



# 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](http://www.forthillumc.com)



Volume 60, No.10

October, 2025

## World Communion Sunday to be Celebrated on October 5

On October 5, 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 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."**



### Trunk or Treat Event Planned

Come join in the fun with our annual Trunk or Treat event! Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to enjoy games, a hay ride, bouncy house, food, a desert walk and, of course, trunk or treating. Dress up in a costume or come as you are!



Plans are well underway for this great community outreach event. We still need volunteers to man some of the games, and people willing to bring your car, decorate your trunk and provide candy for the trick-or-treaters. If you can help in these ways, please contact Mindy Zelaya (434-426-8909).

If you are unable to attend this event, perhaps you would like to donate a bag of **individually wrapped** candy or a monetary gift to be used to purchase candy. Bags of candy can be left in the Welcome Center or brought to the church office. Checks for monetary donations can be made payable to the church and placed in the offering plate. Be sure to earmark your check as "Trunk or Treat." Thank you!

### Next Lunch Out Date Set

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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, October 12, immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at Ledo Pizza, 126 Old Graves Mill Road. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.



### Fort Hill Is Hosting A Legacy Giving Presentation Thursday, November 6, 2:00 p.m.

As we enter a season of Christian Stewardship in the month of November, the Endowment Committee welcomes the congregation to join us for this special presentation on Estate Planning and Legacy Giving. Our guest presenter will be Bruce Light of Wells Fargo. Come and learn how your resources can continue to be used for God's glory even after your earthly life comes to an end. This is an informational meeting with no expected obligation, and all are welcome.

**FAITH**   
*is the bird*  
that feels the **LIGHT**  
and **sings** when the  
dawn is still **dark**.

-Rabindranath Tagore



It is hard to believe that three months have passed since I came to serve as your pastor at Fort Hill UMC. I have been so blessed to get to know you better, and I very much appreciate your many kindnesses and all the ways you have welcomed me.

What a joy it has been to learn of the countless ways FHUMC serves Christ through serving others! I have been amazed by all that you are doing to serve the community and connect with those outside the church. God has blessed Fort Hill with an abundance of gifted lay persons, who give generously of their time to the many ministries of the church week after week.

I am grateful for your willingness to join me in prayer as we ask for God's guidance and direction for our church. I have been so encouraged by your faithfulness in so many avenues of church life and your great enthusiasm for ministry. I look forward to all that God has in store for us as we work together in Christ's name.

On October 12, we will observe Laity Sunday, a day that celebrates the ministry of ALL Christians, recognizing that all believers have a faith story to tell and gifts to share as we serve together in God's work. "Methodism has a long history of celebrating and recognizing the ministry of the laity. In the early days of American Methodism, the laity served and maintained congregations between the visits of the circuit riders"/ traveling preachers. (UM Discipleship Resources, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-laity-sunday>). Today, our laity continue to serve on the front lines of daily ministry in their workplaces, at home, and in our communities. Preachers come and go, but our lay people form the backbone of our churches. Without vital lay people, we would not have a local church.

I look forward to celebrating with you on Laity Sunday as we give thanks to God for the many ways Christ calls us to serve and the variety of gifts with which we are equipped. We will be blessed to hear the faith story of Michael Hester in worship on October 12, as he shares some of his personal testimony as a witness for Christ.

*-Grace and Peace, Pastor Nancy*

## 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:

### Heritage Green

Jimmy Thompson

### Others who need our prayers:

Betty Burford

Kendra Toney

Brian & Lisa Garra

Phyllis Williams

Becky Spangler

## On Sunday, October 19 . . .

we welcome George Riggins, who will present a dramatic, Biblical portrayal of Moses during morning worship. George is a former pastor in the UMC, and served several churches in our area including Fairview, Southview and Monroe UMCs. Over the last several years, George has enjoyed portraying Biblical characters from both the Old and New Testaments. We look forward to having George with us for worship.

### Runk & Pratt

(Gristmill)

Sylvia Morgan

**We extend our sympathy to** the family of Helen Glass who died on September 23.

## Did You Sign Up To Pray For A Child?

Thanks to everyone that completed a "Pray for a Child" form indicating your willingness to pray for a young person, and/or sharing the names of those youth that you would like to receive prayer. If you wish to participate, extra green forms are in the Narthex. **Please complete the form by October 15.** We look forward to assigning the

## Sunday School for Children and Youth

We appreciate everyone who has volunteered to teach Sunday School with our youngest disciples. If you feel led to serve in this important ministry, please contact Pastor Nancy (434-401-5776; [ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com)).

