



Pastor Todd Hurley

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Weekly Schedule for First United Methodist Church of High Springs

Sundays

"The Way Out" A.A. 7:30 am
Choir Practice 9:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Youth Group 4-6 pm

Mondays

"The Way Out"-Women's AA 12 pm
Kids' Club (K-5) 2:30-6 pm
First Mondays
Friendship Circle 12:30 pm
New Joy Circle 6:30 pm
Third Mondays
W.A.C.O.S. 6:30 pm

Tuesdays

Kids' Club (K-5) 2:30-6 pm
"Off Our Rockers" Games 2 pm
"The Way Out" A.A. 6:30 pm

Wednesdays

Kids' Club (K-5) 1:20-6 pm
Prayer Team Meeting 10:30 am
Wednesday Night Dinners 6 pm
Choir Practice 6:30 pm
Bible Blast (5-7th Grade) 6:45 pm
Second & Fourth Wednesdays
Girl Scout Troop #2177 2:30 pm

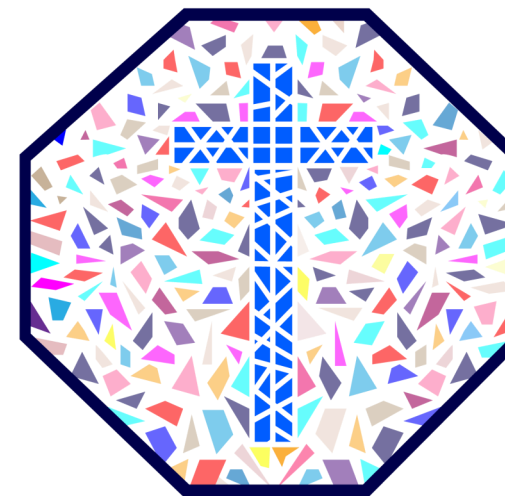
Thursdays

Kids' Club (K-5) 2:30-6 pm
"The Way Out" A.A. 6:30 pm
Third Thursdays
Family Life Team 6:00 pm

Fridays

Kids' Club (K-5) 2:30-6 pm
"The Way Out" -A.A. 6:30 pm
-N.A. 6:30 pm
First Fridays
Buncos Games 11 :30 am-2 pm

Newsletter



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH SPRINGS

August 2025 | Volume 35 | Issue 9

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HIGH SPRINGS
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
AS OF JUNE 2025

OPERATING ACCOUNTS		OPERATING RECEIPTS		Amt.
General Fund Checking		Budgeted		\$153,264
	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	Local Missions	\$512
	43,079	49,230	Unbudgeted Giving	\$1,124
Savings-UM Foundation		Misc.		<u>\$2,796</u>
	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	Total	<u>\$157,696</u>
	16,797	37,338		
RESERVES		OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS		Amt. % Budget YTD
	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	Worship	\$764 18.19%
	54,752	60,934	Christian Ed and Discipleship	\$717 12.26%
OTHER INV. (Scholarship)		Missions		\$1,124 11.83%
	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	Support Systems	\$93,368 53.01%
	255,797	253,450	Congregational Vitality	\$510 20.82%
LIABILITIES (Short Term)		Facilities		\$27,179 48.61%
	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	Apportionments	\$7,343 33.85%
	0	0	Total	<u>\$131,005 47.51%</u>
		Net Change in Cash Balances		<u>\$26,691</u>

AUGUST EVENTS

- Mon. 4th** - New Joy Circle 6:30 pm
Friendship Circle 11:30 am
- Sun. 10th**- Children’s Ministry Appreciation Lunch & Training (pg. 7)
- Mon. 18th**- W.A.C.O.S. 6:30 pm
- Tue. 19th**- Board Meeting 6:15 pm
- Wed. 20th**- Knit Wits meeting 9:30-10:30 am (pg. 4)
Wednesday Night Dinners resume 6 pm
- Thu. 21st**- Family Life Meeting 6 pm
- Mon. 27th**- Newsletter deadline

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- Morgan DaRoza-1st
Jeremy Hahn-5th
Margot Alexander-7th
Ernie Pasquot-7th
Charlene Polk-7th
Andrew Daugherty-8th
Jim Lewis-8th
Zayne Mueller-9th
Alyse Murnahan-9th
Ezra Daugherty-10th
Rhonda Rogers-10th
Amity Hoenisch-17th
Jeanette Smith-17th



- David Pinner-18th
Jimmy Haefner-19th
Danny Mueller-20th
Jan Wilson-20th
Arianna Gray-21st
Russ Irish-23rd
Jaxson Mueller-23rd
Orrin Woodard-23rd
Krystal Hahn-24th
Dana Derrick-25th
Donnie Rou-27th
Doug Fleming-29th
Clara Bembry-31st
Leslie Haefner-31st

