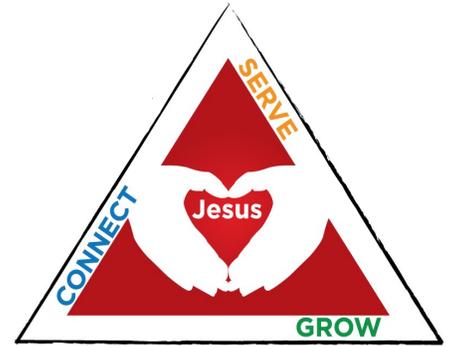




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251
Corner of Memorial and Oakridge
Website: www.forthillumc.com



Volume 58, No. 1

January, 2023

Biblical Resolutions for 2023

- H**old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
- E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- Y**earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- E**xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- A**im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- R**edeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Welcome Your 2023 Church Leaders

Here is a listing of the church officers for 2021. Please support these leaders and feel free to contact them with any concerns you may have for their area:

Lay Leader	Peyton Haywood
Church Council Chair	William Saville
Finance Chair	Kathy Saville
Staff-Parish Relations Chair	Susan Akers
Trustee Co-Chairs	Ed Fielding & Greg Meese
Treasurer	Judy Hall
Assistant Treasurer	Jean Fielding
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Bob Doney

Ministry Team Leaders

Care & Share Chair	Lydia Ledin
Worship Chair	Sue Wright
Mission Chair	Bonnie Kiger-Doney



The 17th chapter of the Gospel of John records Jesus' prayer for his disciples who followed him in his earthly ministry, as well as for his disciples who follow him in his resurrected ministry. A foundational part of Jesus' prayer is found in verse 18 as Jesus says, "As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." It is my experience that a congregation's ministry is defined by how it is sent into the world of its local community, as well as how it is sent into the world of the global community.

As we begin the new year of 2023, I am grateful for the ways Fort Hill is engaged with our local community through volunteer and financial support of the following ministries:

Fort Hill's Blessing Box Food ministry, Fort Hill's local relief fund, educational partnership with Perrymont Elementary School, Parkview Feeding Ministry, Food for Thought, Food for Families, Interfaith Outreach Association, Salvation Army Christmas Stocking Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Churches for Urban Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Lynchburg Daily Bread, Teens Opposing Poverty, Miriam's House, Wise Street Ministry

I am also grateful for the ways Fort Hill is engaged with ministries that reach beyond our local community: Society of St. Andrew, Hunters for the Hungry, Industrial and Commercial Chaplain Ministries, Souper Bowl of Caring, Henry Fork Community Center, Health Kits

I am excited about the next step of mission support that Fort Hill is beginning in 2023, a missionary partnership with Rev. Jonathan Park in the Southeast Asia Mission Initiative. You can read more about Jonathan and this ministry partnership in this month's newsletter. I met Jonathan when I was serving as the Richmond District Superintendent. Impressed by Jonathan's faith in Christ and his passion for the gospel, I am grateful that support of Jonathan is included in this year's mission budget for Fort Hill. It is a humbling experience to serve a congregation that is sent into the world in the name of Jesus.

-Marc

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

We are now listing our ongoing prayer concerns for those who are in nursing or rehab facilities or recovering at home. Only immediate prayer concerns will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Our current prayer concerns are as follows:

Runk & Pratt

Jean Poindexter (Forest)
Fred & Dodie Fauber (Leesville Rd.)

Heritage Green

Doris Conner

Bentley Commons

Charlie Loving
Frances White

Others who need our prayers:

Elizabeth Adams Mary Murphy
Susan Akers Brittany Roark
Frank Coleman Becky Spangler
Bryan & Lisa Garra Kendra Toney
Farrar Marsh Meriel Wiley

January Communion Offering to Benefit Lynchburg Daily Bread

You can help Fort Hill UMC support LDB by giving generously to the communion offering on January 1. One half of that offering will be given to LDB. Much good food that is not used at feeding events at FHUMC is carried to LDB. The receivers are very gracious and appreciate all food that is brought there. The other half of the communion offering will be given to Interfaith Outreach Association to help those who need assistance with rent, utilities, etc. Thank you for your generous gifts!

