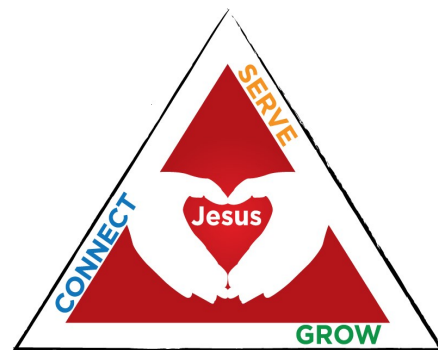




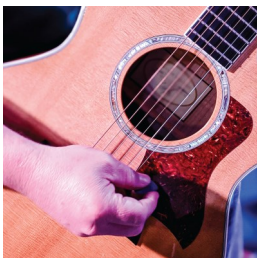
From the Hill

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.4

April, 2024



Fort Hill Hosting a Guitar Concert

On April 4, at 7:00 p.m., we will be hosting an evening concert of acoustic guitar music performed by the Liberty University Guitar Ensemble! Led by Michael Brennan, who has been a featured guest musician several times at Fort Hill over the past few years, the LU Guitar Ensemble will play works by composers such as J.S. Bach, Morten Lauridsen, François Couperin, and more. With an ensemble of up to 14 guitarists playing simultaneously, this concert will be a unique and rare musical experience, enhanced by the beautiful natural acoustics of the Fort Hill Sanctuary. We hope you will join us to hear this wonderful program of music!

April Communion Offering to Benefit Miriam's House

One half of our communion offering received on the first Sunday in April, will be given to support Miriam's House, a local in-house organization that strives to "End Homelessness and Rebuild Lives Through Empowerment of Women and Families." The other half of the offering will go to our own Local Relief Fund, which is sent to Interfaith Outreach Association, to help those in need of rental or utility assistance, etc.



Will you show your interest in children, who have no home, by giving generously to the communion offering the first Sunday in April? One never knows who he/she will rescue. Thank you for your gift!

We Have New Phones!

In order to save money, the Board of Trustees have entered into a contract with ESI. Along with that contract and service, came new phone equipment. The staff and volunteers are in the process of learning how to use this new equipment, so please be patient with us. If you call the church office and get cut off, please call again. Your call is important to us and we want to hear from you.



Highlights from the Outreach Team

The Outreach Team continues to fill the Blessing Box almost daily. We are so appreciative of the support of the congregation in providing food items and money to keep food available.

It has been a little over a year since Ronnie Seale officially opened the Medical Supply Closet. We have served individuals from Amherst, Bedford and the Lynchburg community. In 2023, 18 individuals have received equipment that was needed. In 2024, 6 individuals have been able to obtain equipment. We have received equipment from Fort Hill members as well as Heritage UMC and Timberlake Church. Individuals who have received the equipment have asked for prayers for their loved ones, and they all express appreciation for the service.

The Special Easter Offering this year will go toward our missionaries in South East Asia.

We continue to provide monthly treats to the staff at Perrymont Elementary, and a team member goes every Wednesday and Friday to sort fruits and vegetables into baskets for teachers to pick up, so each child will have an opportunity to be exposed to different foods that they may not receive at home.

As always we can use more people on our team. If you find it is something you would like to do please contact Bonnie Kiger-Doney at 434-660-1163 or bonnie.kiger1@gmail.com

Remember Our Easter Special Offering!

We are still receiving this special offering to help support our Missionary, Jonathan Parks, who is serving in Southeast Asia. Your gift will help make a difference in many people's lives. Thank you for caring!





The 2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet on April 23 – May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ordinarily, General Conference meets every 4 years, but due to the COVID pandemic in 2020, this will be the first regular session since 2016. A total of 864 delegates will attend General Conference and represent a proportional number of elected laity and clergy delegates from annual conferences located in four continents where The United Methodist Church is present. General Conference is the highest legislative body and the authoritative voice of The United Methodist Church as it establishes the doctrine, missional direction, constitution, church law, rules of organization, procedures, and budget of our denomination. Primary among the considerations of The General Conference are revisions to our denomination's *Book of Discipline* (the denomination's governing document) and *Book of Resolutions* (positions on current issues).

