



17405 NW US Highway 441
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
New Joy Circle 6:30 pm
Second Mondays
Friendship Circle 12:30 pm

Tuesdays

Kids' Club (K-5) 2:30-6 pm
Men's Breakfast 7 am
"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

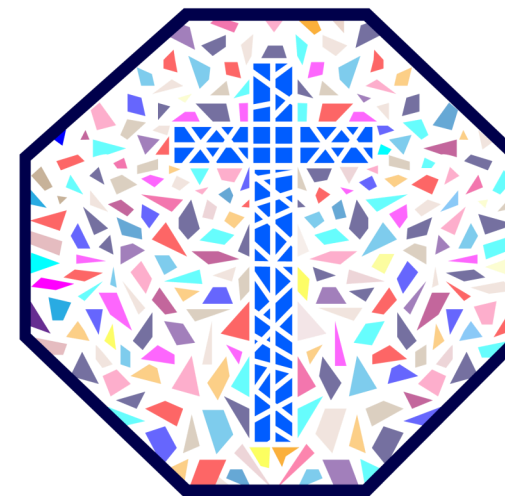
Thursdays

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

February 2026 | Volume 36 | Issue 2

Mon. 2nd- New Joy Circle 6:30 pm
Fri. 6th- Buncos Game Day 11:30-2 pm
Mon. 9th- Friendship Circle 12:30 pm
Wed. 11th- Valentine's Dinner 6 pm
Tue. 17th- Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Thur. 19th- Family Life 6 pm
Tue. 24th- Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Billy Mitchell-2nd
Matthew Sechler-2nd
Griffin Troup-3rd
Becky Hoover-6th
Jax Hahn-7th
Janet Bargar-8th
Dennis Hogue-8th
Dakota Woodard-8th
Brian Hontz-10th



Jim McClay-12th
Carolyn Rackley-13th
Robin Huddleston-14th
John Salg II-18th
Aubri Deckard-24th
Donald Bussey-25th
Tyler Miksa-25th
Karl Spain-28th

ANNIVERSARIES

Tyler & Rachael Miksa-25th

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

OPERATING ACCOUNTS			OPERATING RECEIPTS		Amt.
General Fund Checking			Budgeted		\$299,448
	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Local Missions		\$1,740
	43,079	22,633	Unbudgeted Giving		\$6,781
Savings-UM Foundation			Misc.		<u>\$7,883</u>
	12/31/2024	12/31/2025		Total	<u>\$315,852</u>
	16,797	38,138			
RESERVES			OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS		
	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Worship	Amt.	% Budget YTD
	54,752	88,294	Christian Ed and Discipleship	\$1,520	56.30%
OTHER INVESTMENTS			Missions	\$4,188	71.59%
	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Support Systems	\$6,781	71.38%
Scholarships			Congregational Vitality	\$217,065	114.12%
	255,797	267,138	Facilities	\$785	32.04%
Housing Allowance			Apportionments	\$52,590	85.30%
-		259,724		<u>\$22,029</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
LIABILITIES (Short Term)				Total	<u>\$304,958</u>
	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Net Change in Cash Balances		<u>\$10,894</u>
	0	0			

1st

Usher/Greeter - Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch,
Noreen Sirera

Flowers - none

Scripture Reader –Margaret Hogue

Communion– Sharon Fielding, Brian Hontz,
Leslie Haefner

8th

Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch,
Noreen Sirera

Flowers - none

Scripture Reader-Dana Lynch

15th

Usher/Greeter - Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch,
Noreen Sirera

Flowers-none

Scripture Reader-Jennifer Jones

22nd

Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty, Dana Lynch,
Noreen Sirera

Flowers- none

Scripture Reader –Sharon Fielding

Interested in volunteering?

Please sign-up at Connection! Central!

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHURCH
VITALITY TEAM LEADERS

Church Social Hour

**A big thank you to all
of our Church vitality
teams who volunteered
to make our Church
social a great success!**

**From your efforts for
this event, we had 19
people sign up in
various groups!**

GOD BLESS
FUMC HIGH SPRINGS!

Pastor's Page

"Introduction of Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt as Interim Pastor"

Our District Superintendent, Catherine Fluck Price, has shared exciting news with the congregation. Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt has accepted the invitation to serve as our interim pastor from March 1 through June 30. Many may recognize Wayne from his previous service as District Superintendent of the North West District.

Wayne is a native of rural North Florida. He earned both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. His ministry has included pastoral roles in several Florida Conference congregations, such as First United Methodist in Jacksonville, Palm Coast, and Southside, Jacksonville. He also served a complete term as District Superintendent in the East Central District and concluded his tenure as Senior Pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church on June 30, 2022, spending one additional year as the North West District Superintendent.

Beyond his church appointments, Wayne has demonstrated leadership and engagement in a variety of community organizations. He is a member of Rotary International, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Community Outreach Ministries, and has been a dedicated advocate for racial justice and inclusivity. His denominational service includes positions on the United Methodist Publishing House Board in Nashville, Tennessee, the Board of Trustees for Bethune Cookman University, and twelve years with the Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Having retired fully in June 2023, Wayne now enjoys a range of water sports, including swimming, sailing, kayaking, water-skiing, and paddle boarding.

