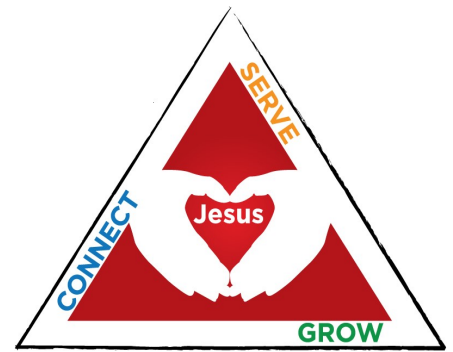




From the Hill

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



Volume 58, No.9

September, 2023

Outreach Team Has A Busy Summer!

The Outreach team continues to be busy with many projects. As always, the Blessing Box is refilled almost daily. We really appreciate the support of the church community in this endeavor.

The medical supply closet continues to gather equipment and distribute it to those in need. This project was recognized in the District Newsletter last month.

Perrymont Elementary School is in full swing and our team is there to help and support the staff and therefore the children.

The Little Library continues to be utilized especially by the children who play in the playground.

It is time to renew our Covenant Relationship with the missionaries in Southeast Asia.. We support Johnathan Parks and his wife Terah. Terah is educating children who were born in the rural areas and have no birth certificate, therefore no education. Being in a religiously sensitive area, Johnathan cautiously provides God's Word and supports the ministers in that area.

The team is considering additional projects and we welcome anyone who would like to participate or make suggestions.

Once again, we thank you for all your contributions and support. *-Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Chairman*

Choir Rehearsals are Beginning

We are looking forward to starting our music programs back up for the Fall! Our Celebration Ringers and Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsals on September 6th and 7th, with our bells meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, and the Sanctuary Choir on Thursday, September 7, at 6:45 p.m. Please feel free to come to a rehearsal to check out what we do! We are always welcoming new members, so if you are feeling called to use your gifts to serve God, in either of these ensembles, please contact Jacob Dishman at 434-847-1251.



New Lunch Out Group Forming

Come and enjoy lunch with your church family and friends one Sunday a month! Everyone is invited and reservations are not needed. This group will be gathering immediately after the worship service the second Sunday of each month providing it does not conflict with any after church activities. For the month of September, they will meet at Charley's on Old Graves Mill Road on September 10. Come join in the fellowship! For more information, please contact Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.



Women's Prayer Group To Start

A new Women's Prayer Group is forming, and they will be meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m. on the 4th floor (elevator accessible). Come join them monthly for a time of fellowship, prayer for others; a time of silent meditation with Scripture; and, for those who can stay, lunch together. For more information, call Joan Shook (434 509-3278) or Sue Wright (434 841-2345)

Next Mix & Mingle

Wednesday, September 20
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4th floor (elevator accessible)
Bring a snack to share
and join in the fun!



Followers of Jesus believe in resurrected possibilities for life. Living with faith in a crucified and risen Savior, they see life from the risen side of the tomb of Jesus. Part of the ongoing story of redemption, they join the biblical generations of faith as they:

► Affirm the goodness of God's love – Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. **2** Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. **3** Know that the LORD is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's, we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. **4** Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless God's name. **5** For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

► Do what God requires – Micah 6:6-8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

► Believe in Jesus in the present – John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

► Look to Jesus for the future – Hebrews 11:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

How are you living in resurrected possibilities for your life?

-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)

Dodie Fauber

Bentley Commons

Frances White

Heritage Green

Doris Conner

Jean Poindexter

Runk & Pratt @Liberty Ridge

Mike Hill

Others who need our prayers:

Elizabeth Adams

Abby Englund

Bryan & Lisa Garra

Judy Hall

Mary Murphy

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

Phyllis Williams

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!

September Communion Offering to Benefit Society of St. Andrew

One half of the September Communion offering will go to Society of St. Andrew. The other half will go to Interfaith Outreach Association to assist those who need help with rent, utilities, food, etc.

