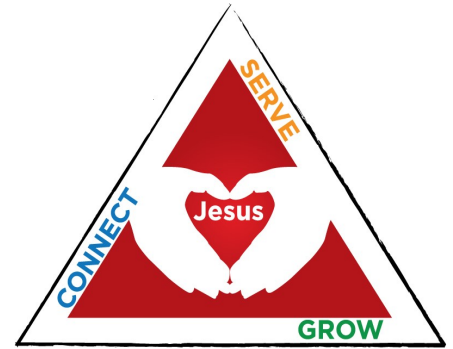




From the Hill

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. 4

April, 2023

Holy Week At Fort Hill UMC April 2 - April 8

Holy Week begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2, and ends with the celebration of Easter the following Sunday. This year, the worship opportunities we have planned begin with the celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We will worship through a musical retelling of the events of Holy Week as the choir presents selections from the cantata titled *It Is Finished*, by Mary McDonald. This service will feature music from guest musicians and our Sanctuary Choir, and will have moments of congregational participation as well. It is our hope that this worship experience will bring you closer to God, as we recount Jesus' journey to the cross and approach the end of the season of Lent.

Then we will gather for worship on April 9 to once again hear the message and promise of Easter. God never intended for Easter to stand alone in our lives, but to be the exclamation point on the Grace that God seeks to give us throughout our lives, for our own good and for God's service, Kingdom and ultimate Glory. So, come and celebrate Holy Week here at Fort Hill United Methodist Church, and may God truly bless you in and through it all.

Maundy Thursday Service Planned



Maundy Thursday

A Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service of Holy Communion, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, will be observed on April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will recall the

events leading to Jesus' crucifixion and the fading light of Jesus' life, cast by the shadow of the cross of Calvary on Good Friday.

An Easter Tradition Continues at Fort Hill

For many years, Fort Hill has had the tradition of "decorating" a cross on Easter Sunday morning with freshly cut flowers from members' gardens, or purchased flowers. We want to continue this tradition again this year.



On Easter Sunday, there will be a wire-covered cross on the patio in front of the church. If raining, it will be on the porch. You are invited to bring as many flowers as you desire from your garden to place on the cross. If you don't have any flowers to bring, artificial flowers are okay; plus we will have some fresh flowers on hand so you will be able to help decorate the cross.

Remember Your Easter Special Offering!

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.

Easter Egg Hunt to be Held!

The annual Egg Hunt for Fort Hill children will take place on the church lawn immediately after the Easter morning worship service on April 9. Kids, **bring your baskets** and have some fun collecting as many candy-filled eggs as you can!



Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen indeed!

This ancient affirmation of the Christian faith has served as a greeting by believers in Jesus since the beginning days of Christianity. On Easter Sunday, April 9, worshipers at Fort Hill will gather to greet each other in the good news of Jesus as we proclaim the presence of our risen Savior.

Two months ago, I shared some of my favorite Bible verses from Paul's letter to the Romans that affirm there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In turn, I invited members and friends of Fort Hill to let me know what their favorite Bible verses are, and why these verses are meaningful to their faith. I am grateful for the following response from Bob Doney:



After my morning readings, reflections and prayers, I wait about 20/30 seconds to exclaim, "It's going to be a great day today! The Lord allowed me to wake up!" This day, I felt the Lord nudging me to share my favorite verses within the Bible. I may not have it memorized like other prayers and

more, but I see it in my mind every day, and every day I try to live as much as I can from it.....Philippians 4, verses 4 thru 9.

4. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. 9. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

In faith to God's service,
Bob Doney

If you have favorite Bible verses you would like to share, please send me an email at MarcBrown@forthillumc.com.

Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen indeed!

-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 (Leesville Road)

Fred & Dodie Fauber

Bentley Commons

Charlie Loving
Frances White

Heritage Green

Doris Conner
Jean Poindexter

Others who need our prayers:

Elizabeth Adams	Mary Murphy
Susan Akers	Becky Spangler
Bryan & Lisa Garra	Kendra Toney
Bucky Hill	

April Communion Offering to Benefit Miriam's House

One half of our communion offering received on the first Sunday in April, will be given to support Miriam's House, a local in-house organization that strives to "End Homelessness and Rebuild Lives Through Empowerment of Women and Families." The other half of the offering will go to our own Local Relief Fund, which is sent to Interfaith Outreach Association, to help those in need of rental or utility assistance, etc.