Much has happened in The United Methodist Church since the 2016 General Conference. A denomination entitled The Global Methodist Church (composed of a quarter of former United Methodist congregations that departed under a disaffiliation policy) has organized primarily in response to social and authority concerns that have been ongoing conversations within The United Methodist Church since the 1972 General Conference. Having served as an alternate member of The General Conference in 2004, a member of the General Conference in 2008 and 2012, and as a member of the denomination's Connectional Table (committee that provides oversight for ministries of The United Methodist Church) in 2016, I have observed two conversations that have defined the differences between these two denominations.

The first conversation is about opinion and conformity. Within The Global Methodist Church, this conversation has been shaped by a new book of discipline that emphasizes uniformity of opinion among the churches as expressed by conformity to the power of the majority. Within The United Methodist Church, this conversation has been shaped by the diversity of opinion that seeks to empower the voice of those who struggle to have their voices heard.

The second conversation is about what will be a major topic of discussion at the upcoming General Conference – regionalization. Since the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968, there has been a growing presence of the denomination as currently realized in four continents. The *Book of Discipline* reflects both the reality and the challenge of The United Methodist Church beginning as a U. S. centric denomination by permitting regions of the denomination outside of the United States to adapt the mission of their regions to their unique missional concerns. Under the proposed plan, there will be four regional conferences — Africa, Europe, Philippines, and the U.S. — all possessing the same duties and powers to pass legislation for greater missional impact in their respective regions.

The reason the conversation about regionalization will be of significance at the upcoming General Conference is rooted in the first conversation about opinion and conformity. Delegates of the General Conference, who do not wish to see the current restrictions toward human sexuality in the United States changed to more permissive language, will seek to maintain the current restrictions as the uniformity of opinion aligns the votes of conservative delegates from countries outside the United States, and with the votes of conservative delegates within the United States. Should the legislation be approved, it will result in the region of the United States having the same rights as currently afforded to the regions of The United Methodist Church, and will free the other regions of The United Methodist Church from having to make decisions that are focused upon the United States.

The stated mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I pray that this mission will guide the conversations of the upcoming General Conference.

-Marc

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



General Conference News

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 23 – May 3. As the denomination's highest legislative body, General Conference is the denomination's highest legislative body. As such, it has the authority to revise the denomination's Book of Discipline (the denomination's governing document that contains its doctrine, constitution, church law, rules of organization and procedures) and Book of Resolutions (contains the denomination's positions on current social issues. Resolutions expire after eight years unless General Conference readopts them).

General Conference approves the four-year budget allocating apportionments — shares of church giving — for denomination-wide ministries around the globe. General Conference also sets the formula used for apportioning the budget to annual conferences, the denomination's regional bodies, which in turn ask for apportionments from local churches.

In addition, the assembly approves theological statements on subjects such as baptism and communion. The coming General Conference will consider adopting a theological statement on the United Methodist understanding of church titled "[Sent in Love.](#)"

General Conference also elects members of the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court; members of the commission that plans General Conference; and some members of other denominational leadership bodies.

The Book of Discipline states that any United Methodist organization, clergy member or lay member may submit a General Conference petition — basically the United Methodist equivalent of a bill before a legislature.

All told, the coming General Conference has received 1,099 total valid petitions — including 352 new petitions submitted since General Conference's delay in 2020. Some of those petitions were submitted by people who have since left The United Methodist Church.

Additional information about General Conference may be found at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>

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
Frances Wilkinson

Heritage Green

Jean Poindexter

Others who need our prayers:

Kim Beuerle	Mary Murphy
Frank Coleman	Becky Spangler
Abby Englund	Kendra Toney
Bryan & Lisa Garra	Phyllis Williams
Judy Hall	Greg Vincent

Bentley Commons

Frances White

Forest Health & Rehab

Doris Conner

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!

Bits and Pieces

From Our Librarian

Scott Hamilton, *The Great Eight: How to be Happy (even when you have every reason to be miserable)*
- Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2008

I know most of you enjoyed watching the basketball games of "March madness," but did you know that the 2024 World Figure Skating Championships were held in Montreal, Canada, from March 18-24, 2024? What a strange start to a book review, right? Well, here's a book with a different slant on life as a skater.



