



Pastor Todd Hurley

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High Springs, FL 32643

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www.fumchighsprings.com



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) 1:00-6 pm
Prayer Team Meeting 10:30 am
Wednesday Night Dinners 6 pm
Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Second & Fourth Wednesdays

Girl Scout Troop #2177 6:30 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

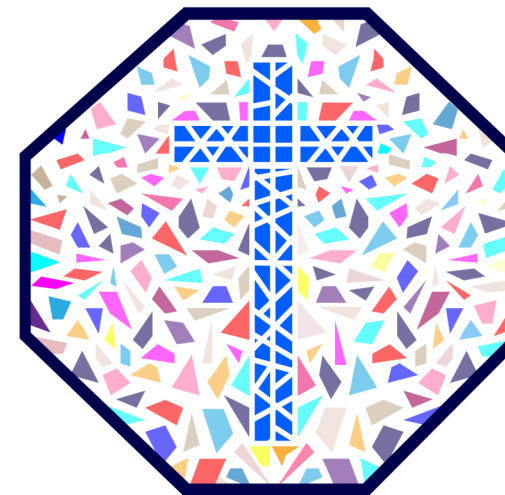
Fridays

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

December 2025 | Volume 35 | Issue 12

Mon. 1st - New Joy Circle 6:30 pm
Fri. 5th- Buncos Game Day 11:30-2 pm
Sat. 6th- Church Vitality Team meeting 10 am
Mon. 8th-Friendship Circle Christmas Party 12:30 pm
Sun. 14th- Christmas Cantata (pg. 5)
Mon. 15th- W.A.C.O.S. 6:30 pm
Tue. 16th- Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Wed. 17th- Christmas Potluck Dinner 6 pm (pg. 6)
Thu. 18th- Friendship Circle Christmas baskets 10:30 am
 Family Life Meeting 6 pm
Wed. 24th- Christmas Eve Service **7 pm**
 Office closed
Thu. 25th- Christmas Day-office closed

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Laule'a Davidson-3rd
Carol Daugherty-4th
Mazikeen Bouchez-8th
Cara Salg-9th
Morgan Jones-12th
Olivia Miksa-14th
Bobbie Wray-14th
Kim Johnson-15th



Susan Dey Lucas-17th
 Connie Casey-19th
 Bruce Bowland-21st
 Nancy Gillman-27th
 Sallie Milner-29th
 Angie Hargrove-30th
 Lisa McClay-31st

ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Paula Miller-28th
Billy & Norma Mitchell-30th



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

OPERATING ACCOUNTS			OPERATING RECEIPTS		Amt.
General Fund Checking			Budgeted		\$249,877
	12/31/2024	10/31/2025	Local Missions		\$561
	43,079	37,380	Unbudgeted Giving		\$6,394
Savings-UM Foundation			Misc.		<u>\$5,985</u>
	12/31/2024	10/31/2025		Total	<u>\$262,817</u>
	16,797	38,138			
RESERVES			OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS		Amt. % Budget YTD
	12/31/2024	10/31/2025	Worship		\$1,438 53.26%
	54,752	57,545	Christian Ed and Discipleship		\$2,957 50.55%
OTHER INVESTMENTS			Missions		\$6,394 67.31%
	12/31/2024	10/31/2025	Support Systems		\$176,697 92.90%
Scholarships			Congregational Vitality		\$615 25.10%
	255,797	262,952	Facilities		\$44,388 72.00%
Housing Allowance			Apportionments		<u>\$14,686 66.67%</u>
	-	256,922		Total	<u>\$247,175 83.96%</u>
LIABILITIES (Short Term)			Net Change in Cash Balances		<u>\$15,642</u>
	12/31/2024	10/31/2025			
	0	0			

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

7th
 Usher/Greeter –Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch,
 Noreen Sirera
 Flowers - Widow's Row
 Scripture Reader -Margaret Patterson
 Communion– Sharon Fielding, Brian Hontz,
 Dee Dee Ritch

14th
 Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty, Noreen Sirera
 Chester & Margaret Patterson
 Flowers - Poinsettias
 Scripture Reader- Jennifer Jones

21st
Usher/Greeter - Dana Lynch, Noreen Sirera
Chester & Margaret Patterson
Flowers- Poinsettias
Scripture Reader- Judy Northway

Christmas Eve Service
Usher/Greeter—Nanette Dougherty
Flowers- Poinsettias
Scripture Reader –Dee Dee Ritch

28th
Usher/Greeter- Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch
Flowers- none
Scripture Reader –Dana Lynch

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

Once again, FUMC High Springs is working with Amity Hoenisch and the Guardian Ad Litem office*, to provide Christmas gifts to kids.

1. Choose a tag
(keep tag as you will need to attach it to the gift)

2. Purchase the gift on the tag

3. Bring the **unwrapped** gift to Connection Central by **Friday, December 5th, with the tag attached to the gift!**

Also please refrain from giving any food items, candy, toys with sharp objects, etc...

Thank you for your support!

*The Guardian ad Litem Office advocates for children who are involved in the court system due to abuse and/or neglect within their homes and families.



Pastor's Page

"Present"

You may look at the title of this little message and question why it is singular. "Shouldn't it be present(s)?" Ah... then you think to yourself, "The ole preacher man is talking about the present of Jesus!" Well, not so quick. I want to share with you a different kind of present: the adjective.

