

April 13, 2025



Hill of Crosses

If a strong wind sweeps the Lithuanian landscape, tourists can hear the Hill of Crosses long before actually seeing it. A multitude of crosses planted in the ground sway, clank and rattle, calling in invitation to a grassy mound on the left bank of the Kulpe River in Siauliai County. The crosses are arranged in dense clusters, and from a distance they resemble a dark mass rather than a collection of various sized crosses. When you draw nearer, the number of crosses is staggering. There are crucifixes, images of Christ, effigies, mementos, all evoking an eerie reverence.

Centuries ago, the Lithuanian people began staking crosses on this hillside as statements of faith and remembrance. Over the centuries the crosses have become so crammed together they're piled on each other and have spilled down the hill to the meadow below. The crosses are large and small, elaborate and humble, wood and metal.

Numerous legends abound about the why Lithuanians began staking crosses on the hill. Some say the hill was a backdrop for pagan worship and medieval Christians claimed it by staking crosses; some say the people erected crosses there to memorialize insurgents who fought against the Tsar in 1831. Old photographs from the 19th century show about 130 crosses on the hill's summit.

In the 1950s the Soviet Union ruled the country and Lithuanians returning from Siberian gulags planted crosses to remember their friends and family who died in exile. Clamping down on these signs of faith and protest, the Soviets burned and melted the crosses, then bulldozed the ground. Despite blocking the roads and patrolling the hillside, crosses cropped up again, and in increasing numbers. Three to four more times the Soviet authorities razed the hillside but the crosses kept reappearing.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, pilgrims from around the world began visiting the Hill of Crosses, and today the hill is covered with thousands of crosses. The crosses staked on the hillside spring from the hearts of people who honor their faith, and remember their deceased friends and family. I've attached a photo below that, I hope, will give you an idea of the hill's majesty.

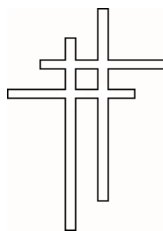
Shalom,

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

"A Focus on What He Did"

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 Claudine Pavlik for assisting in the nursery this week.



TUNE

IN

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.



Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

The title of our lesson for Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, is "From Majesty to Mocking." The focal passage is Matthew 5: 10; 27: 26-31. The background text is Matthew 5: 10; 21: 1-11; 26: 27. The purpose statement is "to understand what the mocking from the soldiers revealed about Jesus."

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



The Geranium Pick Up **Rescheduled to Saturday, April 26**

Due to the cooler temperatures, the geranium pick up has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 26. Your geraniums will be available for pickup on **Saturday, April 26, at 11:15 a.m.** Geraniums not picked up on Saturday, will be available for pickup on Sunday morning, April 27.

Thanks again for your support!



Palm Sunday

April 13

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18

Easter Sunday

April 20

Sunrise Service

at 7 a.m.

Sanctuary Service

11 a.m.



Missions and Outreach Meeting **THIS Tuesday!**

On Tues., April 15, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Zoom meeting to discuss Huguenot UMC's Missions and Outreach opportunities. Please plan to attend to share your ideas, thoughts, and dreams in these important areas of our church life. You can join the gathering by going to the HuguenotUMC.org website and clicking on "Zoom" in the upper right corner.

We look forward to your participation.

-Gerry Flinchbaugh

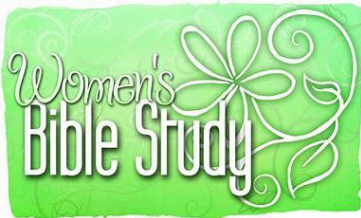
Museum of the Bible Bus Trip

Several weeks ago, Reville UMC dropped off a brochure, inviting us to join them on April 30, for a bus trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington. At that time, they indicated they had 60 seats left. The brochure provides instructions on how to sign up for those interested. (Brochure is posted on the bulletin boards.)



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

Please note: The Women's Bible Study will not meet on April 17 and April 24. The meeting will resume on May 1.



Coffee Fellowship: Sunday, May 4

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, May 4**, 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 Sheila and Frank Blankenship for hosting us in May!
See you there!



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.



SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, May 14

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, May 14, as we welcome Helen Lamberta of the Red Cross for a special program.

Wednesday Pot Luck Fellowship Dinners are on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share and fellowship with your church family and friends. Please come early or stay late if you are able.

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.





A Triple Blessing!!!

- Buy Girl Scout cookies.
- Put the Girl Scout cookies in the Blessing Box or the Bainbridge Food Pantry Cabinet.

...Get it?

The Blessing Box Needs our Attention!

Thank you all for the support of the Blessing Box. Your support is greatly appreciated. This is an ongoing outreach of our church including our Preschool. The needy people in our community appreciate and need our support. Please keep the Blessing Box in mind when you are shopping and consider picking up items to put in the box. Your HUMC Mission Team thanks you and the needy people in our community thank you.



Nursery Volunteers

There is a sign-up sheet for nursery volunteers on the church bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall.

The protocol for volunteers: Arrive around 10:45 am and let Rosalie know you are present. You may join the worship service sitting in the back of the sanctuary. If no children arrive for care, remain in the sanctuary. Rosalie will retrieve the volunteer when children are present. This follows our Child Protection Policy requiring two people caring for children.

Please support us as we strive to offer a nursery while being fiscally responsible with our resources. Please consider volunteering for an occasional Sunday if you are able.

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.



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!



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!



The Anderson Family

Ronnie French

Peggy Harris

Jed Knick

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.



Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

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

11 a.m...Worship

Tuesday, April 15

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

Wednesday, April 16

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

Thursday, April 17

7 p.m...Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

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

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

7 a.m...Sunrise Service

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

11 a.m...Worship

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



- Fri., April 25 – Memorial Service for Cissy Hope at 2 p.m.
- Sat., April 26 – Please pick your pre-ordered Geraniums at 11:15 a.m.
- Sun., May 4 – Coffee Fellowship following Worship

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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