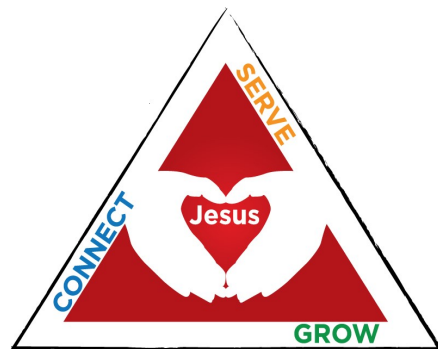




From the Hill

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. 3

March, 2023

Planting a Lenten Garden

Here's what you want to plant in your garden:

Three rows of Squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash criticism
- Squash indifference

Six rows of Peas

- Prayer
- Perseverance
- Politeness
- Preparedness
- Purity
- Patience

Seven Heads of Lettuce

- Let us be unselfish and loyal
- Let us be charitable
- Let us search the scripture
- Let us not be weary in doing good
- Let us be obedient
- Let us be truthful
- Let us love one another

No Garden is complete without Turnips:

- Turn up for prayer and Bible study
- Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
- Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service
- Turn up for service on Sunday, in person or online

Conclude with Thyme:

- Time with God
- Thyme with fun
- Time for rest



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There will be much fruit in the garden because you reap what you sow!



March Communion Offering to Benefit Park View Community Mission

Each month, our communion offering helps us reach out to the needy in our community. This month, one-half of our offering will be given to Park View Community Mission to help with their operating costs, such as building maintenance, utilities, paid staff salaries, etc.



PVCM has become a beacon of hope to many of our inner-city residents. Many services are offered at PVCM, including health evaluations, cooking classes, budget planning, free groceries to those who qualify, as well as a free, weekly hot meal each Wednesday evening, for those who are hungry.

The other half of the communion offering will go to our Local Relief Fund to help those who come to our door needing assistance with rent, utility bills, etc. Thank you for your gifts!

Genesis Circle Hosting Speaker from Henry Fork Center Lunch to follow

On March 26, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, Jessica Hunt, from the Henry Fork Center in Rocky Mount, will speak briefly about the Center and the work they are doing. After the service, the circle will be hosting a baked potato (with toppings), dessert & beverage lunch in the Fellowship Hall **for a donation**, which will go to the Center to help with their missions. **Reservations for the lunch** can be made by calling the church office (847-1251) or with future flyers in the church bulletin.

In last month's newsletter, I shared some of my favorite scripture verses from the 8th chapter of Romans. In sharing my favorite Bible verses, I invited persons to respond to me at MarcBrown@vaumc.org with verses that provide inspiration and strength for their lives. This month, I am sharing the first response I received, from Joan Shook. Thank you, Joan, for sharing!



At first I thought "I have so many..." But then I remembered that there is one that always brings tears to my eyes. Sometimes I cannot get through reading it aloud.

The back story: After my husband died, I was speaking with my pastor, probably wondering if I was beginning to doubt my faith. His words have never left me. "Joan, the apostles did not pass along to us just the words of Jesus. They passed along their EXPERIENCE of the risen lord."

Read the first words of the prologue to John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word..." then jump to verse 14: "And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us; and WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, the glory of the father's only Son, full of Grace and Truth."

During the month of March, we will travel the journey of Lent at Fort Hill. This is the season of the Christian year that compels us forward as we live with faith in remembering Jesus' journey to the cross. As we travel through Lent, I invite us to experience Jesus.

A Letter from Rev. Denise Bates, Mountain View District Superintendent

As a congregation of The United Methodist Church, Fort Hill is part of a connectional ministry that extends to over 130 nations. In recognition of Fort Hill's faithful support of this global ministry, Rev. Denise Bates, Mountain View District Superintendent, wrote a letter that includes the following.

Dear Fort Hill Church Family,

I would like to thank you for your faithfulness in honoring your connectional commitment to the ministries of The United Methodist Church by paying 100% of your Virginia Conference and Mountain View District apportionments in 2022. We are all blessed by being in connection through The United Methodist Church, knowing that we share in God's kingdom work being accomplished not only in our own local community but in ministry throughout the world.

Your generous stewardship has provided for mission and ministry grants, resource support, continuing education, and education assistance, among many other ways that your apportionment giving works to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world. ... A great many of our church families have paid 100% of their apportionments, and I congratulate and appreciate you. ... I know that God honors our faithful efforts and that it takes all of us working together to accomplish the ministries that God lays before us. Your gifts do make a difference, and I appreciate your faithfulness and generosity.