Will you show your interest in children, who have no home, by giving generously to the communion offering the first Sunday in April? One never knows who he/she will rescue.

Thank you for your gift!



Bits and Pieces

Perrymont School Update

Would you like to read in the Pre-k classroom? They are looking for readers to come in about 9:30 a.m. any day of the week and read for about 15 minutes to a class. You can either select the book(s) or the teacher can provide you with them.

Fort Hill participated in the Resupply Drive organized by the PTO of Perrymont that was held during March. We donated 72 Expo Dry Erase Markers, 180 glue sticks, and 48 pairs of scissors.

During March, each staff member was given a baggie of Peppermint Patties with the message: Thank you for your COMMIT-MINT AND ENCOURAGE-MINT to the students of Perrymont! From your friends at Fort Hill United Methodist Church

In May, during Teacher Appreciation Week, we would like to honor the staff with a potato and salad bar lunch. This will be our last monthly activity for this school year. Monetary donations earmarked for Perrymont would be greatly appreciated. Please send your donations to the Church Office or place it in the Offering Plate. Please remember to **earmark your donation for Perrymont on your giving envelope.**

Thank you for continuing to support Perrymont by providing school supplies and clothing 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.

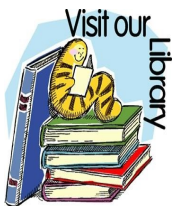
Please continue to keep the staff and students in your prayers!

-Kim Beuerle
Perrymont Outreach

From Our Librarian . . .

Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions
by James A. Beverly, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2009

With so many religions in the world, what should our response be when we analyze these religions in light of our own Christian viewpoint? This guide covers more than two hundred religions, sects, and cults, many of which we might encounter on any given day. The author examines these religions and provides critical analyses of each religion or sect, as well as the leaders of these groups, from the Christian perspective. Beverly provides ten tests for truth in religions "that Christians should apply when examining the faith traditions of others and their own faith." The book includes many illustrations and charts that make this a user-friendly text, perfect for the student as well as the layperson.



Highlights from the Outreach Team

The Outreach team remains on task with our projects.

The **Blessing Box** is continuously being used by the community. We are having to restock about every day which means we always need more food items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Kim Beurele keeps us on track at **Perrymont** with helping to sort the fruits and vegetables on Wednesdays and Fridays and provides treats every month for the staff. A baked potato/salad lunch is planned for the end of the year in May.

We have launched the **CarePortal** through Patrick Henry Family Services and have developed a plan to meet the needs of children that are identified by the Department of Social Services. Patty Marsh is the point person in this endeavor, with Becky Spangler as backup, and we will keep you updated as to how the needs are being met.

Medical supply equipment is available for those in need, and if you have equipment you would like to donate, contact the church office to see when someone is available to receive your donation. Ronnie Seale is in charge of that project.



On March 29th, we will be providing a **meal for Parkview**. We can use help in packaging and transporting the food after it is prepared.

As always, we want to thank you for your generous support in all these projects.

Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Outreach Chair

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!



More Bits and Pieces

UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - Wednesday, April 5, 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

Genesis Circle - Will not meet again until May 4

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

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 April, they will be collecting 10 band aids (3/4" x 3")** Thank you for your donation!

A Word From Amos

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse reporting in again. I'm so happy that warmer weather is beginning.

April 2 is Palm Sunday, and I want to tell you about the service that is being planned for you. The Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a cantata that Sunday, accompanied by some guest musicians and readers. The choir has been working really hard on this music. They have been coming an extra 30 minutes early each Tuesday evening to practice the cantata. Now that's dedication! But the music . . . oh the music! It is so beautiful but yet chilling, heartbreaking, somber, thought-provoking! I'm usually over in a corner observing in my own unique way, but let me tell you . . . the music sometimes gets to me, and it reminds me of how blessed we all are to have someone who not only took on the sins of the world, but also took on my sin. The only way that I can think of to repay this debt is to try and live a sin-free life, but temptations do get in the way sometimes.

Well, that's my report for this month. Enjoy the warmer weather, and I'll report to you again next month! Happy Easter!

-Amos



Fort Hill UMW Reading Program Continues

For April, we will be reading, ***One Dress, One Year: One Girl's Stand Against Human Trafficking***. How can one girl change the world? It all began in 2012 when 12-year-old Bethany Winz decided to make a difference. With a heart for justice and a little black dress, she was determined to wear the same black dress every day for a year to bring attention to the lack of choices slaves have. She came up with new ways to accessorize the dress each day and used her blog and pictures of her outfits to raise money for agencies helping those who were being trafficked. This moving book shows readers that their voices matter, they can make a difference, and sometimes the smallest gestures have lasting impact. (Google Books)

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

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).

