

The Herald



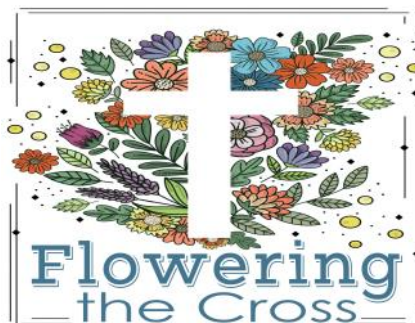
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

We've got something super special lined up just for you! Join us for our second "Friendly Family Movie Night" of 2024. In February we watched "Frozen 2". The night is all about good times, great movies, and family fun. Showing **Friday, March 15 at 6:00 pm** in the Gathering Room. Not only that, but free popcorn and drinks to boot! Bring a lawn chair or blanket to settle in for the evening.

Since it is a family event, child care is not provided.

LOVE FEAST Everyone is invited to the table for Love Feast, which we will celebrate at **6:30 p.m. on March 28, Maundy Thursday.**

This service encourages us to experience God's love in fellowship, gathered around candlelit tables in moments of preparation, foot washing (or handwashing), singing, sharing a light meal, and bread and cup communion.



We usually hear, "Bring a friend to church," but for **Easter Sunday, March 31**, we're saying, "Bring some flowers to church!" That way we will have lots of blooms to flower the cross, and create our worship center for **11:00 a.m. worship.**

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EASTER MORNING ACTIVITIES

Sunday School will not take place Easter morning, **March 31**, because we're hoping to have Fellowship Breakfast during that time! Music & Worship is looking for a few folks to volunteer to gather friends and make this happen. If you're so inclined, please contact Ken Heatwole, Alyce Newman or Faye Urban. After folks have had some food, we will flower the cross to prepare for our **11:00 a.m. worship service.** Invite your friends and neighbors to worship!





This month's My Whit's End, is a story from Harry Pritchett Jr., who tells a marvelously warm story concerning Jesus's empty tomb. I hope you like it...

Once upon a time I had a young friend named Philip. Philip was born with Downs Syndrome. He was a pleasant child—happy, it seemed—but increasingly aware of the difference between himself and other children. Philip went to Sunday school at the Methodist church. His teacher, also a friend of mine, taught the third-grade class with Philip and nine other eight-year-old boys and girls. You know eight-year-olds. And Philip, with his differences, was not readily accepted. But my teacher friend was creative, and he helped the group of eight-year-olds. They learned, they laughed, they played together. And they really cared about one another, even though eight-year-olds don't say they care about one another out loud. My friend could see it. He knew it. He also knew that Philip was not really a part of that group. Philip did not choose nor did he want to be different. He just was. And that was just the way things were.

My friend had a marvelous idea for his class the Sunday

after Easter. You know those things that pantyhose come in—the containers that look like great big eggs—my friend had collected ten of them. The children loved it when he brought them into the room. Each child was to get one. It was a beautiful spring day, and the assignment was for each child to go outside, find a symbol for new life, put it into the egg, and bring it back to the classroom. They would then open and share their new life symbols and surprises one by one.

It was glorious. It was confusing. It was wild. They ran all around the church grounds, gathered their symbols, and returned to the classroom. They put all the eggs on a table, and then the teacher began to open them. All the children stood around the table.

He opened one, and there was a flower, and they ooh-ed and aah-ed. He opened another, and there was a little butterfly. "Beautiful," the girls all said, since it is hard for eight-year-old boys to say "beautiful." He opened

another, and there was a rock. And as third-graders will, some laughed, and some said, "That's crazy! How's a rock supposed to be like new life?" But the smart little boy who'd found it spoke up: "That's mine. And I knew all of you would get flowers and buds and leaves and butterflies and stuff like that. So I got a rock because I wanted to be different. And for me, that's new life." They all laughed.

My friend said something to himself about the profundity of eight-year-olds and opened the next one. There was nothing there. The other children, as eight-year-olds will, said, "That's not fair—that's stupid!—somebody didn't do right."

Then my friend felt a tug on his shirt, and he looked down. Philip was standing beside him. "It's mine," Philip said. "It's mine."

And the children said, "You don't ever do things right, Philip. There's nothing there!"

(Continued on page 3)

In Our Congregation

(Continued from page 2)

"I did so do it," Philip said. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb is empty!"

There was silence, a very full silence. And for you people who don't believe in miracles, I want to tell you that one happened that day last spring. From that time on, it was different. Philip suddenly became a part of that group of eight-year-old children. They took him in. He was set free from the tomb of his differentness.

Philip died last summer. His family had known since the time he was born that he wouldn't live out a full life span. Many other things had been wrong with his tiny body. And so, late last July, with an infection that most normal children could have quickly shrugged off, Philip died. The mystery simply enveloped him.

At the funeral, nine eight-year-old children marched up to the altar, not with flowers to cover over the stark reality of death. Nine eight-year-olds, with their Sunday school teacher, marched right up to that altar, and laid on it an empty egg—an empty, old, discarded pantyhose egg.

Pastor Dave



Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm through March 20



Do you ever feel like the world is moving at a different pace than you? If this sounds relatable, come take an hour for yourself in **March** to practice yoga. No experience is necessary. Just bring a mat, your breath, and your body. Questions? See Sarah Hartman.

