

March 22, 2026



Fruit Ungathered

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to keep, and a time to throw away...Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6b.

Have you ever thought about the fruit left on trees or bushes? What is their significance for our spiritual life? Fruit ungathered: fruit not carefully harvested and tucked away but allowed to remain on the tree or bush, or on the ground beneath, so that they merely return to the earth. If you've ever had an orchard or a garden you know there are always some things like this, in every season – tomatoes allowed to rot on the vine, zucchini squash you couldn't give away, carrots and beets left in the soil, corn not picked, apples and peaches that fell and were left on the ground. Something in us, our more frugal spirit, rebels at the thought, and proclaims that nothing should go ungathered.

It reminds me of a well-known saying of Judas': "Why was this ointment not sold, and the money given to the poor?" There is another way of looking at it. It has to do with the abundance of the earth and God's providence of such a bountiful yield. Why not live out of the overflow, the fruit easily picked, the vegetables we need, not the ones we have to buy extra jars just to can? "You will always have the poor; you will not always have me," Jesus replied to Judas. Isn't a laughing skipping spirit worth something? The ancient Israelites used to leave a tenth of their harvest in the fields for the poor, the hungry, and the alien in their land every year. They

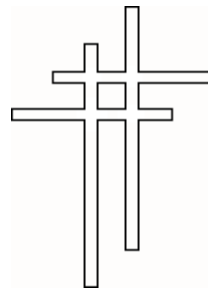
gave another tenth of their harvest to the Temple to help feed and provide for widows and orphans. This still left them with a plentiful harvest.

Perhaps you and I could go through life with a little more merriment and joy because we live in a land as bountiful as ours. Most of us are not very wasteful. We aren't about to squander the earth's riches...we're more challenged by our tendency to hoard and not share. Why not do a little once in a while to remember that we didn't create this old earth of ours...it is a wonderful gift. If we were so inclined, we could rejoice and imitate God's extravagant liberality and generosity.

*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

"Can These Bones Rise Again"

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.*



Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10:00 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of our lesson for Sunday, March 22, is "When Justice is Found." The focal passage is Lamentations 5: 1-5, 14-22; Psalm 98: 1-9. The background text is Lamentations 5; Psalm 98. The purpose statement is "to discern God's presence in the midst of injustice and violence."



We hope you will join us! We look forward to your participation in our class. If you have time and wish to, please read the lesson in the Student Book before our class meets on Sunday. If you have any questions, comments, feedback, or suggestions for improvements regarding our HUMC Adult Bible Study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Flinchbaugh
804.314.4817 gflinchb@gmail.com



Palm Sunday
March 29

Good Friday
April 3

Easter Sunday
April 5

Sunrise Service
at 6:45 a.m.

Sanctuary Service
at 11 a.m.

Please note these updates since the last newsletter:

- Church Council voted to not gather on Maundy Thursday.
- Sunrise Service is now listed correctly for 6:45 a.m.

Our Blessing Box Needs Help!

Our HUMC Blessing Box has been a huge blessing to the members of our community as well as to us as individuals who stock the box for the community to use. However, recently the Blessing Box has been very low on food and other items. Please consider picking up a few extra items for the Blessing Box when you do your shopping. It does not need to be a lot. If we each pick up a few items, we can keep the Blessing Box stocked for the community. It seems as though the coldest of the winter weather is behind us for this year, but please be mindful of the weather forecast when choosing items for the Blessing Box. Also, it is very important that food items are unopened. Open food containers cannot be put in the Blessing Box. Also, if you have some extra shopping bags, they are useful in the Blessing Box as well. Thank you for your continued support of the HUMC outreach mission. *Let's do it!*



Cleaning Kits for VA UMC Annual Conference

Huguenot UMC's next Mission Outreach Project will be preparing Cleaning Kits. Cleaning kits provide supplies to help individuals and families clean up after flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. Each kit consists of a five-gallon bucket filled with designated cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, air freshener, insect repellent, scrub brush, reusable cleaning wipes, scouring pads, clothespins, clothesline, trash bags, respirator dust masks, kitchen gloves, and work gloves. Each kit costs approximately \$75. Our goal is to prepare ten kits. We



We are asking members and friends of the HUMC congregation to make monetary donations towards the purchase of supplies for the kits. The supplies will be purchased in bulk quantities. Please mark your donation/check as "Cleaning Kits." The deadline for donations is Sunday, April 12, 2026. We plan to assemble the kits during the Sunday Morning Fellowship on Sunday, May 3, 2026. We hope you will participate in this very worthwhile project. If you have any questions or if you would like to provide assistance other than a monetary donation, please contact Gerry Flinchbaugh, 804.314.4817/gflinchb@gmail.com. Thank you!



United Women in Faith

The next meeting of the **United Women in Faith** is on April 14. Our group will assemble care packages for infusion patients in the Richmond area.

Our meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

Please join us!

Joy of Crafts

The recent snow days have had a silver lining for sewists to get all those projects completed. Joy of Crafts, in league with From the Heart, has provided Valentine's Day pillowcases for Children's Hospital, scent hearts for newborns, sensory quilts for blind babies and port shirts and drain bags for chemo patients, among other comfort items.



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 care 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.

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.

The calls, notes, food and visits during my recent back surgery and recovery at home are greatly appreciated. Having a great church support group has been a comfort. Being confined to the house post surgery for two weeks was particularly troubling. The recovery has thankfully been very easy, physically.

Thank you!

-Jim Anderson



Happy Birthday to
George Wohlford (March 28)

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call, leave a note or send an email to Elaine so she can include you!



The Clatterbaugh Family
John S. Currie
Kaylynn Fatherlos and Family
Donna Gaskins and Family
Peggy Harris
Frank Joerg
Judy King
Anna Nabors
Jon Smith
Linda Smith and Family
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 **March and April** 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, March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

Friday, March 27

10 a.m...Library Work Day

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

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

- **EASTER WEEK:** March 29 - Palm Sunday, April 3 - Good Friday, April 5 - Easter Sunday (Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 11 a.m.)
- Sun., April 12 – Coffee Fellowship following worship service (Please note: The monthly Coffee Fellowship hour has been moved one week to April 12 to allow families to enjoy Easter Sunday together after worship.)
- Sun., April 12 – last day for donations for the Cleaning Kits (see article on page 2)

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



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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