

January 12, 2025



Bridges

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. And you know the place where I am going.” John 14:3-4

Think with me today about bridges. No one knows who made the first bridge. Probably some ancient soul got the idea of making a foot bridge of some kind by stumbling across a fallen tree or a natural arch of stone crossing a stream. By the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans, pontoon bridges were regularly used by their armies, and their roads often crossed creeks and chasms on stone bridges. Most of the time we don't take much notice of bridges; they're simply there. We go our merry way without appreciating the efforts someone took to make our travels easier. When I was a kid, I'd walk from my home to the stores downtown. I had to cross a bridge that spanned railroad tracks below. The wooden planks of the bridge were spaced apart wide enough to see the tracks, trains and people below...a little unnerving at first crossing.

Sometimes bridges are large enough or magnificent enough to be viewed with awe like some of the bridges in London, Paris, and the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco. How about the Straits of Mackinac Bridge in Michigan? It took over 20 years to build, is 5 miles long and required over 100 thousand tons of cement just for the footings. I don't know if this still happens but the bridge used to be closed to cars for a few hours each Labor Day so that people could walk from one end to the

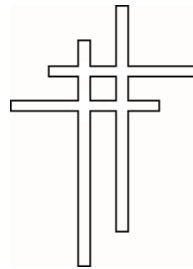
other to marvel at this engineering achievement. It is a marvelous comparison with the old wooden bridges or the covered bridges that have all but disappeared.

Think about bridges today and some that you've seen, crossed and admired. Think about how important they are to the world's commerce. Then think of the figurative bridges you've crossed to connect with other people. Think about the bridges you've burned. Think about the bridges we've tried to cross in order to connect with God. Think about the bridge God used to connect with us...this Jesus who is Christ. And, let's be grateful for bridges.

*Shalom,
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

“John's Handoff to Jesus”

We hope you will join us!

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

HUMC Nursery

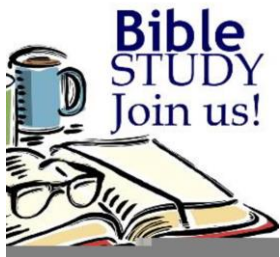
Our nursery caregiver, Rosalie Koch, is at church every Sunday and ready to welcome children in the nursery during worship from 10:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.



Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

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

The title of our lesson for Sunday, January 12, is "We Are Part of a Beloved Community." The focal passage is John 15: 9-17. The background text is Acts 2: 1-4, 14-28, 41-47 and 2Corinthians 10: 3-4. The Purpose Statement is "to build Christ's beloved community around us."



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



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.



Update!

The Church web site has been updated! Take a look and if you have comments you would like to add, please pass them on to Jim Anderson or Gerry Flinchbaugh.



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



United
Women
in Faith

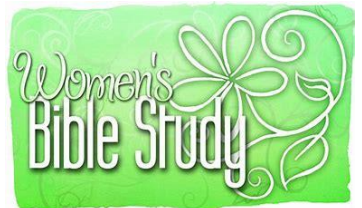
Meeting THIS Tuesday, January 14

It's a new year and we start off with Wenda Singer bringing us our program on Prayer and Self Denial which she always makes interesting. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tues., Jan. 14, and our hostesses will be Brenda NeSmith and Jane Grinnell. Looking forward to the next few months as Brenda NeSmith will share her thoughts with the group. Hope to see everyone soon!

-Cissy Hope

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

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers, calls, e-mails, and texts during my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. Your kindness has been a true pick me up when things got tough.

Blessings to each of you,
Shirley Bradshaw



Assisting Families of Inmates

A big thanks to all who contributed gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. Children should not have to suffer because of the sins of their parents. If we can help, we should and we did.



Christmas Blessings,
Darlene Storer



Thanks to everyone who helped make the **Joy of Crafts Holiday Bazaar** a big success! The funds raised will buy supplies for all the comfort items made during the coming year. These items 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. Thanks again for supporting Joy of Crafts. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

Ushers Needed
Are you willing to serve?

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

Preschool Pizza Fundraiser

Our preschool has an ongoing fundraiser with Marco's Pizza. Just use the code: **HUMCPSAF** when ordering **PIZZA!** 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 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, lease!



Blessing Box Reminders

When outside temperatures begin to freeze, please do not place items like glass bottled drinks, carbonated beverages, and any liquids in thin plastic containers into the Blessing Box, as they can freeze and potentially burst or become unusable in cold weather.

Key points to remember:

Glass containers: These are prone to breaking when frozen.

Canned drinks with high carbonation: The pressure from freezing can cause the cans to explode.

Thin plastic containers: These can crack or break when exposed to extreme cold.



Instead, focus on donating items such as: canned goods with pull tabs, individually packaged snacks, dry goods like pasta and rice, warm clothing items like hats and gloves, and hygiene products with sturdy packaging.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=+when+outside+temps+begin+to+freeze%2C+what+items+should+not+be+placed+in+a+Blessing+Box%3F+>

Please place your donations of the above non-recommended items in our alternate location, the Bainbridge Food Cabinet at the end of the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,
Rosalie Koch



Directory Update

Peggy Harris

Brookdale Midlothian
14016 Turnberry Lane
#405-406

Midlothian, VA 23113

**Peggy would love a ride to church!*

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Where the World Meets to Pray

Copies of the **January-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.



Sunday, January 12 – Third Sunday after Christmas Day

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

Tuesday, January 14

10 a.m...Library in use for a meeting (L)
10:30 a.m...United Women in Faith Meeting (FH)
7 p.m...Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 15

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

Thursday, January 16

10:30 a.m... Women's Bible Study (FH)

Sunday, January 19 – Fourth Sunday after Christmas Day

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

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



**The Anderson Family
Anne Bartee and Family
Shirley Bradshaw
John and Pat Brauer
Ronnie French
Peggy Harris
Cissy Hope
Jed Knick
Phyllis and Rodney Martin
Linda Smith
Judith Westerhouse**

In an effort to keep the prayer requests current, names posted will be removed after 30 days unless requested otherwise.



- Fri. and Sat., Jan. 24-25 – Cub Scout Pinewood Derby (FH)

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.



Happy Birthday to

JillMarie Hoover Bowers (Jan. 12)
Betty Clatterbaugh (Jan. 14)
Jon Smith (Jan. 16)

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

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