

April 14, 2024



And

Mark 1: 9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." 12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, 13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" 16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18 At once they left their nets and followed him. 19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. 21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-- the Holy One of God!"

Meditate with me today on the word *and* and its place in the economy of God. Technically, in literary jargon, the word *and* is a conjunction: it conjoins things. It takes one part of a sentence by the hand and links it to another – and another and another. The writer of the 1st edition of the Gospel of Mark is famous for his use of the word *and*. He doesn't organize Jesus' life and ministry in a chronological fashion: he begins with Jesus' baptism, not his birth, and he ends with Jesus' crucifixion and an empty tomb – no resurrection

appearances. Everything in between is constructed as a person strings pearls, one after another, but not necessarily in any particular order. Mark moves his reader from one scene to the next, one story to the next, by his use of the word *and*. He uses this word 1,286 times in his account of Jesus' life. How many times will you use the word *and* today?

There is magic in this little word: hugs and kisses, wind and rain, fire and smoke, peace and justice, forgiveness and mercy, bees and honey, faith and hope and love...you get the idea. Add a few of your own. We use the word *and* hundreds of times a day, even thousands. It is one of the most serviceable words there is. Whenever we pronounce it, like God sending forth a gust of life-giving Spirit, we bring things together. Imagine it with me: Women and Men, Jews and Gentiles, Black and White, Old and Young, Saint and Sinner. It must be God's favorite word because God is always trying to reintroduce us to one another, to bring the creation back together after we've attempted to divide it. It is important to understand that in the Good Book, God is a God of unity and togetherness, and we should give thanks for that.

*Shalom,
Jim Sprouse*

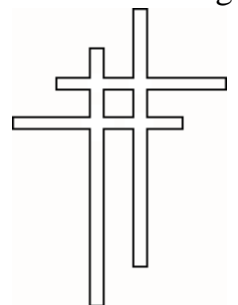
Please Celebrate Sunday's Message

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

"Change the Way You Think"

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.



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.

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, April 14, is "The Golden Rule for All." The focal passage is Mark 12: 28-34. The background text is Matthew 7: 12, 22: 34-40; Luke 6: 31; 10: 25-37. The purpose statement is "To decide what someone who is "not far" from the kingdom of God should do next."



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



HUMC Missions

Those members and friends of HUMC who are interested in the HUMC mission outreach program are encouraged to join the

HUMC Missions Discussion scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.** To join the conversation, please go to HuguenotUMC.org and click on the blue Zoom button in the upper right corner of the front page. If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Flinchbaugh at gflinchb@gmail.com or 804.314.4817. We sincerely encourage and appreciate your participation in this discussion.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Save the Date! May 8

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.

May 8 -

June 12 - PIPS Puppets in Praise and Service performance

**Please join us on Wednesday, May 8,
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

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

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!

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.

Joy of Crafts continues to donate a steady stream of handmade items to the group From the Heart, a sort of clearinghouse for comfort items to nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis centers and shelters. Recently, we donated cloth shopping bags filled with food items for the local food bank. In addition, we continue to donate 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.

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.



**Nick Anderson
Richard Byrd
Tallulah Heatley
Bruce Morris**

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



Happy Birthday to

Gerry Flinchbaugh (April 14)
Marilyn Chase (April 20)
Sue Cutler (April 20)

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



Sunday, April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter
9:45 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Puppets in Praise & Service practice (PR)

Tues., April 16
6:30 p.m...HUMC Missions Discussion on Zoom

Wed., April 17
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thurs., April 18
10 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)

Friday, April 19
9 a.m...Library Work Session (L)

Sunday, April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:45 a.m...Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
11 a.m...Worship

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

The graphic features the word "Upcoming" in a cursive, orange font above the word "EVENTS" in large, bold, white capital letters. The letters of "EVENTS" are set against a background of red, 3D-style rectangular blocks. The entire graphic is flanked by two vertical orange bars.

- Tues., April 23 – Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Wed., May 8 – Fellowship Potluck Dinner at 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. 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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