## Small Group Bible Study Forming

Thanks to everyone who indicated an interest in being part of a small group Bible Study or Prayer Group. Beginning on Thursday, October 2, at 1:00 p.m., the congregation is invited to participate in "Sacred Silence," a time of contemplative prayer. Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor will be with us to give an introduction to the practice of contemplative prayer as a spiritual discipline, followed by a 30-minute time of silence before God. We are also working on additional spiritual growth opportunities at other times, so please watch for further details.

# Bits and Pieces

## 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.

Now, with the fall approaching, the handbell choir and Sanctuary choir have started rehearsals again, along with brass ensemble guys. They add so much to the music on Sundays. I understand that the choir has started rehearsing the Christmas cantata, so if you think you would like to join them this year to sing this work, you are invited to come to their rehearsals on Thursday evenings, starting at 6:45 p.m.



Another big change at Fort Hill, while I was away, is a different pastor! Pastor Nancy is so friendly and genuinely cares for this congregation - just like Pastor Marc did when he was at Fort Hill. I didn't get to tell Pastor Marc "goodbye," but I hope he is enjoying his re-retirement!

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

## 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 September 21, 2025 - 104

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2025

*"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 2025** as approved by the Church Council is: \$409,255

**We need** an average of \$7,870.29 per week to meet this budget.

As of 38 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,198.92

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

## Outreach Team Keeps Busy

On August 13, the team had a very successful back-to-school lunch for the staff at Perrymont Elementary. A lunch of Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, pasta salad, cookies, and chips were a hit and appreciated by all.

On Sunday, August 18, approximately 1,400 items were donated (tissues, disinfectant wipes, dry erase markers, clothes and more) for Perrymont Elementary School. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the congregation.

We continue to need food items for the Blessing Box. It is used constantly.

The Carroll Palmer Estate Grant for 2025/2026 has been completed and mailed to the Women in Faith grant committee. We are praying for a continuation, which will be decided on Oct. 1. This year, we are including Perrymont again and Henry Fork Center in Franklin County.

The Music Room Rug for Perrymont has been delivered, and the children have all sent a big Thank You note, which is on the wall in Oxford Hall. It is beautiful!

Thanks again for your continued support.

-Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Chairperson

### From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church,  
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308  
Phone: 434-847-1251

### 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. Nancy C. Johnson, Pastor  
ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com  
nancyjohnson@vaumc.org

Dr. Heather A. Perryman, Director of Music  
micaha77@gmail.com

Jeanette J. Seale, Administrative Assistant  
secretary@forthillumc.com

Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert, District Superintendent  
Phone: 434-832-0401

The Rev. Sue Haupert-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



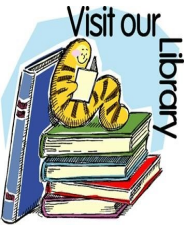
# Bits and Pieces

## From Our Librarian . . . .

*Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*

J. Brent Bill, – Paraclete Press, 2005

Even in the busyness of life today, God still asks us to be still and listen to Him. "God is in His holy temple, Let all the earth keep silence before Him." We are drawn to silence and yearn for it. Sometimes we may have a time of quiet, but we really don't know what to do with it. Silence is a way of worshiping, a way of getting in touch with God. Think of our own church services. Is there a time of absolute quiet? People become restless when nothing is happening. Each moment is filled with music or speaking. Even when there is a call for silent prayer, are we really silent? There may be short periods of "quiet," but then the leader will offer a prayer suggestion, or the pianist or organist will play some "quiet" music. Where is the silence? How can we feel the presence of God or the Holy Spirit if we are "busy" listening to things outside of ourselves? In this book, the author takes us on a journey into the silence and helps us learn to look at the truth about ourselves, among other things. Noise keeps us from confronting who we really are – a child of God. God is ready and willing to talk to you, to answer your questions, to tell you how much He loves you and to give direction to your life. God doesn't speak in the wind, earthquake or fire, but in the "still small voice" or in the silence. "Be still and know..."



\*\*\*\*\*

**A note from our librarian:** *When checking out a book from the church library, be sure to sign your name on a white slip of paper that is on the library desk. Also write the name of the book you are checking out, along with its number, which is found inside the front cover. When returning a book to the library, please leave the book on the desk. I will take care of putting it back on the proper shelf. Thank you for your cooperation, and I hope you are enjoying your library.*

-Wayne Rhodes, Librarian

## Volunteer Help Needed

We appreciate the faithful work of Michael Hester who manages our sound and technology needs during our Sunday worship services each week. Michael needs another person to help him on Sundays, and others to serve as his back up when he cannot be present for worship. If you feel led to serve in this important ministry, Michael would like to train you in the very near future! Please contact Michael ([Michael@forthillumc.com](mailto:Michael@forthillumc.com); 336-978-3983).