To be in the moment, or to be present, is to be fully aware of what is happening at that exact moment in time. I feel that we are losing the ability to be fully present. We are pulled in so many directions with so many distractions. Often, we are considered to be socially rude if we don't respond to any type of inquiry within minutes. I'm old enough to remember that you had to wait by the mailbox for a letter to hear from an old friend who lived far away. Now this is not a knock at modern communication. I think it is a great gift to be able to connect with so many different people in various ways. What I lament is that it takes away from our true gift of being present.

The Gospel according to Luke is the only account of the shepherds finding Jesus as a baby. "So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger" Luke 2:16 (NIV). It is a short sentence, but it captures a moment in which the shepherds were truly present. How could they not be? They were told by an angel to go and find the Messiah. They rushed out to find exactly what they had been told to be true. The scene must have been quite overwhelming to the senses. The sight of a baby laying in a feeding trough. The smell of wild animals. The image of this young girl who had just given birth and the rugged man gazing over the wrapped child. Was there a dimly lit lantern creating shadows? At this time of night, was there the murmur of the crowd curious to get a peek at a newborn child? Was there really a "silent night" or was there endless noise clamoring for the attention of the shepherd's ears?

We can only guess about the scene the shepherds were present in. The question for you is: will you be fully present this season of Advent and Christmastime? Will you take in the moments of family and friends, the sacred moments of worship, the intimacy of dining around a table, the quiet calm that overcomes us while looking at the night stars? Will you use all your senses to capture all that is happening? Not everything has to be caught on camera. Not everyone needs to know everything that is happening. God craves you to be present with Him. AND God creates moments in your life for you to be present and enjoy all that is being gifted to you. Be sure to be present; it is a gift that you will always cherish.

**Merry Christmas & God bless,
Pastor Todd**

Lay Leader Message

“Advent for the UMC” (adapted from resourceumc.org)

What does Advent mean in the United Methodist Church? The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year, Advent begins on November 30. Advent is the beginning of the church year for all Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. Somehow, I have in the past missed this anticipation of the second coming during Advent. I'll bet that many others have missed it as well. We are focused on Christmas and celebrating Jesus' birth. We know that Jesus will come again, but the timing is unknown, so it's hard to look forward to or celebrate it. Now we know that Advent is the season of the year when we should do that.

It seems our Advent observances could benefit from a greater emphasis on the advent that is yet to come, and a diminished emphasis on the advent remembered in our Christmas celebrations (there's time for that when Christmas actually arrives). So how can we re-orient our longing for this Advent? One of the ways we reflect on Advent in worship is by utilizing an Advent wreath--a simple wreath with four exterior candles and one central candle. The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of the renewed creation that accompanies Christ's return: joy, hope, peace, and love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's ongoing presence.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve, when Advent ends) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

As we go through the Advent season this year, let's try to remember both comings of Jesus that we anticipate and celebrate.

God bless you all!
Margaret Hogue



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.com
- *Scan the QR Code here



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



From the Knit Wits

The Knit Wits, our HSFUMC
prayer shawl team, will not be
meeting in December.

We will resume our meetings on

Wed., January 21st from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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, contact Jennifer

Jones: 607-423-8947

jenbjones76@yahoo.com

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,
hsfumc441@yahoo.com

**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

7:00 AM

TUESDAYS

**AT BEV'S CAFE'
HIGH SPRINGS**



Awakened to Grace Begins This Advent
 The Awakened to Grace journey begins November 30, the first Sunday of Advent!
 Join Bishop Tom Berlin and United Methodists across Florida in a year-long rhythm of grace and renewal through Awakened to Grace, a daily devotional guiding us from Advent 2025 through Christ the King 2026. [Watch Bishop Berlin's video](#) to hear more about this conference-wide invitation. Download the first volume for free or order a printed copy at [AwakenedToGrace.org](#). This first volume, Advent–Epiphany: From Hope to Service, invites you to journey from Advent’s waiting to Epiphany’s call to serve with daily scripture, reflection, prayer, and practice to nurture your walk with Christ.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
 Luke 2:11-12 (NIV)



Poinsettia Sale

New Joy Circle is selling poinsettias for \$8 each.
They will be displayed in the sanctuary December 12th-24th.
Envelopes for ordering are available at Connection Central;
please include your name and indicate
who you are honoring/remembering.



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hsfumc441@yahoo.com | www.fumchighsprings.com
[Facebook.com/HighSpringsFUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HighSpringsFUMC)
 Office hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm
Pastor Todd: (443)783-4522 | email: revtoddhurley@gmail.com
Office hours: Mon-Thu 9am-2pm (availability may vary)



Calling Volunteers for our worship service!
Our 2026 calendar is open!

- *Welcome Team Ushers/Greeters
- *Flowers
- *Scripture Reading
- *Monthly Communion

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 ESV)



We will not have Wednesday Night Dinner on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

Our first Dinner of 2026, will be Wed. Jan. 7th for a Youth Fundraiser!

Our 2026 dinner calendar is open, please sign up to volunteer at Connection Central.

Christmas Cantata

Glory to the
Newborn
King!

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

Lloyd Larson

Join us for our
Christmas
Cantata on
Sunday,
December 14th
10:30 am

CHRISTMAS Potluck

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
DECEMBER 17, 2025 6:00 PM
DRINKS AND PAPER GOODS PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE.

*Please join us for our
Christmas Eve Service
on Wednesday,
December 24th at 7 pm.*