



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.7

July, 2023

Look What's Happening at Fort Hill UMC in July!



This month we'll be having our first Fort Hill Music and Arts Camp! This is a 3-day event that will provide opportunities for children from kindergarten through 5th grade to engage in recreation, music, arts and crafts, and Bible learning activities. Children will rotate between four "stations," coordinated by leaders from our church. The camp will be held July 18-20, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. each night. An informal light dinner will be provided by the JOY Team at 5:30 p.m. for the camp participants, with activities beginning at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring your children and grandchildren and spread the word to anyone who might be interested!

July Communion Offering to Benefit Lynchburg Daily Bread

One half of our communion offering, received on the first Sunday of July, will be given to Lynchburg Daily Bread. LDB is a non-profit organization providing free, nutritious meals and day shelter to those in need. LDB is dedicated to feeding, without any question, all individuals who come in its doors. Please help them continue this vital ministry, by your generous communion offering on July 2. **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.



Thank you for caring for others through your gift to the communion offering.

Fort Hill Approved as a Bridge Church

Fort Hill's Church Council has approved unanimously for Fort Hill to be a Bridge Church of The Virginia Conference. Bridge Churches serve as welcoming congregations for persons who wish to remain members of The United Methodist Church when their home churches have voted to disaffiliate from the denomination. Bridge churches:

- ▶Are confident they will remain United Methodist.
- ▶Welcome through worship, study, and mission.
- ▶Provide pastoral support, nurture, and opportunities for connection in response to each person's needs, timing, and sense of God's call.
- ▶Bring no expectation of church membership as they offer support based on the needs of each person and community.

Fort Hill's Missionaries Visit the Church

Jonathan and Terah Park are missionaries in Southeast Asia, with whom Fort Hill has formed a partnership through the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. With an emphasis on beginning new faith communities, they also emphasize the education of children. Recently Jonathan and Terah visited Fort Hill in their iteration of partner congregations. As a result of their visit to Fort Hill, many books were donated from our church's children community library. Please remember Jonathan and Terah in your prayers as we consider other ways our congregation can partner with them in their ministry.

From 2001 – 2008 I was appointed as the district superintendent of the Richmond District of the Virginia Conference. In this appointment, I was responsible for serving as the extension of the Bishop's Office to the churches of the Richmond District. Of the various meetings I helped to conduct during these years, there is one meeting that stands out. This meeting was on the occasion when two churches engaged in a joint church conference (a meeting at which all church members are invited and eligible to vote) as they considered whether they would be linked together in ministry as a cooperative parish (two or more churches that intentionally share in common ministries). The two churches that met together were Asbury Church Hill (a Black congregation in the Church Hill area of the city of Richmond) and Belmont (a White congregation in the south side of the city of Richmond). The goal of this cooperative parish was to facilitate and model racial reconciliation between these two churches and as a witness to the greater Richmond community.



The two congregations had been engaged together for several years related to this stated purpose, but there had not been any official vote that would yoke them together. At this meeting persons spoke, asked questions, or made statements about the stated purpose of this church conference. After every person who wished to speak had been afforded that privilege, the motion to form the Asbury-Belmont Cooperative Parish was brought to a vote. It was a holy moment as a unanimous vote of approval was recorded. When the meeting was concluded, I experienced another holy moment as persons from both churches engaged each other in holy conversation. Hearing the voices of persons from both churches blending together, I began to understand more clearly what happened in the second chapter of the Book of Acts when the Church began, as persons from various parts of the world heard the same message about Jesus being proclaimed by the apostles. Listening to many voices becoming one voice, I experienced another moment that made me feel as though I should take off my shoes for I was standing on holy ground.

Watching persons from both churches engage in holy conversation, I felt I was granted a glimpse of what heaven is like as persons from these two churches bore witness to what Paul wrote about in II Corinthians 5:16-21.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us, we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The ministry of reconciliation is the responsibility of the Church. As Paul states, this is the ministry God has given us. Our calling as followers of Jesus is to be ambassadors for Christ. There is no more important time than the present time to live out our calling. May God bless Fort Hill United Methodist Church as we fulfill our calling to become the righteousness of God.

-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

Liberty Ridge

Mike & Jim Hill

Others who need our prayers:

Elizabeth Adams	Mary Murphy
Abby Englund	Becky Spangler
Bryan & Lisa Garra	Kendra Toney
Emma Kelly	

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!

Bits and Pieces

Fort Hill Continues Support for Perrymont Elementary School

Pastor Marc, Bonnie Kiger-Doney, and Kim Beuerle met with Principal Foster to review Fort Hill's partnership for the past year, and to renew it for the 2023-24 school year. Principal Foster was very appreciative of all we have contributed to the positive school environment at Perrymont. In fact, we were the **ONLY** community partnership that was consistently visible in the school all year!

