

February 23, 2025



Thoughts on Heaven

And I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying...Behold, I make all things new...Revelation 21-2-5

Everything is gone that ever made Jerusalem, like all cities, torn apart, dangerous, heartbreaking, seamy. You walk the streets in peace now. Small children play unattended in parks. No stranger goes by whom you can't imagine as a friend. The city has become what those who love it always dreamed and what in their dreams it always was. The **new** Jerusalem. That seems to be the secret of heaven. The new Chicago, Leningrad, Hiroshima, Baghdad. The new bus driver, airline attendant, seamstress, hairdresser. The new you. The new everybody.

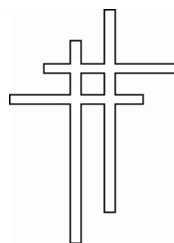
It was always buried there like treasure in all of us – the best we had it in us to become – and there were times you could almost see it. Even the least likely face, asleep, bore traces of it. Even the bombed-out-city after nightfall with the public squares in a shambles and moonlight silvering the broken pavement. To speak of heavenly music or a heavenly day isn't always to gush sometimes to catch a glimpse of something. ***Death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore***, the book of Revelation says (21:4). You catch a glimpse of that too in almost anybody's eyes if you choose the right moment to look, even in animals' eyes.

If the new is ever to be born in us, though, the old in us has to die. It is the law of the place. For the best to happen, the worst must also stop happening. The worst we are, the worst we do. But maybe it isn't as difficult as it sounds. It was a hardened criminal within minutes of his death, after all, who said, ***Jesus, remember me***, and that turned out to be enough. ***This day you will be with me in paradise***, was the answer he just managed to hear.

Shalom, Jim S.

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!



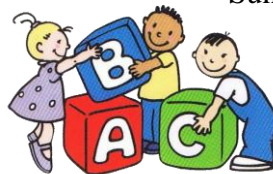
Pastor Jim Sprouse will provide us with the message

"Sermon on the Plain"

We hope you will join us!

HUMC Nursery

Our nursery caregiver, Rosalie Koch, is at church every Sunday and ready to welcome children in the nursery during worship from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Thank you to Beth Woodall for assisting in the nursery this week.



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.



Update Complete!

The church website redesign has been completed! Go take a look!

www.huguenotumc.org

Thank you for the input provided.

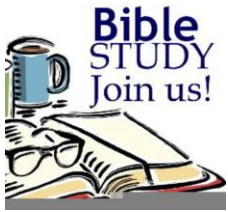
-Jim Anderson and Gerry Flinchbaugh



Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. and meets in the Fellowship Hall.

The title of our lesson for Sunday, February 23, is "What is in Your Storage Room?" The focal passage is Matthew 6: 29-34; Acts 2: 42-47. The background text is Psalm 24. The Purpose Statement is "to unlock the treasures of the Kingdom."



We hope you will join us. We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have time and wish to, please read the lesson in the Student Book before our class meets on Sunday. If you have any questions, comments, feedback, or

suggestions for improvements regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817 gflinchb@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

Your church is looking for volunteers to help audit our business, financial and membership records. We are looking for people with a business or accounting background, or understanding thereof, to help ensure our records are in order and maintained. On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, Church Council approved the adoption of Conference Record

Retention Guidelines and an ad-hoc audit committee to implement the review and updates. Aaron and Chip will oversee the process but need volunteers, independent of the Finance Committee, to perform the audit of church related finances. The audit committee will also be reviewing our membership records to determine updates for those on our membership rolls with whom we have lost contact or have incomplete information. This will help us dispose of accumulated paper records that are no longer needed, and put us in a better position for record maintenance in the future. Please let Chip Woodall, chipw_va@yahoo.com, know if you are willing to help with these efforts.



One of the projects we would like to do this spring is reach out to our preschool parents by offering a **Parent's Night Out**. In years past our congregation has offered this on a Friday evening for approximate two hours for children up to 5th grade. We have offered a pizza dinner. Movies and games were offered to entertain the children. We have had sufficient volunteers to help. We need a chairperson to organize the event. If you are interested in chairing our next Parent's Night Out or have any questions, please let me know.

Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817



Ash Wednesday

We will mark the start of the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday observances on Wed., March 5. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we encounter our own mortality and confess the things we would have done differently. The use of ashes as a sign of repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship traditions, and the **Imposition of Ashes** can be powerful nonverbal experiential way of participating in the call to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Drive-through
(Remain in your car)
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Service
in the Sanctuary at 6:30 following the 6 p.m. Fellowship gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an appetizer, nosh or nibble to share.

All Invited and Welcome



Join us!
Wednesday, March 5
at 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night
Fellowship

For the month of March our fellowship night will be on the first Wednesday to coincide with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Please bring an appetizer, nosh or nibble to share in the Fellowship Hall. Then plan to stay for the Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m.