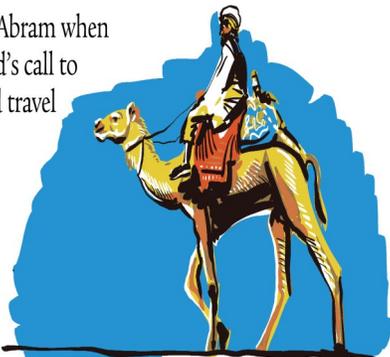


?? ? ?

Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

A. 25
B. 50
C. 75
D. 100



See Genesis 12:4 for answer

Bits and Pieces

Outreach Team Had a Busy Year!

As we end the year 2022, I am once again amazed at what the Outreach team has accomplished. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, we have been able to keep the Blessing Box filled with healthy food for our neighbors. Perrymont Elementary School teachers and staff have received goodies each month, and at the end of the school year in May, were treated with lunch. Presently, two of our team go to Perrymont every Wednesday and Friday to sort vegetables and fruit for each child. Here are some things we will be doing in 2023:

◆We will continue to serve Parkview 100 meals on the 5th Wednesday and did so 4 times this year.

◆Ronnie Seale has organized, and set up, a room of medical equipment for people to donate and utilize as needed.

◆Beginning next year, we will provide support for two missionary programs - one in Vietnam and one in Cambodia.

◆We are pursuing ways to assist Valor Farm at the Center for Healthy Veterans.

◆We will be working with Patrick Henry Family Services to participate in a technology program to connect with children and families in crisis.

Our list continues to grow, and our team deserves much credit for their response. The team consists of Ronnie Seale, Kim Beuerle, Judy Hall, Danna Whorton, Patty Marsh, Jeannette Twery, Bob Jenks and Becky Spangler. When you see one of them, please let them know that they are appreciated.

On another note, we can always use **YOU** to continue our work. **Our next team meeting** will be January 16th at 10:30 a.m.

Once again thanks to all who have supported our missions.

-Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Outreach Chair

UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - January 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

Genesis Circle - January 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall.

The program for January will be the annual Pledge to Missions.

If you are not a member of the UMW, you are invited to visit one of the circles at any time.

2023 Flower Chart Available

If you are looking for a way to honor or remember someone, you might want to consider placing flowers on the altar some Sunday. To do so, you can check the new Flower Chart in the office hallway, beside the water fountain. You have two options to choose from:



Altar Flowers

1. The two brass urn arrangements for \$70 total
OR

2. An arrangement for the altar table for \$40.00

Just sign your name beside the date that you want, and put a "T" or an "U" beside your name to indicate which size arrangement you want. Place your check for \$70 or \$40 in one of the special envelopes provided at the chart, along with the wording that you wish to be in the bulletin, and put the envelope in the collection plate or bring to the church office.

If you wish a certain color or particular type of flower, just let the church office know, and it will be taken care of.

Sign up early to get the date(s) you want as the chart usually fills up quickly.

Fort Hill's Connection to Perrymont Elementary School Continues

Christmas - we delivered snowman mugs with packages of hot cocoa and a candy cane to each staff member.

Needs – Donations of healthy snack items, granola bars, cheese crackers, and peanut butter crackers. Hats and gloves are also appreciated. Please put any donations into the Perrymont box in the Welcome Center.

Perrymont's Fruit and Vegetable program - If you have an hour on Wednesday and/or Friday to sort fruit or vegetables into teacher baskets, please let me know.

Thank you to members of the Congregation that contribute financially to Perrymont. Please continue to pray for the Staff and Students.

