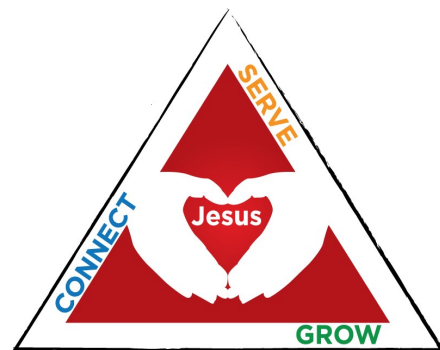




From the Hill

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



Volume 58, No.10

October, 2023

World Communion Sunday to be Celebrated on October 1

On October 1, the famous, infamous and those of us in between will gather at a common table around the world. This is the day when the Christian faith celebrates World Communion Sunday. We come to the table from the North and the South, the East and the West. It is a great privilege to share this meal. There is no cost to us; the cross is a sign that reminds us of the great cost to the host.



World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is one of the six church-wide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund, and your gifts can further growth and success. **Please earmark your check and envelope "World Communion Offering."**

Please share the Eucharist with us at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 1.

Women's Prayer Group Will Meet Monthly



The newly formed women's prayer group will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. We begin with a short time of socializing, with light refreshments, continue with a period of prayer for needs of individuals and a short period of meditation with the Sacred Scriptures. Drop in when you can. There is no obligation to come each time. The next meeting is October 10.

Next Lunch Out Date Set

Did you attend the Lunch Out date in September? If you didn't, you missed enjoying good food and fellowship with your church family.



The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, October 8, immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at Shaker's restaurant. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

October Communion Offering to Benefit Hunters for the Hungry

This month, one half of the Communion offering will go to Hunters for the Hungry and the other half will go to our Local Relief Fund to assist those who come to our door needing assistance.

Hunters for the Hungry operates by solicitation of successful hunters to donate venison. The deer are accepted by professional meat cutters who process (cut, wrap, and freeze) the venison. The meat is provided at no cost and is distributed by food banks and other 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organizations feeding Virginia's needy. They are not supported by any state funds or any United Way Agency. Funds are raised to cover the cost of processing, distribution, and the overhead expenses of operation (less than 20% of total expenses). Financial support is currently the limiting factor.

Your generous donation on Communion Sunday will help these hunters feed the hungry, as well as help those who go to Interfaith Outreach looking for assistance.





In this month's newsletter and upcoming newsletters, I will be offering some foundational scripture and reflections (some by other persons and some my own) about the doctrines of the Christian faith. This month, we consider the doctrine of the *incarnation* – the belief that God became flesh in Jesus. I consider the foundational scripture for the doctrine of the incarnation to be John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.”

In his book, *Wishful Thinking, A Theological ABC*, Frederick Buechner offers these reflections on the doctrine of the incarnation:

“‘The word became flesh,’ wrote John, ‘and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14). That is what incarnation means. It is untheological. It is unsophisticated. It is undignified. But according to Christianity, it is the way things are.

“All religions and philosophies that deny the reality or the significance of the material, the fleshly, the earthbound, are themselves denied. Moses at the burning bush was told to take off his shoes because the ground on which he stood was holy ground (Exodus 3:5), and incarnation means that all ground is holy ground because God not only made it but walked on it, ate and slept and worked and died on it. If we are saved anywhere, we are saved here. And what is saved is not some diaphanous distillation of our bodies and our earth, but our bodies and our earth themselves. Jerusalem becomes the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). Our bodies are sown perishable and raised imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:42).

“One of the blunders religious people are particularly fond of making is the attempt to be more spiritual than God.”

p. 43, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*, Frederick Buechner, Harper and Row, 1973

I consider the doctrine of the incarnation to be God's invitation to live in the fullness of life for which humanity was created and the fullness of life for which humanity was redeemed. Genesis 1:27 describes the fullness of life in which humanity was created with these words – “So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them.”

I consider the doctrine of the incarnation to be God's invitation to live in the fulness of God's grace and truth as revealed through Jesus. Philippians 2:1-11 defines this invitation to grace in verses 1-4 and the words of one of the oldest hymns of Christianity (*kenosis* – self-emptying) in verses 5-11.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In 325 AD The Council of Nicaea developed the Nicæan Creed which affirmed the doctrine of the incarnation as Jesus Christ was declared both fully divine and fully human.

The Nicæan Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

May the Word of God that became flesh in Jesus be incarnate through our faith in Jesus.

-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:

Abby Englund	Mary Murphy
Bryan & Lisa Garra	Becky Spangler
Judy Hall	Kendra Toney
Sylvia Morgan	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!