ANNIVERSARIES

- Greg & Nancy Gillman-3rd
Bo & Garin Davidson-5th
Gerry & Becky Hoover-16th



- Russ & Susan Walker-4th
Joe & Sharon Fielding-9th
Mike & Connie Casey-24th

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

- 3rd
Usher/Greeter - Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch, Noreen Sirera
Lock-up - Dennis Hogue
Flowers - Judy Northway
Scripture Reader -Margaret Hogue
Communion- Margaret Hogue, Leslie Haefner, Louise Krause
- 10th
Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch, Noreen Sirera
Lock-Up - Dennis Hogue
Flowers - Sharon Fielding
- 17th
Usher/Greeter - Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch, Noreen Sirera
Lock-Up - VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Flowers- Jessica Hontz
Scripture Reader-Sharon Fielding
- 24th
Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch, Noreen Sirera
Lock-Up - Volunteer needed!
Flowers- none
Scripture Reader -Amity Hoenisch
- 30st
Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty,
Lock-Up - Volunteer needed!
Flowers- none
Scripture Reader -Jennifer Jones

Interested in volunteering?
Please sign-up at
Connection Central!



Back to School Supplies donations needed!

We are collecting back to school supply items for the children at Residing Hope. The full list is posted at Connection Central, Donation Station, as well as the big bulletin board in the sanctuary hallway. Items will be collected at Donation Station, at the end of hall between the Sanctuary and office. Check and cash donations are also welcome!



Thank you & God bless!



Choir Notes "GOD CHOOSES THE SONG"

By Carla Haddix

It happened again.

It was Pentecost Sunday and Russ, our pianist, had picked out an anthem we could learn quickly, as we hadn't much time to prepare. But most of the choir didn't think much of the anthem; although a few lyrics did invoke the Holy Spirit, the overall mood of the song felt too plodding and somber to befit the celebratory occasion of Pentecost. It had a barely discernible melody that seemed more like a disjointed series of uninspired notes. Even Russ complained about the piece he himself selected; with its five flats, the anthem was challenging to play!

It turned out that Pastor Steve didn't focus his sermon on Pentecost that day. Instead, he used the time to stir us to more fervent love for our neighbors. He emphasized that first, we must recognize and notice our neighbors in need, and then we should respond through caring actions (see James 2: 17-20). His words echoed the last verse of the anthem: "Spirit of Love, fill our hearts with compassion/ Give us awareness of neighbors in need/ Open our eyes to their hurt and their suffering/ Move us to action, from thought into deed."

The choir is always pleased when the Holy Spirit matches our anthem to the sermon (we don't plan it that way.) It happens a lot, but I'll admit that the sermon topic and anthem lyrics don't always follow the same theme. But I'm confident that, on Sundays when the words and music don't seem to match, it is still God who has chosen that particular song for that special person who needs to hear it.

Pastor's Page

"Turn, Turn, Turn"

Are you someone who thinks in music? I do it all the time. I'll be in conversations with people and a song will pop in my head as either a response to what was being said or to match what the other person was saying. Example: "Hey Todd, I wish it would stop raining so much." My mind: "Red Rain" by Peter Gabriel, "Love Reign O'er Me" by The Who, or "The Rain" by Oran Juice Jones. I know, I have an eclectic taste for music.

As I come along side of you here at First United Methodist Church in High Springs, Florida, this good ole boy from the Eastern Shore of Maryland hears "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds. Based almost verbatim on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, the melody of this song almost takes on a up and down feeling of riding a merry go round at a carnival. Life, too, has its ups and downs and the world keeps on spinning despite what we do or what we have going on.

I have shared some of my challenging moving stories amongst you and, in return, I have heard even worse situations. Furniture broken, boxes ending up missing, and even living through a hurricane in the middle of a move, just to name a few. There is the joy of discovering a new place and new people and the sorrow of leaving behind places where you've made memories and people with whom you've developed relationships. Adjusting to a new pastor is challenging. Learning all the names of a new congregation is very challenging (thank you for continuing to wear your nametags). Yet, here we are. Why? Because there is a time for everything under the sun. I truly have faith that God aligned for us to be together for this season. We will share times to plant and times to uproot, times to weep and times to laugh, times to keep and times to throw away, and times to be silent and times to speak. We will have time to ride the merry-go-round of life together as we do ministry for the Lord.

I wonder what songs we will hear in our heads as we journey together in this season? I'm sure the classics will resonate with us ("Amazing Grace") and there will be new songs we will write together on the fly <insert new song title here>. Through it all, we will make a "time for everything" and affect a change in the mission field to which we've been called to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

God bless!
Pastor Todd

Lay Leader Message

“Church Library Change in Mission and Focus”

Our Church Library is small and has been seldom used in the years since I have been keeping track of it. A few years ago, Nadine Pasquot and I spent a lot of hours weeding, organizing, and creating a catalog, hoping to increase use. But we saw no increase. After I became Lay Leader and had less time available, I asked Pat Carr if she would be willing to be Church Librarian again. She stepped up, and has done a great job, but the library is still not used very much – not enough to justify the necessary upkeep. We were dealing with lots of book donations, but very few books borrowed.

