

February 11, 2024



Dialogue

NIV John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." **3** In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." **4** "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" **5** Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." **9** "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. **10** "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

Listen to the dialogues taking place around you today, and think about how important dialogue is, both to human understanding and to spiritual growth. You and I learn through dialogue. Dialogue helps us locate ourselves in the ongoing conversations of life. You've barely turned a page of the Bible when we hear the dialogue between God and Adam. Jesus employed dialogue daily to engage the minds and hearts of the people he tried to reach and teach: the woman at the well; the young, rich ruler; Nicodemus; Martha & Mary; the disciples; and even Pontius Pilate.

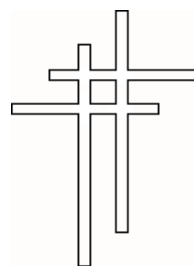
A former professor of mine who taught me about Roman Catholicism and the Roman Catholic counter reformation was a Jesuit priest (Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J.). He is one of those professors who can have a profound influence on a person's life...my life! At the time when I was knee deep in medieval Jewish philosophy, studying and in dialogue with three Rabbinic Professors, Gerry kept me grounded and in dialogue with the universal Christian faith. He introduced me to the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order. Loyola discovered that dialogue with God's Spirit granted him a spiritual understanding of his life that had evaded his introspection for years. Ignatius developed a series of *Spiritual Exercises*. Following these exercises, a candidate for Jesuit orders mentally put himself in God's presence and began hearing questions about everything in his life. As the dialogue proceeded, the candidate was challenged, rebuked, and encouraged until his spirit was changed. Dialogue is not about changing the other person's point of view or reference. It is learning how to hear others and yourself in fresh, life-affirming ways. Listen to the Spirit of God questioning you today. Carry on a conversation with God. Talk with others about your spiritual life. You may be amazed at what you will learn.

*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

Check out Gerry Fogarty:
<https://religiousstudies.as.virginia.edu/gerald-fogarty>

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



"First Things First"

We hope you will join us!



United
Women
in Faith

HUMC Nursery

Our nursery caregivers, Rosalie Koch and Lena Cosmo are at church every Sunday and ready to welcome infant and toddler children in the nursery during worship from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Rosalie and a volunteer provide childcare from 9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

Nursery Wish

The nursery is in need of:

- 1 twin size flat sheet, any color or pattern

Thank you,

Rosalie Koch, Nursery Caregiver

Welcome Lena!

Your Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee is delighted to welcome Lena Cosmo, as our new nursery caregiver assistant! Lena is enjoying her senior year at James River High School. She is an experienced child care provider as well as a pet sitter. Please welcome her to our Huguenot family! Be sure to add her contact information to your church directory.

Lena Cosmo (804) 821-3516

2515 Cromwell Road, Richmond, VA 23235

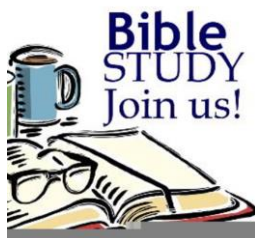
Lena.cosmo1@gmail.com

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, February 11 is "True Devotion." The focal passage is Matthew 6: 1-8. The background text is Isaiah 58; Matthew 6: 1-8. The purpose statement is "To honor Jesus through acts of genuine Christian devotion."

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 gflincb@gmail.com



United Methodist Women

Please join us **Tuesday, February 13**, as we gather to share love with our Preschool and members of our Church. We will meet at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with sharing and snacks as well as working on projects! We will also lift up the March ideas for supporting UMCOR. Hope to see some new faces!

Cissy Hope, President



Ash
Wednesday
Service

Ash Wednesday

We will mark the start of the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday observances on Wed., Feb. 14. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we encounter our own mortality and confess the things we would have done differently. The use of ashes as a sign of repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship traditions, and the *Imposition of Ashes* can be powerful nonverbal experiential way of participating in the call to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Imposition of Ashes Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024

Drive-through

(Remain in your car)

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Service

in the Sanctuary at 6:30 following the 6 p.m. Fellowship gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an appetizer, nosh or nibble to share.

All Invited and Welcome



THIS WEEK! 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.

Please join us! Wednesday, February 14

Dinner at 6 p.m. and Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.

Also Save the Date:

- March 13

Contact Shirley Bradshaw with questions or suggestions.

Sbrads2321@gmail.com

804-240-1240

Attention! Volunteers Needed!

HUMC is hosting our third **Parents' Night Out** for the preschool families **NEXT Friday, February 16 from 5:30 – 8 p.m.** We are looking for volunteers to help feed the children pizza and entertain them with games/activities and a movie. **PLEASE NOTE: Two more volunteers are needed.**



Our Preschool was established as part of our total church program, not just as a separate program which uses the church facility, but as a vital part of our church outreach into the community. This is such a wonderful gift we offer to the preschool and the more volunteers we have, the more families we can accommodate!

