



Ferris Heights

United Methodist Church, Waxahachie TX

In God's name . . . Build, Belong, Serve. It's Our Legacy!



December 2023

Information

Our Staff

Rev. John Han

Pastor

PastorFHUMC

@gmail.com

Dawn Davis

Organist

Shannon Goretska

Youth Director

**Karen Lawton
Dianna Robertson**

Children's Directors

Angie Heck

Secretary

FerrisHeightsUMC

@gmail.com

Melanie Marrs

Abby Machuca

Nursery

Abby Machuca

Custodian

108 Center St.

Waxahachie TX 75165

Church Office

972-937-2344

FHUMC.org

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday School & Worship

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Pastor's Column

We are entering the season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word "*adventus*," meaning "coming." Advent appears to have developed as a liturgical season in the late 4th century, and since then, it has been widely practiced in most Christian churches. The season begins four Sundays before Christmas and concludes on Christmas Eve. It is a time of waiting and preparation for the return of Christ at the Second Coming, as well as the celebration of His Nativity at the first Christmas. During Advent, early church fathers encouraged Christians to fast and pray until Christmas. It was more of a spiritual discipline than a celebration in its early days.

Nowadays, Advent seems to be filled with celebration. People often focus more on Christmas parties, gift exchanges, family gatherings, and decorations in December. Many houses and buildings are adorned with Christmas decorations. Various Christmas parties are scheduled on our calendars, and the media is abuzz with discussions about Santa Claus, elves, the Grinch, Christmas gifts, shopping, and more. It has undoubtedly become a season of celebration. In the midst of the craziness and busyness, however, I wonder whether we are truly celebrating Christmas WITH HIM. Is Christ really present in our lives?

Before the first Christmas, Jewish people acted similarly. They frequently recited "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given" whenever they attended gatherings or prayed. However, it often became a mere ritual with no transformation or inspiration. This is why only a few people welcomed the Jesus when He was born in Bethlehem. No one expected the Messiah to come to such a small town, Bethlehem, and be born in a manger. His birth went unnoticed by many, except for the shepherds and the magi from the East.

Why does Christmas matter to us? Because Christ is coming to us! Let us celebrate with Him! Let us allow Him to transform our lives through His amazing grace! Merry Christmas!

Your Pastor, Rev. John Han

Advent Season Activities



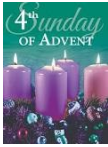
Sunday, December 10, 10: a.m.
Children's Christmas Program.



Saturday, December 16, 6:00 p.m.
Friendship Class Christmas Party.



Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.
Choir Christmas Program.



Sunday, December 24, 10: a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion.



Sunday, December 24, 11: a.m.
Photos with Santa.



Sunday, December 31, 10:00 a.m.
"Blue Christmas" & "Family Blessings."

Children's Christmas Program

by Karen Lawton

Our children's program is on the Sunday the 10th, during worship service.

This year our Children's Program is a puppet show and we will have the screen down so all can see what the children are doing. Please let me know if you wish to help narrate the story of "No Room at the Inn."

Santa will be available afterwards. He will listen closely for gift ideas (parents)!



You are Invited

by Shannon Goretska

The Youth meet on Sundays after worship service. They have a light lunch, fellowship & a lesson each week.

The Youth will have their Christmas party on Monday, December 18, 5:00 p.m.

The youth invite you to join them every Sunday at 11:15 a.m.



Sermon Series

12/3/2023	John 1:14-18 <i>Why Christmas?: God In Person</i>
12/10/2023	Luke 1:46-55 <i>Why Christmas?: Night of Wonders</i>
12/17/2023	Matthew 2:1-12 <i>Why Christmas?: Invitation to the Strangers</i>
12/24/2023	Luke 2:1-7 <i>Why Christmas?: Social Closeness</i>
12/31/2023	Luke 2:25-38 <i>Why Christmas?: Joy in the Midst of Sorrow</i>



Beginning on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, we invite you to a special opportunity to watch the Chosen TV series Season 3 and discuss its biblical background and life applications along with Sunday messages.

Bring your meal & invite your friends & family to watch the series!

When? Every Wednesday, Jan. 10 thru Mar. 6, 2024:
Lunch Session 12 PM
Dinner Session 6 PM

Where? Wesley Hall @
Ferris Heights United Methodist Church
108 Center St., Waxahachie, 75165 office: 972-937-2344

For more information visit FHUMC.org

12 Noon and 6 PM
Bring your lunch or dinner meal.

1/10	Episode 1: Homecoming
1/17	Episode 2: Two by Two
1/24	Episode 3: Physician, Heal Yourself
1/31	Episode 4: Clean, Part 1
2/7	Episode 5: Clean, Part 2
2/14	Ash Wednesday, No class
2/21	Episode 6: Unlawful
2/28	Episode 7: Reckoning
3/6	Episode 8: Beyond Mountains

United Women of Faith News

By Karen Lawton

United Women of Faith are altering our course starting in 2024. We will now be titled **Women's Service Guild** and incorporate more services into our monthly meeting and activities.

In our first meeting for 2024 we will decide what services we would like to support and volunteer at in the community. Ideas of places and activities are appreciated. We will move forward in our effort to aid others in seeing God's love for all of His children!



Poinsettia Orders

To decorate our Sanctuary during Advent, you can order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special. Call the church office or place your order on the sign up sheets in the foyers and Sunday school rooms.

2024 Leadership List

The Leadership list for 2024 is on the bulletin board by the stairs in the Education Building. You may take a copy if you wish. The first meeting for the new 2024 Board of Directors will be Monday, January 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.



Above: Lighting the Advent Candle by the Thomas Family.

Left: Rev. Han turns in 29 packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Right: Hanging of the Greens.



RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED