

2021

January Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church



Skip's Scoop

What Does Hampstead Methodist Mean, and To Whom?

This question was posed to all United Methodist churches in our conference: "If our church has to close its doors, how would it affect the locale?" Asked differently, "Who in Hampstead would mourn its passing?", and "Who in the world would care?"

We have just experienced Advent, a season marked by the anticipation of the coming of Christ-- either as a Baby in a manger, or as a prophecy-fulfilling King of Glory. It warms me to the very corners of my soul when I see the ways you are answering the call of God and endearing our family of faith to the community and the world! I firmly believe that there are a number of earthly "locales" who would be emotionally, spiritually and negatively affected if this church family was not here -- far more than just us!

As our Christ comes into our hearts and joins our daily lives, the visible evidence of that "advent" is what we call Discipleship! This new year, I encourage you to make every effort possible to begin or enhance your own discipleship! And the root, the foundation, the source of nourishment for all discipleship is the Holy Spirit that we meet in worshiping together. (Remember: Jesus said "Wherever two or more of you are gathered in My name, I will be in the midst of you!") Truly, discipleship is a "community" thing!

Years ago, a sister in Christ gave me this-- it's called "**Why Go To Church!?**"

"A cynical church-goer wrote a letter to a newspaper editor that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. I've gone for thirty years now! In that time I've heard over 2,000 sermons! For the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them! So I think I've wasted my time by coming and listening!"

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Skip's Scoop Continued...

To the editor's delight, this started a storm of controversy in the paper, until after a number of weeks, someone wrote the final response: 'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time, my wife has cooked 20,000 meals! And for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them! But I do know this: all the meals nourished me, and gave me strength to do my work. And if my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today! Just the same, if I had not gone to church for spiritual nourishment, I'd be spiritually dead today!' "

What part will Hampstead UMC play in the future growth and spiritual development of our area, in fact, in all of God's Kingdom? Only God knows! But I firmly believe He's got something really challenging and rewarding in mind for us! The challenges we have endured over the past two years have not only strengthened us, but have given us the confidence that, with God's help all things truly ARE possible! Rejoice in what God is doing here in our midst!

No time of the year offers us more unbridled hope and ecstatic joy as Christmas! And the high anticipation of the new year that follows is the perfect springboard for our responses! My prayer is that Jesus Christ will continue to be born in our hearts, in the life of our church, and in the presence of our ministries. Therein will God receive the true glory He deserves!

I would like to thank our church staff for their tireless commitment and service to our Lord and to our church families and community! This also goes for the equally tireless laity who multiply our staff and do so much! From teaching, to comforting, to guiding our children in the ways they should go, to putting order to everything that happens around here, to leading worship, you are all a joy to work with, and I'm proud to be on the team with you!

Finally, from the staff, and from Betsy and me, we wish for all of you the loving presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, now, and in the coming year! God bless you all! We love you! Grace and Peace!

Skip & Betsy Williams

Staff Love Offering Thank You!

The staff of HUMC sends a very big thank you to everyone for their generous contributions to this year's Love Offering!! Your kindness is heart-warming and greatly appreciated!

Lay Leader: What Does “Communion of Saints” Mean?

Every time Christians say the Apostles’ Creed we profess belief in the communion of saints. The term “communion of saints” refers to the whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead, past, present and future. Rev. Katie Shockley explains, "When we gather in worship, we praise God with believers we cannot see. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we feast with past, present and future disciples of Christ. We experience the communion of saints, the community of believers — living and dead. This faith community stretches beyond space and time. We commune with Christians around the world, believers who came before us, and believers who will come after us. We believe that the church is the communion of saints, and as a believer, you belong to the communion of saints.”

Orthodox Christians regularly use icons depicting the saints as physical reminders that all saints are truly present. All Saints Day is a time when we remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully, shared their faith and point us to the way of Christ through the witness of their lives. Shockley goes on, “The saints in our lives inspire us to live in holiness and righteousness.” On All Saints Day, many churches read the names of church members and loved ones who died in the past year.

Learn more: Ways to remember the lives and work of church saints. Have questions? [Ask The UMC](#) or talk with a pastor near you.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Steve Calarco, Lay Leader

HUMC Missions

Skip speaks often of the generosity of Hampstead United Methodist Church . The Alternative Gift Market proved to be no exception. Thanks to everyone that shopped our market. Because of you we have \$9,905.00 to support our missions.

We would also like to send a big thank you to the youth group for donating some of the Pumpkin Patch money to Table of Grace.

May God bless you in the new year,

Linda Dunn, Missions Team



Preschool News

We are grateful and blessed beyond measure! We completed our first semester of preschool Covid-free. Our amazing preschool teachers and students handle mask wearing and following safety protocols like champs. Now we look forward to a healthy and happy new year filled with lots of learning and fun.

This month's curriculum topic is all about Animals. Noah's Ark is the devotion and responsibility is the character trait. The veterinarian is the community helper.

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for the generous contribution to the Joe and Kathleen Griggs Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thanks also to church family and friends for words of encouragement for a successful year as well as contributions to the preschool. We are blessed!

Registration for the 2021-2022 academic school year will begin in February. For more information about the preschool, contact us at humcpreschool@hampsteadumc.org or 910-270-3388.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy new year,
Judy Lane

2021 Calendar Reservations



The dates that were collected from this year's Planning Session are now posted on the church calendar. You may view these dates via the website. Most dates are posted through May. If you submitted a request between now and May and you do not see it booked on the website calendar, or if you have any questions, please notify the church office via email: office@hampsteadumc.org. Thank you!

