

December 1, 2024



All That Glitters Is Not Gold

Proverbs 25: 11-12 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

Martin Luther: This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified.

Think with me today about the gleaming quality of everything around us during Advent / Christmas seasons. Regardless of the season when you or I are genuinely in the Spirit of God, living, breathing in God's holy presence, there is a brightness about everything, an incandescence that doesn't die but gathers in an overwhelming mystery that is God. Crocuses pushing up through the snow, birds gently perching on the evergreen branch, a solitary pine tree on a distant hill, geese honking in flight overhead, a rainbow trapped in a drop of dew...it's all stunning and can transport and transform our spirit.

Suppose all this glorious beauty is one of the garments God wears, changing with the seasons and offering daily variations on creation themes. Maybe God wears the smiles on our faces when something wonderful is happening to or around us – simply observe the glow on parents' faces as their child smiles during our puppet ministry, or scores a goal at a soccer match, or comes home announcing they've been selected to sit first chair cello.

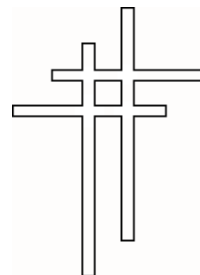
For communing with God, I am a sunrise/sunset kind of person. I love watching the ebb and flow of light and how it changes the appearance of everything. I rise while it's still dark every day, and have my first cup of coffee and breakfast staring out our picture window waiting for the first birds to arrive at the feeders. Some mornings I am greeted by a family of rabbits, some by a beautiful red fox. This little time I commune with God and creation is the most peaceful part of my day. What's your best time for catching the gleam in God eye, and a deep satisfaction with all that is?

If you look - you will see God everywhere, in everything that is. All human matter is in the process of becoming spirit - may even indeed *be* spirit. It's all part of God's great plan for all of creation. And unless you and I are reborn in the Spirit, as Jesus once told Nicodemus, there are so many parts of God's kingdom we'll not be able to see well enough to enter.

*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

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

“Hurry Up and Wait”

We hope you will join us!

Audio recordings of our HUMC Sunday Morning Worship Services are available at HuguenotUMC.org under the Worship tab. We hope you will find these recordings beneficial and will share them with your family, friends and neighbors.

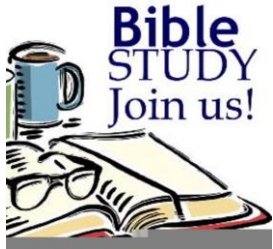


HUMC Nursery

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. Thank you to volunteer Claudine Pavlik for assisting Rosalie this Sunday.



Please join us on THIS Sunday, December 1, for a Christmas Fellowship. We will enjoy some holiday snacks, decorate cookies and make ornaments to decorate our trees. You can also browse the Holiday Bazaar! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 a.m. service.



Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School resumes Sunday, December 1, 2024. Class begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

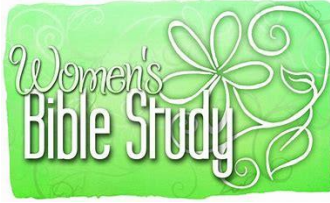
The title for the Winter 2024 quarter is Following Jesus. The Unit 1 title is Compelled by Out Faith. The title of our lesson for Sunday, December 1, is "Jesus Is the Reason." The focal passage is 1 Colossians 1:15-23. The background text is 1 Corinthians 3: 11; Hebrews 12: 1-12. The Purpose Statement is "to ground ourselves in a spirit of preparation for the coming of the Lord."

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

Women's Bible Study

All women are welcome to join the Women's Bible Study. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of the church at **10 a.m. on Thursdays**. We are using the Adult Bible Study from Cokesbury and the emphasis in this particular series is Finding Balance. This series offers Bible references and a study of the suggested references. The emphasis of the study will be Finding Balance through work, spiritual practices, rest, and celebration. These Adult Bible Studies offer a lot of truth, Bible study, and direction on better ways of living. Study booklets will be provided and a DVD will be used to enhance discussion with each lesson. If this is of interest to you, please join us. -Sarah Coffey



STEWARDSHIP

I am pleased to tell all of you that at this point in time we have cut into the budget deficit somewhat. Thank you to all who have pledged for next year. However, I should tell you also that we have a way to go, and that even with any cost cutting that Finance can do we are still going to be in a deficit spending mode. The only reason I am reporting this now is that should anyone still want to pledge, it is not too late to do so. Please mail or drop off your pledge cards at the church office, or I would be happy to accept them on Sunday. Thanks to everyone.

-Wayne Taney



Christmas Poinsettias Order by THIS SUNDAY!

Our church is beautiful when the sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias and we look forward to seeing the flowers at Christmas time. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or for another special person, please fill out the poinsettia form and place it in the church office by this **Sunday, December 1**. The cost for each poinsettia is \$10 and please include your donation with the poinsettia form. The church will be gorgeous again with lovely poinsettias.



Order sheets will be shared again this Sunday!

