



# FUMCHS News

December 2022

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## Greetings Family, from Rev. Dr. Doug McClain

We have finally made it to the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. For the Christian community, we initiate the new year, in December during the season of Advent. This is a month filled with activity both in the secular realm and the sacred. To get us in the Spirit, we may tune in to our favorite Christmas movie. Maybe we look forward to Frosty the Snowman or How the Grinch Stole Christmas or to a host of other seasonal shows that claim to get us in the right mood for Christmas (Hallmark Channel). But those special productions pale in comparison to the real pageantry and meaning of Christmas. Imagine you were there. Enter a pregnant woman and her husband. Seeing for yourself the birth of a baby. Then discovering that this was no ordinary baby. Upon the arrival of this precious child, the heavens are opened, a multitude of angels descend, shepherds leave the fields and their flocks behind and soon travelers from the Far-East bring expensive gifts and bow down in worship to the tiny infant. A star has lit the way for the world to come and praise this child.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Shoppers Paradise will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 24, until we re-open on Jan. 3, 2023.

## Christmas Services

**Saturday, December 24, 5 PM** Choir & Children perform the Christmas story as Pastor Doug narrates, followed by candlelight service.

**Saturday, December 24, 7 PM** The Youth perform the Christmas story as Pastor Doug narrates between hymns, followed by candlelight service.

**Sunday, December 25, 10 AM** Sunday Service in Fellowship Hall with Continental Breakfast. Children can come in their pajamas, if they prefer.

## Greetings Family

(Continued from page 1) So too, we wait. Not that we wait on a Savior to come, we wait on our Savior to return. While we wait, we have been tasked with being the church. As part of the “holy catholic” universal church we share a responsibility to introduce this baby, to ours, and future generations. We acknowledge that the Christ Child is God. God left the eternal realm and entered our worldly realm. God became one of us, so that, God could save all who repent of their sin. Our greatest temptation is to turn and flee from God, which brings death. Our greatest joy is to turn and run to God, who offers the repentant heart, ever lasting life. Left alone, it is easy, even for a Christian, to flee from God. Gathered, as the church, we live into our calling to share the love of God with a world that is in sin and darkness. The beauty of Advent is that the message of Christmas, is anticipated every year. And

while we await our Savior’s return, we again are afforded new opportunities to share the gospel. Only God knows what lies ahead; I cannot imagine a better group of people to faithfully journey with, through 2023. The greatest gift has been given to us this day. A baby, a manger, a man, a cross, our sinful life redeemed, to the glory of God. Enjoy every celebration. Because we know, there is more work to be done, more lives to be saved. We will faithfully answer God’s call in 2023. That is the best gift we can offer Jesus.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord!  
Merry Christmas and a joy filled New Year, and receive again, the love, joy, hope, and peace of our Savior.

God loves you, and so do I,

*Pastor Doug*

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## 2Grow

First United Methodist Church  
10100 SE Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
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- Sunday, 9 AM Light for the Way** (Youth Building)  
**Monday, 7 PM Fresh Start** (Workroom & Online)  
**Tuesday, 10 AM & 7 PM Pastor Bible Study** (Workroom & Online)  
**Wednesday, 8:30 AM Breakfast with God** (Old Dixie Café North)  
**Wednesday, 11 AM Midweek Bible Study** (Workroom & Online)  
**Wednesday, 6:30 PM Youth Bible Study** (Youth Building)  
**Thursday, 7 PM Spirit Rising** (Workroom & Online)

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## Commentary: Negative Emotions by Don Brown

A little while back in one of our topical study groups we investigated Half Truths\* – statements that sound good, but which are not altogether based on the teaching we receive from God’s Word. These sayings have some kind of truth behind them but are easily mistaken to justify a not-so-good worldview. One of these sayings is, perhaps, the most insidious of all - “Hate the sin, not the sinner”. It sure sounds wise on the surface, but, at its core, there is an element that is harmful. I say it’s most insidious, as I think it is something that is causing a lot of turmoil in many of our institutions now, that is, in many of our earthly organizations.

As we look at the life of Jesus as presented though the Gospels, we see that He, at times, showed some anger at the religious establishment and at those taking advantage of the religious practices. However, He also had meals with and had loving instruction for these same people. We may find anger rising in us, but we are not to “let the sun go down” on that anger. It is not to exert an ongoing influence on our emotional center. I would extend that to any negative emotion – anger, fear, hatred and guilt. Our prime motivation for the actions that represent our character is to be love.

Negative emotions are to be transient. We recognize they may come up, but they are not to take up extended residence in our emotional center to where they work their way into our character.

We need to watch out for this in the influencers in our earthly institutions. Whenever we feel that someone is trying to influence our emotions with hatred, fear, anger, or guilt, we need to recognize the true source behind these directions and respond with Jesus’ command when Peter was trying to instill fear about where Jesus was heading in His journey – “Get behind me, Satan”.

