, January 4 – Epiphany Sunday

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)  
11 a.m...Worship  
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship following worship (FH)

### Wednesday, January 7

10 a.m...Preschool Chapel Time with Pastor Jim  
7 p.m...Choir Practice

### Friday, January 9

10 a.m...Feed the Homeless

### Sunday, January 11 – Third Sunday After Christmas Day

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

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



- 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
- Fri., Jan. 23-Sat., Jan. 24 – Cub Scout Pack 861 Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall

### **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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