

2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CONSECRATION SUNDAY	02
MUNCH	03
STAFF THANK YOU!	04
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH	04
2026 CALENDAR DATES	04
SPECIAL DAYS TO REMEMBER	05

January Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Still Following the Star

A new year always brings a mix of feelings. There's hope, of course—but often a little weariness, too. The calendar turns, and we're invited to begin again, even as we're still carrying what the last year held.

The church begins January, not with resolutions or strategies, but with a story—a star in the night sky, and travelers who follow its light without knowing exactly where it will lead. The wise ones in Matthew's Gospel did not have a map. They had a sign. And they trusted that God would keep leading them, step by step.

That story feels especially fitting for us as we enter this new year together. In the weeks ahead, we'll be remembering who we are and whose we are—beginning with Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 11, when we give thanks for God's claim on our lives and renew our commitment to follow Christ. We'll also be listening carefully for how God is calling us forward as a congregation, and you'll begin hearing more about some exciting opportunities for ministry and community connection in the months ahead. Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th, invites us to something simple but powerful: paying attention. Looking up. Watching for where God's light is already shining among us.

We don't need to see the whole road ahead to take the next faithful step. God has always been good at giving light enough for the journey—and companions to travel with us along the way.

As this year unfolds, my prayer is that we will be a people still following the star: open to God's leading, attentive to one another, and hopeful about what God is doing in and through our church.

I'm grateful to be on this journey with you.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Debbie



Stewardship Moment

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship on February 1st at 10AM. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Greg Gibson
Stewardship Chairman

MUNCH—BackPack Meals Program

The time has come that I need to step back from MUNCH. Certain minor medical issues have limited some of my lifting. While I can do the lighter loads, the larger weekly pick-ups are now handled by Share The Table (STT). Thus, I hope someone(s) will step up to take over this ministry. The primary need is to pickup items several times a week at Lowe's Foods and replenish items running low by using the designated funds from HUMC.

A little history to follow. Back a dozen or more years ago, then Principal of Topsail Elementary, Janet Reddinger, told me at a missions meeting that North Topsail Elementary (NTE) was struggling with their BackPack Program. (Her school was fine.)

To myself I said, "BackPack Meals Program?" I'd never heard of such. She went on to explain that a back pack was filled with food for children with food insecurity to take home on the weekends. Seriously, a child in Hampstead would be in need of food?

So I contacted the people doing the program at NTE and learned that food supplies and money were both in short supply. We got the HUMC family interested in both of the aforementioned items and I took it upon myself to head up the program. Our faith, efforts, monetary donations, and food donations worked!

Now MUNCH (Meals Until No Child Hungers) is a subset of Share The Table. (Back Pack Meals may have had a proprietary name?) We serve the four coastal Pender elementary and the two middle schools. We have a small presence at the high school.

Some of my fondest memories are: the Rotary Club giving me a much needed check when funds were so, so low, the Preschool doing their food drives, the Agoulnik clan's lemonade sales, the support from HUMC, and the help I got/get from Pat, Jerry, Jane, Mike & Delores. I am sure there are some I missed but believe me I am grateful to all those who participated in one way or another.

Should you have questions or need more information, do not hesitate to contact me at 910-713-5434.

—Chip Davis



HUMC United Women In Faith

Praying you each had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!! We will start 2026 off with our first meeting scheduled for January 13th at 10 a.m. Dianne McKagan has signed up for devotionals and Peggy Harris will give the program. All the women of the church are invited, and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Just a little reminder we will be hosting the District at the end of January as they provide the ALOTS meeting for the upcoming officers of 2026. Also, we need to decide on a date for our soup sales. Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year. For any questions or concerns please contact Cheryle Shaffer, Interim Chairperson, at 910-620-5904.

Also, a big thank you to all those that contributed blankets for Methodist Home For Children in December!

Blessings to all for a New Year,
Cheryle Shaffer

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!

2026 Calendar Requests

For the upcoming year, all meetings, gatherings, or events in 2026 at HUMC, must first be reserved through the church office. **This includes ALL HUMC committees and ministries. *Space is limited!*** Dates may not be publicized until they are reserved on the church calendar. *(If you have already submitted some dates for the calendar, unless otherwise noted, they are confirmed and your space is reserved.)*

Dates can be submitted to the church office via email: office@hampsteadumc.org. As a reminder, anything that needs to be scheduled in the Family Life Center must be requested through the church office in connection with the YMCA's use of the building.

Anniversaries...

Name	Date
Charlie & Lori Pridgen	January 20

(If you have a wedding anniversary date and would like to include it in the monthly newsletter, please email the church office with your names and date, office@hampsteadumc.org)

Birthdays...

Name	Date
Parker Luhning	January 01
Allan Bramlett	January 02
Sally Jo Capozio	January 02
Linda Taylor	January 02
Debbie Gouge	January 06
Carmen Patten	January 07
Greg Woodfill	January 07
Don Nichols	January 11
Diana Davis	January 12
Tracy Lane	January 12
Olivia Riley	January 13
McKenzie Tomlinson	January 13
Eric Robinson	January 14
Sara Yates	January 14
Nancy Davis	January 15
Dee Colenda	January 17
Gavin Mintz	January 18
Debbie Musolino	January 18
Mike Johnson	January 19
Hope Mintz	January 20
Woody Smith	January 20
Cleo Sanchez	January 21
Will Jones-Murphy	January 23
Steve Wilder	January 23
Hiram Williams	January 23
Mardi Sutton	January 25
Bill Shaffer	January 26
Laura Bibby	January 28
Jeannie Fisher	January 28
Janice Wilber	January 29
Bonnie Smith	January 30

Altar Flowers...

January 11 Given by Twila Jones...
"In celebration of Charli's 1st birthday."



We are in need of sponsors for January Altar Flowers, in addition to the rest of 2026.

Contact the church office to reserve your date:
 (office@hampsteadumc.org or call 910-270-4648)

Altar flowers are \$50 per arrangement.

Payment is due before the sponsored Sunday.

During the weeks of Lent, the altar will be adorned with different arrangements. Sponsorships will still be available and dedications will be included in the Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter.

Dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this ministry!