## 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) non-profit 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.

## Circle Meeting Dates

**Martha Circle** - Wednesday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room (remember to bring children's underwear for Perrymont).

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

All ladies of the church are invited to attend one of these circle meetings. You will be warmly welcomed!

## Wonderful Wednesdays is Back!

Much appreciation for all those who have committed themselves to work in our church's ministry with Children and Youth. Our team is forming, and we were able to relaunch our Wonderful Wednesdays program in mid-September. We are thankful for a strong start, for each young person who is attending, and every adult volunteer who is supporting the program. We are learning as we go and making adjustments as needed. WW meets from 5:00 to 6:40 p.m. each Wednesday for ages Kindergarten and Up (through High School) with both music and faith building activities. If you can provide the "Snack Supper" at 5:00 p.m., please use the sign-up sheet posted in Oxford Hall. Thank you!



10/1 Mary Murphy	10/10 Michael Wilkes	10/16 Melvin Drumheller	10/22 Janet Basham
10/2 Amy Grant	10/10 Jesse Nunnally	10/16 Elbert C. Minnick, III	10/23 Erika Lowe
10/2 Joseph Saville	10/11 Sue Wright	10/16 Tember Ore	10/24 Leah Wheelous
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
10/8 Mary Ann Robertson	10/12 Jocelyn Zelaya	10/19 Rick Poindexter	10/29 Taylor Saville
10/8 Auburn Fisher	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	10/15 Spencer Bourguignon		

*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	37 years	10/10 Josh & Michele Chamot	5 years
10/4 Scott & Carol Dee Robertson	39 years	10/18 David & Sally Faidley	11 years
10/5 Zach & Katherine Davis	1 year	10/21 Chris & Jennifer Marsh	30 years
10/6 Grant & Heather Seale	13 years	10/22 Kevin & Robin Wrabley	37 years
10/8 Jerry & Bev Conner	42 years	10/26 Rod & Leigh Ruhland	34 years
10/9 Craig & Lynn Gittleman	31 years	10/27 Glenn & Kelly Hann	13 years
10/10 Mark & Stacey Lowe	44 years	10/30 Robbie & Story Toney	4 years



### A NOTE OF



**Dear Fort Hill church family,** It has been a joy and a privilege to continue to serve as Minister of Visitation in my retirement. Thank you for allowing me into your homes and your hearts. I have truly been blessed by the laughter, tears and holy moments we have shared. As most of you know, I am "re--retiring" as of October 1. Be assured that I am not going anywhere, so you will still see me with great regularity.

*-With heartfelt gratitude, Janet Hawkins*

## Important Upcoming Dates . . .

**Charge Conference: Saturday, November 1, 2:30-4:00 p.m. at Amelon UMC in Madison Heights.** This will be a group Charge Conference with 14 other churches from our region of the district participating together. Anyone may attend Charge Conference, but only the professing membership of the congregation may vote. We are required to have representation from our congregational leadership, so Church Council members, Committee Chairs and members, and ministry team leaders are encouraged to attend.

### Mountain View District Conference,

**Saturday, November 15 at 10 a.m.** via zoom. You may attend individually through your own connected device, or come to the church to participate with others.

## Pastors Appreciate Your Prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like, or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

## Save the Date!

The JOY Team is planning a trip to Saunders Orchard on Thursday, October 16. Watch for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins!

# October 2025

## Pastor Appreciation Month

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>In-Person Worship Each Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Java Stop 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</b>  <b>Staffed Nursery Available 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</b> </div>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>World Communion Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  7:00 Genesis Circle	<b>8</b>  3:15 Endowment Committee 5:00 Won. Wed. 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<b>9</b>  1:00 Prayer Group  6:45 Sanctuary Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> <b>Laity Sunday</b> <b>Lunch Out After Worship</b>	<b>13</b>  2:00 Finance Committee	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Newsletter deadline</b> FH prepares meal for fire station 5:00 Won. Wed. 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<b>16</b>  10:30 Trip to Saunders Orchard 1:00 Prayer Group  6:45 Sanctuary Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b> <b>UWF Candle Burning</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  5:00 Won. Wed.  7:00 Celebration Ringers	<b>23</b>  1:00 Prayer Group  6:45 Sanctuary Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b>  4:00 Trunk or Treat	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  5:00 Won. Wed.  7:00 Celebration Ringers	<b>30</b>  1:00 Prayer Group  6:45 Sanctuary Choir	<b>31</b>		

# Puzzle Page

## Books of the Bible Puzzle

Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank. Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page. You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God. We've done the first one for you as an example.

