

April 20, 2025



## Ripeness

**Ephesians 4:11-15** And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature adulthood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by cunning people, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

Meditate with me this Easter week on what ripeness means, completeness, fullness, coming to spiritual maturity. The ancient Greeks had a word for coming to maturity: *entelechy*. It meant the quality living things possess in themselves that will come to full fruition when they reach their proper end. They had in mind the pumpkin seed becoming a pumpkin; and apple tree from an apple seed, and oak tree from tiny acorn. They even applied it to a child who will one day become an adult. They applied *entelechy* to a baby soul that will mature into a mature soul, a soul fully developed and blessed with wisdom, compassion and joy. It was Saint Augustine (354-430 CE) who said that our spirits, when they get to heaven, will exist at the perfect stage of development, neither too young nor too old. Think about this as you notice the plants, animals and people around you today: God has created a world that is always moving toward fullness and maturity. Most of what is ailing our world today is a result of spiritual and emotional immaturity – emphasizing

self-centeredness, selfishness, and the inability to consider or sacrifice on behalf of the needs of others.

What will you and I be like when we become truly ripe; when we fully become Easter people? Are you and I living in a manner that facilitates spiritual maturity? Let us pray that God tends the soil where our spirits take root until we reach true fullness, completeness, maturity...and, hopefully for the sake of the world, in this earthly life.

*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

**“Luke’s Three Lessons”**



**Easter Sunday**  
April 20

**Sunrise Service**  
at 7 a.m.

**Sanctuary Service**  
11 a.m.

*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 Shirley Bradshaw for assisting in the nursery this week.



Audio recordings of our HUMC Sunday Morning Worship Services are available at [HuguenotUMC.org](http://HuguenotUMC.org) under the Worship tab. We hope you will find these recordings beneficial and will share them with your family, friends and neighbors.

TUNE IN



## Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

There will be no Adult Bible Study gathering on Easter Sunday, April 20. We will resume our regular Sunday classes on Sunday, April 27, at 10 a.m. *Hope to see you then!* If you have any questions, please let me know.

Gerry Flinchbaugh 804.314.4817  
gflinchb@gmail.com



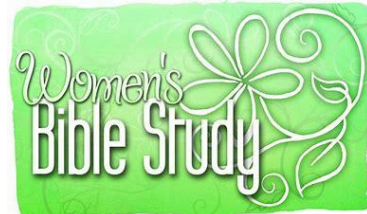
## Geranium Pick Up - Saturday, April 26

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 of Shalom Farms!*

## 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 24. The meeting will resume on Thursday, 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

There has been a bumper crop of comfort items coming from Joy of Crafts this spring, with more than 200 items being donated to From the Heart for distribution to nursing homes, shelters, dialysis centers and hospitals. This has included Alzheimer's memory

mats, wheelchair totes, adult bibs, drain bag covers, dialysis mitts, scarves and hats, and dresses for needy girls.

If you have any interest in sewing, crocheting or knitting, or just helping out with the projects, contact Molly Sprouse at [mollysprouse@gmail.com](mailto:mollysprouse@gmail.com).

### 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.



### Happy Birthday to

Marilyn Chase (April 20)  
Sue Cutler (April 20)  
Wenda Singer (April 24)

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.



**Where the World Meets to Pray**

Copies of the **May - 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.

**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.



**Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday**

7 a.m...Sunrise Service  
 11 a.m...Worship

**Tuesday, April 22**

6:30 p.m...Church Council Meeting (Zoom)

**Wednesday, April 23**

10 a.m...Preschool Chapel Time with Pastor Jim  
 7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

**Friday, April 25**

2 p.m...Celebration of Life Service for Cissy Hope

**Saturday, April 26**

11:15 a.m...Please pick up your pre-ordered geraniums in support of Shalom Farms.

**Sunday, April 27 - Second Sunday of Easter**

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)  
 11 a.m...Worship  
 Please pick up your pre-ordered geraniums following worship

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



- Sun., May 4 – Coffee Fellowship following Worship
- Fri., May 9 – Feed the Homeless at 10 a.m.
- Tues., May 13 – United Women in Faith meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., May 14 – Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner at 6 p.m.

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