

May 5, 2024



Unity and Diversity

And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33

The book of Acts affirms that from the very beginning there was a strong church in Jerusalem. Soon, that very book moves on to other matters, and tells us very little about the later history of that early Jewish-Christian community. The rest of the New Testament offers a few other bits of insight. But it too deals mostly with the life of the church in other parts of the Roman Empire. Yet, by piecing together what the New Testament tells us with information gathered from other authors at that time, we arrive at a general idea regarding the life of the earliest Jewish-Christian community, and its later history.

In typical fashion, the earliest followers of Jesus were Jewish and it is often idealized. Peter's firmness and eloquence at Pentecost tend to eclipse his vacillation as to what ought to be done with the Gentiles who want to join the church. The possession of all things in common, commendable as it may be, did not abolish all the social and economic tensions between the various groups, for *the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution*, Acts 6:1.

These last words do not refer to a conflict between Jews and Gentiles, as you may assume, for Acts makes it very clear that at the time there were NO Gentiles in the church. It was rather a conflict between two groups of Jews, those who kept the customs and language of their ancestors, and those who showed more openness to Hellenistic, *Greek*, influences. In Acts, the first are called *Hebrews*, and the others are called the *Hellenists*. In response to this crisis, the twelve apostles called an assembly that appointed seven men *to serve tables*. Exactly what this meant is not altogether clear; although there is no doubt that the idea was that the seven would also have administrative tasks, and that the twelve would

continue with preaching and teaching. At any rate, it would seem that all seven were *Hellenists*, for they all had Greek names. So, the naming of the seven appears to be an attempt to give greater voice in the affairs of the church to the Hellenistic party, while the twelve, all Hebrews, would continue being the main preachers and teachers.

The seventh chapter of Acts tells the story of the first martyr of the faith, Stephen, one of the original seven. There is a hint in Acts 7 that Stephen's attitude toward the Temple was not entirely positive. So, the Jewish council, composed mostly of anti-Hellenistic Jews, refused to listen to him and condemned him to death. This contrasts with the treatment given by this same council to Peter and John, who were released after being caned and told to stop preaching. In addition, when open persecution finally erupted and followers of the Jesus Way had to flee Jerusalem, the apostles were allowed to remain. And, when Saul / Paul left for Damascus in pursuit of those who had taken refuge there, the apostles were still in Jerusalem, and Saul / Paul just ignored them. All this seems to indicate that the earliest persecutions were aimed mostly at the Hellenistic disciples and that the Hebrews had much less difficulty. It is later in Acts that King Herod, not the Jerusalem council, is the authority who ordered the death of James and the arrest of Peter.

Immediately following the death of Stephen, Acts turns its attention to another of the seven, Phillip, who founded the church in Samaria. Peter and John are sent to supervise the life of that new community. Thus, a church is being born beyond the confines of Judea, and that church, not founded by the apostles, still acknowledges their authority. This pattern would be repeated as the church extended beyond Jerusalem to new areas of the world.

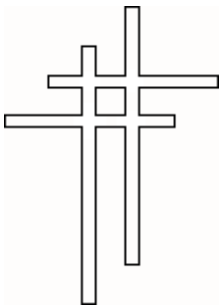
By the 9th chapter, Acts becomes increasingly interested in Saul / Paul, and we hear less and less of the church in Jerusalem. What was happening was that God was using the persecuted and expelled from synagogue services Hellenistic Jewish Christians to serve as a bridge to the Gentile world, and because Gentiles were joining the church in such record numbers, they soon overshadowed the earlier Jewish Christian community.

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!



Lay Leader, Gerry Flinchbaugh, will provide us with the meditation

"The Way, the Truth, the Life"

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 will not meet this Sunday, May 5.

We look forward to your participation in our class next week at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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



THIS Sunday - Coffee Fellowship - May 5

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship this Sunday, May 5**, 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 The Pavliks for hosting us this month!*



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 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, May 7, 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.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal

Please join us for the Handbell Ringers Rehearsal on Tuesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Volunteers Needed!

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up May 6-10 and the Parent Committee has a number of things planned to celebrate and thank the preschool teachers. The highest need is volunteers for Playground Duty during Wednesday's Teacher Brunch (May 8 at 11:30a.m. -12:15 p.m.).

If any church members are interested in volunteering, please contact Ronni at (804) 536-3968 ronniwohlford@gmail.com



THIS WEEK

Wednesday Night Fellowship 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

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **May and June** 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.

Project Agape Armenia

Thank you, Huguenot UMC, for your contribution to Project Agape Armenia during the Lenten season. Your contribution of \$1000 will supply many necessities for the refugees that the churches are trying to shelter. Armenia is a land with many complications and struggles but because of your contributions, they are feeling God's love and know that a Christian church in the United States has not forgotten them. I can imagine that because you cared enough to help, they are feeling more hopeful. Your contribution is a large blessing and shows your concern for the people of Armenia.

About 26 people in our congregation volunteered to make age-appropriate gift boxes for Armenian children from infants to 17 years of age. Each box holds amazing treasures and will put smiles on the faces of each child that receives one. Jesus "loved the little children" and they flocked around Him when they had the opportunity because of the love they felt from Him. When a child receives one of these boxes, they will know that they are regarded as special and unique and that someone saw them as a child of God.



Lenten is a time of sacrificial giving and a time for Christians to reflect on how much God loves and continues to bless them. You have chosen to give back to God by sending donations to Project Agape Armenia, a place where the need for help is great. Many people are feeling your amazing grace. Thank you for sharing your love with the people of Armenia.

-Sarah Coffey

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!

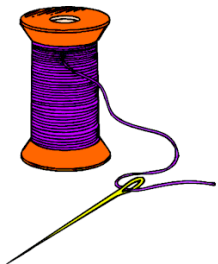




Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

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.

Joy of Crafts recently began a new project of making activity mats for nursing home patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The lap-sized mats incorporate tactile and colorful elements like zippers, buttons, Velcro, elastic and beads to engage patients' mind and spirit. This project is in addition to the other comfort items **Joy of Crafts** makes and donates to From the Heart, a local clearinghouse for providing comfort to nursing homes, dialysis centers, hospitals and shelters. Our donations include fleece hats, mittens, scarves, wheelchair totes, chemo



port shirts, drain bags, clothing protectors, neck pillows and dresses for needy girls around the world.

If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.



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

Judy Anderson (May 5)

Wayne Taney (May 6)

Happy Anniversary to

Brantley and Brittany Beasley (May 12)

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



Sunday, May 5 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

11 a.m...Worship

12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship following Worship

Thank you to The Pavliks for husting us this month!

Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week

Tues., May 7

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

7 p.m...Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wed., May 8

6 p.m...Fellowship Potluck Dinner (FH)

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

Thurs., May 9

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

Friday, May 10

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

10 a.m...Feed the Homeless (K) *All are welcome!*

Sunday, May 12 – Ascension Sunday, Communion Sunday and Mother's Day

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



- Tues., May 14 – United Women in Faith Mtg. @ 10:30 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. 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 every Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These hours are subject to change on occasion.

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