

January 21, 2024



Humming Melodies

Acts 16: 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. 23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

Psalm 104:33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Think about melodies today. Hum a tune softly, but aloud. Sometimes we sing to ourselves when things are not going so well, the silent music that makes dark days and hard times a bit more bearable. It is remarkable that God has given us human beings this gift for self-resilience. Some years back, just after 9/11, I heard a Nazi holocaust survivor speak about the time she spent in a concentration camp. She told me of humming softly to

herself in order to stay sane in an insane world, to keep going one more day when she didn't think she had the strength to go one more hour. You and I don't have to be musically inclined to do it. Just flail away at some tune, with or without the words coming to mind, and it helps endure and brighten the day.

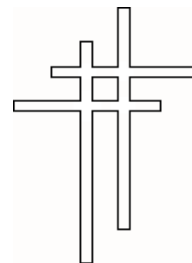
Paul and Silas, according to Acts, sang hymns at midnight in the Philippian jail where they had been beaten and locked up. We don't know if the hymns were audible or if they sang them quietly to themselves. But an earthquake rumbled through Philippi as they sang, and the prison doors flung open. Singing isn't usually that dramatic; the music doesn't knock down prison doors or solve our problems. But it is redemptive and supportive, nevertheless, and something for which we should be greatly thankful. The old hymn is right: *There's within my heart a melody Jesus whispers sweet and low: Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still, in all of life's ebb and flow.* (UMH 380)

God does implant a song in our hearts, and the more we pray, the better we sing it.

*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 Light Shines Through"

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:

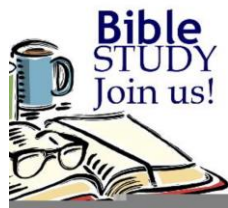
- 1 twin size flat sheet, any color or pattern

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 21 is “A Discerning Mind.” The focal passage is Proverbs 2: 3-5; 1 Kings 3: 3-15. The background text is 2 Samuel 14: 1-24; Proverbs 4: 1-13. The purpose statement is “To discern ways to differentiate good from evil through the gift of God’s wisdom.”

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

**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

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



HUMC Missions Meeting

(New date due to previous inclement weather.)

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

Tuesday, January 23, 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 missions program of our church you are encouraged to attend this one-hour discussion regarding Huguenot’s missions program. 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 missions program in the future. Please plan to attend and share your missions 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. Any questions, please call Judith Westerhouse.



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.



Joy of Crafts has gotten off to a lively start in 2024 with a steady stream of donations to the group From the Heart, a sort of clearinghouse for comfort items to nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis centers and shelters. We have donated fleece hats, mittens, scarves, wheelchair totes, chemo port shirts, drain bags, clothing protectors, neck pillows and dresses for needy girls around the world. We are able to buy the supplies for all these projects thanks to your support of our holiday bazaar last month. Thank you!



If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday Potluck Fellowship Dinners are on the second Wednesday of each month. Bring a dish to share and fellowship with your church family and friends. Please come early / stay late if you can assist. Many hands make light work.

Future dates:

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

Contact Shirley Bradshaw with questions or suggestions.
Sbrads2321@gmail.com
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.



Happy Anniversary to
John and Pat Brauer (Jan. 25)



Happy Birthday to
Sue Croll (Jan. 26)

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



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.

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.



Sunday, Jan. 21– 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)

11 a.m...Worship

Tues., Jan. 23

6:30 p.m...HUMC Missions Meeting (FH)

Wed., Jan. 24

7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, Jan. 25

10 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)

Friday, Jan. 26

9 a.m...Library Work Session

Sunday, Jan. 28– 4th Sunday in Epiphany

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)

11 a.m...Worship

CR – Choir Room FH – Fellowship Hall
K – Kitchen L – Library PR – Puppet Room



- 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.

10661 Duryea Drive
Richmond, VA 23235-2106
(804) 272-6820
HuguenotUMC@gmail.com
Website: HUGUENOTUMC.org