Please let Ronni Wohlford know if you're able to volunteer or use the sign-up sheet posted on the church bulletin board.



If any of our older children in the congregation are interested in volunteering or would like a little practice babysitting, we would love to have their help too!

ronniwohlford@gmail.com

804.536.3968

CALLING ALL BELL RINGERS:

Joanne Barreca, choir member, is organizing a group to once again play bells! Many of you are experienced bell ringers or have indicated an interest in this. Please let Joanne know if you are interested, how many bells you are comfortable ringing in one song, and any preference as to treble or bass. Joanne's e-mail is jlbarreca@yahoo.com. The first date for playing will be in the Spring.



Connie Salmeri
Director of Music



Great HUMC Missions Discussion Next Discussion, Tues., Feb. 27, 2024

Many thanks to everyone who attended our missions discussion on Tuesday, January 23. We had a great turnout and a great discussion. We discussed many new mission ideas and we discussed many of the mission projects we supported over the last several years. Our next mission discussion will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2023, in person in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Prior to the February meeting, Pastor Jim volunteered to pull together a team to review and present at the February meeting, a few new mission possibilities for Huguenot UMC. The goal of the February meeting is to determine what mission projects HUMC will focus on for 2024.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in our mission discussions, regardless of whether you attended the Jan. 23 meeting or not. Please attend and be a part of our mission planning for our church.

If anyone has any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817 gflinchb@gmail.com

Blessing Box Update

Friends, an update on our community Blessing Box. It is being used!! We are delighted that it is being utilized but saddened that there is such a need in our community. The Missions team understands that we are all “pulled” in many different directions and being asked for donations from one charity to another. We do not want our congregation to feel as though they need to support all of these activities. We are, hopefully providing opportunities. The idea behind the Blessing Box was that it would be supported by our church but also our nearby community. We will need to work on letting our nearby community know of this opportunity.



There are many ways to be involved in missions at Huguenot Church; i.e. Joy of Crafts, Friends of the Homeless, Rise Against Hunger, preschool outreach, UMCOR, Bainbridge Community food pantry and now the Blessing Box. We hope you will choose what speaks to your heart. We do not want anyone in our community to feel the “pressure” of supporting every mission.

If you have an idea for a mission that you think Huguenot should get involved in that you would be pleased to initiate, we would be very happy to hear about it. As mentioned in the previous article, our next missions meeting is on Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and share your thoughts.

For your information, the items utilized from our Blessing Box in the past two weeks: Toilet paper, napkins, paper plates, individually wrapped plastic flatware, bar soap, all types of vegetables, hearty soups, cream of mushroom soup, canned chicken, chicken dumplings, tuna fish, boxed cereal, shelf milk (small containers, as well as, quart sized), 10 oz sized apple juice, small water bottles, blueberry and banana muffin mix, instant mashed potatoes, anything with pop tops, canned fruit, condiments, all spices, ketchup, mayo, mustard, jelly etc.



Thank you to all for your support of Huguenot and our missions program.

HUMC Missions team

PAUSE

Thanks to all who donated for and/or purchased books for two book sales during 2023. Your efforts allowed United Women in Faith (UWF) to send the proceeds to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to assist our brothers and sisters around the world as they deal with numerous kinds of disasters. **For the time being we are not accepting additional books.** Remaining books from previous book sales will be donated. Rest assured; you will be among the first to know when we decide to plan for another book sale.



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 year. Thank you!

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



Would you like to Host?



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.

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



Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

Our preschool has an ongoing 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.

Newsletter News

If you have an article for the next *pulse* newsletter, please email it to Elaine *by Wednesday at 10 a.m.*

Please know that submitted articles may be edited to provide clarity and increased inclusion.



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



Happy Birthday to

John Clatterbaugh (Feb. 17)
Joanne Barreca (Feb. 18)



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

Dave Ferguson
(Phil Coffey's Brother-in-law)

Carmen Hoge

Jon Smith

Kari

Linda Smith

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



Sunday, Feb. 11 – Last Sunday in Epiphany

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Puppets in Praise and Service practice (PR)

Tues., Feb. 13

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

Wed., Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m...Drive thru Imposition of Ashes
6 p.m...Potluck Fellowship Dinner (FH)
6:30 p.m...Ash Wednesday Service (S)
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, Feb. 15

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

Friday, Feb. 16

9 a.m...Library Work Session (L)
5:30 p.m...Parents' Night Out (FH)

Sunday, Feb. 18 – First Sunday in Lent

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., Feb. 20 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Tues., Feb. 27 – Missions Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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. (FYI – Elaine’s hours may continue to vary as she supports family needs. She is checking voicemails and email and will respond to requests for assistance as soon as possible.)

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