

November 10, 2024



## The Prophetic Nature of Soren Kierkegaard

Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855) was one of the most interesting figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Born in a strict Danish Lutheran home that left a deep imprint on him, Kierkegaard had an unhappy youth. His frail and slightly twisted frame (scoliosis) made him the object of mockery throughout his entire life. In time, he became convinced that his undeniable intellectual gifts meant that he was called to a special mission, and before that every other interest must give way. With that thought in mind, he broke off his engagement with a woman he deeply loved. Marriage, he said, would have made him happier, but would also have prevented him from being the solitary knight of faith he was called to be. Years later he compared his painful decision to not marry to that of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac; he also declared that some of his books were written "because of her" (*Either / Or*.)

For Kierkegaard (and for me, too) the greatest enemy of Christianity is Christendom itself, whose purpose *is to simplify the matter of becoming a Christian*. This usually translates into: if a person is not a Jew, Moslem or Hindu, then by default the person must be Christian. Kierkegaard called those who thought of Christianity in this fashion as mere pagans. Such *cheap* Christianity, with neither cost nor suffering nor pain, a life where there is no real risk, is just playing at being a Christian. Preachers and church communities play at that game every time we seek to make Christianity an easy thing. "This is the crime of Christendom," which plays at Christianity and "takes God for a fool." And the real tragedy is how few realize they're doing it and how ridiculous it is to speak of God in such terms.

In response to the tragedy of Christendom, Kierkegaard conceived his calling as *making Christianity difficult*. This didn't mean that he was to persuade people that Christian faith was wrong. Rather, it meant that he must tell them what they had usually heard preached and taught was far from the true faith of Christianity. In other words, in order to be truly Christian, one must become aware of the

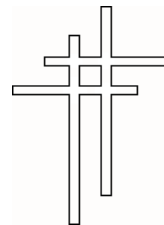
cost of faith and pay the price. Without that, one may well be a member of Christendom, but not a Christian.

True Christianity has to do with a person's very existence, their character, and not merely with intellectual assent to certain beliefs. Human existence is a constant struggle, a struggle to become, to be born anew in one's own time and place. In placing existence at the heart of matters, a person is forced to abandon all the other gods the world produces to claim your allegiance. Kierkegaard was interested in a particular form of existence: Christian existence. It cannot be reduced to a system or some "ism." The tragedy of Christendom, of easy Christianity, is that existence ceases to be an adventure and a constant risk in the presence of God, and becomes merely a prescribed morality or a doctrinal system popular within one's own culture. So, for Soren Kierkegaard, and for you and me, the greatest problem is how do we become a true Christian when we are born into and have the disadvantage of living in the midst of our nation's brand of Christendom? Together, we'll figure this out.

*Grace and Peace,  
Jim Sprouse*

## 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

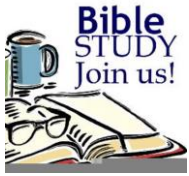
**"How Shall We Pray?"**

*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 volunteer Beth Woodall for assisting Rosalie this Sunday.





## Bible STUDY Join us! 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, Nov. 10, is "Liberated Through Christ." The focal passage is Romans 6: 1-14. The background text is Romans 5: 18 – 6: 23. The purpose statement is "to claim and experience Christ's gift of liberation."

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.

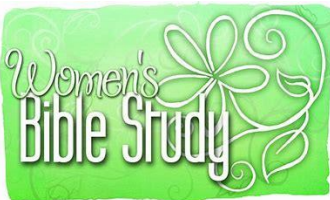
Gerry Flinchbaugh  
804.314.4817 [gflinchb@gmail.com](mailto:gflinchb@gmail.com)

## 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



## KUDOS to HUMC Preschool

Our Huguenot United Methodist Preschool is one of only six preschools in the Richmond area to have met the qualifications for the "exceed state expectations" status in the roll-out of Virginia's new child care rating system for all child care centers in Virginia that use public funds to serve children from birth to age 5. This is simply an affirmation of what we already know: staff, administration, parents, and our congregation are joined together to provide an excellent head start for young children.



# LIBERATION

VETERAN SERVICES

**Note:** THIS SUNDAY, Nov. 10, is our final collection day for items that we will take to **Liberation Veterans Services** later this week. Thank you so much for your generosity.

## New Local Mission Opportunity

Housing - Healing - Hope: Liberation Veteran Services has been supporting homeless veterans with dignity and respect in the greater Richmond area. With a current program capacity of 38, they serve veterans ages 25 to 77, with 86% success rate of transition to permanent housing!

It is very exciting that they recently received a grant for a supportive housing facility, Veteran Village, which will consist of micro apartments.

Although they always need clothing and bedding, their greatest need right now is for the following: toilet paper, paper towels, bleach, Pine-Sol, antibacterial wipes, laundry and dish detergent, and 55-gallon trash bags. We will be collecting these items through **Sunday, November 10**, and will deliver them on or near Veterans Day.

Please leave your donations in the container opposite fellowship hall. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.



## Honoring our Service Members and Veterans

This Sunday, Nov. 10, we are going to resume an activity we have not done in a few years. This Sunday we can honor our service members and veterans by signing thank you cards. Cards are available on tables in the Fellowship Hall for you to sign. This is a great way to simply let our service members and veterans know we are thinking of them, appreciate them and their service to our country.

One of the service members we will be recognizing is John Lyle, an active-duty US Marine and the grandson of Shirley and Lee Bradshaw. Terrance Brunson is the son of Sheila Blankenship, and a US Marine who recently separated from active duty. Also, have some names of veterans affiliated with the Veterans Liberation Service to honor with our thank you cards.

Please take time to stop and sign the cards for service members and veterans.