Scott Hamilton, a great skater in his professional life, suffered a debilitating childhood disease, as well as overcoming testicular cancer and a brain tumor as an adult. In spite of all the struggles of his life, he has achieved great success in skating, including winning quite a few gold medals. He still maintains a positive attitude. He says to be determined to overcome that obstacle before you, and never let fear of failure prevent you from trying. In this book of Scott's personal journey, he found eight rules for maintaining a positive attitude, including building faith and trust in God and His plan for your life.

UWF Reading Program Continues

For April, we will be reading *A Knock at Midnight* by Brittany Barnett.

This is an inspiring true story about a young woman who saw a broken system and refused to turn her back on those trapped inside it. The Washington Post says it is a "powerful and devastating" story. Author, Brittany K. Barnett is an award-winning attorney and entrepreneur focused on social impact investing. She has earned many honors, including being named one of America's Outstanding Young Lawyers by the American Bar Association.

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

May	<i>Stamped</i>	by Jason Reynolds
June	<i>I'm Still Here</i>	by Austin Brown

Our Support of Perrymont Elementary School Continues

The staff enjoyed a special treat provided by Fort Hill before heading off to spring break. As the school year begins to end, please keep the staff and students in your prayers.

-Kim Beuerle
Perrymont/Church Contact Person

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 March 24, 2024 - 128

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 12 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$9,026.23

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

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>

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



4/1 Isabella Zelaya	4/10 Ryan Sullivan	4/17 Meredith Daugherty	4/27 Marc Brown
4/4 Sam Green	4/11 Greg Blanks	4/18 Becky Spangler	4/28 Audrey Padgett
4/5 Frank Billingsley	4/11 Crystal Womack	4/18 Edwin Glass	4/28 David Billingsley
4/5 Philip Roark	4/12 Sarah Huffer	4/20 Robin Salyer	4/28 Tracy Daniels
4/8 Mary Wootton	4/12 Charlie Marsh	4/23 Benjamin Blanks	4/28 Landen Wheelous
4/8 Kassidy Bell	4/13 Stacey McBride	4/24 John M. Hamilton	4/29 Martha L. Blanks
4/10 Shelby Phipps	4/13 Cameron Byrd	4/25 John Siegle	4/29 Carolyn Almond
4/10 Bev Conner	4/14 Lisa Humphrey	4/26 Frank Coleman	4/29 Bill Moseley
4/10 Brandon Conner	4/14 Samuel Saville	4/26 Don Knott	4/30 Marie Johnson
4/10 Christina Bingham	4/16 Charlotte Humphrey	4/26 Grant Seale	4/30 Wendy Meese
	4/17 Doris Conner		4/30 Isabella Wheelous

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.

April Wedding Anniversaries

4/10 Les & Patty Marsh	48 years	4/14 Jack & Cassie Muratore	12 years
4/16 Mike & Brittany Mistretta	13 years		



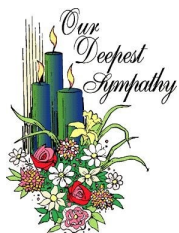
Congratulations to Scott and Carol Dee Robertson upon the birth of their grandson, Wendell Scott Robertson, on March 7, 2024. He is the son of Mary Ann & Jan Robertson,

Thank you for the love and prayers I have received from the congregation since my illness. Thank you to Marc and Janet for your visits to the hospital, phone calls, and text. *-Kim Beuerle*



Thank You Notes

Thank you to those who contributed to the United Women in Faith fundraiser lunch on February 25. A special thanks to the Genesis Circle for organizing and providing the delicious soups and cornbread, and a special thank you to the Martha Circle for providing the wonderful assortment of desserts. Your generosity helped us raise \$744, which means we can assemble 200 hygiene kits to be taken to the Virginia Annual Conference in June. We are still accepting donations to help pay for the shipping costs. If you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to Fort Hill UMC and earmark it "Conference Kits."



We extend our sympathy to Sandi Kiger and family upon the death of her husband, Jim Kiger, on March 19.

A Word From Amos

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse reporting in again. I'm so happy that warmer weather is beginning.

