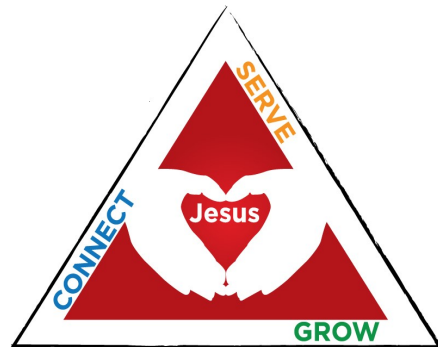




From the Hill

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.8

August, 2023

New Group Forming at Fort Hill! Mix & Mingle is fun!



If you didn't attend the last Mix & Mingle event in July, you missed out on a lot of fun! Those who gathered then, want to gather again in August.

The next Mix & Mingle will be on Thursday, August 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The group will meet on the 4th

floor (elevator accessible).

Come join in the fun to just talk and visit with your church friends, play games, work puzzles, play ping pong, foosball, air hockey or card games.

Snacks will be provided, or you can bring a snack to share, if you wish. Come join in the fun!

Fort Hill Continues Support for Perrymont Elementary School

August is Back to School month! During August, Fort Hill will be:

Feeding the staff on their back to school meeting day, Monday, August 9th

Blessing the school supplies and clothing on Sunday, August 27th (Pick up a list in the Welcome Center of supplies needed)

Please continue to keep the staff and students in your prayers and pray for how you would like to be involved in our school 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. For more information, please contact Kim Beuerle, our contact person for Perrymont, at 434-665-8315.

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 Jeannette Twery for sharing:

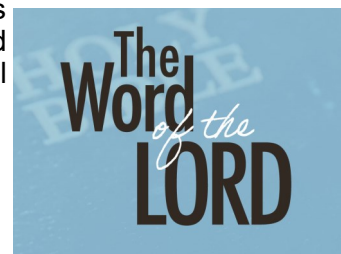
Psalms 91: 1-6 (TLB-The Way)

1- We live within the shadow of the Almighty, sheltered by the God who is above all gods.

2-This I declare, that He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I am trusting Him.

3-For He rescues you from every trap, and protects you from fatal plague.4- He will shield you with His wings! They will shelter you. His faithful promises are your armor.5- Now you don't need to be afraid of the dark anymore, nor fear the dangers of the day; 6- nor dread the plagues of darkness, nor disasters in the morning.

I love to meditate on how God loves us and all the ways He protects and strengthens us- how He draws us near reminding us that He is the God above all gods, His promises never fail, His love never stops.



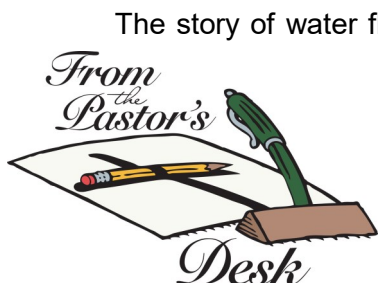
Women's Prayer Group Forming



Beginning on Thursday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m., a women's prayer group will meet on the 4th floor (elevator accessible). All ladies of the church are invited! Please bring your Bible and a sandwich. Beverages will be provided. For more information, please contact Sue Wright at 434-239-2051.



The theme of Fort Hill's July music arts camp was *Wade in the Water*. Thanks to Jacob for coordinating the camp and to everyone who helped to make the camp possible! It was a joyful time to have 39 children enrolled in the camp and to learn about the meaning of water in the Bible.



The story of water flows through 500+ references in the Bible. Water provides the means by which God speaks order to the creation of heaven and earth in the second verse of the Bible – Genesis 1:2: “the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” The last chapter of the concluding book of the Bible, Revelation, includes these words about water through the creation of a new heaven and a new earth in Revelation 22:1: “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life.”

Among the meanings of water in the Old Testament are:

- ▶ judgment in the story of Noah's Ark in the 7th and 8th chapters of Genesis
- ▶ deliverance of the former slaves of Egypt who crossed through the Red Sea on dry land and into a new identity as God's chosen people in the 14th chapter of Exodus
- ▶ the promise of God's presence in Isaiah 43:2a: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you”

Among the meanings of water in the New Testament are:

- ▶ repentance and new life through baptism as told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- ▶ God's eternal sustenance as found in Revelation 22:17: “Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.”
- ▶ new life offered through Jesus in John 4:14: “but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.”

Vital to understanding God as the source of life and faith, the presence of water throughout the Bible affirms present life and faith through the eternity of God's creating, sustaining, and renewing presence. May the presence of God bless you as you wade in the water of faith. -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

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
Judy Hall	

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!

August Communion Offering to Benefit TOP

One half of the communion offering received on the first Sunday of August, will be given to TOP, Teens Opposing Poverty. TOP works to develop ministries that give youth and young adults the opportunity to interact with homeless and poor people, throughout Virginia. Fort Hill UMC Youth, in the past, have been a very influential part of bringing TOP to Lynchburg. **Your support of the TOP Ministry will help the poor and homeless.**

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 your gift!



Bits and Pieces

Fort Hill Has New Members!