Sharing Our Favorite Bible Verses

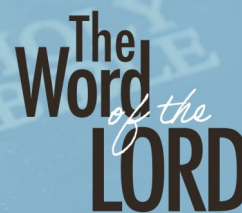
This month's favorite Bible verse is being shared by Jeanette Seale. She writes:

Romans 12:9-10, 16 & 21 are my favorite Bible verses. Paul says:

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 16 Live in harmony with one another; 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." NRSV

Growing up in a neighborhood with a lot of children of various ages, it wasn't unusual for there to be daily squabbles and spats, and someone would usually get their feelings hurt, and that someone was usually me. (I was a sensitive child!) I would go running home to my mother, crying, to tell her what terrible thing had been said to me or done to me. And my mother would always quote these verses to me, but she simplified them so an 8-year-old could understand what she was trying to teach me. She would tell me that "love kills hatred." Well, the word "kill" certainly got my attention. After all, I had had some mean things said or done to me! But she would tell me to go back outside and be kind, be nice to these same kids who had hurt my feelings. That was a tall order for an 8-year old, but I not only was a sensitive child, I was also an obedient child, so I would go back outside and try to be nice to those who had hurt my feelings. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't. Sometimes these same kids would become my friends again, and sometimes they didn't until several weeks later as I continued to be kind to them.

As I continued to grow into adulthood, I often remembered these scriptures and what my mother had taught me. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't. These scriptures have served me well throughout my life, especially when I am faced with disagreements with those I come in contact with, whether it be family, neighbor, friend or stranger. I have learned that it is much easier to be loving and kind than to be vengeful or unkind. It takes a lot less effort, and it makes for a quieter, peaceful lifestyle. But, being human, I sometimes fail to follow these scriptures, and I regret that I have done so, but my failure makes me strive harder to be more loving and kind to others.



The
Word
of the
LORD

Bits and Pieces

Your Support of Perrymont Elementary School is Needed

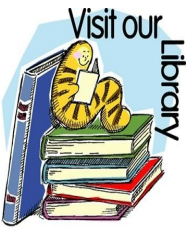
During **October**, we are collecting bags of **individually wrapped candy**. We will be making 85 gift bags to "treat" the staff. If you are able to contribute, please place your donation in the container marked Perrymont, in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping to make the staff feel special.

Perrymont is looking for volunteers. If you would like to participate in the fruit/veg program, read to a class, or help in another way, please let me know.

Please continue to pray for the Staff and Students.
-Kim Beuerle, Church/Perrymont
Contact Person

From Our Librarian

It's Not About Me – Max Lucado, Integrity Publishers, 2004



The world tells us to make ourselves the center of the universe in order to be happy. "For our entire lives we've been urged to look out for number one." Even some churches have communicated the false idea that God exists to give us all that we selfishly want. But there is hope for each of us! "When our deepest desire is not the things of God or a favor from God, but God Himself, we cross a threshold." In this book, Max Lucado reminds us that it's not about us, it's all about God. It is through this shift in thinking that we can truly live an unburdened, happy life. Your life has a purpose, including your problems and struggles. We are here for His glory, not ours!

Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

Martha Circle - Wednesday, October 4, 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!



2023-2024 UWF Reading Program Has Started

Did you know anyone can participate in the Reading Program? You do not have to be a member of UWF. Books we are reading this year are located in our Church Library in the bookcase to the right as you enter the Library, or at your local library.

For October, we will be reading *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This book is set during the Great Depression, when millions are out of work, and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains, and farmers are fighting to keep their land and livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up. Elsa, like many of her neighbors, must make a choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west to California, in search of a better life for her and her family. *The Four Winds* is a portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

The following is a list of books the Fort Hill UMW has selected for study this year:

September	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	by Angie Thomas
	Movie at church - Sept. 26 - noon-2:30	
October	<i>The Four Winds</i>	by Kristin Hannah
November	<i>Daughter of Cana</i>	by Angela Hunt
December	<i>World of Wonders</i>	by Aimee Nezhukumatathil
January	<i>On the Come Up</i>	by Angie Thomas
	Movie	
February	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i>	by Kim Michele Richardson
March	<i>The New American</i>	by Micheline Marcom
April	<i>A Knock at Midnight</i>	by Brittany Barnett
May	<i>Stamped</i>	by Jason Reynolds
June	<i>I'm Still Here</i>	by Austin Brown

All books are available at the Library



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Dodie Fauber	10/10 Michael Wilkes	10/15 Spencer Bourguignon	10/22 Janet Basham
10/1 Mary Murphy	10/10 Jesse Nunnally	10/16 Melvin Drumheller	10/23 Erika Lowe
10/2 Amy Grant	10/11 Dana Stowman	10/16 Elbert Minnick, III	10/24 Leah Wheelous
10/2 Joseph Saville	10/11 Sue Wright	10/16 Tember Ferguson	10/25 Kim Beuerle
10/5 Mike Thompson	10/11 Ben Nunnally	10/17 Lori Roark	10/25 Crystal Wheelous
10/5 Tim Beuerle	10/11 Michael Morgan, II	10/17 Emery Conner	10/28 Marlene Seale
10/5 Rod Ruhland	10/12 Ryan Bingham	10/18 Joan Watson	10/29 Mike Robertson
10/7 Karen Detwiler	10/12 Jocelyn Zelaya	10/19 Rick Poindexter	10/29 Taylor Saville
10/8 Mary Ann Robertson	10/12 Charlotte Huffer	10/20 Anna Alvis	10/31 Charley Jones
10/9 Andy Cooke	10/13 Eddie Englund	10/21 Andy Poindexter	10/31 Campbell Spence
10/10 Chris Marsh			

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.

