

# 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

They have a light lunch, fellowship & a service. 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.



Youth Ministry



Sermon Series

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



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
- Episode 8: Beyond Mountains 3/6

#### **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!

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#### Sunday Leaders <u>Worship Leaders:</u> <u>Children's Time:</u>

Dec. 3	Nancy Cannaday	Karen Lawton
Dec. 10	Ruth Shugart	Ruth Shugart
Dec. 17	Billy Wright	Shannon Goretska
Dec. 24	Ann Moir	Dianna Robertson
Dec. 31	Karen Lawton	Ruth or Karen

<u>Worship leaders</u> are <u>needed</u> for future months. Worship Leaders will lead the congregation in the Call to Worship & reading of the Scripture for the day. Sign up by writing your name on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the stairs or by contacting Lay Leader, Ruth Shugart for December. <u>Lay Leader for 2024 will be Karen</u> Lawton. Church lock up schedule:

December: Jennifer Taylor, January: Ann Moir, February: Mike James & March: will be Karen Lawton.

#### **MISSION SPOTLIGHT—December** *Third Sunday Special Offering*

## FHUMC Children's Ministry

Third Sunday offering this month will be toward Children's programs. With the budget cuts we have had to make for 2024 this will prove to be a challenge that I know all of the church will be behind. We are recycling our



Sunday school lessons since we have about 3 years of lessons to choose from for the children. After all, repeating what God has done and continues to do for all children proves to be a timeless story we may all need to rethink and listen to those wonders! Remember God's word is timeless! By, *Karen Lawton* 

## Annual Report Third Sunday Mission Giving

•Aug.	FHUMC Youth	\$336.50
•Sept.	UMCOR—Hawaii Wildfires	\$443.00
•Oct.	<b>Operation Christmas Child</b>	29 Shoeboxes
•Nov.	Waxahachie Care food &	toiletry items
•Nov.	Special Giving—Dr. Chris Hena	\$200.00
	FHUMC Children's Ministry	

Jan. Hope Health (formerly Hope Clinic)Feb. Healthy Women Healthy Liberia

## Thank you!

Thank you so much for allowing Cody & I to celebrate our expanding family in your halls. We appreciate the many blessings you have provided & the wonderful community you surrounded us with.



Love, Rachel & Cody Hall

#### **December**

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Jimmy Lewis	02	Z	- # / K T A <i>P /</i>
Keeley Robertson	03	3	Ionnom
Justin Fox	06		<u>January</u>
Leda Lewis	08	Birthday	Vela Brown
Nick Machuca	09	1	Lexi Baker
Jackie Aday	10	3	Scotty Jenkins
Mary Lou Shipley	10	P-	Gracen Daughtry
Carolyn Jenkins	11	2	Jordan Lynch
Ann Moir	11		Helen Brock
Bob Robertson	13		Erik Nelson (Lawton's Grandson)
Aliza Thomas	15	~	Kris Alden
Neil Baldwin	17	Birthday	Lane Johnson
Danielle Merrell	19	2	Erica (Lilly) Ray
David Lundeen	19	Ŧ	Ross Clayton
Charles Waller	19	ž	Vicki Kelsey
Cheryl Wilson	19	<u>an</u>	Sam Goretska
Sally Baker	22	~	Steve Loftis
Ruth Blanton	22	Adden	Jennifer Lira
Gary Bishop	29	ē	Angie Merrell
Simon O'Rear	29	T	Chris Campbell
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November 2023							
YTD AVG Worship Attendance					YTD Connectional Civing Paid		
	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept. 2023	Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Giving Paid 8/10th
In Person	65	60	60	59	59	59	Income \$8,898
Online	78	78	77	77	80	84	Expense \$13,973

2023 Expenses not yet paid:

\$3,571.00 Connectional Giving and GBGM Missionaries (Mongolian Mission Initiative). \$2,500.00 Local Benevolences.

## Monthly FHUMC Activities:

Cut out and place on your fridge.

SundayYouth 11:15 a.m.MondayQuilting 10:00 a.m.WednesdayQuilting 10:00 a.m.

## Calendar

December 4	U.W.F Christmas party, 6:00 p.m.
December 5	Emmaus Gathering, 7:00 p.m.
December 7	Searchers Christmas party, 6:00 p.m.
December 10	Children's Special during worship.
December 16	Friendship Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.
December 17	Choir Special
	Third Sunday Special Offering-
	Children's Ministry.
December 18	Youth Christmas party, 5:00 p.m.
December 24	One worship service, Candlelight &
	Communion, 10:00 a.m. (Christmas Eve).
December 24	Photo with Santa after worship service.
December 25-26	Christmas Holiday, church office closed.
December 27	Office closed (vacation day).
December 29	Office closed (vacation day).
December 31	Blue Christmas, 10:00 am.

Vaxahachie, TX 75165 108 Center Street Ferris Heights United Methodist Church

**ΚΕΤURNED SERVICE REQUESTED** 



### **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.



Lighting the

Christmas

Hanging of the