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle will meet on January 4th at 2:00 PM in room 5/6. All women are invited to attend! Looking forward to seeing you and to welcome in a new and glorious year! For more information call Loretta at 910-270-2060.

MUNCH—BackPack Meals Program



As you are reading this, we are now in 2021. Even with all the upheaval in the past year, our ministry continues to thrive. Good bye to 2020!

Thanks to the Preschool for collecting items for MUNCH during the Thanksgiving season. It is wonderful to see the families and especially the children giving to help children less fortunate than they are!

Another thanks to all those who supported us through the Alternative Gift Market. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me.

BackPack Meal Items:

- ◆ Cheerios, Oatmeal, or other low sugar cereals
- ◆ Canned Pasta Sauce and dry Pasta
- ◆ Canned Vegetables & Fruits, Individual Fruit Containers (low sugar/no refrigeration)
- ◆ Plastic Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly
- ◆ Individual Packages of Peanut Butter Crackers and Cheese Crackers
- ◆ Tuna and Chicken Helpers or store brand
- ◆ Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken (to pair with item above)
- ◆ Chunky Soups & Stews, Macaroni & Cheese
- ◆ Canned Pastas (Spaghetti-O's, Ravioli-O's, etc.) store brand is fine

100% Fruit Juice (Cans or plastic bottles) "Reduced Sugar" and "Lower Sodium" are best! Please, NO glass containers.

Your continued support for MUNCH, either through monetary donations and/or food donations, is so greatly appreciated!

—Chip Davis, MUNCH Coordinator

Administrative Council Meeting

Our first Administrative Council meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. All church officers are asked to wear a mask and socially distance for this meeting. Please email reports prior to the meeting to Peggy Harris at 7tricks@gmail.com.

Music Notes



From your Director of Music Ministry at HUMC –

I wish you ALL a shining New Year - A year without hurricanes, without Covid, without masks, and without social distancing. A year with clear days ahead, with healthy outlooks, with bright, shining, smiling faces – anywhere and everywhere.... as well as while singing all together again!!

And most of all, a New Year ...

of big, big, big hugs!!!

Love and hugs to all,

Patti

BLTs (Books, Lunch, Talk)

In January we are reading "The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus" by Lee Strobel.

Good Reads says this:

"A former atheist & seasoned journalist chases down the biggest story in history. Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the son of God? Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognized authorities in their own fields. Strobel challenges them with questions like:

How reliable is the New Testament?

Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible?

Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event?

What documentation is there concerning the life and teachings of Jesus, and how reliable is it?

Does archaeology substantiate the historical accounts? Did Jesus really perform miracles? Did he claim to be God and if so, did he fit the profile?

Strobel's tough, point-blank questions make this Gold Medallion winning book read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. What will your verdict be in The Case for Christ?"

Our hope is that you will read this book and join us for fellowship and discussion Tuesday, January 19, 11:30am-1:00pm in Room 5/6. We will have copies available to borrow. Please contact me if you wish to borrow a book.

Everyone is welcome (even if you haven't read the book)! Please bring a lunch or snack for yourself. (And, as always bring a friend!)

Blessings and Peace!

Cheryl Rootes

Anniversaries...

Name	Date
Kenneth & Laura LaBree	January 01
Tim & Alyce Costello	January 01
Adrian & Nancy Hansing	January 02
Tony & Debbie Musolino	January 18
Charlie & Lori Pridgen	January 20
Durland & Barbara Stewart	January 28

Birthdays...

Name	Date
Sally Jo Capozio	January 02
Roger Strong	January 02
Linda Taylor	January 02
Jeff Gore	January 04
Debbie Gouge	January 06
Allison Bellamy	January 07
Aaron Jones, Sr.	January 07
Carmen Patten	January 07
Greg Woodfill	January 07
Don Nichols	January 11
Michael Curinga	January 12
Diana Davis	January 12
Dennis Diefenbach	January 12
Mary Kermon	January 12
Tracy Lane	January 12
Barb Zerby	January 12
Olivia Riley	January 13
McKenzie Tomlinson	January 13
Lindsey Mochel	January 14
Sara Yates	January 14
Nancy Davis	January 15
Darren Poe	January 16
Dee Colenda	January 17
Kay Cornett	January 17
Ken Maynard	January 18
Gavin Mintz	January 18
Debbie Musolino	January 18
Mary Caldwell	January 19
Mike Johnson	January 19
Hope Mintz	January 20
Cleo Sanchez	January 21
Daniel Henderson	January 22
Michael Braswell	January 23
Gladys Joyce	January 23
Steve Wilder	January 23
Hiram Williams	January 23
Mardi Sutton	January 25
David Harris	January 26
Helen Ayres	January 28
Jeannie Fisher	January 28
Bonnie Smith	January 30
Steve Goisovich	January 31
Adrian Hansing	January 31

Cards & Letters...

Dear Hampstead United Methodist Church,

Thank you for allowing me to host my Eagle Scout Ceremony in your new gym. Also, thank you for providing a place for my scouting. You, as the church, have provided such a nice place for me to grow in my scouting and grow as a person. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Zackary Gaither

Altar Flowers...



Date	Dedication
January 3	Renee & Dale Dykhuizen...

"In loving memory of Martin Yakimovich."

We are in need of a volunteer to sponsor flowers for January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. There are many available dates for the new year. If you would like to sign up for either of these dates please contact the church office by phone at 270-4648

or email: office@hampsteadumc.org.