

February 18, 2024



Hometowns

When Jesus returned to Nazareth, where he'd been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his custom. Luke 4:16.

We must learn to listen to the cock-crows and hammering and tick tock of our lives for the holy and elusive word that is spoken to us out of their depths. – Frederick Buechner, *The Sacred Journey*.

The Greek god, Zeus, had a number of daughters...nine. They're called the Muses. Today I am influenced by two of these beauties: Calliope (writing) and Mneme (memory). I am writing from my memory and asking you to remember, too. So, let's muse today about our hometown. Even if it's small and limiting, wealthy or impoverished, it nevertheless retains a certain claim on our minds and hearts. Our hometowns have a way of living on in our hearts.

Every year, thousands of people make their way home – some for class reunions, some for family reunions, and others merely to refresh their memories of life where they once lived. It says something for the homing instinct in the human brain, a trait we also share with pigeons.

I grew up in a small town crowned by Mr. Jefferson's university. Great schools, good hospitals, and wonderful friends adorned my golden, sheltered life. A few years ago - I returned to my hometown to revisit the streets, shops, and parks where so many hours of my childhood and youth were spent. I stood one morning staring at the vacant lot where we played sandlot football every fall and baseball every spring and summer. I was startled how small it looked now. How'd we ever get a pick-up game of baseball going in a field that small? For timeless moments I could see some of the boys and girls

I played with and I could hear their voices and laughter. Thank you, Mneme!

No matter how far we roam or how exciting our lives have become, we always have a special feeling for the old familiar streets, homes, and buildings of the town or area from which we hailed. Hometowns are so very important for famous and important people, too. It reminds them that their lives are indeed real, and that they're not merely dreaming about the things that happened to them. If they're persons of faith they may recognize the presence of another hand at work on writing their life's script. Thank you, Calliope! Perhaps I should say, thank you, Jesus!

Jesus once told a story about a boy who, after years of struggle and suffering...and living away from family, decided to return home. Remember the welcome he received from his father? Maybe in the end, being with God is our very special home. Maybe hometowns remind you and me of this...and that's why our hearts never totally desert our hometowns.

Muse with me today about your hometown and the special memories it holds for you. I hope your heart will be filled with a deep sense of gratitude. Then...say a little prayer of thanksgiving.

Shalom,

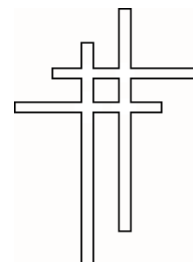
Jim Sprouse

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

"Decalogue"

We hope you will join us!



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.



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 will not meet this Sunday, Feb. 18.

We look forward to your participation in our class next Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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



Bedding Needed for Armenia

Lent just started and I wish you had been in Gerry's Sunday School class this past Sunday. We talked about the humility of Jesus as He was crucified on the cross. It reminded me as I try to live in the kingdom of God, how I need (and maybe all of us need) to practice a great deal more humility. This Lenten and Easter Season, we at HUMC have the opportunity to live out our humility by helping people in Armenia. Brian Mateer, Director of Missions at Western N.C. Methodist Churches, spoke to the Wednesday Night Fellowship about the church program that he supports in Armenia. In Armenia, approximately 26% of the people live below the poverty level. Also, there is much tension in the country because the countries around them always want their land and often try to take land by force. Many lives are in a state of uncertainty. Right now, there is a large influx of Russian refugees who are fleeing Putin and his tyranny. Armenia is a Christian country, so the churches are helping with the refugees that are coming to Armenia and it has been draining their resources. They are trying to furnish basic sleeping and shelter arrangements and they particularly need funds for bedding items like sheets, towels, mattresses, etc. They are asking for monetary donations to purchase the needed items and this would help to boost their economy.

This Lenten Season, can we think about practicing our humility by giving our gifts to Armenia in secret, to people who will never know of your help? Doesn't it make you glad when you think that Jesus will be pleased with your efforts?

Sarah Coffey

Fry-Day Night Lenten Fish Fry

The St. Edwards Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual Lenten dinner. The dinner consists of baked salmon or fried catfish, baked potato or French fries, green beans, coleslaw or salad and a drink. Takeout is also available. Time: 5-7 p.m. each Friday from February 16–March 22.



Stations of the Cross available in the St. Edwards sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent.



Church Council Meeting

The Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.



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

Would you like to Host on Sunday, March 3?



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

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 on Wednesday, March 13 at
6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

*I am the church, you are the church, we are the
church together.*

Contact Shirley Bradshaw with questions or suggestions.
Sbrads2321@gmail.com
804-240-1240

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

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.



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



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.



Happy Birthday to

Joanne Barreca (Feb. 18)
Deliah Ross (Feb. 19)
Easton Beasley (Feb. 21)
Melvin Smith (Feb. 23)
Frank Blankenship (Feb. 23)
Emily Shinaberry (Feb. 24)



Happy Anniversary to

John and Betty Clatterbaugh
(Feb. 25)



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



LENT



Pray For...

Nick Anderson

Sylvia Carr

Carmen Hoge

Jon and Kelly Smith

Kari

Linda Smith

Wayne Taney

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

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.



Sunday, Feb. 18 – First Sunday in Lent

11 a.m...Worship

Tues., Feb. 20

6:30 p.m...Church Council Meeting (Zoom)

Wed., Feb. 21

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

Thursday, Feb. 22

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

Friday, Feb. 23

9 a.m...Library Work Session (L)

Sunday, Feb. 25 – Second Sunday in Lent

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

11 a.m...Worship

12 p.m...Puppets in Praise and Service Practice (PR)

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



- Tues., Feb. 27 – Missions Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Sun., March 3 – Coffee Fellowship following Worship
- Wed., March 6 – Preschool Parent Tour @ 10 a.m.
- Fri., March 8 – Feed the Homeless @ 10 a.m.

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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