-Sarah Coffey

HOLIDAY Bazaar

Joy of Crafts

Please plan to drop by the annual **Holiday Bazaar THIS Sunday, Dec. 1**, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. There are some new surprises this year, along with a fresh batch of one-of-a-kind gifts for all ages. Your purchases help fund all the comfort items we make in the next year, so your support is greatly appreciated. The Bazaar will continue for the next few Sundays.

Meanwhile, Joy of Crafts continues to make and donate comfort items to local nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis center and homeless shelters. The donations go to From the Heart, a local clearinghouse for many needs in the community.

The items we've been making include activity mats and marble mazes for Alzheimer's patients, fleece mittens for dialysis patients, wheelchair totes, chemo port shirts, drain bags and neck pillows. In addition, a shipment of 30 handmade t-shirt dresses will go out this month to Dress a Girl Around the World. Special thanks to Judy Anderson, who sews so many of these treasures.

Check out the display in the hallway to see what the donated items look like. ALSO, there are many projects that knitters and crocheters can submit to From the Heart, including a recent call for white handmade blankets for newborns. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

DECORATE the Church

Volunteers to Help Decorate Church

It would be wonderful if some women and men could gather on Saturday, December 7, to help decorate the church for Christmas. The work involves putting up wreaths in windows, putting candles and decorations in the windows, putting out the creche scene and maybe placing some of the poinsettias in the sanctuary. Not everyone needs to be able to climb ladders, but if you are able, that skill is needed for hanging the wreaths. We will meet at **10 a.m. on Saturday, December 7**, to decorate. Please join us and help transform the sanctuary to help us announce the coming of the Baby Jesus.

-Sarah Coffey

Assisting Families of Inmates

AFOI (Assisting Families of Inmates) has a children's service for children of incarcerated parents. They are helping to stop the school to prison pipeline and intergenerational cycles of incarceration, by helping children learn skills that resolve conflict. We have volunteered to donate Christmas gifts for a small number of children. Please select the age group you desire to shop for and place your unwrapped gifts under the tree in the hallway. **(All gifts are needed by Dec. 8.)** See the attached flier for a list of gift ideas for each age group. Your donation will be appreciated by the many people who work hard to make this organization a success.



With Great Expectations,
Your Mission Team

Save the Date – December 11 Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner and Program



We will resume our Wednesday Fellowship on the second Wednesday of the month through the end of the year. As a reminder, this is Pot Luck and begins at 6 p.m. **All are welcome!** I intend to send an email reminder the morning of Fellowship.

December 11

Join us for a joyful holiday celebration!

Christmas trees throughout the years

Send me photos of your Christmas tree from the past or present. If you have a print, leave it in an envelope in the Wednesday Fellowship mail basket on the wall near the kitchen. Be certain to leave your info on the envelope and I will scan and return the print to you.

Optional: bring a favorite ornament to show!



I hope you enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving week with your family.

Many thanks,
Shirley Bradshaw

2025 Offering Envelopes

Our 2025 offering envelopes have arrived and are on the credenza near the entrance. Please pick yours up so you can start using them in January. The new boxed sets include an Initial Offering envelope to help defray the envelope cost, so you can include a donation for them with your January offering. The boxed envelopes for 2024 included some extra envelopes so please discard them at the end of the year since the envelope numbers have changed for some of our members. A few extra sets of envelopes were included with our order. If you did not receive 2025 envelopes and would like a set, please see our church treasurer, Chip Woodall.



Mission Moment

Thank you all very much for your generous support of our Veterans Liberation Services outreach. We appreciate your participation in this outreach.



For the next several weeks before Thanksgiving and Christmas, in addition to our **Blessing Box**, our mission outreach will be focused on the **Bainbridge Community Food Bank**. The Bainbridge collection cabinet is located at the end of the hallway past the Fellowship Hall. We are requesting your donations of canned meats and particularly canned ham along with canned vegetables. We want to do our part to reach out to families in need especially during this holiday season. Thank you in advance for your support of this outreach. **"Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25.**

Please Check it Out!

Please check the bulletin board for **Mission Connection Updates**. Updates are made frequently. The latest updates include Hams' Happenings and Henderson Settlement. Check it out, please!



Pastor Jim will be forming a **Confirmation Class** to begin in early January. Any youth 12 years and older, please let him know of your interest!

Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

Our preschool has an ongoing fundraiser with Marco's Pizza. Just use the code: **HUMCPSAF** when ordering **PIZZA!** over the phone or online and the school receives a portion from each sale all year long. Participating locations include the Marco's Pizza on Sheila Lane and on Midlothian Turnpike.



Ushers Needed
Are you willing to serve?

Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining the Usher Team.



The Anderson Family
Peggy Harris
Judith Westerhouse

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

PRAYER
changes
THINGS

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **November-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, Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent

- 10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
- 11 a.m...Worship
- 12 p.m...**Christmas Fellowship & Holiday Bazaar** (FH)

**** Last Day to Order Poinsettias! ****

Tuesday, Dec. 3

- 6:30 p.m...Finance Committee Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, Dec. 4

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

Thursday, Dec. 5

- 10 a.m...Women’s Bible Study (FH)

Friday, Dec. 6

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

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Second Sunday in Advent

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

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



- Wed., Dec. 11 – Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner and Program at 6 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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