

March 24, 2024



Human Responsibility and Negligence

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matthew 7:12-14

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic the past few years got me thinking about divine providence and how God may be seen in all this.

Many conditions of life around the world are at least partly the result of our neglect or refusal to take advantage of the ability God has provided you and me to care for our own and others' safety and welfare. If a plane crashes, should we ask why God let it happen or why safety measures were not adequate or enforced? If millions of people around the world are hungry or homeless, should we ask why God allows people to starve or rather why we do? Human negligence, selfishness, and unconcern cause many of the terrible things that happen to people and some credit God for these events. And yet, human intelligence and good will can remedy many of the forms human suffering take.

Often tragedy and suffering come along that no one can prevent and no one is responsible for. We don't have to torment ourselves by assuming that misfortune is always anyone's fault, anxiously asking: "Who let this happen?" And it is cruel to allow or encourage others to torment themselves with the suggestion that their misfortune and suffering are always their own fault, the consequence of

something they've either done or not done. Nothing is so unfair as our blaming the victims. Nevertheless, sometimes misfortune and suffering are clearly the consequence of our neglect or refusal to provide for our own nation's general health and the welfare of our citizens, and it doesn't help to ignore or deny it. Even in such cases, Christians can remind ourselves and others of a God who doesn't hold grudges and seek vengeance but loves and forgives, a God who promises to be with us and for us in each and every situation we face as God's daughters and sons.

The Gospel of Mark portrays Jesus' ministry as threefold: preaching, teaching, and healing. Perhaps our entire world would be healthier if part of the mission of every nation is to provide for the healing and health of its citizens. The day will come when, in order to survive, we'll direct our focus to plowshares and pruning hooks and those things which make for a higher quality of life for us all. Jesus taught caring for others as a rule that's golden. He taught it and lived it. We'll remember and celebrate all he said and did during this holiest of Christian weeks.

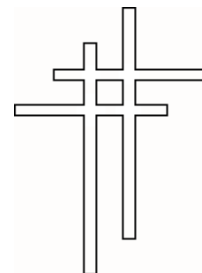
*Grace & Peace,
Jim Sprouse*

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

“Lazarus’ Oil”

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 24, is "Praying in Distress." The focal passage is Luke 22: 39-46. The background text is Matthew 26: 36-46. The purpose statement is "To consider how prayer functions during times of temptation."



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

Women's History Moment

Thanks to Pastor Jim for highlighting Women's History Month during March. He spoke of Hildegard von Binger (1098 - 1179) on March 17. Among other skills, she was a composer. As it happens, YouTube has 53 selections composed by her from which you may choose. (The



group Chanticleer is the one I've heard of several times when listening to NPR). To prepare to listen, remember that she was living in the 1100s and we're now living in the 2000s. Why not give it a try.

-Wenda Singer

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 **this 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.



Maunder 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!



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



Next Coffee Fellowship: Sunday, April 7

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, April 7**, 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. Thank you to Carol Cardwell and Susan Case for hosting us! *See you there!*



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.

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.



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.



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

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

George Wohlford (March 28)

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



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

Wed., March 27

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

Last day to order Geraniums with Nancy Flinchbaugh

Thursday, March 28

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

7 p.m...Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29

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

Spring Break - Preschool Closed until April 5

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

7 a.m...Sunrise Service

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



Nick Anderson
Richard Byrd

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



- Sun., April 7 – Coffee Fellowship after Worship
- Tues., April 9 – United Women in Faith Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., April 10 - Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m.
- Fri., April 12 – Feed the Homeless at 10 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.

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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