So, Pat and I met in May to discuss changing the mission of the Library to that of a reference/research library: a change of focus to support the Pastor, Administrative Board, staff, Sunday School, and Bible studies teachers, as well as to maintain the basic works about the UMC and church history, and a good selection of Bible translations. I took this proposal to the Administrative Board in June and the change in library mission was approved. Now we are in the process of removing non-reference materials from the library. We will have a couple of tables in Connection Central in August for books that we are giving away. This will include mostly fiction and biographies. You may take as many as you wish. We're also setting aside a large number of daily devotional books for giveaway in late December/early January for those of you who want to start 2026 out with a daily devotional time. These books are a good way to get started. Any other useful materials not being retained in the library will be given to the public library for their bi-annual book sale.

We hope to have our library re-organized and an updated catalog available by the end of August. We will post the catalog on the Church website (as the old catalog was) when it is available. Please feel free to come in to use the library when you have a research need. It will no longer be a circulating collection: materials must be used in the library. For exceptions, please ask me or Pat. We are sharing the responsibility of caring for the library. Hopefully, with its streamlined holdings, it will be easy to keep organized and materials readily accessible. And Pat & I will have more time for our other responsibilities. Thanks for your understanding. Please let me know if you have any questions.

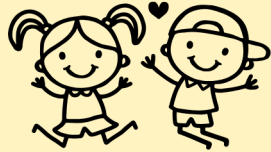
God bless you all!
Margaret Hogue

August Youth Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rec' Around the Clock 6 pm - 7 am 	2
3 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	11 BACK to SCHOOL!	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	18	19	20 Wednesday Night Dinners Resume 6pm	21 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Kyra	22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Emily	23
24 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	25	26	27 Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm	28	29	30
31						

Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Training

Celebrating Our Dedicated Volunteers



Sunday, August 10th following service - 2:30pm
Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 6th
April - 352.262.4244 | hsfumcfamily@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed

Our Kid's Club after-school program
is in need of volunteers!

Requirements:

**Must be a regular attender/member for
at least six months.**

Training and background check is mandatory.

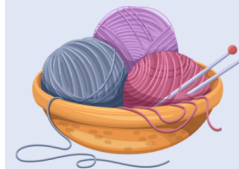
For more details, please reach out to April Woodard
at hsfumcfamily@gmail.com

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS NEEDED!

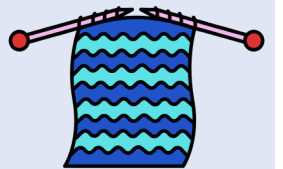
We currently need funds
for roof repairs.



You may drop off a donation
in the collection box at
Connection Central, or you
may give as part of your
worship service offering.



From the Knit Wits



The Knit Wits, our HSFUMC prayer shawl team, will be meeting from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on August 20. We knit or crochet during this social time, and bless any new shawls or lap robes that have been completed. Anyone who would like to join us is always welcome. We have many shawls ready to give, so if you know someone who could use a warm embrace, please contact Jennifer Jones (607-423-8947 or jenbjones76@yahoo.com) or any member of the team.

Wednesday Night Dinners Resume August 20th!

Our dinners are a great way to enjoy
some good food & fellowship
while raising funds for our church.
We need volunteers to make these
dinners successful.

Please sign up at Connection Central!



**Calling Volunteers
for our worship
service**

- *Welcome Team Ushers/Greeters
- *Flowers
- *Scripture Reading
- *Lock-up

**Please sign-up at
Connection Central.**

*"For we are God's fellow workers;
you are God's field, God's building"
-1 Corinthians 3:9*



HSFUMC FOOD PANTRY

**Our Food Pantry is open
Wednesday by appointment only via
email: hsfumcfood@gmail.com**

**Please check our weekly bulletin and
Monday email blast for a
list of current needs.**

**Contact Amity Hoenisch for more
information and how you can help!**

Ways you can give:

- *Offering plate during Worship Service
- *Online giving via church website:
www.fumchighsprings.com
- *Mail to our address:
17405 NW US Highway 441
High Springs, FL 32643
- *Office Wall Mailbox
- *Through Breeze or
Scan the QR Code here

Thank you!



breeze

hsfumc.breezechms.com

Are you on **Breeze**?

We use **Breeze** as our church's
management software system to
stay in contact with our
members. Please contact Ann at
the office to be added to our

Breeze account,
hsfumc@windstream.net.



Would You Like to Reduce Your Income Tax?

By Margaret Hogue

If you are over the age of 70 (or approaching it), and have any investments in IRAs, this option may save you money. Did you know that you can give to our Church using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), satisfying all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution, and protect that donation from income tax? I didn't find out about this until I had missed several years of savings. Don't let this happen to you!

A QCD is easy to set up. Basically, it is a withdrawal from an IRA type account that is paid directly to a charitable institution: the check must be made payable to the charity. It bypasses your pocket. But – it replaces donations you would have made anyway, and saves you from paying income tax on the withdrawal. Due to higher standard deductions for IRS reporting, many of us lost our deductions for charitable contributions. A QCD is a way to get that back. Please consider using this as your donation method. You will need to talk to your financial advisor to set up a QCD. If you have any questions about how it works, you can also ask me or Bob Kuitert. We both give to the Church using QCDs. There are some benefits to getting older, but not many. So take advantage of this one.

