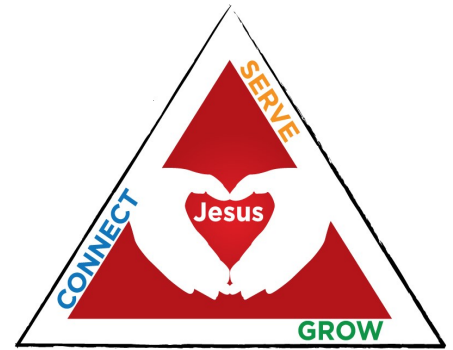




From the Hill

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.5

May, 2024

Graduate Sunday Coming!

We are planning our annual Graduate Recognition Sunday Celebration on May 12. If you know of any individuals, who are graduating from High School, College or Graduate School Programs, that are members of Fort Hill United Methodist Church, please contact us with their information, i.e. school they will be graduating from, plans after graduation and, if they are a college graduate, the degree they will be receiving. Please call the church office (847-1251) with your information by May 5 or email to secretary@forthillumc.com. Thank you for your assistance with this worthy task and celebration.



Observing a National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."



In the early 1950s, an evangelical movement called for Congress and the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer. The movement grew and, a young leader, Evangelist Billy Graham, led services for approximately 20,000 on the steps of the Capitol on February 3, 1952. Later that year, Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer. President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be observed on July 4, 1952. Each year since that date, Americans have observed the day in their own way. The observance was moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan and has been proclaimed each year since.

McPherson Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

It is a great privilege to offer scholarships, from the McPherson Scholarship Endowment, each year. All first year college students (2024 high school graduates), who are members of Fort Hill UMC, are encouraged to apply. Second thru fourth year students may apply also. Applications can be picked up in the church office, starting May 1, and must be returned no later than June 10. Scholarship awards will be made in July.



Next Mix & Mingle Date Set

The next Mix & Mingle will be on Tuesday, May 21, 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



Next Lunch Out Date Set

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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, May 12, immediately after the worship service, at a place to be determined. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet there.. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

With the summer months approaching, Mix & Mingle time will take a break and resume in the fall. Watch for that date!

Save the Date!

The JOY Team is planning a churchwide picnic at the American Legion pavilion on Saturday, June 8. Watch for more details in the next newsletter and upcoming bulletins.



My favorite hymn is *My Hope is Built*. This hymn was written by Edward Mote, who was a pastor and hymn writer. Mote was confirmed in the faith of Christ at the age of 18 and was baptized. He worked as a cabinet maker for 37 years until he answered a call to pastoral ministry when he was in his 50's. He served as pastor at Rehoboth Baptist Church for 26 years. Loved by his congregation, the church building was offered to him by the congregation as a gift. Responding to this generous gesture, Mote said, "I do not want the chapel. I only want the pulpit; and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that."

The reason I am drawn to this hymn is because its lyrics are an affirmation of faith in Jesus that makes hope a possibility for followers of Jesus.

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

I believe the world is yearning, searching, and struggling for a message of hope. Every time I preach, my hope is that I will preach hope that draws people toward faith in Jesus. My hope is that people will leave with more hope than they came in with. How are you living with hope in your life?

-Marc

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

We are now listing our ongoing prayer concerns for those who are in nursing or rehab facilities or recovering at home. Only immediate prayer concerns will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Our current prayer concerns are as follows:

Runk & Pratt (Leesville Road)

Dodie Fauber
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!

Perrymont School Support for May

As the school year comes to an end, our participation in helping to wash fruit for the teachers to give out as snacks will end on May 10. The Outreach Team will be providing a lunch for the teachers and staff near the end of the school session. Fort Hill will be supporting Perrymont School again in the new school year, so watch for details on how you can help with that support.

May Communion Offering to Benefit Society of St. Andrew

One half of our communion offering, received on the first Sunday of May, will be given to the Society of St. Andrew, to help feed the hungry. The other half 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. Your gift on this Sunday will help feed, clothe or provide shelter for someone who is in need. Thank you for your gift!



Bits and Pieces

From Our Librarian

AD 33: The Year that Changed the World
Colin Duriez – InterVarsity Press, 2007

We have just been through the drama of Easter, remembering the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, which occurred in AD 33 (CE). In AD 33, millions of people went about their daily routines, rising at dawn, working all day, and going to their rest in the evening. In that same year, an obscure religious teacher died a criminal's death in a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. Yet this was an event with world-changing consequences. What was the world like that year? The author brings to life events in the Roman Empire and beyond, a world dominated by two people – a Roman and a Jew – Emperor Tiberius and Jesus. What is the history that lies behind the Gospel narratives? This book, with its maps, charts and timelines, reveals the world that saw the beginning of Christianity.