*“In your anger do not sin.” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”*

*(Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV)*



*Don Brown is a staff member at First United Methodist Church Hobe Sound. He wears several “hats” as the Director of Discipleship, Contemporary Music Director, and our Technology Expert. Don selects video series from renowned Biblical teachers like Andy Stanley, Adam Hamilton (the author of “Half Truths”) and C.S. Lewis for topical studies on real life issues for the two growth groups he leads: Fresh Start and Spirit Rising. Don Brown and his wife, Ellen, have been members of our church since 2004.*

# December 2022 Events




**2022 Hobe Sound Christmas Parade**

Christmas Float Workshop  
Thursday, December 1, 4-6 PM  
By Children's Wing

Stephen Ministry Meetings  
Saturday, December 3, 10 & 17, 10 AM  
Fellowship Hall, Room 10



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



**Christmas Parade**

Hobe Sound Christmas Parade  
Sat., Dec. 3, 1 PM (12 PM for child on float)  
Old Dixie Hwy & Bridge Road


Christmas Tea  
Wednesday, December 7, 6 PM  
Fellowship Hall (Tickets \$15)



**Covered Dish Dinner**

Covered Dish Dinner  
Wednesday, December 14, 5:30 PM  
Fellowship Hall

Campus Work Day  
Sunday, December 17, 9 AM  
Meet in the Courtyard




## December 2022 Events, cont.



Parents Night Out  
Saturday, December 17, 4 to 8 PM  
Children's Wing (Family Games 4-5 PM)

Youth Sunday  
Sunday, December 18, 10 AM  
Sanctuary



Church Office Closed  
December 23 and December 26

Christmas Story & Candlelight Service  
Saturday, December 24  
Choir, Children perform at 5 PM  
Youth perform at 7 PM



Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 25, 10 AM  
Fellowship Hall (Continental Breakfast)

Singles Night Out at Twin Dragons  
Saturday, December 31, 4 PM  
RSVP Linda Evans 772-546-0107



## **Rev. Dr. Doug McClain's Sermon Plans Advent: Tales from Long Ago**

*Sundays, 10 AM, Sanctuary and Online*

**Nov. 27 at 10 AM, Hope:** *Mary Hopes in Joseph, The coming kingdom means Joseph must decide to take or not take Mary as his bride. Matthew 1:18-21*

**Dec. 4, at 10 AM, Joy:** *The Joy of Prophecy Fulfilled; The Old Testament's Laws and Prophets finally come together and are fulfilled in Jesus. Matthew 1:22-25*

**Dec. 11, at 10 AM, Love:** *Angels and Shepherds Love Babies, Do You? How does something so vulnerable to the world, save the world? Luke 2:1-20*

**Dec. 18, at 10 AM, Peace:** *Finding Peace in Egypt, of All Places! Survival of the Holy Family means choosing to live far away from home. Matthew 2:13-15*

**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve at 5 PM** with the choir & children performing, as Pastor Doug narrates, followed by candlelight service.

**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve at 5 PM** with the youth performing, as Pastor Doug narrates, followed by candlelight service.

*Sermon: Risky Business: It was a great risk for God to leave the heavenly realm and enter life in our world. Isaiah 9:2-7*

**Dec. 25, Christmas Day, This Little Light of Mine;** *For centuries humanity was looking for a Messiah, today we celebrate that we no longer wander about in the dark looking, but now there is light so that we can find. John 1:1-14*



Join us online.

## Readings for Advent 2022

11/26/2022	Isaiah 11:1-10
11/27/2022	Genesis 1:26-2:4
11/28/2022	Genesis 3:1-24
11/29/2022	Genesis 9:1-17
11/30/2022	Genesis 12:1-9
12/1/2022	Genesis 15:1-21
12/2/2022	Genesis 22:1-14
12/3/2022	Genesis 28:10-22
12/4/2022	Genesis 37:1-11
12/5/2022	Genesis 49:8-12
12/6/2022	Exodus 14:1-31
12/7/2022	Exodus 20:1-16
12/8/2022	Joshua 6:1-27
12/9/2022	Ruth 4:1-22
12/10/2022	1 Samuel 3:1-21
12/11/2022	1 Samuel 8:1-22
12/12/2022	1 Samuel 16:1-25
12/13/2022	1 Kings 3:3-14
12/14/2022	1 Kings 17:1-16
12/15/2022	Isaiah 53:1-12
12/16/2022	Jeremiah 31:31-34
12/17/2022	Habakkuk 3:16-19
12/18/2022	Nehemiah 6:15-16, 8:1-18
12/19/2022	Nehemiah 9:1-38
12/20/2022	Luke 1:57-80
12/21/2022	Luke 1:26-38
12/22/2022	Luke 2:1-20
12/23/2022	John 1:1-14
12/24/2022	Matthew 1:18-25
12/25/2022	Matthew 2:1-12

## Christmas Tea, Dec. 7, 6 PM

The Ladies Christmas Tea will be on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:00 PM. We'll be serenaded by our choir, enchanted with Ms. Barbara's exceptional piano-playing, delighted with delectable teas, sandwiches, and sweets, and more. Contact Bette at 772-546-3303 to get your ticket for \$15. Mothers attending can bring their child for free, to sit at the children's table. The youth plan to serve.



## Light for the Way, Sundays, 9 AM

Nov. 27 "Take Your Turn" from  
Mark 7:24-30

Dec. 4 "Heartstrings" from  
Mark 10:17-22

Dec. 11 "The Big Picture" from  
Mark 12: 28-34

Dec. 18 "Peter Blows It" from  
Mark 14:66-72

# First United Methodist Church

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*We are a gathering place on fire with the joy of Christ's Spirit.*

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## Rev. Dr. Doug McClain's 10 AM Sunday Sermon Plans

### ADVENT 2022

Nov. 27	HOPE: Mary Hopes in Joseph	Matthew 1:18-21
Dec. 4	JOY: The Joy of Prophecy Fulfilled	Matthew 1:22-25
Dec. 11	LOVE: Angels & Shepherds Love Babies, Do You?	Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 18	PEACE: Finding Peace in Egypt, of All Places!	Matthew 2:13-15
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (5 PM & 7 PM)	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service & Continental Breakfast	