It was a great day at Fort Hill UMC on Sunday, July 9, when we welcomed into our membership Michael & Teresa Hester, who have been worshipping with us for several months. They transferred their membership from Grassy Creek United Methodist Church in State Road, NC. Michael is the Help Desk Manager at Randolph College, and Teresa is retired. Please greet and welcome them on Sunday mornings!



McPherson Scholarship Awarded

Each year, Fort Hill offers a scholarship, from the McPherson Scholarship Fund, to any member of the church who applies. This year's recipient is Ryan Marsh, son of Chris & Jennifer Marsh and grandson of Nancy Marsh and the late Farrar Marsh. Ryan will be a sophomore at Virginia Tech, majoring in forestry. Congratulations to Ryan for receiving this scholarship!



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.

From Our Librarian . . .

Jesus, My Song – by Tim Wesemann,
CTA, Inc., 2006

Did you know that each of us has a song? You may have never heard it, but it is there, deep within your soul! It is a simple melody, placed there by God, uniquely yours, yet it is part of the grand chorus of the universe. In this book, the author leads us through five weeks of Scripture-based devotions to aid in your spiritual journey. Each devotional incorporates a musical term, with its meaning, a Bible reading and a thought for the day. This is an excellent way to "listen" to the song that is within you and become an instrument of praise to the Lord! "Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." (Ephesians 5:18-19)



UMW Reading Program Update

If you would like to be recognized with a certificate for participating in the Reading Program, please either fill out the form that is located on the shelf next to this year's books, or list the books and mission emphases on a sheet of paper. Please turn in this list to the Church Office, or Kim Beuerle, by August 31st. 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.

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 July 23, 2023 – 118

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 30 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,926.33

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



8/1 Brad Cassidy	8/12 Donna Garner	8/15 Mason Grant	8/24 Savannah Humphrey
8/1 Heather Hall	8/12 Emma Kelly	8/16 Ryan Englund	8/27 Maxine Wood
8/2 Diane Thompson	8/12 John Hamilton	8/16 Casey Wrabley	8/28 Scott Robertson
8/2 Mary Carson Moser	8/12 Michael Decker	8/20 Sylvia Morgan	8/28 Teresa Hester
8/4 Briannah Ecklund	8/13 Debra Miller	8/21 Kim Bolinsky	8/29 Tillie Hunter
8/4 Oliver Huffer	8/13 Roberta Litten	8/21 Cameron Martin	8/29 Dennis Johnson
8/5 Linda Fisher	8/14 Anne Gardner	8/22 David Almond	8/29 T. J. Beuerle
8/7 Brittany Mistretta	8/15 Ed Fielding	8/22 Jessica Martin	8/29 Matthew Robertson
8/8 Gray Wilkinson	8/15 Jeannette Twery	8/24 Robert Feese	8/30 Stuart Porter
8/11 Sarah Johnson	8/15 Sam Vest	8/24 Lynn Hughes	8/30 Mickey Minnick
			8/31 John Toney

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.

August Wedding Anniversaries

8/8 James & Ashleigh Blanks	3 years	8/22 Don & Daryl Knott	30 years
8/13 Kenneth & Sherri Tolley	36 years	8/28 Ed & Danna Whorton	59 years
8/16 Jim & Sandi Kiger	54 years	8/30 Carl & Elizabeth Adams	27 years
8/21 Don & Joyce Baker	41 years		



Miscellaneous



Congratulations to Cameron and Cameron Roark Byrd upon the birth of their son, Riley Aaron Byrd, on July 14, 2023. He is the grandson of Tracy & Tammy Roark.

The family of Charles Sumpter would like to thank the congregation of Fort Hill United Methodist Church for all the kind expressions of care and sympathy upon Charlie's passing.



We extend our sympathy to Stacey McBride upon the death of her father-in-law, Kenneth McBride, on July 4, 2023; and to Earlean Loving and family upon the death of her husband, Charles W. Loving, on July 16.

Church Audit Completed

The audit of the church's financial records for 2022 has been completed by the auditor, Wendy Meese. She states: "I have audited the financial records of Fort Hill United Methodist Church, year ending December 31, 2022, and in my opinion, the financial records of the church present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the church."

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

August, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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.		1	2	3	4	5
6 Holy Communion	7	8	9	10 10:30 Women's Prayer Group 2:00 JOY Team	11	12
13	14 11:00 Finance Committee	15	16	17 1:00 - 3:00 Mix & Mingle	18	19
20	21	22 11:00 UMW Mission Team	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 10 - 4 FHUMC prepares meal for Park View	31		



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Address Service Requested

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



Volunteers Are Needed!

Many events, services and even our church administration could not take place without volunteers! Our volunteers are vital to all areas of the Fort Hill church community.

If you are looking for a way to be more connected to the life of Fort Hill UMC, you might want to try volunteering in any of the following areas:

- >Provide the Children's Message on a Sunday morning
- >Helping with a children's Sunday School class
- >Be an usher on a Sunday morning
- >Help in the Nursery on a Sunday morning
- >Be a liturgist on a Sunday (reading scripture)
- >Join the choir!
- >Help prepare for Communion
- >Help serve Communion
- >Provide Java Stop one Sunday morning
- >Help change the outside banners as needed



Please call the church office at 434-847-1251 if you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities to serve.