October Wedding Anniversaries

10/1 Richard & Janet Hawkins	35 years	10/10 Josh & Michele Chamot	3 years
10/4 Scott & Carol Dee Robertson	37 years	10/18 David & Sally Faidley	9 years
10/6 Grant & Heather Seale	11 years	10/21 Chris & Jennifer Marsh	28 years
10/8 Jerry & Bev Conner	40 years	10/22 Kevin & Robin Wrabley	35 years
10/10 Mark & Stacey Lowe	42 years	10/26 Rod & Leigh Ruhland	32 years
		10/27 Glenn & Kelly Hann	11 years



A NOTE OF



The Hospitality Committee thanks the family of Charlie Sumpter for the gift of a new microwave oven for the Fellowship Hall kitchen, given in loving memory of Charlie.



We extend our sympathy to Carl Adams and Jackie Marks upon the death of his wife/her cousin, Elizabeth Adams, on September 5.

The church has received a thank you note from the teachers at Perrymont Elementary School in appreciation of the school supplies & clothing given to the school.

Have You Joined in the Fun?

What fun we had at the September Mix and Mingle!

While we had a small crowd on September 20th, we made great use of our time. There was a group working on a puzzle (and someone unnamed held a piece), lots of Ping Pong and good snacks. These dates will continue to be scheduled on different days of the week so as to accommodate as many as possible. Mix and Mingle as you are able.

This event included a GAME CLEAN OUT. Several of us went through games to see that all the pieces were available and each box had directions. Any incomplete sets were discarded. That being the case, we are in need of some new, or GENTLY used, games (please be sure all pieces and instructions are included). A quick survey of those in attendance suggested games such as regular Dominoes, Five Crowns card game, Parcheesi, Mille Bornes (a classic racing card game), Yahtzee, Racko, Qwirkle, Qwixx dice game, Sequence card or dice game (even children's versions of this are great), Rummy cube, Connect 4, etc. We could also use some new, or gently used, Ping Pong paddles and ping pong balls. If you have any of these you would be willing to share, please contact Danna Whorton at 281-728-1702 or by email at dannawhorton@gmail.com. We are also interested in hearing if any of you have any suggestions for card, board or other types of games that could be used at the Mix and Mingle.

We look forward to seeing each of you in the future when you can MIX AND MINGLE.

Next Mix & Mingle

Tuesday, October 17
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4th floor (elevator accessible)
Bring a snack to share
and join in the fun!

October 2023

Pastor Appreciation Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday	2	3	4 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	5 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 Lunch Out After Worship	9 11:00 Finance Committee	10 10:00 Women's Prayer Group	11 7:00 Celebration Ringers	12 2:00 JOY Team 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	13	14
15	16	17 1-3 Mix & Mingle	18 7:00 Celebration Ringers	19 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	20	21
22 UMW Candle Burning	23	24	25 7:00 Celebration Ringers	26 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	27	28
29	30	31	<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>			

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 September 17, 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 38 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,312.81

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

Note: Beginning September 1, Fort Hill UMC began 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

A Word From Amos . . .

Hi, my Fort Hill family! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again! There sure has been a lot going on while I was on vacation. I've tried to catch up on all the happenings, but it seems that Fort Hill UMC had a great summer with an Arts & Music Camp in July with about 36 children attending, and many, many adults helping. I'm sorry I missed that!

Now, with the fall approaching, the handbell choir and Sanctuary choir have started rehearsals again. You should come hear them practice! There sure is a lot of laughter going on! Both groups are so dedicated to the music ministry of the church. They welcome anyone who wants to be a part of this ministry. I understand that reading music is not a requirement to be in the Sanctuary Choir, but they sure can make some pretty music together!

I also heard that a new electronic sign has been ordered as the one in place now is about worn out! So, if you happen to pass by the church some day and see the sign not lit up or looking funny, it's because it is old and can't do much more. Watch for the new sign, which hopefully, will be installed soon.

Well, I think I have reported all the important stuff to you, but I will be snooping around to find something to report to you next month. Until then, stay safe, be happy, and I hope to see you in church each Sunday in October!

-Amos





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



UMW Candle Burning Service Will Be Held in October



If you would like to honor or remember a loved one at our October 22 worship service, consider a gift to UMW missions through our **candle burning** tradition. A gift of any amount can be given, and the honorees will be listed in a bulletin insert. The candle is burned at the rate of \$18.52 per minute to represent UMW mission work around the world on behalf of women, children, and youth. If you would like to honor or remember someone this way, please turn in your donation by October 15, along with the completed form below. Checks should be made out to **Fort Hill United Methodist Women**. Gifts can be turned in to Kim Beuerle or to the church office in an envelope **clearly labeled for UMW**. Thank you!

UMW Candle Burning Service on October 22

Your name _____

My gift is in **honor** of _____

My gift is in **memory** of _____