

2026

February Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

Notes From the Pastor



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By now most of us have a story—or at least a photo—to tell about the snow.

I've been told this was the largest snowfall Hampstead has seen in about 35 years, and judging by the 14 inches in my backyard (not a drift—just straight-up snow), I believe it. Like many of you, I spent the last few days adjusting plans, watching the weather, and moving a bit more slowly than usual.

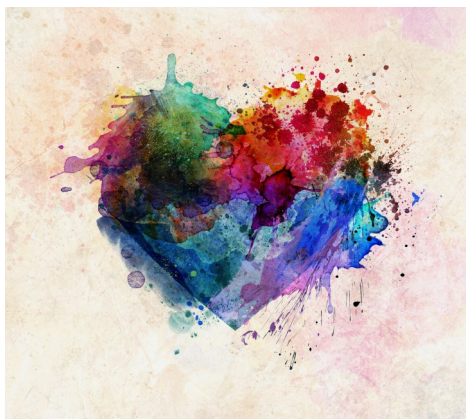
Because of the incoming storm, all church activities were canceled or postponed beginning Saturday, and on Sunday morning we shared a brief message on our Facebook and Instagram pages. The response was immediate and encouraging. If you're connected to social media and haven't seen it yet, I hope you'll take a look—it was good to feel so connected even while we were apart.

By Monday, there were tire tracks in the church parking lot, but I think I was the only one who actually went inside. I had to make a run to Wilmington to drop off my main computer for repairs and pick up an older spare from the office so I could keep working.

Highway 17 was fine by late afternoon on Monday, but Country Club Road and my Old Point neighborhood were still icy in spots. My driveway—fairly steep and still completely covered—turned out not to be a problem for my faithful 2018 Camry. I was also grateful for the roof overhang above my garage door, which spared me the snowdrift battles some neighbors faced.

The only shoveling I did have to do was to create a bathroom space for my little dogs - Ruthie and Max. Fourteen inches of snow was a lot for them to take in at first. Max at first was clearly overwhelmed—but soon he figured out how to clear a path and decided the whole thing was an adventure. Ruthie, at only 2.4 pounds, just waited to be carried to the spot where she immediately took care of business.

As I write this on Tuesday, February 3, the church parking lot is mostly melted, sidewalks are nearly clear, and with temperatures staying above freezing tonight, I expect things will be messy—wet, sandy, muddy—but far more navigable by mid-morning on Wednesday. Closer to normal. And that feels like a good word for this moment.



Because Pender County Schools are having a remote learning day tomorrow and the YMCA is planning a camp day, our first Connect Club is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th, and I'm grateful we can move forward together after a strange and snowy pause.

This coming Sunday, February 8, we'll gather for worship around Jesus' words from Matthew 5: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." It's a timely message. Salt doesn't do much sitting in the shaker, and light doesn't help anyone if it stays hidden. Both are meant to be scattered, shared, and lived out—especially after disruption, when the ground is still a little soft and the paths aren't quite clear yet.

I'm looking forward to being together again, to singing, praying, listening, and remembering who we are called to be—even when life doesn't go according to plan.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Debbie



Media & Music Department Update

Exciting things are happening in the Media & Music Department at Hampstead United Methodist Church, and we are grateful to share this wonderful momentum with our church family.

In January, we officially launched Facebook Live streaming for our Sunday morning worship services. We are thrilled to report that our very first streamed service reached over 400 legitimate views, a strong and encouraging response that allows us to extend worship beyond our sanctuary walls. This is a meaningful step forward in connecting with members who may be traveling, homebound, or exploring HUMC for the first time.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin a new church-wide video series titled "What I Love About HUMC", launching February 1. This series will feature short, heartfelt reflections from individuals and families sharing what makes Hampstead United Methodist Church special to them. If you or your family would like to participate, please email me at j.miller@hampsteadumc.org for details. We would love to include voices from across our congregation.

On the music front, plans are already underway for several special offerings this spring. While details are still taking shape, we are looking forward to meaningful opportunities for worship, creativity, and participation. If you're interested in joining the choir, feel free to join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Stay tuned, there is more to come.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and enthusiasm as we explore new ways to share the story of HUMC.

Grace and peace,

Johnathan Miller, Director of Media & Music

Sunday School News

ALL are welcome to our adult Sunday School Class each Sunday in Room 9 from 9:00 til 9:45 am. We study books of the Bible that we want to understand better. We have a lot of discussion, and share opinions and knowledge. Please come and be part of our Seekers group. God bless.

—Dixie Hampel

Connect Club

Jesus reminds us:

When we care for children, we welcome Christ. Through your prayers and generous gifts (financial, time and talents) children find safety, healing, education and hope for a brighter future. God calls us not to just love in words but by our actions.



Connect Club is a joint venture of volunteers from HUMC and the After School Program of the YMCA in our Family Life Center. After the investigation of our assets and needs in Hampstead, we wrote a grant to the NC Rural Church Center and were awarded \$10,000 to spend on "Connect Club". We are using these funds to purchase board games, art and craft supplies, and employing two trained professionals. Lydia Shively will use Art Therapy to help improve the self-image of these kindergarten through fifth graders. Kat Aluise, wife of Brooks Anderson, is a professional dance instructor and will use music to inspire and engage the children. Our games and crafts group will begin making a Fleece Snuggle to take home and enjoy their creation.

