

April 6, 2025



Prayers and Change

Luke 15: ³Then Jesus told them this parable:⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

God doesn't love us *if* we change. God loves us so that we *may* change. Live by these words. For those who spend time in prayer you learn to prefer God's judgement over that of human beings. God always outdoes us in generosity, forgiveness and receptivity. God is more loving than even the person you believe loves you the most. All you need to do is bring today's version of yourself for God's new dose of love and mercy. In our faith we shall always be immature and inadequate. It is not how perfect our soul is as we offer it to God, but our willingness to offer ourselves to God to be useful in God's loving work.

God doesn't lead us beside the still waters to shame us. Even if we were raised in ways that could be

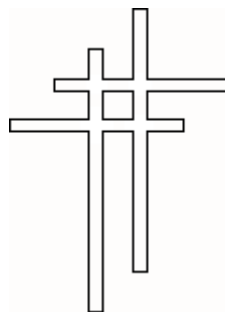
punitive at times, God does not motivate us by shaming us or making us feel guilty. We've all been on the receiving end of that stick from time to time. It never works! We simply close down and stop trusting, or become defensive to avoid further vulnerability. Some lie. Some hide.

God always calls out to us...Adam, Eve, where are you? God always finds us. It is just a matter of time. God's way of searching for us works every time. God simply wants to love us deeper than we've ever loved ourselves. To be the object of God's affection is really quite wonderful. It makes me wonder why anyone would ever want to be left out of this. The search continues...see you Sunday.

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 Life Assessment"

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.



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 6, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is "From Violence to Peace." The focal passage is Matthew 5: 9; John 18: 1-11. The background text is the same. The purpose statement is "to explore Jesus' words regarding peacemaking in light of his arrest."

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 6

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship THIS Sunday, April 6**, 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 and Judge Cardwell for hosting us in April! *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.

Volunteers
Needed!



United
Women
in Faith

The Huguenot United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet **Tuesday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. At the meeting, we will assemble Menstrual Hygiene Kits that will be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help women in communities affected by disasters. For many years of our organization, we have provided various types of kits in support of the "Kits for Conference" initiative of the Virginia Annual Conference. We appreciate that Carol Caldwell is coordinating this activity, and we thank Judge Caldwell for lending his assistance.

Peace,
Brenda NeSmith



THIS WEEK! Wednesday, April 9

Wednesday Night Fellowship

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



Geranium Thank You and Pick Up

Many thanks to the Huguenot UMC congregation for your great support of the United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond Auxiliary to benefit Shalom Farms (ShalomFarms.org). Our congregation purchased 140 plants, plus monetary donations. Through the efforts of Shalom Farms, your support will provide healthy food to needy people in the Richmond metro area.

Your geraniums will be available for pick up on **Saturday, April 12, at 11:15 a.m.** Geraniums not picked up on Saturday, will be available for pick up on Sunday morning, April 13.

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

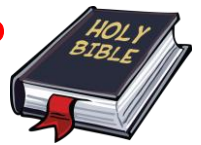
On **Tues., April 15, at 6:30 p.m.** there will be a Zoom meeting to discuss Huguenot UMC's Missions and Outreach opportunities. Please plan to attend to share your ideas, thoughts, and dreams in these important areas of our church life. You can join the gathering by going to the HuguenotUMC.org website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

We look forward to your participation.

-Gerry Flinchbaugh

Museum of the Bible Bus Trip

Two weeks ago, Reveille 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.)



Nursery Volunteers

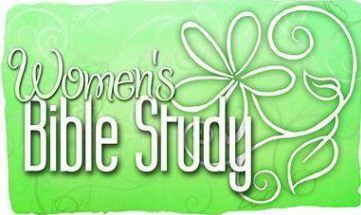
There is a sign-up sheet for nursery volunteers on the church bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall.

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.

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



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.

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.



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

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!



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.



- Tues., April 15 – Missions & Outreach Meeting on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.
- **EASTER WEEK**
April 17 - Maundy Thursday (Service at 7 p.m.)
April 18 - Good Friday
April 20 - Easter Sunday (Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. & Sanctuary Service at 11 a.m.)



Sunday, April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship *All invited!* (FH)

Tuesday, April 8

10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith (FH)
7 p.m...Choir Practice (CR)

Wednesday, April 9

6 p.m...Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner (K & FH)

Thursday, April 10

10:30 a.m...Women's Bible Study (FH)

Friday, April 11

10 a.m...Feed the Homeless (K)
10 a.m...Library Work Session (L)

Saturday, April 12

11:15 a.m...Please pick up your ordered Geraniums

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
Please pick up your ordered Geraniums

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