

May 18, 2025



Boxes

Exodus 25: 10 "Have them make a chest of acacia wood-- two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high.11 Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. 12 Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13 Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it.15 The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. 16 Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. 17 "Make an atonement cover of pure gold-- two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.18 And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. 19 Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. 20 The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. 21 Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. 22 There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

Every few months, Joy of Crafts packs up a box of girls' handmade dresses and ships it to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. Thinking this morning about the acts of love reflected in that work reminded me of how special boxes have been in the history of humankind. There are treasure boxes, storage boxes, decorative boxes, sand boxes, and secret boxes. Many of the great world's museums have collections of boxes,

some made of gold, silver, ivory, inlaid pearl, and others are carved ornately from wood.

In ancient Israel, the Ark of the Covenant was inconceivably holy. It was made out of wood and contained Moses' staff, the stone tablets of the ten commandments and the sacred ephod, which was a bejeweled leather breastplate. Legend had it that a person would die if they touched the Ark. In the Middle Ages, boxes were used for storing relics of the church and for safeguarding the body of Christ in the Eucharist...it was called an *aumbry*. Boxes contain the treasures of our lives; the things we treat as holy.

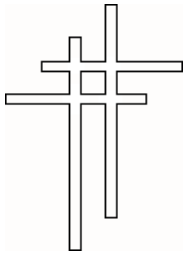
As a child I kept my treasures in cigar boxes and metal tins. They contained the money I made from carrying newspapers, some silver dollars, a knife or two, a watch from my grandfather, a straight razor, an assortment of keys, my favorite marbles, and baseball cards. There were other treasures, too. To this day I still have two boxes on my dresser, one is scrimshaw and the other is wood. Each contains my current treasures...things I've been safeguarding from church to church. In one wooden box there is a small photo of a woman whose funeral I officiated over thirty years ago. The photo is of a woman in her thirties, wearing a sweater and a string of pearls. Her face radiates all the hope and anticipation most of us have at that age. But...when she died there was no one at the graveside to mourn her passing or remember her life. The only people present were the funeral director and me. I've never been able to let go of her picture. She rests quietly and securely in my treasure box as a reminder of how singular every human life really is.

Boxes express the remarkable singularity of all human existence. They contain the memories and treasures of our lives. Think of all the memories you have in boxes today. What do they say about all the beauty and glory of your life you keep? What do they say about the things that border on being holy to you; and your relationship to them? Praise God for our treasure chests of memories.

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

"No Favorites"

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 Wenda Singer 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.

TUNE IN

Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

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

The title of our lesson for Sunday, May 18, is "Rivers of Living Water." The focal passage is John 7: 37-46. The background text is John 7. The purpose statement is "to celebrate Jesus' gift of living water that brings eternal life."

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



Mission Moment

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the **Preschool Family Picnic, scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025.** Your willingness to help with this Outreach is greatly appreciated. If you did not sign up, but would like to participate, please come out and join us. Preparations begin with the setup scheduled for 3:30 p.m. We are scheduled to serve the picnic dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions about what you volunteered to do or have any questions about responsibilities, please contact Gerry Flinchbaugh or Ronni Wolford.

We are looking forward to a great time of fellowship while reaching out to our preschool families.

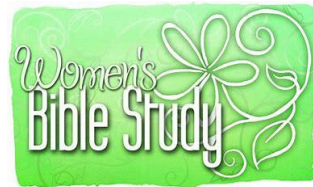
Also, please do not forget our Blessing Box Outreach!

Thank you!



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



First Aid or CPR?

Has anyone ever had a First Aid or CPR Class? If so, kindly reach out to Rosalie Koch.

Nursery Caregiver
roetom@comcast.net
cell 804-484-2086

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



For anyone who would like to have a copy of the prayer/poem that I read at Cissy Hope's memorial service, please send me a short email containing your name and email address.

Thank you,
Rosalie Koch
roetom@comcast.net Cell 804-484-2086



Happy Birthday to
Maria Wright (May 21)
August Ross (May 23)

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
Karen Fornoff
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.

PRAYER
Changes
THINGS

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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.



Sunday, May 18– Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

11 a.m...Worship

Monday, May 19

5:30 –7:30 p.m...Family Picnic and Preschool Art Show

Wednesday, May 21

10 a.m...Chapel Time with Pastor Sprouse

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

Thursday, May 22

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

7 p.m...Preschool Graduation (Sanctuary/FH)

Friday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

11 a.m...Worship

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



- Sun., June 1 – Coffee Fellowship following worship
- Tues., June 10 – United Women in Faith meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- Wed., June 11 – Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner at 6 p.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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