

December 8, 2024



Stories

Luke 1: 26-33 (First Nation's Version) When six moons had passed, the Great Spirit sent the same spirit-messenger, Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel), to another small, out-of-the-way place in the hill country called Seed Planter Village (Nazareth). There he appeared to a young virgin woman named Bitter Tears (Mary), who was promised in marriage to a man named He Gives Sons (Joseph), a descendant of the great chief Much Loved One (David). Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel) said to her, "Greetings, highly favored one! You are close to the Great Spirit and greatly honored among women." Bitter Tears (Mary) was deeply troubled by this greeting and wondered what the spirit-messenger would say. "Do not fear," he comforted her, "for you have found goodwill in the eyes of the Great Mystery. You will be with child and give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus)." It seemed like time stood still, and all creation stopped to listen as the messenger continued to speak. "He will be greatly honored, the Son of the One Above Us All. He will be a great chief like his ancestor Much Loved One (David) and will sit in his seat of honor. He will always be chief over the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel). His chiefly guidance will never end."

The season of Advent is here and Christmas is on the way. It's a time for stories. Today, let's live in awe of all the stories you know. Stories are all part of the miracle of human existence. Every culture has them; they abound throughout the world. Everybody has at least one story to tell and most of us have many. We come to know ourselves and others through stories. Before civilization, before science, before recognizable cultures, there were stories. Shakespeare had Hamlet say, "the play's the

thing," and he used that story to ensnare the conscience of the king.

The history of faith is filled with stories about the way God has interacted with people over the centuries of time. The word Gospel means God's story. Jesus used stories to catch our thoughts in a web of consciousness about life and life's values. In fact, we may accurately speak about the entire Bible as a collection of the stories of the interactions between God, creation and humankind.

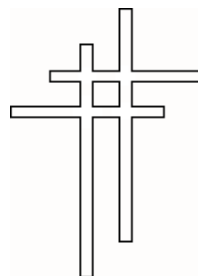
Modern cultural critics remind us that ours is an entertainment age, and nothing entertains us better than stories. One of the many interesting things about electronic culture is the renewed emphasis it has placed on narrative, on the gathering of events and memories into stories. Think of the millions of stories being published or dramatized on TV and in the movies every year...all wonderful creations of the human mind's experiences.

Remember your own stories today. All stories are mostly autobiography. Remember the stories of your loved ones. Remember the faces of those who are not in the stories your life is writing now; give thanks for them. They've helped make you who you are. Celebrate the new friends and loved ones who have entered your life. They will enliven the stories you tell tomorrow. Laugh a little, cry a little...and give thanks for the abundance of stories.

*Grace and Peace,
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

"The Blame Game"

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.

TUNE IN

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 Wenda Singer for assisting Rosalie this Sunday.



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.

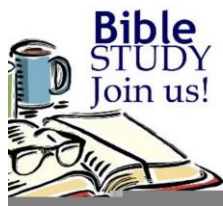


-Sarah Coffey

Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. and meets in the Fellowship Hall.

The title of our lesson for Sunday, December 8, is "Called to Love." The focal passage is Matthew 22: 34-40. The background text is Deuteronomy 6: 4-9. The Purpose Statement is "to make loving God and neighbor our top priority."

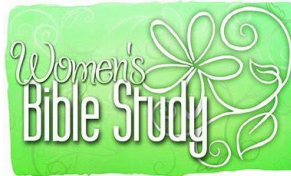


We hope you will join us. We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have time and wish to, please read the lesson in the Student Book before our class meets on Sunday. If you have any questions, comments, feedback, or suggestions for improvements regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study, 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

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 THIS Sun., 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



HOLIDAY Bazaar

Joy of Crafts

Please plan to drop by the annual **Holiday Bazaar THIS Sunday, Dec. 8**, 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.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

Tis the most beautiful season of all! The United Women in Faith will have our Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall! It will be a wonderful time together with plenty of food and chatter! No meeting! As always, we welcome new faces and this is a great opportunity to give you a chance to get to know us. Lots of good laughs and special prayers for our world and each other. It is such a special time. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

-Cissy Hope

Note: The Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner and Program that was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, has been cancelled.

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.



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!

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 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.**

Blessing Box Reminders

When outside temperatures begin to freeze, please do not place items like glass bottled drinks, carbonated beverages, and any liquids in thin plastic containers into the Blessing Box, as they can freeze and potentially burst or become unusable in cold weather.

Key points to remember:

Glass containers: These are prone to breaking when frozen.

Canned drinks with high carbonation: The pressure from freezing can cause the cans to explode.

Thin plastic containers: These can crack or break when exposed to extreme cold.



Instead, focus on donating items such as: canned goods with pull tabs, individually packaged snacks, dry goods like pasta and rice, warm clothing items like hats and gloves, and hygiene products with sturdy packaging.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=+when+outside+temps+begin+to+freeze%2C+what+items+should+not+be+placed+in+a+Blessing+Box%3F+>

Please place your donations of the above non-recommended items in our alternate location, the **Bainbridge Food Cabinet** at the end of the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,
Rosalie Koch

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!



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.

Dear Huguenot Family,

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and support during my transition from civilian to Marine. Huguenot is known for its patriotism and I feel honored to be a recipient of your spiritual and patriotic love. I resume my journey to my chosen field in January and appreciate all your continued support.



Gratefully,
John 'Gavin' Lyle



The Anderson Family
Shirley Bradshaw
Peggy Harris
Linda Smith
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 **January-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.



Happy Birthday to
Beth Woodall (Dec. 8)



- Tues., Dec. 17 – Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Tues., Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.



Sunday, Dec. 8 – Second Sunday in Advent

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- 11 a.m...United Women in Faith Luncheon (FH)

All are welcome!

- 7 p.m...Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, Dec. 11

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

- 10 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)

Friday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m...Library Work Session (L)
- 10 a.m...Feed the Homeless (K) *All welcome!*

Sunday, Dec. 15 – Third Sunday in Advent

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

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