

April 12, 2026



Tolerance

Acts 10:⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds.¹³ Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

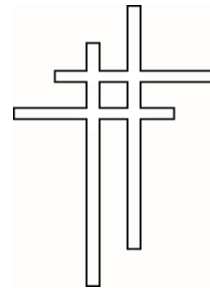
Think with me today about tolerance and how that challenges your present level of spiritual understanding. Tolerance is a gift from God, not something you or I may acquire. Most of us, left to our own devices, cling instinctively to our own kind and the ideas endorsed by our own kind. If we identify with pink, we won't be keen on people who are mauve. If our kind speaks Lilliputian, we won't be pleased to associate with those who speak Brobdingnagian. If we worship by whirling a leather whip in the air as we dance, we'll suspect those who worship by standing on one foot and making a clicking sound. But assured by our parents, schoolteachers, and pastors that the world is large enough to embrace many differences in the way we live our lives and the various ways people worship, our own lives will actually be more pleasurable if we learn to tolerate those who challenge our perspectives on life. We may even become more

receptive to encounter their differences – at first passively – and then, when assurances prove true, enthusiastically. The Apostles and early followers of Jesus, known as followers of the Way (aka Christians), by learning to accept Gentiles without insisting on circumcision as a precondition, did much to encourage tolerance in the world communities. Think about what you've learned from others who are different from yourself, and be radiant with gratitude. God embraces much more than we realize.

*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

“Believe the Word”

We hope you will join us!



The Second Sunday of Easter

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.*



Coffee Fellowship: THIS Sunday, April 12

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after our 11 o'clock worship service, for our **Coffee Fellowship this Sunday, April 12**, 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 Jim and Judy Anderson for hosting us this month!*



Our Adult Bible Study/Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. Our class meets in the Fellowship Hall. The title of Unit 2 is "Psalms of New Life." Unit 2 runs from April 12, through May 10. The title of our lesson for Sunday, April 12, is "Making Praise Real." The focal passage is Psalm 34: 1-6, 15-22. The background text is Psalm 34. The purpose statement is "to learn how to praise God authentically and powerfully."

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 gflinzb@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.

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for the first quarter of 2026 have been printed and placed in the basket on the table outside the sanctuary doors. We thank you for your generosity that helps us carry out the work of your church here at Huguenot. Please pick up your statement so you'll have it for your records.



United
Women
in Faith

The next meeting of the **United Women in Faith** is **this Tuesday, 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!



Geranium Sales to Support Shalom Farms

The United Methodist Urban Ministries Auxiliary is sponsoring a geranium sale to benefit Shalom Farms.

The Geranium Sale is happening again this year! These plants are grown right here in the Richmond metropolitan area. The plants come in red, white, and pink colors in 4.5-inch pots for \$5 each. For more information or to order plants please call Nancy Flinchbaugh at (804) 314-3118 or orders can be placed after Sunday worship. **You may order plants through THIS Sunday, April 12.** The plants will be available for pick-up on Saturday, April 25.

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 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 19, 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. **YOUR DONATION DOES NOT NEED TO COVER THE FULL COST OF A CLEANING KIT. ANY AMOUNT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.** 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!



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 food 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 food 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 and not put in ziplock bags as they can be compromised. 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!*



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.





**Happy Birthday to
Gerry Flinchbaugh (April 14)**

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



**Peggy Harris
Frank Joerg
Judy King
Anna Nabors
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 **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, April 12

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

***Last day to order Geraniums to benefit Shalom Farms. See Nancy Flinchbaugh.**

Tuesday, April 14

10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith Meeting (FH)
7 p.m...Handbell Practice (S)

Wednesday, April 15

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

Friday, April 17

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

Sunday, April 19

10 a.m...Adult Bible Study (FH)
11 a.m...Worship
12 p.m...Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Comm. Mtg. (L)

***Last day for donations for the Cleaning Kits for Annual Conference.**

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



- Sun., April 25 – Pick up day for 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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