Kim Beuerle
Perrymont/Church Contact Person

Missionary News

Embracing John Wesley's statement that "the world is my parish," Fort Hill is entering into a missionary partnership with Rev. Jonathan Park, a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as the country director of the Southeast Asia Mission Initiative. He is based in Ho Chi Minh City.

Rev. Park felt a call to ministry early in his life, and has served faithfully as a pastor for 20 years, including starting multiple church plants. One important element of pastoral work for him is the cultivation of genuine community. He pursues this by prioritizing the development of small-group ministry in the church and the community. He has served on short-term trips and appreciates the opportunity to learn from the church in a new context. He has discovered how to find balance in accomplishing the ongoing work of ministry, while honoring the people who are part of the process.

Despite sociopolitical challenges, Methodist theology has been well received in Southeast Asia. Since Global Ministries missionaries were first deployed there in 2002, the United Methodist Mission has thrived. Development of new faith communities through the Southeast Asia Mission Initiative has been concentrated in central and southern Southeast Asia. Since the formation of the new government in 2011, Christian activities, especially those involving foreign entities, have encountered some restrictions.

One unique feature of United Methodist work in Southeast Asia is the local leadership. Most local pastors serving churches in Southeast Asia, are young and highly educated. Many hold bachelor degrees, and some have master degrees. Because of the Mission's desire to focus on congregational development, Rev. Park plays a critical role.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Rev. Park said, "I was born into a very spiritual family that was very committed to Jesus and his church. From my earliest memories, worship, prayer, Scripture, church attendance and service to others were a regular part. I was taught well by my parents, and the church, to be religious, moral and service-oriented, which I embraced, but I greatly struggled with personal sin, and there was no relationship with Jesus outside of church activity."

As a college student, he struggled with his faith. "I didn't even realize this was a spiritual crisis," Rev. Park said, "until a series of events led me to attend a summer youth camp where the Holy Spirit spoke into my life and revealed my need to repent and follow Jesus. My eyes were opened to the grace of God. ... Shortly after, I received a call into ministry that has offered me the joy of living for my purpose and the opportunity to see, over and over again, God's faithfulness. I love living with Jesus, for Jesus, and to invite others into a life-changing relationship with him."

Rev. Park earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social ecology from the University of California, Irvine (1992) and a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California (1998). Ordained in 2004, he is an elder in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. He and his wife, Chae S. Park, are the parents of two children, Faith Park and Micah.

Prior to his present assignment, Rev. Park served as associate pastor of Wilshire United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California (2001-08); Emmaus UMC, Richmond, VA (2008-12); and Korean UMC, San Diego, California (2012-20).

"Ever since I understood that Jesus called me into discipleship during my college years," Rev. Park said, "I came to appreciate the spiritual heritage I was born into. We have many pastors and missionaries in my extended family, including my parents [the Rev. Joon Shoung Park (now deceased) and Ms. Helen Park (retired)] who were global missionaries with Global Ministries. It all started with my great-grandparents and Methodist missionaries from the U.S. that brought the gospel to Korea. In light of how God blessed my family through these missionaries, I also wanted to be used by God to help others hear the gospel and enter into a relationship with Jesus." He participated in his first cross-cultural mission in Mexico after his conversion, and after college, he went to Russia as a mission year before entering seminary.

Although he wanted to become an international missionary immediately after seminary, he said, "God had other plans and called me to serve the second-generation Korean American community in the U.S.

"After serving four appointments, and reaching the halfway mark of my ministerial career," Rev. Park continued, "God impressed upon my wife and me that it was now our turn to go into all the nations. With much anticipation, we applied to Global Ministries and were ecstatic when we were accepted as missionaries. We are humbled and ... pray we can have the kind of impact that the first Methodist missionaries to Korea had on my family."

