

February 25, 2024



IMs and Texting

NRS Exodus 32: 7 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, tablets that were written on both sides, written on the front and on the back. 16 The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. 17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." 18 But he said, "It is not the sound made by victors, or the sound made by losers; it is the sound of revelers that I hear." 19 As soon as he came near the camp and saw the **calf** and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

Think with me today about life's bulletin boards and messages. In many ways, the bulletin boards here at Huguenot are being used less and less. Now we're writing on a Facebook wall or following on Twitter. Messages are being sent everywhere – the office, home, stores, even in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings...or so God tells me.

Maybe this flurry of instant messaging expresses our inner need to communicate, to be in touch, to get our thoughts and ideas outside our own noggins. Sometimes the messages are perfunctory, sometimes IMP, sometimes FYI, sometimes TMI. "Don't forget to attend the Missions meeting Tuesday night"; "Please make sure

Elaine gets a copy of that receipt to give to Chip, the church Treasurer"; "Home now, got my feet up and eating chicken noodle soup." OK, for me that last one qualifies as TMI. Other times our messages have depth or pathos: "I really need to meet with you ASAP"; "I am sorry to hear you injured your knee"; "Good luck at your medical appointment." The mixture of messages is a good reminder of the way our lives are mixed – part fun, part tragedy, part work, part play, part nobility, part meanness. Today, when you receive an IM or a text or *a writing on your wall*, meditate on the character of our lives that seems compelled to send messages reflecting the entire variety. Sometimes the stuff we send really is trivial, sometimes cute, sometimes funny; other times they express panic, anxiety, concern, passions of the heart, notes of quiet desperation. Ask God to bless the messages in our lives as we find ever new ways of letting others in and getting our desires, concerns and hopes out.

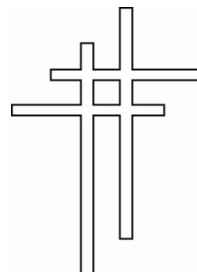
Poor ole God! The first IM the *Great Communicator* sent was to a prophet named Moses. It was only 10 words (teachings) long. God told Moses to hand-deliver the IM to the Israelite people - who were throwing a party and sparing no expense. Moses overreacted a bit and tossed God's IM at the revelers - accidentally deleting the message. How embarrassing for the *great deliverer* to have to ask the *Great Communicator* to resend. OMG....no longer BFFs?

TTYL,

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



"Created for a Purpose"

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 begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of our lesson for Sunday, February 25, is "Prayer in Troubling Times."



The focal passage is John 12: 20-36. The background text is Mark 8: 31-37; 10: 32-34; John 12: 20-36. The purpose statement is "To learn from Jesus' glorification in his time of trouble."

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

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **March and April** 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.



Coffee Fellowship:

Save the Date: Sunday, March 3

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, March 3**, 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!**



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.



Sharing God's Love in Shoe Boxes

Last Lenten season, our congregation prepared gifts in shoe boxes for Armenian children and we would like to do that again this year. The Project Agape Armenia distributes the gifts to children in need. Supporting children who have very little material possessions is an unexpected gift of love. It gladdens the heart of the child and warms the hearts of the parents. Doesn't this reaction greatly increase the value of our gifts?

The boxes, with lists for items that are needed for each box, will be available **Sunday, Feb. 25**, in the entrance of the church. Please return the boxes to the church by the end of Lent. There is a large box in the hall that is labeled Project Agape Armenia in which the completed boxes can be returned. The items that are suggested are appropriate for the designated age of the child. You can choose from the list the items that you need to fill your box. The cost to ship the box to Armenia is \$5.00 and if you can include this with your box, it would be most appreciated.



Thank you for helping to spread God's love.

Sarah Coffey

Bedding Needed for Armenia

In a recent Sunday School class 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 through March 22.

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



Great HUMC Missions Discussion

THIS 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, 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

Mission Opportunity

Several years ago, Judy Smith presented an idea to our Huguenot United Women in Faith group. Each year we put together Birthday Kits for the Bainbridge Food Pantry. They are very much appreciated by the recipients of the food pantry. These kits consist of birthday plates and napkins, a table covering, 2 square cake pans or one rectangular pan, cake mix and icing, candles and a birthday card. They are put into a large (2.5 gallon) slider storage bag. Judy also suggested that perhaps we might want to put these kits together during our own birthday month. Since February is my birthday month I have put several birthday kits together for our Blessing Box. This weekend we will have a couple of Birthday Kits put together to display on the desk as we enter our church foyer.



Hope you will take a look.

Judith Westerhouse and the Mission Team



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 Missions Meeting article, we will meet 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 Anniversary to

John and Betty Clatterbaugh
(Feb. 25)

Happy Birthday to

Judith Westerhouse (Feb. 26)
Bob Pavlik (Feb. 28)
Henry Wright (Feb. 28)



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
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.



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 & Service Practice (PR)

Tues., Feb. 27

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

Wed., Feb. 28

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

Thursday, Feb. 29

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

Friday, March 1

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

Sunday, March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School (FH)
11 a.m...Worship and Communion
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship following service (FH)

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



- Wed., March 6 – Preschool Parent Tour @ 10 a.m.
- Fri., March 8 – Feed the Homeless @ 10 a.m.
- Tues., March 12 – United Women in Faith Mtg. @ 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., March 13 – Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner @ 6 p.m.

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.

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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