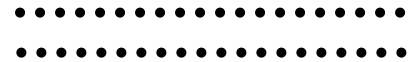


HAVE-O-GRAM



A HEART-TO-HEART MOMENT



December 2025 – “Making Room for Christ”

The Christmas season can become so busy that we risk missing its heart. Between decorating, shopping, and planning gatherings, we can forget the most important invitation of all, making room for Christ.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. Yet in a humble stable, the Savior of the world was born. This story reminds us that God often enters quietly, in the middle of the ordinary, when our hearts are open.

This Advent, I invite you to slow down and create space for God. Light a candle, pray as a family, read Luke 2, or serve someone in need. Every small act of kindness becomes a manger where Christ can be born again in our world.

As we make room for Christ, it is also a good time to reflect on what it means to be the church. The church is not just a building or a weekly routine; it is a family of believers gathered by Christ. Scripture reminds us, “*There is one body, but many parts... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it*” (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). We gather because God meets us in community in a way we cannot experience alone.

We go to church because we need one another. When we worship, pray, and serve together, Christ forms us into His people. As Paul says again, “*Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it*” (1 Corinthians 12:27). Church is where faith is nurtured, where children learn to pray, where adults grow deeper in Christ, and where our lives are shaped by grace.

Theologians Brad Harper and Paul Louis Metzger describe it beautifully: “*The church is not merely a gathering of individuals; it is a people called and shaped by the risen Christ to bear witness to God’s kingdom in the world.*” (Exploring Ecclesiology, Brazos Press, 2009, p. 46)

And our United Methodist tradition says, “*The church is a community of all true believers under the lordship of Christ... the redeemed and redeeming fellowship.*” (Book of Discipline, 2016, ¶1101)

As we celebrate Christmas, may we also make room in our church for those seeking peace, love, and belonging. A simple welcome, a smile, or a prayer may be the light someone needs this season.

A Joke for you:

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? *Claustrophobic!*

Blessing:

May the light of Christ shine in your heart, your home, and your world this Advent, Christmas and always.

Yours truly, Pastor Anny

We will begin our Advent offering on Sunday, November 30th.

Please look for the special Advent offering envelope in your bulletin.

This year, all Advent offering funds collected at HUMC will go to Matt Talbot to assist with their community service missions.



Sunday, November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent. If you are interested in reading the Advent worship liturgies and lighting the Advent candles, please contact LuAnn Damewood or the church office.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

PATRICIA HUGHES – TREASURER

Financial Update through Oct. 2025:

Totals are Year to date –

Giving: \$113,180.00
Building Maint. Fund: \$4,791.00
Memorial: \$2,290.00
Savings: \$2,500.00
Interest – Ess Investment: \$11,385.00
Total Income: \$129,356.00

Expenses: \$124,197.94

Overage: \$5,157.74



Comments on where we are through Nov 24th:

We have extra money at the end of October, due to taking money out of the foundation for the roof repair and the roof repair check has not been written yet. We are very tight on money at the end of November. The roof repair bill is right over \$6100.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, December 7th as we sing Christmas carols with the residents of Mahoney Manor! Please plan to meet in the HUMC sanctuary directly following our 10:45 am morning worship service if you'd like to join us – we will plan to begin singing at Mahoney Manor around 12:30 pm. All are welcome!



We would love for you to help us lend a hand to our neighbors in need this holiday season! We will be collecting non-perishable food items from now through Sunday, December 14th. Items can be placed on the table in the narthex. If you'd like to donate but don't want to shop, please feel free to make a monetary donation and mark it as "Holiday Food Drive". All food collected will be donated to a local food pantry.



Our Children's Sunday School classes will be selling Baker's Chocolate now through December 21, 2025 (or until sold out). These make great gifts and 100% of the profits will go directly to the church. The children will be selling in the narthex before and after church. Your support will teach the children valuable skills and help the church!



OUR CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AT 5:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!

Our next Last Wednesday Community Supper will be our Christmas Day Dinner on Thursday, December 25th from 5:00pm - 6:00 pm. This will be a grab-and-go meal.



Please join us for coffee and refreshments every Sunday:

- In the Friendship Parlor at 9:00 am
- In the narthex immediately following our morning worship service



If you are interested in buying SCRIP cards contact Pati Hughes at 402-440-7512 for delivery or pick-up options. You can also purchase the SCRIP cards on Sunday morning in the East hall. Our church receives a percentage of all sales!



The 2026 Flower Calendar will be placed by the church office soon! If you would like to furnish flowers for the worship services you may sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office, 402-466-6736.

It's that time of year, the holidays are coming soon and a HUMC cookbook can be the perfect gift. They make great gifts for family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or for that special someone who is not always that easy to buy for. They are located at the welcome center and the price is \$8.00 each. 100% of the sales from the cookbooks goes directly back to the church!

Our children's Sunday school class will be presenting their Christmas program during our 10:45 am morning worship service on Sunday, December 14th. Please come support our children!

The Lincoln Community Concert Band will be performing "An Enchanted Christmas - A Concert of Enchanting Music of the Season" on Monday, December 15th at 7:00 pm at Kimball Recital Hall (1113 R St). This concert is open to the public and free of charge. We hope you will attend and support Dianne Karges, and all of the other talented musicians!

We will have our December Faith Table Gathering on Sunday, December 14th at 12:15 pm in the friendship parlor. Please see the sign up sheet on the welcome center if you would like to bring food to share this month!

We donated 24 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child this season.
Thank you to everyone who helped with this great cause!



Please let the church office know if there has been a birth, baptism, marriage, illness, or death in your family that you would like to share. Let us know if someone is hospitalized or needs our prayers. If you would like immediate prayers for the individual call, the church office (402-466-6736) or Laura Pape (402-466-6338) and we will initiate the Prayer Chain.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	AA 7:00 pm 1	FoodNet 4:30 pm 2	3	4	AA 7:00 pm 5	6
9:00 am Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday school 11:45 am Narthex Fellowship 12:00 pm Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm Mahoney Caroling	7	8	Choir 7:00 pm	11	12	13
9:00 am Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday school 12:00 pm Narthex Fellowship 12:15 pm Faith Table Gathering	14	15	Priscilla Circle @ Schulenberg Home @ 10 am Finance 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	17	18	FH, FP, & Kitchen reserved all day for private event
9:00 am Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday school 11:45 am Narthex Fellowship	21	22	FoodNet 4:30 pm 23	24	25	26
9:00 am Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday school 11:45 am Narthex Fellowship	28	29	30	31	Christmas Day Dinner @ 5:00 pm MERRY CHRISTMAS	27
9:00 am Fellowship Coffee 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am Morning Worship 10:45 am Children's Sunday school 11:45 am Narthex Fellowship 12:00 pm Cong. Care Team Mtg.	28	29	30	31	The church office will be closed December 25th - January 4th, and will re-open January 5th. Emails and voicemail will be monitored periodically during this time.	

