

January 25, 2026



Snow

Job 37:1 "At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place. ² Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth. ³ He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. ⁴ After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic voice. When his voice resounds, he holds nothing back. ⁵ God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. ⁶ He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'

Let's praise God for the *mystery* of snow. In a few hours the snow in the Richmond metro area will begin its feathery descent – I shall watch the birds visiting my feeders consume seed and suet as if their lives depended on it. At one time this morning I counted as many as 50 birds flying to the 10 feeders I maintain. Molly calls them my seed buffet. Snow and frigid weather increase the feathery customers at my BFR: Bird Family Restaurant.

I love snow. It is one of those things from our childhoods, a sense of delight in the beauty, the whiteness, and the coldness of its fairylike properties. Does it remind you of enjoying holidays from school and sledding and building snowmen and throwing snowballs and eating snow ice cream?

The Blue Ridge Sanatorium outside Charlottesville was a premier treatment facility for tuberculosis when I was a child. My best friend lived there because his father was the medical director of the hospital. The grounds at Blue Ridge also provided the best sledding in all of Albemarle County. Within a half mile of Monticello, a mountain of steep and rolling hills witnessed us kids speeding down the slopes on our

sleds and toboggans. We didn't go inside until our faces and lips were chapped, and our feet and hands were so wet and cold they ached. What wonderful, halcyon days.

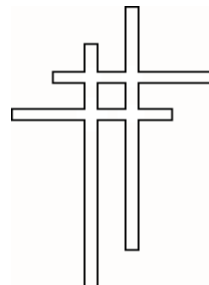
Snow arrives as a mixed blessing to be sure – snarling traffic, making roadways slippery and dangerous, and shutting down whole companies - including the federal government. For the homeless, it imposes incredible hardships. But for most of us...we experience a remarkable transformation. Entire landscapes become wrapped in ermine. The world becomes a wonderland of drifts and hollows and escarpments. Sometimes we are thrilled by venturing out into the snow on a walk or a trip for soup and sandwich to Panera. A blanket of white covers our yards and a hush falls over Richmond. There is little to no traffic sound. It's great! The hills and the mantles on bushes and trees cause them to bow in reverence. On these days it is easy to feel the presence of God in such a landscape for it all seems like a gorgeous miracle. The muffling of sound imparts its own holiness to the world, and a soft insulation from everything.

On this wonderful, snowy weekend our ordinary perceptions remind us of our deep finitude, our limitations as human beings and that we live in a world we didn't make and can't always predict with certainty.

*Shalom,
Jim*

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

“Quarrels and Divisions”

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.

A nursery assistant is needed this Sunday. Please consider volunteering.



United
Women
in Faith

Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of our lesson for Sunday, January 25, 2026, is "Building Your Crew." The focal passage is 1 Thessalonians 2. The background text is Acts 5: 17-42; 1 Thessalonians 2. The purpose statement is "to look to Paul's example in building relationships."



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: NEXT Sunday, February 4

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, February 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.

Future Host?

We have scheduled our Coffee Fellowships for the first Sunday of each month. There is a new sign-up sheet for 2026 on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall to be a future Coffee Fellowship host.



In February, the Huguenot United Women in Faith will be joined by the members of St. Luke's UWF to hear our speaker, Kathy Dictor. Kathy is the Membership Coordinator for the Three Notch'd District. Please join us on Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Kathy's presentation.

Joy of Crafts

A big thank you to all who supported this year's Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar. We raised more than \$1,100 from sales, which will go a long way towards buying supplies for the comfort items we create and donate to From the Heart and Dress a Girl Around the World.



During 2025, Joy of Crafts made and donated more than 1,000 wheelchair and walker bags, dialysis mitts, memory mats and quilts, port pillows and drain bags to local hospitals, nursing homes and shelters. We also sent dresses to needy girls in the U.S and around the world. This Christmas, we provided gifts for the children and nursing staff at Children's Hospital's long term facility, as well as quilts and toys for blind babies. All are welcome to participate in this fulfilling ministry. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

BAGS NEEDED!

We are in need of plastic grocery bags for the church nursery as well as for the Blessing Box. The Blessing Box needs paper grocery bags, too. They seem to be the most in demand to handle canned goods. If you can furnish either of these items, feel free to give them to me, and I'll disburse them.



Thank you,
Rosalie Koch

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 a.m. 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.



The Clatterbaugh Family

John S. Currie

Peggy Harris

Judy King

Amy Mateer

The Family of Steve Peretzman

Jon 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 **January and February** 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.



Many thanks to my church family for prayers and concern during my brother-in-law Steve Peretzman's illness. Steve passed peacefully one week after his 66th birthday surrounded by his family. Please continue to keep my sister, Donna, and her family in your prayers.

Always,
Shirley Bradshaw



Happy Birthday to

Sue Croll (Jan. 26)

Phil Coffey (Feb. 2)

Elma Cooper (Feb. 4)



Sunday, January 25 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

11 a.m...Worship

Tuesday, January 27

7 p.m...Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, January 28

10 a.m...Preschool Chapel Time with Pastor Jim

7 p.m...Choir Practice

Friday, January 30

10 a.m...Library Work Day

Sunday, February 4 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

11 a.m...Worship

12 p.m...Coffee Fellowship following worship (FH)

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



- Tues., Feb. 10 – United Women in Faith Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- Fri., Feb. 13 – Feed the Homeless at 10 a.m.
- Fri., Feb. 20 – Preschool Parents’ Night Out at 5:30-8 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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