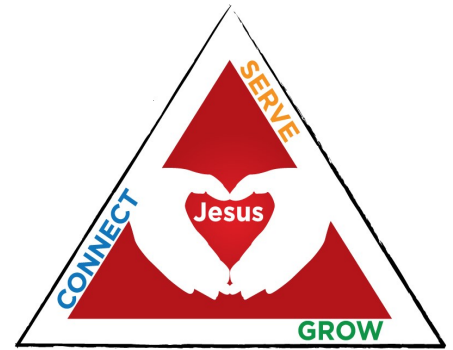




From the Hill

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.11

November, 2023

All Saints Day to be Observed On Sunday, November 5



On Sunday, November 5, we will take time in the worship service to remember those of our fellowship who have died since last year at this time.

All Saints Day commemorates all Christian people, of every time and place, and has been celebrated, in Christian churches, for many years. It is one way of honoring the gifts and graces of faithful Christians, and to celebrate the power of God to raise up new saints in our midst. We will give thanks for those loved ones and for all the saints who have preceded us in death. A candle will be lit and a bell tolled as each name is called.

Come join the congregation in remembering those of our membership who are no longer among us. Family members, or anyone who has lost a loved one in recent years, are invited to a luncheon in Oxford Hall, following the service, to share memories of their loved one. If you would like to attend, please call the church office by noon on Monday, October 30.

Here We Go A Visiting!

November is traditionally the time of year to count our blessings.

Maybe this year, we can count the blessings of our homebound members and friends for all their contributions to enable Fort Hill to be the church it is today. Let's go visit these folks to share what is going on at Fort Hill today, and, as they are able, they might share some of their special memories of Fort Hill.



The JOY Team is organizing a VISIT DAY for Thursday, November 16, at 9:00 a.m., and you are invited to join in this activity. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to create fruit baskets to take to our friends. Then, we will go out in teams of two to deliver baskets and visit with these folks.

Some folks might prefer to stay behind and help in other ways. There is a need to address and send "Thinking of You" cards to those unable to have a visit and those living out of the area.

If you would like to take part in this activity, please call the church office at 434-847-1251 OR use the bulletin insert that will be in your weekly bulletin in November.

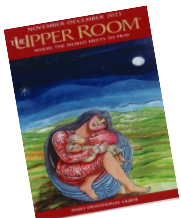


Calling All Christmas Elves!

Help us decorate the church for the Advent Season!

We will be meeting on November 26, in the Welcome Center after the church service, to decorate.

New Upper Rooms Are Now Available



Copies of the November/December *Upper Room*, are now available in the Narthex, office hallway, and the church office. Be sure to pick up your copy soon!

PLEASE NOTE: Due to security and safety concerns on Sunday mornings, the office door for the Oakridge Boulevard entrance will be unlocked from 8:30 – 9:15 a.m., the door for the Wilson Street entrance will be unlocked from 9:00 – 9:15 a.m., and the Sanctuary doors will be unlocked at 8:00 a.m.



In last month's newsletter I began a series on theological emphases of the Christian faith by writing about how the Christian faith defines the historical presence of Jesus through the incarnation (God becoming flesh). This month's newsletter is about how The United Methodist Church teaches the incarnational presence of Jesus through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as two signs of God's grace that Jesus either participated in (Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist) or initiated (Jesus' sharing a last meal with his disciples) and commanded his disciples to observe so their Christian faith may be strengthened and confirmed.

Baptism is a covenantal sign of God's renewing love that is administered to infants, children, youth, or adults through water. Following the Jewish tradition of circumcision being the sign of the community of Abraham that is affirmed through Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, baptism is the sign of the community of Christ that is affirmed through confirmation when the baptized professes faith in Jesus and becomes a confirmed member of the body of Christ.

The Lord's Supper is the second sacrament observed in The United Methodist Church. Whereas the water of baptism is applied only once as a sign of the community of Christ, the ritual of The Last Supper is observed regularly as a means of sustenance of faith. The incarnational presence of Jesus is affirmed through the bread and the Cup as participants remember the body of Christ that was broken for them and the blood of Jesus that was shed for them. Unlike the Roman Catholic tradition that teaches the bread and the cup become the literal body and blood of Christ, the Lutheran tradition that teaches the bread and the cup contain the spiritual essence of Christ, or the Anabaptist tradition that teaches the Lord's Supper is a memorial act observed by the participants, The United Methodist Church teaches that Jesus is just as present now in the receiving of the bread and cup as he was in the upper room where he told his disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of him.