JANUARY Birthdays

1/2 Rhonda Nunnally	1/11 Frances White	1/19 Mark Anthony, V	1/26 Bill Cash
1/3 Madison Wiley	1/11 Vickie Watkins	1/19 Brandon Thompson	1/27 Susan Kiger
1/4 Kim Sisson	1/14 Judy Duncan	1/20 Carl Adams	1/27 Sallie Blanks
1/5 Robin Poindexter	1/14 Lydia Ledin	1/20 Michael Gibson	1/29 Nancy Marsh
1/5 Amy Huskin	1/15 Lisa Stone	1/21 Jett Hamilton	1/29 Sarah Housley
1/6 Danna Whorton	1/17 Monique Bell	1/22 Kelly Huber Hann	1/29 Joe Cannon
1/7 Don Baker	1/17 Hannah Roark	1/23 Judy Robertson	1/29 Katlyn Adams
1/7 Catherine Martin	1/18 Ronnie Fisher	1/25 Vicki Ryan	1/30 Matthew Bingham
1/11 Jo Griffin	1/19 Darlene Marsh	1/26 JoAnn Mays	

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it may be because we do not have the date in our data base. Please call the church office at 847-1251 with your information.

January Anniversaries

1/25 Wendell & Diane Thompson 48 years



Miscellaneous



The staff wishes to thank the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and the congregation, for our year-end bonus. It is a privilege and joy to serve God, and to be in ministry with the Fort Hill congregation. We look with anticipation to what God's plans are for all of us in 2023..

The Fort Hill United Methodist Women thank you for your generous support of their efforts to raise funds for Salvation Army stockings and to those who provided filled stockings. We were able to provide 29 filled stockings and \$435 to help the Salvation Army provide stockings for children.

Those Little Metal Tabs Make a Difference

For years, Fort Hill UMC has been collecting pull tabs from cans for charity. Recently, Bob Jenks took four large boxes of those pull tabs to Roanoke. The total weight of the boxes was over 100 pounds! The Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke has a collection site where they store the pull tabs until they are recycled. This is a major fundraising effort for them.

Thanks to all of you who participate by donating pull tabs to this worthwhile charity. You will find a box in the Welcome Center for your donation. Again, thank you for your donations of these tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Roanoke.

A Word From Amos . . .

Happy New Year, my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse, reporting in again! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays as much as I did. I must confess that I am a little more robust around my waistline than I was a month ago. I ate and ate and ate! My family has a lot of good cooks, and I just couldn't resist sampling all the goodies! How about you? You probably have more will power to resist such temptations than do.



I don't have a lot to report on this time, but I must say how much I have enjoyed the beautiful decorations and music here at Fort Hill throughout all the month of December. And to hear all the laughter and merry wishes among the members just filled my heart with such joy! But without the birth of Jesus to celebrate, there probably wouldn't be much joy in any of us. What a marvelous gift we have been given - a gift that we can never fully repay, but a free gift for all to enjoy. I am going to try and carry that thought with me throughout 2023.

Until next month, I hope you will stay warm and healthy.
-Amos

January, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Holy Communion Epiphany Sunday	<i>2</i> Church Office Closed	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 2:00 Martha Circle	<i>5</i> 7:00 Genesis Circle	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> Baptism of the Lord Sunday	<i>9</i> 2:30 Church Council	<i>10</i> 7:00 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	<i>11</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>16</i> 10:30 Outreach Team meeting	<i>17</i> 7:00 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	<i>18</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7:00 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	<i>25</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 7:00 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>In-Person Worship Each Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Java Stop 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Staffed Nursery Available 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</p> </div>			

Miscellaneous

UMW Reading Program Underway

For January, we will be reading and discussing, *The Leavers (a novel)* by Lisa Ko. This book is set in New York and China. It's the story of how one boy comes into his own when everything he's loved has been taken away - and how a mother learns to live with the mistakes of her past.

There are two copies this book available for checkout from the Church Library. The book is also available at the Public Libraries. You do not have to be a member of the UMW to participate in the Book Club or to check out books from the UMW reading section.

