

April 7, 2024



The Roman Church

The Roman Church

By the early second century the church was entering a new period. It was gaining a foothold around the eastern Mediterranean Sea; however, there was little agreement on beliefs or organization.

The Church Fathers: Several influential leaders wrote widely in an effort to clarify the faith and define the *orthodox* view. The church grew, and its theology became more certain. But it was still a time of persecution. A number of the patriarchs of the second and third centuries were martyred for their faith: Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin, and Cyprian.

Perhaps the most influential of all the early church Fathers was Augustine, born in AD 354 in what is now Algeria. After an undisciplined adolescence, he was converted to the Christian faith and became a theologian, teacher, writer, and Bishop of Hippo. We remember him for two of his works: *The Confessions* (about his early life and conversion) and *The City of God* (study of good and evil.)

State Religion: Before Augustine a dramatic change had occurred in the Christian world. In the year AD 312 the Roman emperor Constantine professed the Christian faith, and by the end of the century Christianity had become the religion of the Roman Empire. Two cities of the empire, Rome and Constantinople (Istanbul/Turkey), became the centers of the rapidly growing church. By AD 395 pagan worship was made illegal, and the Roman Empire divided into two realms. The church remained unified until the eleventh century, when it split into Roman Catholicism in the West and Eastern Orthodoxy in the East – a schism that has never been healed. At issue was the Pope. But that's another story.

The Bible: Between the years AD 200 and 400, Christian leaders wrestled with the question of which writings were to be regarded as truly apostolic, that is, written by one of the original apostles, or on their behalf. About AD 200 a list was developed in Rome that contained 22 of our 27 books of the New Testament. Other lists were proposed. Finally, the canon of 27 books was adopted at a council of church leaders in Hippo in AD 393 and in Carthage in AD 397, both cities were in North Africa.

By then Christians had already agreed that the Hebrew Scriptures were to be regarded as an integral part of the Christian canon. Thus, Jerome's Latin translation (the Vulgate), completed in AD 405, included the 66 books of our Holy Bible.

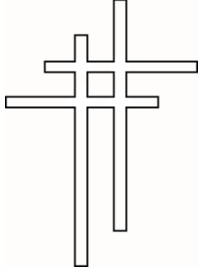
The Medieval Church: After the fall of Rome in the fifth century, the church was the major institution tending the lamp of learning and or civilization. It provided a link with the past, as monks copied the ancient Greek and Latin manuscripts, secular and Christian. It was the primary patron of the arts, eventually prompting an astonishing renaissance of sublime architecture in church and cathedral building. It was the center of intellectual activity, establishing the first universities, which would stimulate a flowering of learning as the Middle Ages came to an end.

Through it all the church gained extraordinary power over all aspects of daily life, and usually aligned itself closely with political powers to both control and further its influence. By definition, **ALL** persons in Europe were Roman Catholic Christians, and the church controlled everything they believed and their every action. But there was great immorality among the religious leaders (who would have guessed it?); there was a blatant display of church wealth in a poor society. As the new era of enlightenment dawned in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Roman Catholic authority was increasingly challenged. Change was in the air. The Protestant Reformation was imminent. And, that's the beginning of *OUR* story.

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

*“The Disciple Who Hides
in All of us”*

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 will meet next on **April 14** at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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



Coffee Fellowship: THIS 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.



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith meeting is this **Tuesday, April 9, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. It's come upon us quickly this month and we hope you will join us!

Brenda NeSmith and Jane Grinnell will be our hostesses. Our program led by Wenda Singer will be book synopses by members to introduce us to books of interest as part of our reading program. All of the books are available from our book cart for you to check out and enjoy! *See you there!*

-Cissy Hope



Wednesday Night Fellowship THIS WEEK - 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

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.

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

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

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

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



Happy Birthday to
Millie Wohlford (April 7)
Pat Brauer (April 7)
Frank Grinnell (April 10)

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 7 – Second Sunday of Easter

11 a.m...Worship and Communion
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship after Worship (FH)

Tues., April 9

10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith Meeting (FH)

Wed., April 10

6 p.m...Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner (FH)
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thurs., April 11

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

Friday, April 12

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

Sunday, April 13 – Third Sunday of Easter

11 a.m...Worship

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



- Tues., April 23 – Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

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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