This program is every Wednesday from 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM. If you would like to volunteer or share an activity idea please contact Peggy Harris (910-547-6581, littlerr1952@gmail.com.) or our Lay Leader Shirleen Spencer. What does it take to volunteer? A loving heart for children ages 5-10, a willingness to stay "young at heart", and an up to date background check and Safe Sanctuary training.



—Peggy Harris

Mark Your Calendars!

UWIF Circle Mtg. Tuesday, February 10th at 10:00 AM in room 5/6.

Connect Club First meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 3:45 PM in the FLC.

Meals On Wheels Program: (Meal prep) Friday, February 13th at 10:00 AM in the FLC.

Saturday, February 14th at 8:00 AM (meal pack and distribution) in the FLC.

Consecration Sunday & Luncheon: February 15th at 10:00 AM, followed by luncheon.

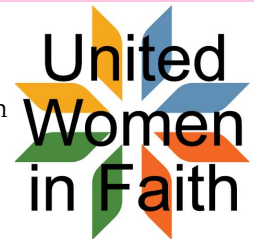
Shrove Tuesday: February 17th at 5:00 PM.

Ash Wednesday: February 18th at 7:00 PM.

Divorce Care Ministry: Begins Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30 PM in room 9.

Women In Faith

Let me start off by saying, Thank you, to all the women of our HUMWIF unit who helped with the District ALOTS meeting we had on the 31st of January. Everyone of you are a gift from God.

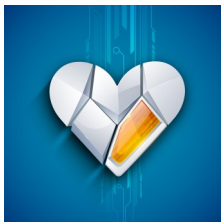


We are planning a soup sale on Sunday, January 8th. (Yes, Superbowl Sunday) We are already looking for pre-sales (see your bulletins and Web site for order forms). The proceeds will go toward our budget and other missions. Your options are: Chicken Noodle soup, Vegan Vegetable and (Shirleen Spencer's famous) Lasagna soup. We will be selling them in quart size containers and you may order as many as you wish. Hope to see you on February 8th, after the service. We are accepting donations for these homemade soups.

We are also planning our famous Game-a-Rama on March 18th at the FLC from 11-3 p.m. We usually have a good turnout for this so get your tickets soon. See Twila Jones for tickets and they are again \$15.00 per person, and we prefer to sell them in units of 4 per table.

Thank you all for your help with these upcoming events.

—Cheryle Shaffer



Divorce Care

Divorce Care, a Biblically based divorce recovery group, will meet each Tuesday at 6:30 PM, beginning February 24th. We will meet in room 9. The topics include a Road to Recover, Anger, Grief & Depression, Loneliness. DivorceCare stresses God as the Center of a person's life, and relying on Him to pass through the pain of separation and divorce. New members can register on the Divorce Care website - <https://www.divorcecare.org/findagroup> - or contact Sylvia Waterston(swaterdivorcecare@outlook.com).

Project Agape Christmas Shoe Boxes

Reminder that Dollar Tree, Family Dollar and other stores have winter items for the shoe boxes that we fill in August and September available now and may be reduced! So think about purchasing these gloves, and caps now (we can store them at HUMC if needed). Just leave your items in the Library when it's convenient for you. Thank you from your HUMC Missions Team.

—Peggy Harris



Anniversaries...

Name	Date
Ed & Linda Dunn	February 02
Josh & Eileen Arrington	February 11
Clarence & Bonnie Lewis	February 14
Jack Loveless & Ann Todd	February 22



Birthdays...

Name	Date
Seth Sutton	February 01
Jane Tchouros	February 01
Terry Tracy, Jr.	February 03
Ryan Radley	February 04
Dee Stolk	February 04
Kathryn Bates	February 05
Matthew Burner	February 05
Dot Cotman	February 05
Carolyn Kingman	February 09
Dale Bolin	February 10
Betty Godwin	February 10
Brenda Gibson	February 12
Duncan Martin	February 13
Donna Schmid	February 13
Jonathan Riley	February 14
Alli Shirley	February 14
Natalie Alberti	February 15
Cody Rogers	February 16
Dave Pierce	February 17
Perry Rouse	February 18
Alice Cavin	February 23
Loretta Greenough	February 23
Carter Luhning	February 23
Neal Purser	February 23
Shram Shukla	February 24
Mark Nunalee	February 25
Kelly Willman	February 25
Karen AgoulNIK	February 26
Vic O'Janpa	February 26
Nolan Carrozza	February 27
Angie White	February 28

Altar Flowers



Date	Dedication
February 15	Ed and Linda Dunn ... <i>"In loving memory of Sandy Lewis, Cub Master and Children's Church leader."</i>
February 22	Fred Phillips... <i>"In loving memory of Beverly on our wedding anniversary."</i>

Flowers are on a first come-first served basis.

*Each arrangement is \$50. Contact the church office to
sponsor an arrangement. (910-270-4648,
office@hampsteadumc.org)*

There are still many available dates for sponsorship!

Available Sponsorship Dates:

March:	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
April:	5, 19, 26
May:	10, 17, 24
June:	7, 21, 28
July:	12, 19, 26
August:	2, 9, 30
September:	6, 20, 27
October:	11, 18, 25
November:	8, 15, 29
December:	6, 13, 20, 27