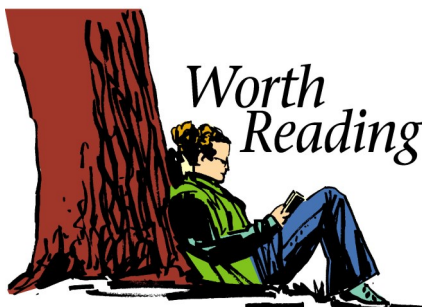
Did you know that September is National Hunger Action Month? There's never been a more crucial time to focus on the needs of your hungry neighbors and continue to do more. Food pantries are still reporting drastically increased needs for food and more farmers are opening their fields for gleaning. Your gift will go a long way in helping to feed the hungry in our community.



Bits and Pieces

You Are Special, Too!

I have always been in church! I started out in a Christian church (Disciples of Christ). When I was a teenager, I went to a Baptist church. Many of my school friends went there, so, naturally, I wanted to become part of the group. When I was married, my wife and I decided on an Episcopal church. All of my children were raised in the Episcopal tradition. I have attended traditional churches and fundamentalist churches. I even worked in churches as an organist, choir member, and teacher. I even sang in a synagogue and in a Catholic church. I guess I might be considered a CathoBaptiPresbyMethoPalian!



In all of that busy-ness of the church, I had forgotten something! What happened to my relationship with God? Did I really know God's love for me, His plan for me? Several years ago, a pastor friend gave me a secret. His secret was not just for me, though. He said, "God loves you, I love you, and there's nothing you can do about that." God loves ME! Because God loves me, I can love others! That opened a new chapter of my life, and I was filled with such a great joy – beyond belief! God had restored that unspeakable joy in my life! In John 15, Jesus speaks of loving one another "as I have loved you." He also said, "These things have I spoken unto you that my JOY might remain in you, and that your JOY might be full." In Nehemiah 8,

we read, "The JOY of the Lord is your strength!" [Neh. 8:10]

Do you know how special you are? Each one of us is an individual creation of God, an actual child of God! He knows our innermost thoughts, He cares for us, and He provides for our every need. God loves us with a love that is almost beyond understanding. Each of us is an expression of that love to the rest of the world.

Have you ever considered how similar we all are? Genetically, all human beings are basically the same! The differences may be in skin color or blood type, but those genes make up such a small part of each person. Most of us, if not all, have the basic organs in the right places - eyes, ears, arms legs, and so forth. So there's not much difference, is there?

Get to know God. Find the love of God in you – find the JOY! It's there, waiting for you! God wants to hear from us. How do we do that? Through prayer. Prayer is just a conversation with God. It's not just a time to make requests for ourselves; it's a time to thank Him for the countless blessings that are poured out on us and to ask for His will to be done in our lives and in the lives of others.

In Jeremiah 33:3, God says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you and I will show you great and wonderful things which you do not know." Have a little talk with Him; tell Him about your troubles – then just be quiet and listen! He WILL answer! God cares for each one of us and loves us unconditionally. Get in touch with God!

Always remember: God loves you; I love you; and there is nothing you can do about that! Amen.

-Wayne Rhodes

From Our Librarian

Laughter Is The Spice Of Life – Women of Faith
Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2004

"The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant – and let the air out of the tires."—Dorothy Parker. This book by Women of Faith speakers will put a smile on your face and perhaps give you a chuckle or two. It is a series of short stories, poems and quotes that remind us that life is filled with laughter and joy, even in the most difficult circumstances. There is value in laughter and, instead of grumbling about the day,



look for the humor in life itself. You will find that "a cheerful heart is good medicine."

A Word From Amos . . .

Hi, my Fort Hill family! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again! I hope you have had a good summer and some vacation time. My family and I had so much fun together, but it sure was good to get home, especially my home here at Fort Hill UMC.