Please come early or stay late if you can, as I may have last minute conflicts that prevent me from being present. I appreciate your patience as I attempt to continue our fellowship while also being available to family needs.

Joyfully,
Shirley Bradshaw

Joy of Crafts

The chilly days of winter have been a bonus for churning out comfort items through Joy of Crafts. Since the start of 2025, a flurry of wheelchair and walker totes, dialysis mitts, drain bags, lumbar pillows, book pillows, adult bibs and girls' dresses have been donated to From the Heart, a local group that finds a home for thousands of handmade comforts for nursing homes, hospitals and shelters. The group recently passed the 600,000 donation mark!

Many thanks to all who supported the Joy of Crafts Holiday bazaar, which generates the proceeds that make these donations possible. If you have any interest in sewing, knitting or crocheting, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

Nursery Volunteers

There is a sign-up sheet for nursery volunteers on the church bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall. Please help with this important church function.

Jesus loved the little children,
Shirley Bradshaw



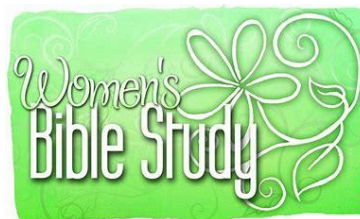
Future Host?

We have scheduled our Coffee Fellowships for the first Sunday of each month. There is a new sign-up sheet for 2025 on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall to be a future Coffee Fellowship host.



Women's Bible Study

All women are welcome to join the Women's Bible Study. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of the church at **10 a.m. on Thursdays**. We are using the Adult Bible Study from Cokesbury and the emphasis in this particular series is Finding Balance. This series offers Bible references and a study of the suggested references. The emphasis of the study will be Finding Balance through work, spiritual practices, rest, and celebration. These Adult Bible Studies offer a lot of truth, Bible study, and direction on better ways of living. Study booklets will be provided and a DVD will be used to enhance discussion with each lesson. If this is of interest to you, please join us.



-Sarah Coffey



Pastor Jim will be forming a **Confirmation Class** to begin in early Spring. Any youth 12 years and older, please let him know of your interest!

Please Check it Out!



Please check the bulletin board for **Mission Connection Updates**. Updates are made frequently. The latest updates include Hams' Happenings and Henderson Settlement. Check it out, please!

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.



Many, many thanks for restocking our Blessing Box. After talking about the need for restocking last Sunday morning, by Sunday afternoon the Blessing Box was well stocked.

Please keep up the great work! This time of year, it is very important to keep the possibility of freezing temperatures in mind if purchasing item(s) that may freeze and burst. Our community appreciates this mission outreach.

Thank you!

Gerry Flinchbaugh

Blessing Box Reminders

When outside temperatures begin to freeze, please do not place items like glass bottled drinks, carbonated beverages, and any liquids in thin plastic containers into the Blessing Box, as they can freeze and potentially burst or become unusable in cold weather.



Key points to remember:

Glass containers: These are prone to breaking when frozen.

Canned drinks with high carbonation: The pressure from freezing can cause the cans to explode.

Thin plastic containers: These can crack or break when exposed to extreme cold.

Instead, focus on donating items such as: canned goods with pull tabs, individually packaged snacks, dry goods like pasta and rice, warm clothing items like hats and gloves, and hygiene products with sturdy packaging.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=+when+outside+temps+begin+to+freeze%2C+what+items+should+not+be+placed+in+a+Blessing+Box%3F+>

Please place your donations of the above non-recommended items in our alternate location, the Bainbridge Food Cabinet at the end of the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,

Rosalie Koch



Peggy Harris
Shalom Gardens
1600 John Rolfe Parkway
Henrico, VA 23238
(804) 750-2183



Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining the Usher Team.



Happy Birthday to

Melvin Smith (Feb. 23)
Frank Blankenship (Feb. 23)
Emily Shinaberry (Feb. 24)
Judith Westerhouse (Feb. 26)
Bob Pavlik (Feb. 28)
Henry Wright (Feb. 28),
Aaron Lowery (March 1)

Happy Anniversary to

John and Betty Clatterbaugh (Feb. 25)

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



Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **March - 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.





The Anderson Family
Ronnie French
Peggy Harris
Jed Knick
Bruse and Trudy Morris
Jon Smith
Linda Smith
Judith Westerhouse

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



- Tues., March 11 – United Women in Faith Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- Fri., March 14 – Feed the Homeless at 10 a.m.



Sunday, February 23 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Wednesday, February 26
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Thursday, February 27
10:30 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)

Friday, February 28
10 a.m...Library Work Session (L)

Sunday, March 2 – Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany
10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship following worship service
Plan to join us!

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.

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

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