Serving Christ Together with You,
Denise Bates

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 (Leesville Road)

Fred & Dodie Fauber

Heritage Green

Doris Conner
Jean Poindexter

Others who need our prayers:

Elizabeth Adams	Mary Murphy
Susan Akers	Becky Spangler
Frank Coleman	Kendra Toney
Bryan & Lisa Garra	

Bentley Commons

Charlie Loving
Frances White

Bits and Pieces

Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotion Book Available

February 22, Ash Wednesday, kicks off the Lenten season and leads up to the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! Oh the joy to come when we sing "Alleluia, He is risen!" but first, we must journey to the cross with Jesus. Jesus dies on the cross on Good Friday to save us from our sins. We are redeemed by the blood of Christ! Unimaginable, the title and theme of this Lenten booklet is "Redeemed"! Based on scripture about the riches of God's grace, these devotions were written to feed your spiritual hunger and inspire you to consider and thank God for your own story of redemption.



Be sure to pickup your copy of this booklet in the Narthex. As your spiritual hungers are stirred and sustained by these devotions this season, please give back to The Society of St Andrew to meet the physical needs of those less fortunate. With a monetary contribution (envelopes provided), you provide healthy nourishing food for people in greatest need, right here in the United States.

Fort Hill Has New Members!

On Sunday, January 29, the Fort Hill congregation welcomed Dr. Ashley N. Nickell to it's membership through baptism and profession of faith. Ashley moved to Lynchburg from Missouri, and is the Director of the Finance Department at Randolph College. She is actively participating in the life of the church by joining the Sanctuary Choir.



On Sunday, February 12, we welcomed Joseph & Charlie Toddammom to the Fort Hill congregation through the renewal of their baptism and profession of faith. They have been worshipping with us for several months, and we are delighted that they chose to join the Fort Hill family. Joseph works as a prewire tech at ACS (Automated Conveyor Systems), and Charlie works at the Monacan Indian Nation as a Communications/Grant Officer.

Please welcome these new members into the life of Fort Hill UMC!

Highlights from the Outreach Team

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, even with rainy weather, we received **109** food items and **\$80** for the **Blessing Box** during the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. We continue to stock the Box almost daily and this will certainly help us to continue.

Perrymont Elementary School continues to be served under the direction of Kim Beuerle. The staff tells us how much they appreciate the little gifts and goodies.

We expect the **Little Library** to get more use as the weather improves. Please bring appropriate books for small children. (the consignment stores are a good place to shop).

Ronnie Seale has a good supply of **medical equipment** available for use, and is always accepting equipment in good condition for those in need.

The Valor Farm has been contacted, and they provided a list of activities they need help with - everything from mucking stables to cooking. They have volunteer days two Saturdays a month, beginning in March, on the first and third Saturdays. If you have an interest in helping, contact **Paulette and Larry Bailey at 434-439-8425**, or contact Bonnie Kiger-Doney at 434-660-1163. We are interested in making casseroles that can be frozen and used for the Patriots and staff. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please let someone on the team know - if not to help cook, but provide ingredients. We also plan to have a speaker when we can arrange a time that is convenient.



We anticipate signing a covenant relationship with **Rev. Johnathan Park's missionary program in Vietnam**. It has been suggested that the Lenten offering be used for part of this mission. We will also support the **Cambodian ministry** through Advance Specials.

We are about to launch the **CarePortal** which is a technology support program for children in our community. We will be notified of a need and reach out to fill that need, along with other churches in the community. Patty Marsh will be our contact person. If you have an interest in these projects, and would like to join the Outreach Team, please attend any of their announced team meetings. The team needs all the help it can get!

More Bits and Pieces

UMW To Observe Call to Prayer and Self Denial

Each year, during Lent, the UMW has a program which calls us to "Prayer and Self Denial." This involves being very intentional about observing Lent as a time to grow closer to God. Spending more time in prayer and Bible reading, and less time indulging ourselves, is a way to start. **UMW members, as well as ALL members and friends of the church, are encouraged to "give up" something during Lent, and give the money saved to a special offering** that goes directly to programs that help women and children. If giving something up isn't possible for you, then observe Lent by ADDING something to your daily routine that will draw you closer to God. A slight change in routine for 40 days may change your life.

UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - Wednesday, March 1, 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

Genesis Circle - Thursday, March 2, 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

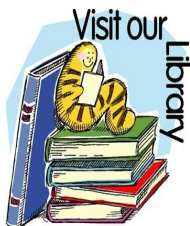
If you are not a member of the UMW, you are invited to visit one of the circles at any time.

From Our Librarian . . .

Caring for Yourself – Caring for Others:

The Ultimate Balance – Diann Uustal
Educational Resources in Healthcare, 1997

Occasionally, we get so caught up in caring for others that we forget to take care of ourselves. In this book, Diann Uustal, a nurse educator, takes us through various strategies and tools for "creating a balanced life rather than merely maintaining a balancing act." Life and living can be quite stressful! How do you handle your stress? Do you engage in negative "self-talk?" Stop listening to those "tapes" being played in your mind. A little positive self talk never hurt anyone. In fact, it will make you feel better about yourself. "It's all about common sense, time-out, and taking responsibility for your own well-being... You have to care for yourself so you can care for others!"



March/April Upper Rooms Available

Copies of the March/April *Upper Room*, are now available in the Narthex, office hallway and Java Stop. Be sure to pick up your copy soon!

UMW Collecting Items for Hygiene Kits

The Genesis Circle will be assembling hygiene kits for the Annual Conference this year. Each month, you can donate an item(s) to go into the kits. There is a bin in the Welcome Center for your donation. **For March, they will be collecting 3 oz. bars of individually wrapped soap..** Thank you for your donation!

Fort Hill UMW Reading Program Continues

For March, we will be reading and discussing, ***My Little Golden Book About Ruth Bader Ginsburg***. This Little Golden Book is an introduction to an inspiring woman, written for the youngest readers. From a young age, Ruth knew that she wanted to fight for girls and women to have equal rights. She studied and worked very hard and became the second woman – and first Jewish woman – to be a United States Supreme Court Justice.

The following is a list of books the Fort Hill UMW has selected for study the next few months:

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> By Michael Schofield

These books can be checked out from the UMW Reading Shelf in the church Library. Some are available at the local library or on E-Books. Join the experience! For more information, please contact Kim Beuerle (434-23-4598).

Perrymont School Update

On Valentine's Day, we delivered 80 individually wrapped heart shaped chocolate cupcakes to the staff, with the message "Thank you from Fort Hill UM Church for touching the hearts of so many children!" We also delivered some snack items. Thank you for continuing to support Perrymont by providing school supplies, clothing, and snack items and placing the items in the Perrymont labeled container in the Welcome Center. Also thank you to those who financially support Perrymont with your donations.

Please continue to keep the staff and students in your prayers!

Kim Beuerle
Perrymont/Church Contact Person



MARCH Birthdays

3/4 Beverly Brown	3/10 Henry Mistretta	3/17 Chip Loving	3/25 Robbie Toney
3/5 Octavia Starbuck	3/11 James Mistretta	3/17 Donna Anthony	3/26 Andrew Cox
3/5 Amanda Anthony	3/13 Debra Martin	3/17 Devin Padgett	3/27 Betty Haywood
3/5 Joey Ware	3/13 April Staton	3/18 Joan Shook	3/27 Kelly Knight
3/6 Thanna Elliott	3/13 Donovan Huffer	3/19 David Drinkard	3/28 Steve Mays
3/6 Lisa Garra	3/14 Carter Staton	3/20 Sandi Kiger	3/28 Wendell Thompson
3/7 Jacob Robertson	3/15 Billy Saville	3/23 Jim Watson	3/29 Ginger Blanks
3/7 Abigail Perrow	3/15 Earlean Loving	3/23 Susan McDonald	3/30 Hal Tester
3/8 Katelyn Hall	3/15 Peyton Haywood	3/23 Elizabeth Moseley	3/30 John Carter
3/8 Atticus Quarles	3/15 Amy Poindexter	3/24 Nick Englund	3/30 Robert White
3/8 Isaiah Conner	3/16 Rico Zelaya	3/24 Christian Wilkes	3/30 Ann Key
3/10 Eric Maness	3/16 Timothy Chappell	3/25 Tracy Roark	3/31 Joyce Baker
			3/31 Jonathan Smith

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.