This summer, you can help in the following ways:

- ♦ Collect school supplies to be given to the school in September.
- ♦ Shop for clothes for the clothes closet for students who need a change of clothing during the day. New or used clothing is wanted.
- ♦ Collect personal small hygiene items
- ♦ Place supplies, clothing, and personal hygiene items in the Welcome Center in the plastic bin marked Perrymont Elementary.
- ♦ Continue to keep the staff and students in your prayers.
- ♦ Pray for how you would like to be involved in the ministry: reading to students, partnering with a class, doing activities or crafts with students, sorting fruits and vegetables, copying for teachers, and other opportunities you are interested in.

School Supplies that will be needed are:



Wide Ruled notebook paper (not college rule)	Glue Sticks
Plastic Folders (blue, red, or yellow)	Highlighters (Yellow)
Pencils (wooden No. 2)	Dry Erase Markers (Black EXPO only)
Crayons (box of 24)	Index Cards
Markers (washable)	Zipper pencil pouch (no pencil boxes)
Marbled Notebooks (no spiral/wide rule)	Clorox Wipes
Pocket Folders (pocket on inside bottom of folder)	Tissues
Colored Pencils (12 count)	Sandwich and gallon size Ziploc bags
Scissors (Fiskars pointed edge)	Paper towels

Children's Clothes Closet – New or Used – Small Sizes (up to size 10):

Socks	T-shirts
Underwear (new)	Shoes
Sweat Pants	Outerwear (jackets, coats, hats, gloves)
Sweat Shirts	



Hygiene Items (individual and small):

Chap stick	Comb
Soap	Lotion
Shampoo	Scrunches for hair

Monetary donations earmarked for Perrymont would also 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**. I will be glad to do the shopping once supplies and clothing go on sale.
Kim Beuerle, Perrymont/Church Contact Person

Outreach Team is Busy!

The Outreach Team continues to stay busy with the Blessing Box, Little Library and deciding our role in the Care Portal.

On May 31, Ronnie Seale, along with Wiley Green, his assistant, prepared 100 meals for Park View's Wednesday night meal, and a great team of volunteers filled the containers and transported them to Park View. Ronnie also continues to man the loan closet for medical equipment on Friday mornings. It is being utilized by the community. If you have any equipment/supplies to contribute, it will be appreciated. There is currently a need for wheel chairs. We are very appreciative of the congregation's support in each of these projects.

Our next meeting for the Outreach Team is July 17 at 10:30 a.m. for our fall planning meeting. If you would like to be a part of our team, we would love your participation.

Bits and Pieces

Fort Hill Members and Friends Share Favorite Bible Verses

Fort Hill members and friends are invited to share their favorite Bible verses (and the meaning these verses have) for inclusion in the church's newsletter. Send your favorite Bible verses to MarcBrown@vaumc.org. This month, we are grateful to Charley Jones for sharing:

When I was a youngster, and did not know much about the Bible, I guess my favorite verses were the **23rd Psalm**. But as I got older, and read more of the Bible, my favorite changed. As with most folks, I guess their favorite Bible passages change over time. At one time, I enjoyed reading **James 2: 14-18**, concerning the link between faith and works. Then, when I had two teenagers in the house, my favorite was **Proverbs 22:6**. I so wanted that to be true!

But now, I would have to say my favorite is **Psalms 103: 8-12**. Wow! King David really had a way with words! But how comforting to know of God's love, grace, and forgiveness even though we all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. Paul had a way with words too.

An Abundance of Gifts What gifts do you have?

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen, wearing 4-inch heels, walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

-Stephanie Martin

From Our Librarian . . .

Wings of Dawn – Edwin Lewis – Authorhouse, 2006

I met some new people today! It was not in the "real" sense, but I read about these "new" people in *Wings of Dawn*. The author describes the characters in this novel with such clear detail that they become real. In the novel, a veteran of World War I recalls the death of a close friend during an ambush. After the war, he sets out to find the friend's parents to fulfill his friend's dying wish. Later, the veteran becomes the pastor of a Baptist church in Arkansas, but he still has nightmares. Then, one night... This is a short novel, but filled with an intriguing story that is sure to please. Meet some new people today!



Did You Participate?

If you would like to be recognized with a certificate for participating in the UMW Reading Program this year, please either fill out the form that is located on the shelf in the church Library, next to this year's books, or list the books you read and the mission emphasis on a sheet of paper. Please turn this list in to the church office, or to Kim Beuerle, by August 31. Certificates will be awarded at the Annual UMW meeting in October.

We will be meeting soon to select new books for this coming year. If you would like to be involved in the selection, please let the church office or Kim Beuerle know.

A Prayer for the Fourth

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that "this is our Father's world" and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, "O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet." Amen.





7/4 Janet Hawkins	7/13 G. H. Jones	7/18 Lorri Buchanan	7/27 Joan Cocke
7/7 Susan Akers	7/13 Madison Coghill	7/19 Avery Thompson	7/27 Ronnie Seale
7/8 Bill Marsh	7/14 Kaylin Moseley	7/20 Jerry Conner	7/27 Mary Siegle
7/8 Tammy Roark	7/14 Tyler Drinkard	7/23 Lucas Kendrick	7/27 Deborah Glass
7/9 Alex Drinkard	7/15 Charlie Loving	7/24 Bob Jenks	7/29 Bob Doney
7/10 Sally Faidley	7/15 Joan Roberts	7/24 Derrick Quarles	7/29 Noel Thompson, Jr.
7/12 Ethan Green	7/15 Ann Glass	7/25 Donnie Toney	7/30 Jean Poindexter
7/12 Andrew Marsh	7/16 Jennifer Moseley	7/25 Michael Gibson	7/31 Rodger Beverly
7/12 Sophia Zelaya	7/18 Emily Jones	7/25 Royal Wade Jenks	

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.