Baptism and The Lord's Supper – may these two sacraments of God's searching, finding, and sending grace, strengthen and confirm your 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

Heritage Green

Doris Conner
Jean Poindexter

Others who need our prayers:

Abby Englund	Mary Murphy
Bryan & Lisa Garra	Becky Spangle
Judy Hall	Kendra Toney
Andrew Jenks	Phyllis Williams
Sylvia Morgan	

Bentley Commons

Frances White

Runk & Pratt @Liberty Ridge

Mike Hill

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!

November Communion Offering to Benefit Interfaith Outreach

Each month, half of our communion offering helps us reach out to the needy in our community. This month, our offering will be given to Interfaith Outreach Association, as we join a coalition of over 50 area congregations. We have banded together to participate in God's mission, through an interfaith effort, to help improve the quality of life for our neighbors, through education, guidance and support. The goal of IOA is to provide a helping hand to individuals and families, who are in a crisis situation.



The other half of the communion offering will go into our Local Relief Fund. Thank you for your generous gifts on Communion Sunday.

Bits and Pieces

United Methodist Women Supporting Miriam's House

For many years, the Fort Hill United Methodist Women have supported the Salvation Army at Christmas with filled stockings for children. This year they are supporting Miriam's House, which is a home for women and children who come from various situations and are in need of a new start with a new home. Miriam's House has provided a "wish list" of things that are needed when a family moves into a new home. The UMW is making this a church-wide project for Christmas. Listed below are items that are needed. If you would like to participate by providing any of these items, please leave your "gift" in the welcome Center. Thank you!

Ways we can help Miriam's House:

Wish List: (They also have a wish list on Amazon)

Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Cleaning supplies such as: all purpose cleaner, dish soap, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, bathroom cleaner, etc.
Towels
Linens, full and twin sheets are especially needed
Trash bags, heavy duty and 13 gallon
New pillows
Diapers and wipes, size 3-4 are especially needed
Pots and pans
Trash cans, kitchen and bathroom
Shower curtain liners and rings
Light bulbs

Other items: Contact Danna Whorton

Dannawhorton@gmail.com or 281-728-1702

Microwaves, new or gently used

Air mattresses, all sizes

Sleeping bags

Laundromat gift cards

GLTC bus passes

Cleaning Out and Donations Made

If you have been in the kitchen of Oxford Hall or the Fellowship Hall downstairs, you may have noticed that the drawers and cabinets have been thoroughly cleaned, organized and inventoried. Many thanks to the women's circles for accomplishing this task.

What was noted in this process was that we had many more Buffalo china dishes than we could ever use. So, the decision was made to keep back 100 place settings and donate the rest. The joy Team packed up the dishes so that each box (big thank you to William Saville for providing the boxes) contained place settings for four persons, along with eating utensils for four persons.

The boxes were donated to Miriam's House and Park View Community Mission to be distributed to their clients as needed. Both agencies were very appreciative of these donations.

Poinsettia Orders Now Being Accepted

Once again, we are accepting orders for poinsettias for the Advent/Christmas season. **If you give a plant, please plan for it to remain in place through Christmas Eve. We will not be delivering leftover plants to shut-ins, as we do not have the personnel to do this,** so please make arrangements to have your poinsettia(s) picked up after the Christmas Eve Service. Deadline for ordering is December 8th! The cost is \$18 each and payable at the time of your order.



You may also choose to make a donation to our Capital Improvement Fund.

Poinsettia Order

\$18 each - Make check payable to Fort Hill UMC and enclose with order

Order deadline is December 8, 2023

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

☐ I would rather give a gift for the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$ _____

☐ I will pick up after services

Name _____ Phone _____

Bits and Pieces

Fort Hill Continues It's Support of Perrymont Elementary School

♦ **THANK YOU** to all who contributed individually wrapped candy. Gift bags to "treat" the staff were made and delivered to the staff for Halloween.

♦ **For American Education Week**, we will be honoring the Staff in November with an assortment of goodies.

♦ **Perrymont's Fruit and Vegetable program** needs help. If you have an hour on Wednesday and/or Friday to sort fruit or vegetables into teacher baskets, please let Kim Beuerle know.

