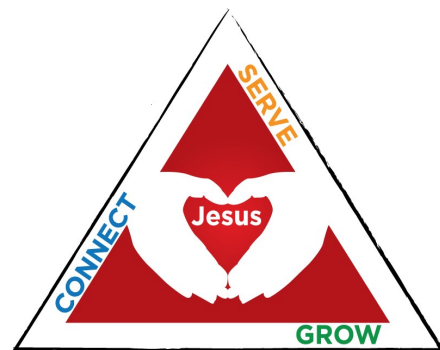




From the Hill

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 59, No.2

February, 2024

Fort Hill Spreads Love to the Community!

Fort Hill UMC has sat on the corner of Memorial Avenue and Oakridge Blvd. for 97 years! During those years, it has always had its doors open to everyone, and always been a beacon of light to those seeking hope and assistance. Below are just a few ways that Fort Hill has recently spread, or will be spreading, its love for humankind outside its doors. Also, see page 4 for some true love stories.

Fort Hill to Participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring



The Outreach team is again sponsoring a SOUPER BOWL OF CARING on February 11. Bring a can of soup, meat or vegetables on Sunday, February 4 OR 11, and vote for your team by filling the tables in the Narthex.

The canned goods will go to the Blessing Box. You may also donate money to help purchase food for the Blessing Box when supplies are low. Which team will you be voting for?

Fort Hill UMC to Observe Ash Wednesday

Two Ash Wednesday services will be held in the church Chapel on February 14. The first service will be at noon and will include the imposition of ashes following a time of quiet reflection. The second service will be at 5:00 p.m. and will include a message as part of the imposition of ashes.



"The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship ... It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes for this service."

-p. 321, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Fort Hill's Generosity Helps Others!

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, Fort Hill UMC has always received special offerings. The Finance Committee designates how these special offerings will be used.

In past years, we have used them to finish paying the church's obligations for the year or for capital improvements. But this year, the Committee decid-

ed to send the Thanksgiving offering to 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. The Christmas offering is to be divided between Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army.

We are proud to report that \$2,305.00 has been sent to Lynchburg Daily Bread and \$1,582.50 has been sent to Meals on Wheels and an equal amount has been sent to the Salvation Army. Thank you for your generous support of these three agencies. Your gifts will make a big difference in the lives of many people.





The Twilight Zone was a television show I enjoyed watching. It ran for 5 seasons from 1959 – 1964. Rod Serling was the host who would introduce each week's show that was independent to itself, and would often have an unexpected conclusion and a moral that could be learned. Over the course of this series, the phrase "twilight zone" became part of the vernacular description of life's unexpected and unusual experiences.

Since December 31, Beverly and I have experienced the "twilight zone" as her swollen foot led to a journey of unexpected, and unusual, experiences that included sepsis, bacterial blood infection, and cellulitis. On this journey, Beverly became familiar with a multitude of medical procedures that helped to detect potential hazards to her body. We thank God that all test results were favorable, and that Beverly is traveling a journey to recovery. In addition to thanking God for the healing that Beverly is experiencing, she and I want to express our appreciation for the incredible support we have received as we have navigated our way through the "twilight zone." The prayers that have been offered on behalf of us, the care that has been extended to us through medical professionals, and the encouragement of Christ offered by so many have helped us to experience the truth told in Romans 8:39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thank you for blessing Beverly and me with God's love that is greater than the "twilight zone."

-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

Others who need our prayers:

Beverly Brown

Frank Coleman

Abby Englund

Bryan & Lisa Garra

Judy Hall

Andrew Jenks

Mary Murphy

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

Phyllis Williams

Frances Wilkinson

Greg Vincent

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!

February Communion Offering to Benefit Lyn-Cag

The special offering received each Communion Sunday is divided between a local agency and our own Local Relief Fund. For February, Fort Hill will be supporting LYN-CAG.

Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc., established in 1965, is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services and programs to the citizens of Central Virginia. Lyn-CAG's primary focus has been to provide direct assistance to low and moderate income individuals and families in the prevention, reduction or elimination of poverty and adverse situations in their lives. Their programs and services include Children and Family Services (Head Start, Daycare, family support), Employment Services, Housing Counseling, First-Time Homebuyer program, Emergency Shelter for the Homeless, Virginia Cares (Re-entry Program for ex-offenders), VITA (free income tax preparation), and Weatherization and Home Rehabilitation.



Your gift on Sunday, February 4, will make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for caring!