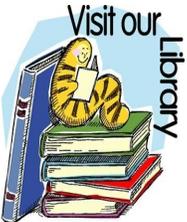
The following is a list of books the Fort Hill UMW have selected for study this year:

January	<i>The Leavers (a novel)</i>	By Lisa Ko
February	<i>No Justice: One White Police Officer, One Black Family, and How One Bullet Ripped Us Apart</i>	By Robbie Tolan & Lawrence Ross
March	<i>My Little Golden Book About Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	By Shana Corey
April	<i>One Dress, One Year: One Girl's Stand Against Human Trafficking</i>	By Bethan Wiriz
May	<i>They Call Me Guero</i>	By David Bowles
June	<i>January First: A Child's Descent into Madness and Her Father's Struggle to Save Her</i>	

From Our Librarian . . .

The End of Your Life Book Club
Will Schwalbe – Knopf-Doubleday, 2012

This is an inspiring story of a son and his dying mother, who form a "book club" that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Mary Anne Schwalbe is waiting for her chemotherapy treatments when her son, Will, casually asks her what she's reading. The conversation they have grows into tradition: soon they are reading the same books so they can have something to talk about in the hospital waiting room. The ones they choose range from classic to popular, from fantastic to spiritual, and we hear their passion for reading and their love for each other in their intimate and searching discussions. They often joked that it was "the world's only foodless book club." This book is a sensitive look at end-of-life issues, but it is so much more. It is a look at the faith and courage of a mother and son celebrating all of life with joy and excitement.



From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church,
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308
Phone: 434-847-1251 Fax: 434-847-2536

Times of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 9:15 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

Rev. Marc D. Brown, Pastor
marcbrown@forthillumc.com
Brown5129@verizon.net

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins, Minister of Visitation
tuned2joy02@gmail.com

Jacob Dishman, Director of Music & Communications
jacob.dishman@gmail.com

Timothy G. Chappell
Audio Visual Technician
larkinwolf@yahoo.com

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant
secretary@forthillumc.com

Crystal Womack, Nursery Attendant
Crystal.womack72@yahoo.com

Rev. Denise Bates, District Superintendent
Phone: 434-832-0401

The Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop, Richmond, VA
Phone: 1-800-768-6040

**"Fort Hill United Methodist Church seeks to nurture
God's people so they can
CONNECT, GROW and SERVE."**

-Fort Hill UMC Vision Statement

THE BOX SCORE

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

Average worship attendance in 2021 - 123

Average worship attendance as of Dec.18, 2022 - 115

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online

Worship beginning January 1, 2022

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . And put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10

BRIEF OPERATING FUND REPORT

Your first line of giving — mission and ministry!

Budget for 2022 as approved by the Church

Council is: \$407,499

We need an average of \$7,836.52 per week to meet this budget.

As of 51 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$7,029.33

**Thank you for your support of the mission
and ministry of your church!**



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251
Fax: 434-847-2536

www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Marc D. Brown
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

Jacob Dishman
Director of Music & Communications

Worship Time:
9:00 a.m. Online Worship
10:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Next newsletter deadline
is **JANUARY 15TH!**
Please submit **SHORT**
articles by this date.
Thank you!



Year End Giving Statements to be Mailed in January

Giving statements for 2022 will be mailed the first week in January. Please review your statement immediately, and if errors are found, notify the Financial Secretary before January 16, when the 2022 books will be closed. Corrections cannot be made after that date. Also, please keep this final statement for tax purposes. Thank you!

Health Kit Collection Starts

Starting in January, the Genesis Circle will once again be collecting items to put in Health Kits that will be taken to the Annual Conference in June. For the month of January, they will be collecting new hand towels. There will be a bin in the Welcome Center for your donation. Thank you for your help!

Year-End Treasurer's Reports Due



All Sunday School class treasurers, as well as treasurers of various church groups, need to submit a report of all their financial activity for 2022 to the church office. This report is due by February 1. **Please have someone audit your report and sign it,**

along with your signature.

If you have any questions about this, or need assistance on how to write your report, please contact Jeanette at 847-1251, ext. 201.