Death Doesn't Win!

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.



Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."



4/1 Isabella Zelaya	4/10 Ryan Sullivan	4/17 Meredith Daugherty	4/27 Marc Brown
4/4 Sam Green	4/11 Greg Blanks	4/18 Becky Spangler	4/28 Audrey Padgett
4/5 Frank Billingsley	4/11 Crystal Womack	4/18 Edwin Glass	4/28 David Billingsley
4/5 Philip Roark	4/12 Sarah Huffer	4/20 Robin Salyer	4/28 Tracy Daniels
4/8 Mary Wootton	4/12 Charlie Marsh	4/23 Benjamin Blanks	4/28 Landen Wheelous
4/8 Kassidy Bell	4/13 Stacey Wilkes	4/24 John M. Hamilton	4/29 Martha L. Blanks
4/10 Shelby Phipps	4/13 Cameron Byrd	4/25 John Siegle	4/29 Carolyn Almond
4/10 Bev Conner	4/14 Lisa Humphrey	4/26 Frank Coleman	4/29 Bill Moseley
4/10 Brandon Conner	4/14 Samuel Saville	4/26 Don Knott	4/30 Marie Johnson
4/10 Christina Bingham	4/16 Charlotte Humphrey	4/26 Grant Seale	4/30 Wendy Meese
	4/17 Doris Conner		4/30 Isabella Wheelous

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.

April Wedding Anniversaries

4/10 Les & Patty Marsh 47 years 4/14 Jack & Cassie Muratore 11 years
4/16 Mike & Brittany Mistretta 12 years



Miscellaneous

We extend our sympathy to Mary Ann Carter and Bev Conner, and their families, upon the death of her husband/her father, John Carter, on February 28; to Bill Cash and family upon the death of his mother, Madeline Cash, on February 28; to Cole Werner and family upon the death of his grandfather, Chuck Werner, on February 28; and to Madeline Willis and family upon the death of her sister, Mary Unrue, on March 9.



A NOTE OF



Thank you to all those who donated food gift cards for our college students and to all those who stopped by the Java Stop on March 12 to write a note of encouragement to these students: Ryan Marsh, Kyle Wrabley, Abby Laine, Gracelyn Hedrick, Andrew Cox. Kathryn Toney and Charlie Armes. There were enough gift cards for each student to receive 4 gift cards. We wish these folks well in their studies.
-The JOY Team



We want to hear from you but

if you happen to call during regular office hours 9 AM - 2 PM, M-TH & 9 AM - 1 PM on Fridays), and there is no answer, it's not because we have left for the day, but most likely because there is only one staff person available (with no volunteer in the office), and that person is answering another call. Please call again, or leave a voice message, and someone will call you back as soon as possible. Your call is important to us. Thank you!



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!

April, 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>
<i>2</i> Holy Communion Palm Sunday	<i>3</i> 11:00 Finance Committee	<i>4</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>5</i> 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>6</i> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> Easter Sunday	<i>10</i> Church Office Closed	<i>11</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>12</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Newsletter Deadline
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>19</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 10:30 Outreach Team	<i>25</i> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<i>26</i> 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</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 March 19, 2023 - 114

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2023

"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 12 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$7,502.44

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



Easter Story

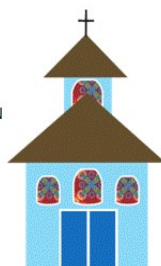
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APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB



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

Last Call for People Directory Changes

We are planning to print a new People Directory in April, and would like for it to be as correct as possible.

If you, or a member of your family, have had a change in address, phone number, or email address, please let us know! This also helps us keep our data base updated.

Please call the church office at (434)847-1251 to give us your changes OR you may email them to secretary@forthillumc.com.





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

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 MAY 15TH! Please
submit SHORT articles by
this date.
Thank you!**



Staff Member Resigning

Crystal Womack, our Nursery Coordinator, has submitted a letter of resignation, effective the last Sunday in May. Pastor Marc has spoken with Crystal and expressed appreciation for her work at Fort Hill. She has been a faithful member of the church staff since October, 2017, and will be missed.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is now in the process of accepting applications for this part-time position. If you know of someone who might be interested in applying for this position, please have them contact the church office or any member of SPRC for more information.