UWF Reading Program Continues

For May, we will be reading *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds.

This is a timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism - and antiracism - in America. This is NOT a history book, but a book about the here and now; a book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.

Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas - and on ways listeners can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

For the month of June, we will be reading *I'm Still Here* by Austin Brown.

UMF Circle Meeting Dates

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

Martha Circle - May 1 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.

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 April 21, 2024 - 126

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

"Bring the full tithes 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 16 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$8,183.32

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



5/1 Bonnie Tate	5/11 Jane Peters	5/15 Andrew Jenks	5/27 Stacey Lowe
5/1 Evan Meese	5/11 Ciara Hudson	5/15 Tyler Perrow	5/27 Ramona Davis
5/2 Ciara Tolley	5/11 Sophie Minnick	5/16 Janet Murphy	5/27 Lynn Gittelman
5/3 Ashley Nickell	5/12 Cindy Castaldo	5/17 Jeff Gay	5/28 Richard Hawkins
5/4 Golda Winnagle	5/12 Christy Miller	5/18 Yvonne Tackett	5/28 Sallie Johnson
5/5 Lauren Lee	5/12 Olivia Beverly	5/19 Michele Chamot	5/28 Jennifer Neighbors
5/6 Ricky Sutor	5/13 Bubba Humphries	5/20 Kerry Wilkinson	5/29 Nancy Zehmer
5/6 Nikki Burrington	5/13 Shelia Drinkard	5/22 Jacob Dishman	5/29 Madeline Willis
5/7 Brenda Glass	5/13 David Reid	5/23 Carolyn Green	5/29 Shelia Bourguignon
5/8 Gladys Sale	5/13 Hazel Grace Mistretta	5/24 Daryl Knott	5/29 Karl Lowe
5/9 Thomas Robertson	5/15 Dorothy Hagen	5/24 Justus Hamilton	5/30 Kevin Wheelous
5/10 John Saville	5/15 George Erbacher	5/27 Carol Dee Robertson	5/30 Duncan Daugherty

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.

May Wedding Anniversaries

5/2 Ricky & Robin Poindexter	43 years	5/23 Frank & Carolyn Coleman	60 years
5/17 Scott & Dana Bosiger	11 years	5/23 Mike & Alisha Decker	32 years
5/21 Marc & Beverly Brown	46 years	5/26 Jeremy & Amanda Wood	6 years



Thank you for the continued prayers, calls and cards as I continue to regain my health.

-Kim Beuerle



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.



We extend our sympathy to Jeanette & Ronnie Seale upon the death of her brother, Joseph M. Jennings of Lynchburg, on April 23.

A Word From Amos

Hello, my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly little church mouse, reporting in again! Easter Sunday has passed, but I just have to make a comment about that day!

The day started off with a wonderful Easter morning breakfast, organized by Mary Siegle and her "crew." They always do such a marvelous job coordinating all the food, seating, decorations, etc. I hear the food was delicious, and I was there to smell all the different aromas, but didn't get one single morsel of food! I always try to stay out of the way, and, hopefully, be able to catch a morsel or two, but not this time! Everything was cleaned up, discarded, etc. So, I left the Fellowship Hall a little hungry, and went upstairs to the Sanctuary to hear the worship service.

I soon forgot about my hunger pains when the music started, all the hymn singing and people greeting each other with such happy faces. And why not? Jesus had risen from the grave! Oh happy day! The service ended with the choir, and with anyone from the congregation that wanted to join them, singing the *Hallelujah Chorus!*" I was one of many who joined them, and it was a great ending to a wonderful worship service and day!

Well, that's my report for this month! I am getting ready to take a long vacation, so I probably won't have anything to report for a couple months. I hope you have a wonderful summer too!



-Amos

May 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>			1 7:00 Celebration Ringers	2 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5 Holy Communion	6	7	8 7:00 Celebration Ringers	9 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	10	11
12 Mother's Day Graduate Sunday Lunch Out	13 2:30 Church Council	14	15 7:00 Celebration Ringers	16 2:00 JOY Team 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday	20	21 1-3 Mix & Mingle	22	23 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28	29 10-4 Fort Hill prepares meal for Park View	30	31	



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Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251

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

**SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...**

We Thank You for Your Service!



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

To those from Fort Hill UMC who have served in our armed forces, and those who are currently serving, we thank you for your service!