Bits and Pieces

2024 Flower Chart Available



Altar Flowers

If you are looking for a way to honor or remember someone, you might want to consider placing flowers on the altar some Sunday. To do so, you can check the new Flower Chart in the office hallway, beside the water fountain. You have two options to choose from:

1. The two brass urn arrangements for \$94.00 total OR
2. An arrangement for the altar table for \$54.00

Just sign your name beside the date that you want, and put a "T" or an "U" beside your name to indicate which size arrangement you want. Place your check for \$94 or \$54 in one of the special envelopes provided at the chart, along with the wording that you wish to be in the bulletin, and put the envelope in the collection plate or bring to the church office.

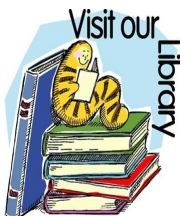
If you wish a certain color or particular type of flower, just let the church office know, and it will be taken care of.

Sign up early to get the date(s) you want as the chart usually fills up quickly.

From Our Librarian

Everyday Matters: Intersections of Life and Faith
L. Gregory Jones – Abingdon Press 2003

We live in a fragmented world of fear and doubt - food shortages, racial divides, wars and destruction. We search for something that will enable us to find meaning and purpose in life, something to hold us together. We search for the presence of God in all of this, the holiness of God, the love of God. "Christians believe such a center is found in God's love for us made manifest in Jesus Christ, the One who weaves together the fragmented parts of our own lives and who reconnects us to God and to each other." This book contains forty-four brief reflections on this search to find "God's presence in everyday matters" to help you find that sense of wholeness in this world.



UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - February 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall.

Martha Circle - February 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

If you are not a member of the UMW, you are invited to visit one of the circles at any time.

UWF Reading Program Continues

For February, we will be reading *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

About the Book from Goodreads:

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: Due to security and safety concerns on Sunday mornings, the office door for the Oakridge Boulevard entrance will be locked, 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 8:15 a.m.

Stories of Love

When compared to scripted love stories in movies or novels, the real-life counterpart feels a lot more genuine. In the following, you can find heartwarming short love stories from real life that not even writers could think of. Here are the inspiring real-life love stories of the greatest power on earth in its manifold expressions. Some of these stories are funny, others will make you smile. But they all will deeply convince you of the great power of love and how it is able to overcome every obstacle.

Seeing Love

There was a blind girl who was filled with animosity and despised the world. She didn't have many friends, just a boyfriend who loved her deeply, like no one else. She always used to say that she'd marry him if she could see him. Suddenly, one day someone donated her a pair of eyes.

And that's when she finally saw her boyfriend. She was astonished to see that her boyfriend was blind. He told her, "You can see me now, can we get married?"

She replied, "And do what? We'd never be happy. I have my eye sight now, but you're still blind. It won't work out, I'm sorry."

With a tear in his eye and a smile on his face, he meekly said, "I understand. I just want you to always be happy. Take care of yourself, and my eyes."

Ground Rules for Love

In *Let Me Be a Woman*, missionary Elisabeth Elliot writes about the "ground rules" for "how this thing called love really works - in a marriage, in the world." Her list reflects many of the principles found in 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible's love chapter.

- This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience. It looks for a way of being constructive.
- Love is not possessive.
- Love is not anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own ideas.
- Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage.
- Love is not touchy.
- Love does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad ... when truth prevails.
- Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.

Learning to Forgive and to Love

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. "You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it," Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."

Surgery

When a surgeon operated on a little girl, complications started to arise. She lost a lot of blood and was in need of a blood transfusion. However, she had blood type O, which wasn't available in the hospital. The surgeon, therefore, asked the girl's little brother, who was an O-type as well, if they could draw blood from him. He explained that it was incredibly important, or as he said, a matter of life and death. The young boy, seemingly afraid, sat a couple of moments in silence until he finally agreed. He got up and hugged his parents, wishing them goodbye. After the nurses had taken the blood from him, he whispered anxiously if they knew how many minutes he had left to live. He was absolutely convinced that he was going to die so that his sister could live. And he was willing to do so. When the nurses realized that the young boy thought he was going to die, they cheered him up and explain to him that he had many wonderful and joyful decades left to live.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Kenny Tolley	2/7 Tommy Carter	2/15 Ron Litten	2/25 Megan Schrade
2/2 Adam Daugherty	2/9 James Rogers	2/17 Cindy Englund	2/25 Angie Kiger
2/3 Greg Marsh	2/9 Sherri Tolley	2/17 Lisa Robertson	2/26 Judy Hall
2/3 Dan Watson	2/9 Patrick Sullivan	2/19 Helen Glass	2/27 Marc Beverly
2/3 Brittany Roark	2/10 Cassie Muratore	2/20 Jimmy Mays	2/28 Phyllis Williams
2/3 Ryan Marsh	2/10 Leigh Ruhland	2/20 Kim Saville	2/28 Kelli Tatum
2/5 Patricia Young	2/12 Carolyn Maness	2/22 Ann Stinson	2/28 Cole Werner
2/6 Emily Peters	2/12 Christy Bussert	2/22 Emily Ruhland	2/28 Abby Englund
2/7 Mary Michaelson	2/14 Turner Lee	2/25 Frances Crowe	

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.

