

March 1, 2026



God Creates in the Beginning

To say that God creates in the beginning suggests to most of us that God's creative activity took place in the distant past, way back there at the beginning of time when the cosmos came to be. This interpretation is certainly included in what Genesis 1 and John 1 tell us happened *in the beginning*. We needn't try to say *how* the creative process took place. And there is no point trying to answer the impossible questions where God was and what was God doing before the beginning. We can't even imagine a before time. But Christians do believe that whenever and however it took place, God existed before then, God the creator is the original source of everything, *all that is*.

We would miss the full meaning of *in the beginning* if we thought that it only means back there and back then. The Bible tells you and me not only that God *was* but that God *is* and *will be* Creator. God's creative activity is not limited to the distant past, as if a long time ago God did everything God planned to do, then retired from the scene to let the world run by itself according to its own built-in laws (a view called Deism: Jefferson, Franklin and most of the founders were deists.) Even now God "*gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist*" (Romans 4:17) – this should make us think about how we use/misuse the world's resources and the destruction of non-human life forms in the process. In confessing that God *is* Creator, Christians confess that God is *continuously* making new beginnings, opening up new possibilities, and initiating new events.

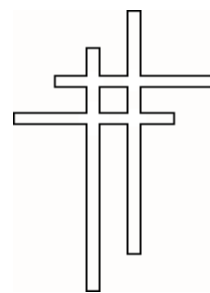
The biblical idea of the Creator's continuous creative activity tells us something about ourselves and other human beings. God is *our* Creator, a God who continues to do new things in *our* lives. The psalmist didn't say that a long time ago God created Adam and Eve, from whom we all descended; the psalmist says:

"*You knit me together in my mother's womb.*" (Psalm 139:3) The psalmist knew the facts of life about where babies come from. But...they also knew that the sexual process of procreation and its circumstances don't tell us the whole story about where we come from, who we are, and what we can become. Without explaining how it is so, Christians believe that God the Creator stands at the beginning of every individual human life, gives it unique value and dignity of its own, goes with every one of us on our journey, opens up the possibility of new beginnings even when the circumstances of our birth and environment seem to trap and paralyze us. Faith in the God who is also our Creator gives you and me hope that things can be different in the world, our own lives and in the lives of others no matter how hopeless our or their lives may seem.

*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

**"That Nations May
Be Blessed"**

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

The title for the Spring Quarter is “Lament Confession Rebirth.” The author for this quarter is Gregor M. Weeks. The unit 1 title is “Problems of Sin, Promises of Salvation.” This unit will run from March 1 through April 5, 2026.

The title of our lesson for Sunday, March 1, is “Waiting and Hoping, Really?” The focal passage is Lamentations 2: 1-9, 18-22, Psalm 130: 1-8.

The background text is Lamentations 2; Psalm 130. The purpose statement is “To explore how a prayer of lamentation may open a door for hope to enter.”

We hope you will join us! We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have time and wish to, please read the lesson in the Student Book before our class meets on Sunday. If you have any questions, comments, feedback, or suggestions for improvements regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Flinchbaugh

804.314.4817 gflinchb@gmail.com



Thank you to those that helped on Friday for our Preschool Parents' Night Out! **Your support made this event a BIG success for our preschool families!**



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!



Coffee Fellowship: THIS Sunday, March 1

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship this 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.



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: Recently 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

Aaron Lowery (March 1)

Derek Podolny (March 8)

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



**CHURCH
CALENDAR**



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

Tuesday, March 3

7 p.m...Handbell Practice (S)

Wednesday, March 4

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

7 p.m...Choir Practice

Friday, March 6

10 a.m...Library Work Day

Sunday, March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent

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., 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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