Wayne is married to Ramona Folds, a Titusville native and former Disney Corporation employee. Together, they have two adult children: Matthew Wiatt (married to Katie) and Taylor Stokes (married to Phillip), as well as two granddaughters, Coraline and Mariam.

Wayne is known for his deep personal faith and love for the church. His leadership will be a true blessing to both our congregation and the broader High Springs community. It is our good fortune that his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters reside in Gainesville, which likely contributed to his enthusiasm for the interim position.

God bless our church!

Lay Leader Message

“Valentine’s Day Origins and Celebration ”

Valentine’s Day is widely recognized as a time to celebrate romance and love. However, the history behind this holiday—now associated with candy, cupids, and heartfelt gestures—is actually much more complex and shrouded in darkness. Although the exact origin of Valentine’s Day is uncertain, many historians trace its beginnings to ancient Rome. From February 13 to 15, the Romans observed the feast of Lupercalia, a raucous pagan festival dedicated to fertility and matchmaking. During the third century, Emperor Claudius II executed two men—both named Valentine—on February 14 in different years. Their martyrdom was later honored by the Catholic Church through the establishment of St. Valentine’s Day. In the fifth century, Pope Gelasius I combined St. Valentine’s Day with Lupercalia in an effort to eliminate the pagan rituals associated with the earlier festival. This blending of traditions further complicated the holiday’s origins.

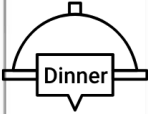
Over the centuries, Valentine’s Day evolved and became more widespread. The holiday was romanticized in literature by authors such as Chaucer and Shakespeare, which helped to popularize it throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Eventually, Valentine’s Day made its way to the new world. The Industrial Revolution played a significant role in modernizing the celebration, with factory-made cards becoming available in the 19th century. In 1913, Hallmark Cards began mass-producing valentines, forever changing the way the holiday was observed. From then on, February has never been the same. [Thanks to NPR for above summary]

For many people today, Valentine’s Day no longer holds religious significance. Instead, it has become a lighthearted occasion for celebrating relationships. While generally harmless, the holiday can be a difficult time for those who are not currently in relationships, sometimes leading to feelings of loneliness or sadness. Please be aware of folks around you that may be in this situation. Some of us curmudgeons see Valentine’s Day as a totally commercial holiday and don’t celebrate it at all. We love our significant others, but don’t need a holiday to show our love to them. But, by all means, send that Valentine card, candy, roses, etc. if you want to! There’s no harm in it, and you could really brighten someone’s day. Ultimately, one meaningful way to observe Valentine’s Day is by focusing on the love of Jesus and extending love to all our neighbors. I could get behind a holiday for that!

**1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.”**

God bless you all! Margaret Hogue

February Youth Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	2	3	4 Confirmation Class 5 - 6PM Dinner 06:00	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 am	9	10	11 Confirmation Class 5 - 6PM Dinner 	12	13  NO SCHOOL	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 am 	16 NO SCHOOL	17	18 Dinner 6:00 PM + Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 am Youth 4-6 pm	23	24	25 Confirmation Class 5 - 6PM Dinner 	26	27	28  



Confirmation classes will be held on
Wednesdays, 5 - 6 PM | January 21st - March 11th
(except for Ash Wednesday)

The Confirmation Retreat will be at Warren Willis Camp and
Conference Center, March 6th - 8th and the cost is \$110/pp.

We have eight students! If you would like to sponsor a student,
please reach out to April at hsfumcfamily@gmail.com.



Calling Volunteers!

We need worship service
volunteers for the new year!

Please sign up at
Connection Central!
Thank you & God bless!



Sunday, February 15th | 6 - 8 PM

YOUTH VALENTINE'S DINNER

MENU

Chicken Parmesan
Spaghetti
Garden Salad

DESSERTS

Chocolate Mousse
Strawberry Cheesecake Cups

\$5/pp | RSVP by 2/12



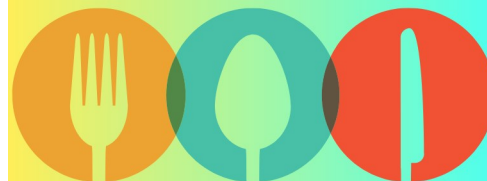
Ash Wednesday February 18th

LIGHT DINNER PROVIDED BY FAMILY LIFE TEAM AT 6:00 PM
SERVICE AT 6:30 PM



*From the
Knit Wits*

The Knit Wits, our HSFUMC prayer shawl team, will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 18th 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



Wednesday Night Dinner Cooks needed!

Looking to cook up
some fun in 2026?
The calendar is open,
so sign up at **Connection Central!**

Thank you to all our volunteers who
signed up for our dinners!

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

*Thank
you!*



HSFUMC FOOD PANTRY



Our pantry is open the second and fourth **Wednesday** of each month, by **appointment**. Email for appointments, questions, or volunteer opportunities: hsfumcfood@gmail.com
Please check our weekly Sunday bulletin for a list of items needed.
Thank you to everyone who volunteers and donates!

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