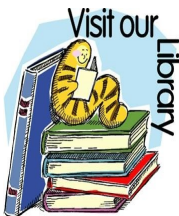
♦ **Box Tops for Education** – earning cash for Perrymont Elementary with Box Tops is easy. Just scan your grocery receipts with the Box Tops app. Go to your profile and click on "Manage Schools" to search for Perrymont under a local school in need. If you don't have, or want to use, the app, please leave your grocery receipts in the Perrymont box, and Kim will scan them for you.

♦ **Please continue to pray** for the Staff and Students.
-Kim Beuerle, Perrymont/Church
Contact Person, 434-237-4598

From Our Librarian

Life Without Lack : Living in the Fullness of Psalm 23
Dallas Willard – Nelson Books, 2018

Most of us can recite Psalm 23 from memory. This is a psalm of David, who was a shepherd in his youth and it is an expression of David's intimate relationship with God. He knew the covenant promises and walked in them, experiencing all the goodness of God. In spite of all that happened to him, David still held onto those promises – and so can we. God does care for us; our lives depend on Him. He provides for us from His abundant supply, He feeds us and protects us. Our total dependence upon God is the true secret of living with contentment, peace, and security. Follow along as Dallas Willard takes us on a journey into the depths of our own dependence on God. There are also study guides included in the book to lead you into a deeper understanding of God's promises of the abundant life.



Fort Hill has entered into a local mission ministry entitled Warm Streets. This is a ministry that provides clean socks for the homeless and near homeless of Central Virginia. There is a container in the Welcome Center where new socks are being received. Information about the ministries of Warm Streets may be found at www.warmstreets.org.

2023-2024 UWF Reading Program Is Underway

UWF books we are reading this year are located in our Church Library on the bookcase to the right as you enter the Library or at your local library.

For November we will be reading *Daughter of Cana* by Angela Hunt. This is the first book from the "Jerusalem Road" series.

About the Book:

Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine . . . until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern. Reluctantly, she obeys and is amazed when rainwater turns into the finest wine ever tasted in Cana.

When Thomas impulsively decides to follow the teacher from Nazareth, he and Tasmin argue—since the twins have been together since the womb, Tasmin can't accept losing her brother to some magician-prophet. Aided by Jude, younger brother to Jesus of Nazareth, she decides to follow the Nazarene's group and do whatever she must to mend the fractured relationship and bring her brother home.

The following is a list of books for the rest of this reading program year:

December	<i>World of Wonders</i>	by Aimee Nezhukumatathil
January	<i>On the Come Up</i> Movie	by Angie Thomas
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



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - Wednesday, November 1, 2:00 p.m.
in the church Conference Room

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

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!

11/1 Virginia Watson	11/6 Judith Merryman	11/13 Amanda Wood	11/23 Kathryn Toney
11/1 Gabriel Zelaya	11/6 Nick Fisher	11/14 Norma Smith	11/24 Marye Almond
11/2 Bryan Fielding	11/7 Mark Lowe	11/15 Kendra Toney	11/24 Faye Meek
11/3 Frances Wilkinson	11/7 Mike Ledin	11/15 Allyson Miller	11/25 Mike Hill
11/3 David Robertson	11/8 Greg Meese	11/16 Mindy Zelaya	11/26 Matthew Lee
11/4 Erik Drinkard	11/12 Deborah White	11/16 Christian Zelaya	11/26 Dana Bosiger
11/5 Jennifer Jenks	11/13 Ed Whorton	11/17 Betty Burford	11/28 Derrick Duncan
11/6 Esther Markert	11/13 Grace Thompson	11/23 Cara Hannell	11/28 Kenny Tolley

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.

November Wedding Anniversaries

11/5 Mike & Lydia Ledin	35 years	11/25 Tracy & Tammy Roark	34 years
11/22 Kevin & Crystal Wheelous	19 years	11/29 John & Mary Siegle	55 years



Miscellaneous

A NOTE OF



We appreciate your prayers and contributions to our ministry with children at the Henry fork Service center. Thank you for participating in our fun Fundraiser, coins 4 Kids, in June.

-Jessica Hunt, Director

Thank you to Frances Wilkinson for the 27 children's sweaters that she knitted for the Lamb's wool Project this year. These sweaters go into shoe boxes for needy children as part of Franklin Graham's "Operation Christmas Child."

On September 28, 10 boxes of 4 place settings of dinnerware were delivered to Miriam's House by Meriel Wiley, Pastor Marc Brown, and Ed & Danna Whorton. This dinnerware was washed and packed by the JOY Team. They also delivered 6 boxes of dinnerware to Park View Community Mission. Here is a thank you note from Miriam's House:

Pastor Brown & Team: Thank you so much for generously donating dinnerware and silverware sets. These will be so helpful to the families we serve. We appreciate you!

