

March 17, 2024



When A Person Reflects on Jesus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

When a person reflects on Jesus' ministry, what emerges with bracing clarity is the comprehensive nature of his vision. He never intended to put a patch on an old garment, nor new wine in old wineskins. He wasn't a religious reformer, bringing better readings and interpretations to the Torah. He wasn't a revolutionary, attempting to replace one repressive power with another. Jesus went beyond reformation and revolution. His struggle was against the basic principles of the system of power and domination. Violent revolution always fails because it isn't revolutionary enough. It changes the rulers but not the rules, the ends but not the means. Most of the old repressive values, myths and delusional assumptions not only remain intact but they also get reemployed. What Jesus envisioned was a world transformed, where both people and the powers that be are in harmony with the Ultimate – and committed toward the general welfare of humankind – what some prefer to call the Kingdom of God.

If Jesus Christ had never lived, we would not have been able to invent him. The world, and especially the church, had no categories for such fundamental change. It is no wonder that the radicality of Jesus was soon watered down by the church: Catholic and Protestant. The church has been all too often the power trying to extinguish his light, but his truth has proven to be inextinguishable. We're living in the 21st century and much is changing in the world, and the church of Jesus

Christ. Whatever we call the coming new order of God, we know that however long it takes to become a reality on earth, the values Jesus Christ articulated will be the values the Kingdom of God exemplifies. AMEN.

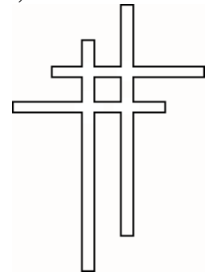
*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

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

"Our Spiritual Pilgrimage"

We hope you will join us!



Audio recordings of our HUMC Sunday Morning Worship Services are available at HuguenotUMC.org under the Worship tab. We hope you will find these recordings beneficial and will share them with your family, friends and neighbors.

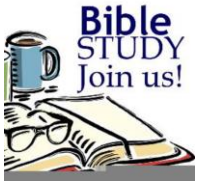
HUMC Nursery

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.



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, March 17, is "Jesus Prays for the Church." The focal passage is John 17: 16-26. The background text is John 12: 20-50. The purpose statement is "To affirm the importance of praying for the impossible."



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

Project Agape Armenia

This year during Lent, Huguenot UMC has chosen to support Project Agape Armenia. If you would like to give a donation to this project in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete the form (available on Sunday) so that their names will be included in the Easter bulletin for all of us to remember. A \$10 donation for each entry is appreciated and more is always welcomed. Checks should be made out to HUMC and identified for Missions/Armenia. The checks and forms can be placed in the offering plate or in the church office. Deadline for the completed forms and donations is **Sunday, March 24.**



Geranium Sales to Support Shalom Farms

The United Methodist Urban Ministries Auxiliary is sponsoring a geranium sale to benefit Shalom Farms. These plants are grown right here in the Richmond metropolitan area. The plants come in red, white, and pink colors in 4-inch pots for \$4.50 each. For more information or to order plants please call Nancy Flinchbaugh at (804) 314-3118 or orders can be placed after Sunday worship. You may order plants now through **Wednesday, March 27.** The plants will be available for pick-up on Saturday, April 20, 2024.



Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday
March 31

Sunrise Service
at 7 a.m.

Sanctuary Service
11 a.m.

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Livestreaming of Worship Services

We are close to the point of being able to livestream our Sunday Morning Worship services in order to share them with our congregation and the community. Before we can proceed, we need volunteers who are willing to assist with the livestreaming during the worship using a tablet device to control the video. The tablet and training will be provided. Please contact Gerry Flinchbaugh at gflinchb@gmail.com or 804.314.4817, if you are able to assist with this opportunity we have before us. Thank you!



Volunteers Needed

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.



HUMC Mission Plans

At our recent mission planning meeting, the team chose five areas, in addition to our current mission activities, that we want to pursue during 2024. They are Mercy Mall, Veterans Liberation Services, a picnic for our preschool families, activities to have our youth and children involved in our mission outreach, and community involvement in the stocking of our Blessing Box. More details will be shared on these projects in the near future.



The next gathering of the mission group will be on **Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. via zoom.**

The easiest way to join by zoom is to go to

HuguenotUMC.org and click on Zoom in the upper right corner. The objective of the meeting is to talk through and plan the mission activities mentioned above, and review our ongoing mission programs, as needed. We hope you will join us. If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Flinchbaugh at gflinchb@gmail.com or 804.314.4817.

Future Host?

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.



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.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Save the Date!

April 10

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.

April 10 - Volunteer leader needed

May 8

June 12 - PIPS Puppets in Praise and Service performance

**Please join us on Wednesday, April 10,
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

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.



Nick Anderson

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

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. If you wish to donate, please write your check to Huguenot UMC with the note for Missions/Armenia.

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



**CHURCH
CALENDAR**



Sunday, March 17 – Palm Sunday

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

Tues., March 19

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

Wed., March 20

5:30 p.m...Preschool Staff Meeting (FH)
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, March 21

10 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)
Preschool Closed for Professional Development

Friday, March 22

9 a.m...Library Work Session (L)
Preschool Closed for Professional Development

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

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

Last Day to submit Lenten Memorial forms
supporting Armenia

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



- Wed., March 27 – Last day to place Geranium orders with Nancy Flinchbaugh
- Thurs., March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 p.m.
- Sun., March 31 – Easter Sunday Worship Sunrise Service @ 7 a.m., Sanctuary Service @ 11 a.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.



Happy Birthday to



Peggy Harris (March 17)
Todd Lumadue (March 19)

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

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.

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