July Wedding Anniversaries

7/4 Richard & Rhonda Nunnally	31 years	7/18 Jamie & Robin Salyer	9 years
7/10 Donnie & Kendra Toney	30 years	7/29 Michael & Jeannette Twery	33 years

Miscellaneous

We extend our sympathy to
the family of Charlie Sumpter upon his
death on June 17, 2023.



Just For Fun: Find These 25 Books of the Bible Quiz

Can you find the titles of 25 books of the Bible mentioned in the following paragraph? Some are in one word; some are a part of two or three words.

PUZZLE: I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts. For others it was a real revelation of proverb status. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. It should be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there are some books that will be a hard job to find, but those are the most fun. Can a human being really find all twenty-five of them? At the worst, you should find fifteen. A gal at Ianstown, Scotland did. So did a man named Timothy Hezekiah. No defect in the genes is required, nor is chronic lessening of thought; although I will admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. What will keep you from answering this challenge? A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. How long you keep working on it only you can judge, so long as you try to compete. Remember, we've had fun seeking out twenty-five books of the Bible, but it is by far more important to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." It's always true, God loves you.



With all our thanks, we want you to know that we're grateful for your kind and considerate way, and we thank you for being so special. It means more than we ever could say.

—The Staff of Perrymont Elementary School
(This note is displayed on the bulletin board in the office hallway with staff signatures.)

Thank you to Evan Meese for cleaning and painting a storage room for use by the Medical Equipment Supply Ministry. This was his Eagle Scout project, and Fort Hill is appreciative of this service to the church.

New Upper Rooms Available

The July/August edition of *The Upper Room* is now available. You may pick up your copy in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office weekdays.

Answers on page 7.

July, 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	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Church Office Closed 	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 2:30 Church Council	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 10:30 Outreach Team	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
		<div> Music & Arts Camp 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Snack Supper at 5:30 p.m. </div>				
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>					

Miscellaneous

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 June 18, 2023 - 119

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 25 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,927.20

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

Honoring Fort Hill's Financial Commitment

The United Methodist Church is a connection of congregations guided by the mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." One of the tangible ways United Methodist congregations connect in ministry in over 130 countries, is through equitable financial support, known as apportionments. Several years ago, Fort Hill adopted the process of prioritizing its apportionments by honoring its annual financial commitment in the first six months of the year. In accordance with this process, all of Fort Hill's annual apportionments were paid by June. Gratitude is expressed to all of Fort Hill's members and friends for their generous gifts that made this practice possible for 2023.



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

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

?? Bible Quiz ? ?

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)

Answers to Books of the Bible Quiz on Page 5 In the order they appear

Mark	Ruth	Matthew	Romans
Luke	Numbers	Galatians	Hebrews
Kings	Amos	Timothy	Judges
Acts	Esther	Genesis	Peter
Revelation	Job	Chronicles	
Proverbs	Hosea	Titus	
James	Nahum	Lamentations	



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Rev. Marc D. Brown
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

Jacob Dishman
Director of Music & Communications

Rev. Jonathan Park
Missionary in Southeast Asia

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

**SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...**

A Report from the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference
by Bob Doney, Fort Hill's Lay Member to Annual Conference

The Virginia UMC Conference was held in Roanoke June 15, 16 and 17, 2023. Approximately 1,800 members of the Conference registered, with most holding voting credentials, to include myself. Both voting, and non-voting, attendees were able to assemble, when their time allowed, 3,170 women's health and hygiene kits for disaster relief, and over 20,000 bags of bulk rice, dried soybeans and dried bulk vegetables for a "Stop Hunger Now" program worldwide.

The Conference ordained 5 new ministers, and many others were commissioned as Provisional members, or licensed to be local Pastors. A lay supply of individuals to do ministry work, in the absence of any ordained, or licensed minister, in a pastoral charge were recommended to the Bishop. In addition, there was one certified Lay Minister qualification. There were 60 ministers that went into retirement status, but many will continue to serve where there is a need.

Most changes, requiring a vote, were wording updates and had been recommended to pass by the Conference Delegation before a voting action was taken to send to the General Conference in 2024. All were approved by a show of hands.

Our most important vote was the proposal known as the Christmas Covenant. The Christmas Covenant is a proposal for regionalization and contextualization as a way forward for the UMC. The VAUMC General Conference Delegation unanimously supports the Christmas Covenant as the wisest, and most hopeful way forward, for the United Methodist Church. Currently, the United States is the only regional area whose adaptable issues are decided by the full General Conference. Regionalization helps the UMC adapt its governance to meet the specific needs of regions and the denomination as a whole. This proposal was approved by a show of hands and will be sent to the General Conference meeting in 2024.