



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

Pastor's Message

December 26, 2022 CHUMC Family,



Chapel Hill UMC

Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Kate Whitaker
Minister of Families

Melissa Sky-Eagle
Worship & Music

Jill Cox
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan
Building Manager



Ari Lamm, a Jewish scholar of the Hebrew language, offers an understanding of the sin in the flood story in Genesis 6-9 that prompted God to act. He explains that in English bibles, the word *chamas* in Genesis 6:11 and elsewhere is translated to suggest the earth was filled with "violence." While this fits with later descriptions of the Promised Land as full of bloodshed before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, Lamm suggests there is a more precise way to understand *chamas*.

Lamm explains that when *chamas* is used throughout the Hebrew Bible it is in relation to ill-gotten wealth, greed, and oppression. It is often used in regards to coming to the aid of someone who is suffering abuse or shame. Thus, a good way of understanding *chamas* is a callous disregard for one's humanity or contempt.

It is easy to see in our Christian tradition how this relates to God and the root of sin that flooded the earth. Love of God and neighbor is what we were created for. When humanity stopped trusting God and developed a callous disregard for one another's humanity, we know longer reflected our design and sin and brokenness began to rule and shape this world.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child and the promised return of Christ, the twelve days of Christmas bring us good news. The love of God in Christ seeks to free us from such callous disregard for one another. Christ assures us that a world ruled by fighting, manipulation, abuse, oppression, bigotry, and greed is not what God intends for us. If we will turn toward God in trust, God loves us deeply and will forgive us and renew us so that we will experience a full-hearted regard for the humanity of all our neighbors. The result will be finding the abundance of loving one another. Likewise, if we are victims of the callous disregard of our humanity at the hands of our neighbors, God seeks to rescue us and all others from such contempt.

Christmas is a reminder that God rules all creation. Thus, the love revealed in Christ is the ultimate power in creation. May we share this love, revealed in the full-hearted regard of our neighbors' humanity, with all.

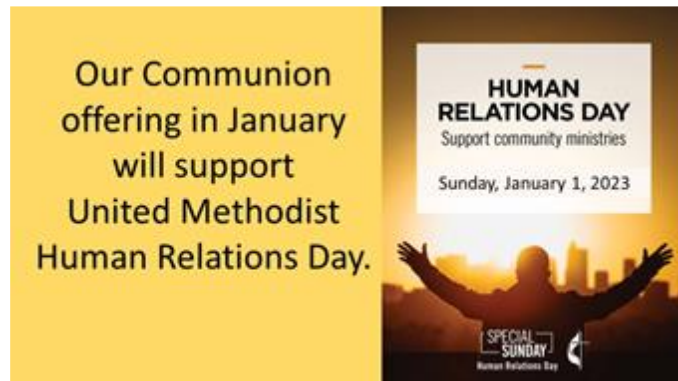
**Grace and peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen**

Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Judy Bull
The Gee Family	Scott Fletcher
Tom Sanders	David Loper
Danny Halron	Jim Cranford
Jim Taylor	Alan Pollock
Grandma Gloria	Margaret Young
Yvette's kids	Braulia Brown and Family
Betty Garrison	Family of Susan Maxwell
Edrese Hanigan	Juan Torres' friend Sabrina
Evelyn Womble	Family of Nicole Clark
Ralph Minton	Martha Johnson
Kevin Patterson	Don Oldfield
Ruth Fuls	David Horton
Sam Orton	Linda Horton
Gloria (Pinson) Ming	Mass Shooting Victims

Giving Tree for Genesis Women's Shelter. We are collecting items for Genesis Women's Shelter. They are in special need of women's shoes sizes 6-10, women's leggings/pants in all sizes, reusable cups, and bed pillows. Donations can be placed under the Giving Tree in the main hallway through New Year's Day.

Human Relations Day. Our Communion offering in January will support United Methodist Human Relations Day, which strengthens UM outreach to communities in the US and Puerto Rico to support social justice ministries and work with at-risk youth.



Year-End Giving. Thank you to everyone who has been so faithful in keeping up your pledge this year. As we approach the end of 2022, we hope you will remember Chapel Hill UMC and make a final gift to help us keep our programs going into 2023.

Please remember that all gifts must be received on or before December 31st in order to count toward your 2022 giving and meet IRS regulations. If it's important to you that your gift be recorded in 2022, please plan ahead and get it to the church or our treasurer Jan Wooldridge before December 31st.

Church Council Meeting Monday, January 9th at 7 PM



SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual CHUMC Advance Meeting will be Saturday, January 28th from 9 AM- Noon.

Bible Year 2022 Readings

Tues. Dec. 27	Rev. 12:1-14:20
Weds. Dec. 28	Rev. 15:1-17:18
Thurs. Dec. 29	Rev. 18:1-20:15
Fri. Dec. 30	Rev. 21:1-22:21
Sat. Dec. 31	AMEN!

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc

BIRTHDAY REMINDER: Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** office@chapelhillumc.org



David	Ricks	12/24	Jose	Ramirez	1/17
Riley	Dobbs	12/26	Amy	Swanson	1/18
Jazlin	DeLeon	1/6	Janis	Cogshall	1/22
Jazmin	DeLeon	1/6	Barbara	Tatum	1/29
Judy	Charvat	1/13	Sarah	Bandy	1/30
Glen	Womble	1/15			