United  
Women  
in Faith



### Joy of Crafts

In the past few months, Joy of Crafts has made and donated more than 100 comfort items to local nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis center and homeless shelters. The donations go to From the Heart, a local clearinghouse for many needs in the community.

The items we've been making include activity mats and marble mazes for Alzheimer's patients, fleece mittens for dialysis patients, wheelchair totes, chemo port shirts, drain bags and neck pillows. In addition, a shipment of 30 handmade t-shirt dresses will go out this month to Dress a Girl Around the World. Special thanks to Judy Anderson, who sews so many of these treasures.

Check out the display in the hallway to see what the donated items look like. ALSO, there are many projects that knitters and crocheters can submit to From the Heart, including a recent call for white handmade blankets for newborns. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at [mollysprouse@gmail.com](mailto:mollysprouse@gmail.com).

**Mark your calendars for Sun., Nov. 24, when Joy of Crafts' annual Holiday Bazaar starts at Huguenot!**

Ladies, what a beautiful Fall we are having! On **Tues., Nov. 12, at 10 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall we will meet again with an interesting program about Salt, using the Bible verse, Matthew 5: 13. Hopefully you will consider this topic and how it applies to each of us individually and collectively! Our thanks to our Program Chairman, Brenda NeSmith, for coordinating our programs. Hope to see some new faces and learn about The Salt of the Earth and how we can live it.

### THIS WEEK! Wednesday, November 13 Fellowship Pot Luck

We will resume our Wednesday Fellowship on the second Wednesday of the month through the end of the year. As a reminder, this is Pot Luck and begins at 6 p.m. **All are welcome!** I intend to send an email reminder the morning of Fellowship.



– Shirley Bradshaw 804-240-1240

### November 13

Join us in November for an informational program, How to Avoid Real Estate Scams, presented by Dan Salmeri. Dan has been in real estate for many years and he will enlighten us on how the elderly are unknowingly involving family and friends and exposing themselves to scams. I hope you will join me in welcoming Dan and participating in a true public service informational session.

### December 11

Join us for a joyful holiday celebration! (Program to be determined)



Pastor Jim will be forming a **Confirmation Class** to begin in early January. Any youth 12 years and older, please let him know of your interest!

### Please Check it Out!

Please check the bulletin board for **Mission Connection Updates**. Updates are made frequently. The latest updates include Hams' Happenings and Henderson Settlement. Check it out, please!



### 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.



Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining the Usher Team.

## Three Libraries

Did you know we have THREE libraries at HUMC? The “Main Library” is on the left in the preschool wing. Both adult and children’s books are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal system and includes numerous Bible and faith resources, and both fiction and nonfiction suitable to both children and adults. The check-out box is located on the cabinet on the non-window side/long side of the room.

The “Branch Library” is a nook in the wall directly across the aisle from the sanctuary entrance. It holds a rotating collection of adult/children titles from the Main Library and Mobile Library (see below). To borrow, legibly complete the name and date on the library card, and place the library card in the check-out box on the bottom shelf of the “nook.”

The “Mobile Library,” also called the “United Women in Faith (UWF) Library,” resides in a supply room adjacent to the Fellowship Hall and is brought out for UWF meetings and other events, such as Wednesday Night dinners. The check-out box is located on the cart. Some books available in the “Branch Library” are those that have been moved from the “Mobile Library” and are part of the permanent “Main Library.”

Peruse, **and borrow**, books from any of the three. **To borrow a book, legibly complete the name and date on the library card found at the back of the book and place it in the check-out box.** Beginning this month blurbs about some books in the Branch Library occasionally will appear in the *Pulse*. (See the following!)

-Carol Ames and Wenda Singer



## HUMC Books

These books are available in the "branch library" (in the book nook across the hall from the sanctuary.) Just print your name and the date on the library card and place it in the box.

### The Well Women – Crossing the Boundaries

by Ladine Housholder. Four members of a study group are reunited on a tour to the West Bank city of Nablus, the historic site of Jacob’s Well, where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman. Each group member brings personal hurt and brokenness. Thought this tour of life, healing, and history, the reader is treated to a rich tapestry of details about the people, sights, shops and foods of the Middle East, woven by an experienced and sophisticated traveler to that area.

## We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now – The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages

by Annelise Orleck is a look at globalization as seen through the eyes of small farmers, fast-food workers, hotel housekeepers, airport workers, and adjunct professors who are fighting for respect, safety, and a living wage.” It features stories of their work, as well as reflections on hope and change for the future.



To my Huguenot UMC friends,  
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the calls, cards and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Frank Grinnell

What a thoughtful congregation HUMC has! Your love and sympathy over the course of my mother’s decline and passing is greatly appreciated. I am very grateful for your kindnesses.

Elaine Grider and family

Our family appreciates Huguenot United Methodist Church allowing us to host mom's (Anne Bartee) birthday event after church on Sunday, October 20.

Jessica (Bartee) Thompson



**Frank Grinnell**

**Cameran Henderson**

**Chad Jarvis**

**Dan Jarvis**

**Ellie Jarvis**

**Kenzie and Kylie Mateer & Family**

**Linda Pomfrey**

**Jon Smith**

**Wayne Taney**

**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 **November-December** 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.



- Sun., Nov. 24 – Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar



### Happy Birthday

Sheila Blankenship (Nov. 14)

Bella Beasley (Nov. 16)

Carol Ames (Nov. 17)

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



### Sunday, Nov. 10 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

11 a.m...Worship

### Tuesday, Nov. 12

10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith Meeting (FH)

6:30 p.m...Church Council Meeting (Zoom)

### Wednesday, Nov. 13

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

6 p.m...Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner and Program (FH)

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

### Thursday, Nov. 14

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

### Friday, Nov. 15

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

### Sunday, Nov. 17 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

11 a.m...Worship

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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