

February 22, 2026



Ruins

Ecclesiastes 3: ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.¹² I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live.¹³ That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.¹⁵ Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

Mark 13:1 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" ² "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; and every one will be thrown down."

Meditate with me this morning about the presence of old ruins and the effect they have on our souls. There is something irresistible about the ruins of ancient buildings and houses. I always feel as if my very own existence is somehow tangled up with them. Every now and then I am overwhelmed with a sense of how at some earlier time I may have even lived there. This sensation is especially strong for me in Germany and the UK. Some of you may have similar feelings when wandering about the Forum in Rome, or the Acropolis in Athens.

I feel most at home in some of the old Norman Chapels in England. As I sat among the ruins I couldn't help wondering, if I had been there before, was I Norman, Saxon, Dane? There is an old monastery at Tintagel, on the Cornish Coast of

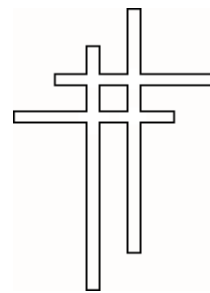
England, where legend says King Arthur once lived. One's imagination, and I possess a vivid one – or it possesses me, can see a glorious past, and to the spirit it feels real...almost like being there when everything was intact.

Where are these places for you? A place inviting your soul to settle in and imagine how the life there once transpired on those plains, towns, or cliffs. Ruins give you and me a proper perspective on our lives – all too brief – so very fragile – how very small we are – even infinitesimal in the grander scheme of life on this old planet. Ruins can help us get centered, gain perspective on what's important today, and perhaps – to live worshipfully.

*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 Purpose of Creation"

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 begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of Unit 3 is “The Problem of Sin, the Promise of Salvation.” The title of our lesson for Sunday, February 22, 2026, is “Problems, Pleas, and Promises.” The focal passage is Lamentations 1: 7-20. The background text is Psalm 113 and Lamentations 1. The purpose statement is “to place our lamentations alongside God’s forgiving restoration.”

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



Coffee Fellowship: NEXT Sunday, March 1

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, March 1**, 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 Carol and Judge Cardwell for hosting us!*



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

The next two months will be busy for our **United Women in Faith** group. On March 10, we will be making UMCOR hygiene kits, which will provide essential health and dignity products to vulnerable communities across the U.S.

On April 14, our group will assemble care packages for infusion patients in the Richmond area.

Our meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

Please join us!

Blessing Box

Kindly be mindful due to the extremely cold weather and to prevent the container from cracking, please abstain from putting the following into the Blessing Box:

- Any items that are in a pliable container, like applesauce.
- When pressing the container, it will make an indentation.

Instead, place them in the Bainbridge Pantry cabinet in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Note: Last Sunday, there was not much food in the Blessing Box. If possible, kindly pick up an extra can or two when shopping.

Thank you,
Rosalie Koch, Nursery Caregiver

BAGS NEEDED!

We are in need of plastic grocery bags for the church nursery as well as for the Blessing Box. The Blessing Box



needs paper grocery bags, too. They seem to be the most in demand to handle canned goods. If you can furnish either of these items, feel free to give them to me, and I'll disburse them.



Thank you,
Rosalie Koch

Joy of Crafts

The recent snow days have had a silver lining for sewists to get all those projects completed. Joy of Crafts, in league with From the Heart, has provided Valentine's Day pillowcases for Children's Hospital, scent hearts for newborns, sensory quilts for blind babies and port shirts and drain bags for chemo patients, among other comfort items.



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. All are welcome to participate in this fulfilling ministry. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at 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.

thank you!

The calls, notes, food and visits during my recent back surgery and recovery at home are greatly appreciated. Having a great church support group has been a comfort. Being confined to the house post surgery for two weeks was particularly troubling. The recovery has thankfully been very easy, physically.

-Jim Anderson



Happy Birthday to

Melvin Smith (Feb. 23)
Frank Blankenship (Feb. 23)
Emily Shinaberry (Feb. 24)
Judith Westerhouse (Feb. 26)
Bob Pavlik (Feb. 28)
Henry Wright (Feb. 28)

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

Kaylynn Fatherlos and Family

Donna Gaskins and Family

Peggy Harris

Frank Joerg

Judy King

Jon Smith

Judith Westerhouse

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

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **March and April** 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.

Lent





Sunday, February 22 – First Sunday in Lent

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

11 a.m...Worship

Wednesday, February 25

10 a.m...Preschool Chapel Time with Pastor Jim

7 p.m...Choir Practice

Friday, February 27

10 a.m...Library Work Day

Sunday, March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent

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

11 a.m...Worship

12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship after worship

<p>CR – Choir Room FH – Fellowship Hall K – Kitchen L – Library PR – Puppet Room</p>



- Tues., March 10 – Church Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Wed., March 11 – Preschool Parenting Class at 5:30 p.m. (FH, S & CR)
- Fri., March 13 – Feed the Homeless at 10 a.m. (K)

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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