-Your friends at Miriam's House

Do you have.

a favorite holiday recipe(s) to share with us? One of the features in our December newsletters is holiday recipes. If you have one that you usually make during the holidays, and are willing to share it, please email your recipe to secretary@forthillumc.com OR bring to the church office no later than November 15.



We extend our sympathy to Wendy Meese and family upon the death of her father, Jim Creed, on October 1.



Congratulations to Jesse Hamilton & Jaumal Wilkerson upon the birth of their daughter, Jaslyn Sue Hamilton, on August 1. She is the granddaughter of John & Macy Hamilton; and **Congratulations to** Nick & Meghan Fisher upon the birth of their son, Auburn Jacob Fisher, on October 8. He is the grandson of Ron & Linda Fisher.



Next Lunch Out Date Set

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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, November 12, immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at Red Lobster restaurant. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please



call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

Next Mix & Mingle

Wednesday, November 15
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4th floor (elevator accessible)
Bring a snack to share
and join in the fun!

November, 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 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	2 5:45 Brass Ensemble rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5  All Saints Sunday	6	7  7:00 Genesis Circle	8 7:00 Celebration Ringers	9 5:45 Brass Ensemble rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	10	11 Charge Conference
12 Lunch Out After Worship	13 2:30 Church Council	14 10:00 Fort Hill Prayer Group	15 1:00 - 3:00 Mix & Mingle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	16 9:00 JOY Team Visit Day 5:45 Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	17	18
19	20	21 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	22	23  <div>Church Office closed</div>	24	25
26  Decorate for Advent	27	28 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	29 7:00 Celebration Ringers	30 5:45 Brass Ensemble rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir		

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 October 22, 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 43 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,010.79

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! And let me tell you that there has been so much going on at Fort Hill this past month, that I have had a hard time keeping up with all the activities.

In addition to the usual handbell and choir rehearsals, there is now a brass ensemble rehearsal on Thursday nights. Those guys are good! And now there is a monthly prayer group that meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Women and men can join this group at any time, and I've been so touched by their prayers for those who are ill or hurting in some other way. These are true prayer warriors!

And, if you haven't attended one of the Mix & Mingle gatherings, you are missing out on some real fun. They meet on the 4th floor once a month, and it's so much fun to watch these friends laugh, joke and just have fun being with each other. They play games, work puzzles, play ping pong, and the part I like best is the snacks they bring!

With the holidays coming up, I'm sure I will have plenty to report to you next month. But until then, I hope each of you will have a wonderful and truly blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. I will be visiting my family, and I can hardly wait to taste some really good food.

-Amos



Women's Prayer Group Changing Name

The Women's Prayer Group will now be called "Fort Hill Prayer Group" and will hold its next gathering November 14, at 10 AM in the Library. Continuing with our usual time of fellowship and prayer for needs of church members and the wider community, we will also have a special time of Christian Mindfulness Meditation led by Janet Jones, an experienced teacher of Mindfulness. Please join us as you are able. 'No commitment implied.' ALL ARE WELCOME. Hope to see you there!"



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

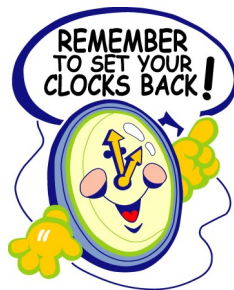
Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

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



**Daylight Saving
Time Ends
At 2:00 a.m. on
Sunday,
November 5
FALL BACK!**

**DON'T BE EARLY
FOR CHURCH!**



Special Thanksgiving Offering to be Received

Each year, the church receives a special Thanksgiving offering, which, in years past, has been used to help in any area where there is a shortfall of cash flow, and last year was designated to be divided equally between Food for families and Interfaith Outreach Association.



This year, the Finance Committee has decided that this special offering should be designated for Lynchburg Daily Bread, which provides a hot, nutritious meal to the homeless and to those who are not able to provide food for themselves or their families on a daily basis, 365 days a year. The Committee feels that meals and food are very important items in our community, and that this would be one way of helping individuals and families receive nutritious food for the holidays. It is hoped that you will want to be a part of this ministry by contributing to our special Thanksgiving offering.

As always, your gifts are very much appreciated!

-Finance Committee