I have been told that this newsletter for April will be out right before Easter Sunday, so I can't comment much on the Easter service, but I can comment on the Palm Sunday service. If you were not here for that service, I hope you could watch and listen to it online.



The music . . . what can I say but that it was so moving, tender and compassionate. I get "mouse bumps" just thinking about what I heard. Thank you, Jacob and the Sanctuary Choir, as well as the guest musicians, for such an inspiring and touching service.

Oh, and I almost forgot to tell you about the Easter Egg Hunt that Fort Hill had for the children, as well as the neighborhood children. What a fun event that was even though it had to be held inside due to the rain. I enjoyed watching the children scream with delight whenever they found an egg. I think even the adults enjoyed the day watching the children have so much fun with crafts, games and the hunt.

So, as we move into the spring and summer months, and start focusing more on vacations and fun times with our families, let's not forget what Jesus has done for us.

Well, this is my report for this month! I'll be watching for things to report on in the May newsletter. Enjoy spring!
-Amos

April 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Church Office closed	2 7:00 Genesis Circle	3 2:00 Martha Circle	4 7:00 LU Guitar Ensemble	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8 11:00 Finance Committee	9	10 7:00 Celebration Ringers	11 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	12	13
14 12:00 Lunch Out at LaCaretta Timberlake Rd.	15 10:30 Outreach Team	16	17 1:00 - 3:00 Mix & Mingle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	18 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	26	27
		General Conference in Charlotte, NC April 23 - May 3				
			7:00 Celebration Ringers	5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
28	29	30		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.		

Sermon on the Mount Bible Trivia Quiz

- 1) Christ said we can serve God and mammon (riches).
A. true
B. false
- 2) When talking about cares of this world, Christ said to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
A. true
B. false
- 3) We are told to worry about what tomorrow might bring.
A. true
B. false
- 4) If a person has a sin that they always commit, they should rid themselves of it before they try to help someone that does the same sin.
A. true
B. false
- 5) We should tell as many people as we can about the good news of God's Word even if they don't want to hear about it.
A. true
B. false
- 6) The gate that leads to eternal life is strait and wide.
A. true
B. false
- 7) Christ said "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."
A. true
B. false
- 8) Christ said "Every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven."
A. true
B. False
- 9) If we hear and do what Christ told us, He will liken us unto a wise man that built his house on a rock.
A. true
B. False
- 10) The house that Christ is talking about is our soul and the rock is Christ Himself.
A. true
B. false

Answers

Our soul is what concerns Christ most and He is called the Rock in 1 Corinthians 10:4
1. b false Matthew 6:24; 2. a true Matthew 6:33; 3. b. false Matthew 6:34; 4. a true Matthew 7:1-5; 5. b false Matthew 7:6; 6. b false Matthew 7:13-14; 7. a true Matthew 7:15; 8. b false Matthew 7:21; 9. a true Matthew 7:24-25; 10 a true



Easter Story

Word Search

S C B M N E J E S U S C H R I S T
K A A P O D V G V A R E J O I C E
J R V M S P R A Y E R W C B V F S
Y N O I X I F I C U R C T R M L E
L A P C O I E B Q O X B B N O O L
I R E S U R R E C T I O N R E S T
T R E P P U S T S A L Y E M B L S
S H L U P V Y T K V F D M T E K O
O C A R N E P A X R E S I H M R P
C R M E P E N L D M A N A O I E A
E U B I K G A A P I J R R R R V V
T H X C H Y N T N H R S M N A O X
N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J
E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U
P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D
L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A
B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB



?? ? ? ??

Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples – twice – when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
B. "Peace be with you."
C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251

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



Next Lunch Out Date Set

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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, April 14 at LaCaretta on Timberlake Road immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at Shakers. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

UMF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - April 2, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall.

Martha Circle - April 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

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

It's Back! Mix & Mingle Time!

Our Mix & Mingle time took a break during March, but is ready to start up again! If you didn't attend the last Mix & Mingle event in February, you missed out on a lot of fun!

The next Mix & Mingle will be on Wednesday, April 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The group will meet on the 4th floor (elevator accessible).

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

Bring a snack to share, if you wish. Come join in the fun!

