

January 14, 2024



Waking Up

What happens when *YOU* wake up in the morning? For some people, waking up can be a semi-pleasant experience. For me - the alarm never goes off. I wake up based on the light streaming into the room from the windows; my feet hit the floor, I feed the cats, then myself, shave, shower, and I am ready to greet another gorgeous day. Then I bird watch from a room with three glass sides.

For others, like my wife, Molly, it is a quieter, slower process. She gets out of bed half asleep – half awake, not sure which it is until gradually, without any shock of resentment, she settles into her morning routine of the enews, tea, a small plate of carbs, protein and fruit, then she invites the kitties to gather around her – and slowly, she becomes happy to pour her creative juices into another day.

Most of us know something of both these approaches to being awake, and a lot in between.

Waking up provides you and me with a marvelous portrait of what happens when God takes a hand in someone's life.

Here is a waking up story you'll remember. Saul of Tarsus is on the road to Damascus, Syria. Suddenly, Saul is blinded by a light, knocked from his horse into the dust, and he awakens to the thought that the God he'd always worshipped had been revealed in the crucified and resurrected Jesus of Nazareth, whose followers he'd been arresting and persecuting. Another is good ole John Wesley, who found one evening his heart being strangely warmed as he awakened to God's prevenient grace...he took a deep, tearful breath and never looked back. There are millions more awakenings.

The awakenings I am talking about are yours and mine. They don't make the headlines; they are often of the half

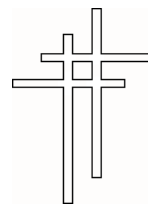
asleep – half awake variety. Some of us take months, years and maybe even decades to awaken. Much of the time we're not certain whether we are on the outside of the Christian faith looking in or on the inside of the faith looking around trying to figure out what's real.

Just like waking up in the morning, many of us are somewhere in between. My point is that there is such a thing as sleeping through life, and such a thing as being awake to all life's rich possibilities. It is urgent that you and I learn to tell the difference, so that each day and every week we are awake by the time you have to be ready for action...actions that will involve your and my being awakened to the presence and guidance of God in our daily lives...whatever those actions may be.

*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

Please Celebrate Sunday's Message

Huguenot United Methodist Church is inviting you to our Sunday Morning Worship Service. This in-person service begins at 11 a.m. Please join us and take part in our worship and praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Pastor Jim Sprouse will provide us with the message

"When God Repents"

We hope you will join us!

HUMC Nursery

Our nursery caregivers, Rosalie Koch and a volunteer, are at church every Sunday morning and ready to welcome infant and toddler children in the nursery! **Childcare is provided from 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**



Nursery Wish

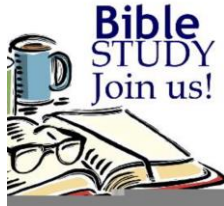
The nursery is in need of:

- 1 twin size flat sheet, any color or pattern

Thank you,
Rosalie Koch, Nursery Caregiver

Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of our lesson for Sunday, January 14 is "The Marks of True Wisdom." The focal passage is Genesis 50: 15-21; Proverbs 2: 11-12. The background text is Genesis 39: 21-23; Genesis 41; 45: 5-8; 50: 15-21; Proverbs 2: 11-12; 3: 1-18. The purpose statement is "To contemplate ways God brings good out of bad situation to life."



We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817 gflinchb@gmail.com



Communion Volunteers Meeting THIS Sunday, January 14

This is a good time of year for the communion volunteers to discuss some of the usage of paraments that are hung for the church services, so a meeting is scheduled for January 14 right after the church service in the sanctuary. If the volunteers would bring their information sheets titled Huguenot United Methodist Church Terminology and The Christian Year, that would be helpful. The main topic of discussion will be the use of the paraments for church services, but if anyone has issues or concerns about how we service communion, these ideas can be addressed. Looking forward to seeing all the communion volunteers after church this coming Sunday.

-Sarah Coffey

SPECIAL THANKS

Cross Renovation

Shortly before Thanksgiving, Jillmarie Hoover Bowers and a friend took on the project of refurbishing our outdoor cross that was in bad need of work. This process involved sanding, scraping and preparing it for painting. The results of this project were completed before Christmas, and we as members and others passing on the street can now enjoy the efforts of Jillmarie and her friends.

Many thanks,
HUMC Trustees

HUMC Missions Meeting

Let's Talk About Huguenot UMC Missions
Past – Present – Future

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Huguenot UMC Fellowship Hall

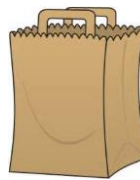
"To Be a Church in Service and in Witness to Our Members and Our Community."

If you are interested in the mission program of our church you are invited and encouraged to attend this one-hour discussion regarding the mission program of our church. This meeting is intended to be an informal discussion about where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go with our mission program in the future. Please plan to attend and share your mission vision with us. If you would like transportation to this meeting, please let me know.
Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817
gflinchb@gmail.com
(Please do not use my former yahoo email address.)