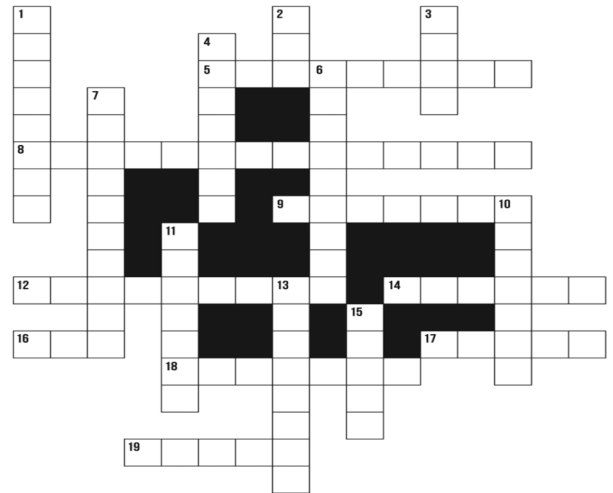
1. UTRH \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
2. TWAMHET \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
3. BOPERRSV \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
4. SUBNEMR \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
5. WRESHBE \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
6. USAJHO \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
7. MORASN \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
8. GEJDSU \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
9. STREEH \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
10. HMOLIPEN \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
11. LINEDA \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
12. SEESING \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
13. SHEEPISAN \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
14. CLAIMHA \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
15. HARMEEJI \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
16. AGHAIG \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
17. SNAGILATA \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

The Bible is also known as

T \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Complete this crossword that emphasizes the natural phenomena of God's created world.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. windy snowstorm                             | 12. mass of snow, earth or rocks sliding down a mountain |
| 2. thick, obscuring mist                       | 13. the degree of moisture in the air                    |
| 3. frozen rain pellets                         | 14. a spring that spews boiling water and steam          |
| 4. an area's normal weather conditions         | 15. condensed water vapor in the atmosphere              |
| 5. sudden electrostatic discharge in the sky   | 16. frozen water   |
| 6. violent tropical storm                      | 17. deluge   |
| 7. shaking of the earth's crust                | 18. when day and night are of equal length               |
| 8. northern lights                             | 19. frozen dew or vapor                                  |
| 9. partial or full blockage of the sun or moon |  |
| 10. wearing away of the soil                   |  |
| 11. large mass of snow and ice                 |  |

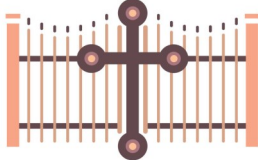
## Books of the Bible Puzzle Answers:

- |             |               |              |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Ruth     | 15. Jeremiah  | 7. Romans    |
| 2. Matthew  | 16. Haggai    | 8. Joshua    |
| 3. Proverbs | 17. Galatians | 9. Ephesians |
| 4. Numbers  | 10. Philemon  | 10. Genesis  |
| 5. Hebrews  | 11. Daniel    | 11. Malachi  |
| 6. Joshua   | 12. Judges    |              |
| 7. Romans   |               |              |

? **Bible Quiz** ?

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- They are made of gold and always closed.
- They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- They are closed by day and open by night.
- They are made of pearl and never closed.



Answer: D (See Revelation 21:21, 25.)



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### Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251  
Fax: 434-847-2536

www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Nancy C. Johnson  
Pastor

Dr. Heather A. Perryman  
Director of Music

#### 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!

SPOT-  
LIGHT  
ON...

### UWF Candle Burning Service Will Be Held in October



If you would like to honor or remember a loved one at our October 19 worship service, consider a gift to UWF 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 60 cents per second to represent UWF 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 5**, along with the completed form below. Checks

should be made out to **Fort Hill United Women in Faith (note name change)**. Gifts can be turned in to Roberta Litten, the church office OR placed in the offering plate on Sunday, in an envelope **clearly labeled for UWF**. Thank you!

#### UWF Candle Burning Service on October 19

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in **honor** of \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in **memory** of \_\_\_\_\_