Since I am just now getting back home, I don't have anything to report to you this month, but I'm sure I will in October! Enjoy the rest of this summer!



9/1 Marsha Glass	9/8 Brooklyn Staton	9/15 Jon Roark	9/24 Nancy Ware
9/2 Terry Minnick	9/8 Ella Quarles	9/15 Rhonda Ford	9/24 John Thornhill
9/2 Whitney Robertson	9/8 Benjamin Zelaya	9/16 Linda Drinkard	9/25 Steven Humphrey
9/3 Maggie Scott	9/9 Earl Adams	9/18 Joe Thornhill	9/26 Mary Ann Carter
9/3 Brooke Kendrick	9/10 Carol Hall	9/18 Barry Bell	9/28 Wayne Rhodes
9/3 Joseph Daugherty	9/11 Havion Ferguson	9/18 Jonathan Napier	9/29 Mike Allen
9/4 Mark Howard	9/12 Parker Staton	9/19 Ryan Schmidt	9/29 Deborah Gibson
9/4 Sarah Saville	9/13 Marilyn Chilton	9/20 Dalton Huskin	9/30 Sara Foutz
9/6 William Saville, Jr.	9/13 Jackie Gay-Milliken	9/21 Lexey Bourgugnon	9/30 Bryan Garra
9/8 Jennifer Marsh	9/13 Joseph Toddammmon	9/21 Jesse Hamilton	9/30 Michael Manning
9/8 Carrie McCane	9/14 Carolyn Coleman	9/22 Mike Mistretta	9/30 Brent Mays
9/8 Griffin Spencer	9/14 Vickie Ferguson	9/22 Travis Simmons	

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.

September Wedding Anniversaries

9/1 Cameron & Cameron Byrd	5 years	9/16 Jimmy & JoAnn Mays	62 years
9/8 Bryan & Lisa Garra	33 years	9/19 Mark & Amanda Anthony	14 years
9/29 Bryan Fielding & Kelsey Laubach	4 years		



A NOTE OF



Dear Fort Hill Church, When we needed to decide where to hold the funeral service, our desire was always to honor Dad at his church. Fort Hill was very important to Dad and Mom. Your kindness on that day was appreciated.

-Mary Loving Dickerson, Chip Loving & Earlean Loving

Dear Fort Hill Family, Thank you so much for the McPherson Scholarship and supporting me, as I start my second year at VA Tech. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

-Ryan Marsh

Friends of Fort Hill UMC, we thank you for your support of CarePortal! Throughout the US, there are children and families in need of connection. Almost 80% of children involved in the child welfare system have experienced neglect. Your support helps build a bridge to come alongside families. We are thankful for your partnership!

-With gratitude and respect, Your Friends at CarePortal

We extend our sympathy to Dodie Fauber and family upon the death of her husband, Fred Fauber, on August 20; and to Mike Hill upon the death of his son, Jim Hill, on August 23.

Passages . . . through grief

A Grief Recovery Program

(for all significant kinds of loss)

Beginning September 14, 2023 on Zoom
6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more info:

www.passagesthroughgrief.com
or call Susan Williams at 434-944-8458

Sharing Our Favorite Bible Verses

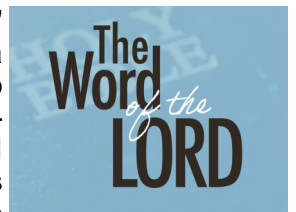
This month's favorite Bible verse is being shared by Danna Whorton. She writes:

One scripture that I like is Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

The context of this scripture is that Moses is dead and Joshua is to lead the nation into the land of milk and honey. He is to lead the nation of Israel boldly and with confidence. To be fearful or to lead trembling would show lack of confidence in God. God used the "be strong and courageous" three times in Joshua 1. This gives me courage to face the future, which is uncertain at this time. When I feel down or defeated, this verse gives me the courage to keep going. I need to show the world that God is present in my life and to be strong and courageous in all situations. HE is always with me wherever or whatever the situation. This gives me the courage to keep going.