March Wedding Anniversaries



3/16 Robert & Vicki Ryan	49 years	3/19 Willie & Catherine Martin	7 years
3/20 Mike & Grace Thompson	41 years		

Miscellaneous

Words cannot begin to adequately express my deep appreciation for the countless ways the Fort Hill church family has supported me following my hand surgery. Thank you for the extremely generous provision of eight weeks of cleaning service, for the calls, cards, meals, prayers and other offers.

Though I am still in physical therapy, I am making progress. I have been, and continue to be, strengthened, encouraged, uplifted and sustained by your many expressions of love and support. I am grateful and truly blessed.

-Janet

The family of David Humphrey would like to express a great thank you for the calls, cards, and support with the sudden passing of David. Fort Hill Church has always been a wonderful support to our family.

-Lisa, Steven, Amanda, granddaughters Savannah and Charlotte Humphrey

We extend our sympathy to Nancy Marsh, Les & Patty Marsh, Bill Marsh, Chris & Jennifer Marsh and families upon the death of her husband/their father/father-in-law, L. Farrar Marsh, on February 8.



NOTICE: If you know of a member, or a friend of the church, who is hospitalized, please let the church office know. The hospitals DO NOT call the church. Thank you!

A Word From Amos

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse reporting in again, except I don't have very much to report this time. With the cold, rainy weather, there hasn't been too much happening in or around Fort Hill UMC this past month!




However, I have been hearing chatter about some kind of event called Lent. Do you know what it means? Do you know what happens during Lent? Well, what I have learned so far is that it is a 6-week period where Christians observe the final days of Jesus. I think it starts with a day called Ash Wednesday and ends 40 days later on Easter. I have observed an Ash Wednesday service here at Fort Hill, and if you have never attended one, you are missing out on a very meaningful, quiet time. But the most powerful and meaningful service during that 40 days (at least it is meaningful to me!) is the Maundy Thursday service. It always brings tears to my eyes! I think you will hear more about that service in the next newsletter.

So, until next month, I hope you will stay well and warm, and I also hope to see you in church on Sundays!

-Amos

March, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> 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. </div>			<i>1</i> 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>2</i> 7:00 Genesis Circle	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Holy Communion	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Daylight Savings Time Begins JOY Team College Event	<i>13</i> 2:30 Church Council	<i>14</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>15</i> 3:15 Endowment Committee 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>  St. Patrick's Day	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 11:45 Baked potato lunch to benefit Henry Fork Center	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>29</i> FH prepares meal for Park View 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

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 2022 - 114

Average worship attendance as of Feb. 19, 2023 - 114

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 2023 as approved by the Church Council is: \$401,311

We need an average of \$7,717.52 per week to meet this budget.

As of 8 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$7,658.54

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

JOY Team Remembers Our College Students

Do we love our college students? YES WE DO!

On Sunday, March 12, the JOY Team will host the Java Stop. We will have cards of encouragement and support available at tables in Oxford Hall so we can let these young folks know we are thinking of them and are proud of their work.



Our College Students

We hope you will sign a card and say a sentence of friendship and let them know we miss them at Fort Hill. Also, we would like to have a gift card or two to insert in the card before mailing. If you would you like to get a \$10 gift card for Panera Bread, Starbucks or Chick-Fil-A to help us stuff these cards, it would be greatly appreciated. You can drop off a card in the Church Office, put it in the offering plate or bring it to the Java Stop on March 12th

The Little Library Needs Books

Our Little Library, that is in our playground area, is being utilized quite a bit! We are now in need of more gently used children's books for children in kindergarten through middle school. If you wish to donate some books for the Library, please leave them in the basket in the Welcome Center. Thank you!



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

Lighthearted Blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.



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www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Marc D. Brown
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

Jacob Dishman
Director of Music & Communications

Rev. Jonathan Park
Vietnam Missionary

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

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



**Don't
Forget!
Daylight
Savings Time
Begins on
March 12!**



Special Easter Offering to be Received

In year's past, our special Easter Offering has been designated to help missionaries OR to pay our World Service apportionment in full. World Service is another way of reaching around the globe to help others.

At a recent Finance Committee meeting, it was decided that this year's offering will go towards meeting our obligation of \$2,500 for the support of our missionary, Jonathan Parks. Any remaining funds will be used to pay our World Service apportionment which is \$4,400 Please prayerfully consider what you might want to give, in appreciation for what Christ sacrificed for us all.