

January 7, 2024



January 2024

A well-constructed story appeals to us all because everything that happens contributes to the whole, and we often wish that all of the events of our own lives contributed to some overall meaning. In *Orthodoxy*, G.K. Chesterton, described how he eventually came to the conviction that all life was like a story – a grand adventure story. Adventure stories usually have some important goal that requires great dedication if it is to be achieved; they tell of the valor of loyal companions who face danger and endure losses in achieving that goal. Chesterton showed that this *life as adventure* theme is also present in the Christian understanding of life.

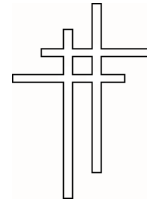
You and I express who we are in the form of the stories we tell about ourselves. We introduce ourselves to other people by telling them where we are from, where we were educated, who we know, whether we are married and have family, and sometimes, what our goals are, etc. We do this because our identity is achieved slowly, through time, and it cannot be expressed apart from an account of our specific passage through time. Let us remember those who in 2023 passed from time-bound life to life eternal (**list the names**).

You, I and all who worship with God at Huguenot Church are on a grand adventure together. Only God knows what wonderful adventures lay ahead for us in year 2024; what new faces will join our happy throng; what familiar faces will disappear from our earthly fellowship. We are all just passing through time. So, with full confidence that God knows where our journey leads, let's embrace one another with an esprit de corp and enthusiasm for ministry together with Christ that we write our names on the pages of volume 2024 of the greatest story still being told.

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

"A Light to the Nations"
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 Wishes

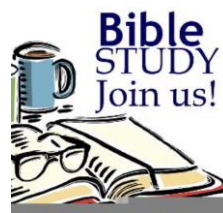
The nursery is in need of:

- 1 twin size flat sheet, any color or pattern
- 1 queen 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 7 is "The Wisdom and Worship of the Magi." The focal passage is Proverbs 2: 8-9; Matthew 2: 1-12. The background text is Proverbs 2: 1-15. The purpose statement is "To identify the marks of true wisdom in our discipleship journey."



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 gflinchr@gmail.com



United
Women
in Faith

THIS Sunday – January 7 Coffee Fellowship

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship this Sunday, January 7**, for coffee, some light snacks and great conversations. We invite our visitors to join us for coffee fellowship, so we can answer their questions about HUMC and we can get to know them better. **See you there!** *Thank you to Judy and Jim Anderson for hosting us!*

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.



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.

After having a beautiful luncheon in December, the United Women in Faith are ready to begin our New Year with an inspiring meeting on Prayer and Self Denial, given by Wenda Singer on **Tuesday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m.** Wenda always put a lot of effort in her programs and encourages us to be Women in Faith with wise words.

Our Response reader for three months is Susan Case, and our Prayer Guide reader is Carol Cardwell. No one has signed up as Hostess, so I will set up the room and those that could, just bring a small something to share, only a small something...after Christmas, we all probably have to cut to cut back a little!?

Looking forward to a great Beginning to 2024 and maybe some new faces.

Shalom,
Cissy Hope

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:

This week -- January 10

February 14

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.

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.)



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.



2024 Offering Envelopes

Our 2024 offering envelopes have arrived and are on the credenza near the entrance. Please pick yours up so you can start using them in January. The new boxed sets include an Initial Offering envelope to help defray the envelope cost, so you can include a donation for them with your January offering. The boxed envelopes for 2023 included some extra envelopes so please discard them at the end of the year since the envelope numbers

have changed for some of our members. A few extra sets of envelopes were included with our order. If you did not receive 2024 envelopes and would like a set, please see our church treasurer, Chip Woodall.

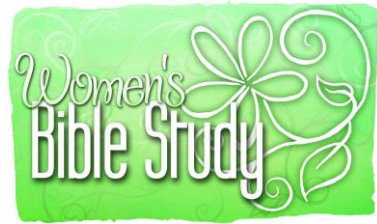
Offering Envelopes



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.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study started back on January 4, 2024. Please feel free to join us next Thursday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we resume our study of the book, Never Alone, by Max Lucado.



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!



Carol Cardwell (Jan. 10)
Jillmarie Hoover Bowers (Jan. 12)
Betty Clatterbaugh (Jan. 14)

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

Carmen Hoge

Stuart Joerg

Jon Smith

Linda Smith

Wayne Taney

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



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



Sunday, Jan. 7 – 1st Sunday in Epiphany

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship after worship (FH)

Tues., Jan. 9

10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith Meeting (FH)

Wed., Jan. 10

6 p.m...Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner (FH)
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, Jan. 11

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

Friday, Jan. 12

10 a.m...Feed the Homeless (K)
10 a.m...Library Work Session

Sunday, Jan. 14 – 2nd 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



- Tues., Jan. 16 – HUMC Missions Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. (FH)
- Fri. and Sat, Jan. 19-20 – Cub Scout Pack 861 Pinewood Derby (FH)

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