February Wedding Anniversaries

2/15 Jane & Shan Peters 39 years 2/16 Ronnie & Jeanette Seale 44 years



Thank you so much for generously donating items from our wish list! They will be so appreciated by the families we serve.

-Your friends at Miriam's House

Next Lunch Out Date Set

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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, February 11, immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at LaVilla on Timberlake Road. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

A Word From Amos . . .

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again. I don't have much to report on this month, but I do want to tell you that in the years I have been hanging around here, I have seen so much love shown and expressed among this congregation. It just warms my heart to witness this love among you. I think you are practicing what Jesus taught us to do . . . love one another.



So, until next month, keep that love flowing!
-Amos

The Fort Hill Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, February 6, at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a time of meditation and prayer with sacred scripture, and to pray for the needs of our community and the world. Some may want to have lunch together. See you there!

Note: Beginning September 1, 2023, Fort Hill UMC began accepting online contributions through our website. You can also make contributions by going to <https://abundant.com/forthillunitedmethod>

Next Mix & Mingle

Thursday, February 15

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

4th floor (elevator accessible)

Bring a snack to share

February 2024

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 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
4 Holy Communion	5	6 10:30 Prayer Group 7:00 Genesis Circle	7 2:00 Martha Circle 3:15 Endowment Committee 7:00 Celebration Ringers	8 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	9	10
11 Lunch Out at LaVilla	12 11:00 Finance Committee	13 11:00 UMW Mission Team	 14 12:00 Ash Wed. Service 5:00 Ash Wed. service 7:00 Celebration Ringers	15 1-3 Mix & Mingle 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	16	17
18	19 10:30 Outreach Committee	20	21 7:00 Celebration Ringers	22 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	23	24
25	26	27	28 7:00 Celebration Ringers	29 5:45 Brass Ensemble 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 2023 - 122

Average worship attendance as of January 21, 2024 - 107

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2024

"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 2024 as approved by the Church
Council is: \$421,147

We need an average of \$8,098.98 per week to meet this budget.

As of 3 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$10,086.01

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

Your Support of Perrymont Elementary School is Needed

Donations of snacks (non-peanut please) are needed and appreciated for classrooms as they are running low on extra snacks they keep on hand. Healthy snack items such as granola bars, cheese crackers, fruit cups, popcorn, etc. that are individually wrapped, would be welcomed. Please put any donations into the Perrymont box in the Welcome Center.

If you have an hour on Wednesday and/or Friday to sort fruit or vegetables into teacher baskets, please let me know.

Please continue to pray for the Staff and Students. Your prayers and support is very much appreciated by them.

Kim Beuerle
Perrymont/Church Contact Person


?? ? ? ?

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



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

Fort Hill United Women in Faith Awarded Grant

The Virginia Conference United Women in Faith recently awarded Fort Hill UWF \$3,000 from the Carroll Palmer Estate fund to support our project of helping needy children who live in the area around the church and attend Perrymont Elementary School, and to help spread the word of God to children that live in Southeast Asia through our support of missionary T. Park. One-half of the money is designed to provide Perrymont students tools to help with their Standards of Learning tests, provide hygiene kits for students, and purchase clothes detergent for parents who need assistance. The other half of the money will be used to provide educational materials to T. Park.

The money will help us to strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and across the world!



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



New People Directory Planned

Our last People Directory was printed in April, 2023, but is now outdated! If you have a new address, phone number, email address or any other change in your contact information, please let us know so we can correct it in our data base, as well as in the new People Directory.

You may send your corrections to:
secretary@forthillumc.com OR bring it to the church office. We hope to have this new directory printed by April, 2024..

Guest Soloist in February

On February 4, we will have Dr. Randall Speer, from Randolph College, singing special music during our service! You may remember him as one of our guest soloists from our Lessons and Carols service this past December. We are looking forward to hearing him share his gifts with us in worship!