

February 4, 2024



Spots

FROM NOW ON, LET NO ONE MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME; FOR I CARRY THE MARKS OF JESUS BRANDED ON BY BODY. -GALATIANS 6: 17.

Think with me today about how annoying spots can be. Maybe we can be grateful for them. There are water spots, spots on animals, food spots, coffee spots, spots on furniture, spots on books and pages, all kinds of spots. For most of us, spots don't enjoy a good reputation. Some of us have discarded articles of clothing because we were unable to get the spot out. Then there's Lady Macbeth, "Out, out damn spot, I say."

There are sacrificial cultures that rejected birds and other animals with blemishes on them. The sheep being grazed in the fields around the time of Jesus' birth were grazing as the spotless animals to be used at sacrifice during Passover. The crucified Jesus was touted as a sacrifice "without blemish." Jesus didn't seem to regard blemishes with disdain, and he often associated with people thought to be negatively imprinted by a less than spotless background. Then there was the time Jesus healed the spots on the ten leopards....no, sorry, I mean lepers. Anyway, Jesus wasn't offended by our spots.

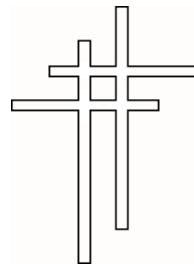
Speaking of Jesus...there is a painting by Grunewald in the National Gallery of Art, in our glorious capital, showing Christ on the cross. If the crowd isn't moving you along too quickly, you'll see, what at first glance, looks as if the painting is marred. On closer examination, it is obvious that Grunewald has depicted Christ as a leper, to demonstrate Christ's total identification with people who are adversely marked. Spots and blemishes can become marks of endearment. Our middle daughter, Emily, had a little strawberry birthmark on her thigh for years. I have a birthmark on my chest that is recognized by many African cultures as a mark of power and strength. Who knew? Spots

individualize! They can increase our endearment value. Meditate with me today on God and spots – your spots – and be grateful for them.

*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



"Sacramental Living"

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

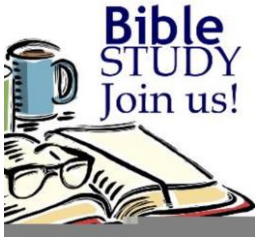
Welcome Lena!

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 4 is "Steadfast Prayer." The focal passage is 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24. The background text is Luke 11: 5-8; 18: 1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24. The purpose statement is "To encourage constancy in prayer."



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

Please Join US

Coffee Fellowship: THIS Sunday - February 4

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship THIS Sunday, February 4**, 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 Claudine Pavlik and Judith Westerhouse for hosting this month!*



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



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

Attention! Volunteers Needed!

HUMC is hosting our third **Parents' Night Out** for the preschool families on: 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.



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





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



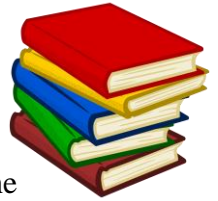
Blessing Box

Thank you, thank you to all who heard the call and donated items to the community blessing box. The box was quite full last week. Some items that were gifted recently and taken were many personal care items; i.e. deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels. Other welcome donations: canned soup, meat, fruit, vegetables and beans; peanut and nut butters, rice, pasta, cereal and formula. For a complete list, see the Bulletin Board. Huguenot UMC is blessed to have caring members who reach out to others in need. I am also blessed to be part of this community of faith.

Any questions, please call me.
Judith Westerhouse

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.

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

PIZZA!



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 Birthday to
 Elma Cooper (Feb. 4)
 Nancy Flinchbaugh (Feb. 7)
 Bette Jo Paul (Feb. 10)

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.

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. 4 – 5th Sunday in Epiphany

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

Wed., Feb. 7

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

Thursday, Feb. 8

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

Friday, Feb. 9

9 a.m...Library Work Session
 10 a.m...Feed the Homeless (K) *All welcome!*

Sunday, Feb. 11 – Last 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., Feb. 13 – United Women in Faith Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday Potluck Fellowship Dinner @ 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 p.m.
- Fri., Feb. 16 – Parents' Night Out @ 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 20 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Tues., Feb. 27 – Missions Meeting @ 6:30 p.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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