Blessing Box

Thank you to all who have donated to the Blessing Box in front of Huguenot UMC. It is being used! On Thursday, December 21, I checked the Blessing Box and it was full of many items. I checked again on Saturday morning, Dec. 23 and there was not much there. I went off to the store and filled it up again at 5 p.m. I checked the Blessing Box on Christmas morning and most everything was gone. The following are some of the items that are being used: spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, corned beef hash, chili, Vienna sausages, spam, large cans of beef stew, fruit, toothbrush kits with small toothpaste tubes in a case. If you have any hotel "freebies", shampoo, soap, etc. are also very much used. Always paper products, individually wrapped toilet paper and tissues. I have found Walmart to be the most economical for canned foods and also the Dollar Store. We prefer canned and plastic products rather than glass. We are also in need of more paper bags. I have always had a large supply but it has been depleted in recent weeks since installing the Blessing Box.



Thank you again for supporting the Blessing Box. Christmas weekend was especially meaningful to me knowing that some families were able to have a dinner, even if it was beef stew and not ham or turkey.

Any questions, please call Judith Westerhouse.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study started back on January 4, 2024. Please feel free to join us next Thursday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we resume our study of the book, Never Alone, by Max Lucado.



Save the Date! Our Next Coffee Fellowship: February 4th

Would you like to host an upcoming Coffee Fellowship? We have scheduled our Coffee Fellowships for the first Sunday of each month. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall to be a future Coffee Fellowship host.



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Welcome 2024! I have given the 2024 Wednesday Fellowship schedule a lot of thought. I appreciate all the assistance from our group to continue this program, but I am unable to continue hosting twice a month. I will host the second Wednesday and I suggest that we meet once a month during the winter.



Bring a dish to share and fellowship with your church family and friends. Please come early/stay after if you can assist. Many hands make light work! I welcome your program suggestions!

Future dates:

- **February 14** (Dinner at 6 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.)
- **March 13**

Wednesday Night Pot Luck Fellowship Dinners are on the second Wednesday of each month. Feel free to email or text Shirley Bradshaw with questions at sbrads2321@gmail.com or (804) 240-1240.

Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

Our preschool has an on-going fundraiser with Marco's Pizza. Just use the code: **HUMCPSAF** when ordering over the phone or online and the school receives a portion from each sale all year long. Participating locations include the Marco's Pizza on Sheila Lane and on Midlothian Turnpike.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the **Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar** a big success! We were able to raise more than \$1,200 for the purchase of fabric and supplies for our projects in 2024. Just recently, we donated fleece hats for homeless residents on a work project, holiday pillowcases for patients at Children's Hospital, and chemo port shirts for cancer patients. This month, a box of dresses will be on its way to needy girls. Thanks again for supporting Joy of Crafts. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Choir practice has resumed! New members (or those who might be interested) are **WELCOME!** We meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please contact Connie Salmeri with any questions. (804) 314-6308



Happy Birthday!



Betty Clatterbaugh (Jan. 14)
Jon Smith (Jan. 16)

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call, leave a note or send an email to Elaine so she can include you!

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **January and February** edition of The Upper Room are now available on the greeting table at the front entrance. Please consider making a donation in the labeled box.



- Nick Anderson
- Sylvia Carr
- Jon Smith
- Linda Smith

In an effort to keep the prayer requests current, names posted will be removed after 30 days unless requested otherwise.



- Sunday, Jan. 14 – 2nd Sunday in Epiphany**
10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Communion Volunteers Meeting (Sanctuary)
- Tues., Jan. 16**
5:45 p.m...Preschool Staff Meeting (CR)
6:30 p.m...HUMC Missions Meeting (FH)
- Wed., Jan. 17**
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)
- Thursday, Jan. 18**
10 a.m...Women’s Bible Study (FH)
- Friday, Jan. 19**
9 a.m...Library Work Session
Cub Scout Pack 861 – Pinewood Derby (FH)
- Saturday, Jan. 20**
Cub Scout Pack 861 – Pinewood Derby (FH)
- Sunday, Jan. 21– 3rd Sunday in Epiphany**
10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship

<p>CR – Choir Room FH – Fellowship Hall K – Kitchen L – Library PR – Puppet Room</p>



Dear HUMC Congregation,
Thank you so much for the Target gift card! I will surely enjoy a shopping spree one day soon. I appreciate the many ways your church family blesses my life.

In Gratitude,
Elaine Grider



- Sun., Feb. 4 – Coffee Fellowship following worship
- Fri., Feb. 9 – Feed the Homeless @ 10 a.m.
- Tues., Feb. 13 – United Women in Faith Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday
Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner @ 6 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 20 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Church Office Hours:

Pastor Jim is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Elaine is in the office each Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These hours are subject to change on occasion. If you have an article for the *pulse* newsletter, please email it to Elaine **by Wednesday at 10 a.m.**

Note: This newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin are posted on the church website by Friday evening.



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