As an aside, this verse is on the wall in the gym at the YMCA downtown. I see it every time we go and exercise. It encourages me.



September 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>					1	2
3 Holy Communion	4 Labor Day Church Office Closed	5 10:30 Women's Prayer Group 7:00 Genesis Circle	6 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	7 6:45 Choir rehearsal	8	9
10	11 2:30 Church Council	12	13 7:00 Celebration Ringers	14 6:45 Choir rehearsal	15 Newsletter deadline	16
17	18 10:30 Outreach Team	19 9:00 JOY Team	20 1-3 Mix & Mingle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	21 6:45 Choir rehearsal	22	23  First day of Fall
24 No Java Stop	25	26 12:00 Reading Program movie watch	27 7:00 Celebration Ringers	28 6:45 Choir rehearsal	29	30

More Bits and Pieces

2024 Operating Budget Figures Due Soon

All work areas and departments should start planning their budget for 2024. Your requested budget figures should be **submitted to the Finance Committee no later than September 30.** If you need an updated expense report for your work area or department, please contact the Financial Secretary, Jeanette Seale, at 847-1251, Ext 201 or email her at secretary@forthillumc.com.



Submit Your Budget Requests

Staff Changes Made

Fort Hill welcomes Michael Hester as the new audio/visual volunteer replacing Timothy Chappell. Appreciation is expressed to Timothy for his ministry.



UMW Reading Program Starting

The Reading Program is beginning soon for the 2023-24 year! A full list of books for the year will be available in the October newsletter.

For the month of September, the book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas has been selected. This book is available in our library and at all the local libraries. It has also been made into a movie, which also counts if you would rather watch it. We will meet on Tuesday, September 26, at 12 p.m. to watch the movie. Be sure to bring a lunch with you!

The Hate U Give is about 16-year-old Starr Carter, who moves between two worlds: the poor black neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khali, at the hands of a police officer. When it becomes clear the police have little interest in investigating the incident, protestors take to the street, and Starr's neighborhood becomes a war zone. The only person who can answer what really happened that night is Starr. This is a story about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances addressing issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty.

?? **Bible Quiz** ??

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

Martha Circle - Wednesday, September 6, 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

All ladies of the church are invited to attend one of these circles to find out what United Women in Faith is all about or join one. You will be warmly welcomed!



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 August 20, 2023 – 120

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 34 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,545.12

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

Note: Beginning September 1, Fort Hill UMC will begin accepting online contributions through our website. You can also make contributions by going to <https://abundant.co/forthillunitedmethod>

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

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

Find the names of these fathers and sons
from the Old Testament



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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!



Schools Are Open!

Fort Hill continues it's support at Perrymont Elementary School

The Staff of Perrymont was "Welcomed Back" with a delicious dinner of a Chick-fil-A sandwich, chips, brownies, and water. A big THANK YOU to the Congregation for making this possible!

Thank you to all who have contributed school supplies, clothing, and money to purchase supplies for the students at Perrymont. On Sunday, August 27th, as a Congregation, we blessed and prayed over these items. Staff members in attendance took the items with them. Continue to keep the Staff and Students in your prayers. We will continue to collect these items, personal hygiene products, and individual snacks throughout the year.

In October, we would like to provide the staff with a Halloween treat bag made up of individually wrapped candies. Donations of individually wrapped candy will be collected throughout September and most of October. Thank you in advance for contributing.

Would you like to volunteer (read to a class, sort fruit/veg in teacher baskets, help in a classroom, etc) at Perrymont? Volunteers are needed! Please let me know if you are interested. All you need to do is have your driver's license run through their system upon entering the school. Those who worked last year should still be in the system.

Thank you for supporting and making a difference at Perrymont Elementary!

-Kim Beuerle, Perrymont/Church Contact Person