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PastorDavid Whitten (319-610-2274)
 Administrative Assistant..... Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)

Sunday School9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.
 Church Office (M-F)..... 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up, so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted by **noon on Thursday** to the church office. All articles for the **April** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **Friday, March 15, 2024.**

MARCH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 ... *Jacob & Julia Tulli*
 2 ... **Brandon Saunders**
 4 ... **Meade Tulli**
 Monica (Sek) Baker
 5 ... **Brendan Faw**
 6 ... **Kaici Keithly**
 7 ... **David Brunk**
 9 ... **Mary Jo Fields**
 11 ... **Noah McLaughlin**

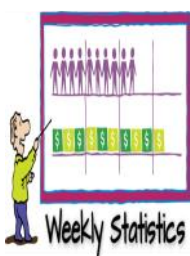
13 .. *Ben Mbecha & Susan Mbeboh*
 14 .. **Paula Bryant**
 15 .. **Carrie Dedrick**
 Gabriella Ryan
 17 .. **Joyce Keithly**
 Sloan (Lynch) Waters
 18 .. **Chris Heatwole**
 Mike Hostetter
 19 .. *Gary & Mary Jo Fields*

20 .. **Sandy (Walbridge) Faw**
 Wendy Carr
 24 .. **Reneé Clark**
 26 .. **Katie Heatwole**
 Wally Knox
 27 .. **Brianna Etiendem**
 28 .. **Deanna (Heckman) Harding**
 30 .. **Kevin Beers**
 31 .. **Lisa Cox**

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please, contact the church office to correct our oversight.




































March	Greeter	Worship Leader	Fellowship Hosts	Tellers
3	Carol Goss	Susan Robertson		Joel & Dolly Guyer
10	Neria Shelton	Barbara Beers	Susan Robertson	Bob & Pat Gangwer
17	Dolly Guyer	Carol Goss		Ann Andrus & Joel Guyer
24	Ann Andrus			Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman
31	Susan Robertson			Joel & Dolly Guyer



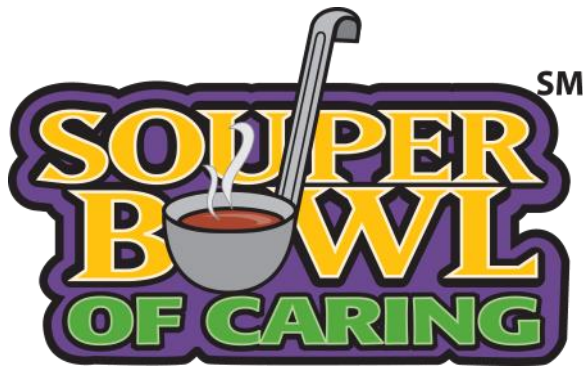
Attendance	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25
Worship (total)	48	37	48	55
In-person & visitors	39	30	38	45
Live stream	9	7	10	10
On-line views by that Friday	14	15	20	39
Offering per week	\$3,330.70	\$570.00	\$5,087.75	\$400.00



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3  Third Sunday IN LENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site	4 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell Practice 	5 10:30 am Ladies Circle  5:15 pm Shelter on Hull Street 	6 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:00 pm Free Yoga 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)	7	8 	9
10  Fourth Sunday IN LENT 2:00 am Daylight Savings Time begins 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with 	11 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell Practice 	12 10:30 am Ladies Circle  7:00 pm Leadership Team meeting (virtual) 	13 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:00 pm Free Yoga 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)	14 	15  6:00 pm Family Movie Night  In the Gathering Room Childcare is not provided Newsletter DEADLINE	16
17  Fifth Sunday IN LENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site 	18 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell practice 	19  10:30 am Ladies Circle  12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen 	20 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:00 pm Free Yoga 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)	21 6:30 pm Ladies Nite Out at Zorba's 	22	23
24  Palm Sunday 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with 	25 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell practice 	26 10:30 am Ladies Circle 	27 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:00 pm Free Yoga	28 6:30 pm Love Feast 	29  	30 
31  Easter Sunday 9:30 am Easter Breakfast & Flowering the Cross 11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site 						

Amid the Community



On Sunday, February 11, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Kansas City Chiefs claimed victory over the San Francisco 49ers by a score of 25-22 in overtime of Super Bowl LVII. Here in Richmond, Virginia, EVERYONE was a winner at our Souper Bowl of Caring. Alyce Newman received the trophy for her Corn and Green Chili Chowder, but each one of us scored as we enjoyed Jori Carter's Split Pea and Ham Soup, Susan Robertson's Chili, and the fellowship of being on the playing field together. Our friendly competition resulted in a final score of \$307.76 collected for the Tabernacle of Praise Ministries International, a ministry that serves our homeless community in Richmond. The MVP (Most Valuable Player) on this, and every day, was and is and always will be our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Pastor Sam & Ms. Ramona Keys



Pastor Joe



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Rev. Zynora D. Manson, President HMCV

Here are some Coretta Scott King Award winners -- Jerry Pinkney, Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Myers, Katie Nelson, Floyd Cooper, and Javaka Steptoe. The donor can type the author's name at Amazon and there will be several suggestions for each. *Last Stop on Market Street* is a high recommendation. If the grade level is not part of the description you can check on the Accelerated Reader website. Some Hispanic choices are Meg Medina's *Merci Suarez* series and any book by Yuyu Morales.

On our WRCOB webpage and in the literature rack, you can find the American Library Association's Hispanic Pura Belpre Award list which has more books than you can shake a stick at. There are some Young Adult titles which would not be appropriate for K-5. You can also google *Black History Books for Kids* and come up with A LOT of suggestions.

Bring your book donations to church by Sunday, March 10. We will bless them before they go to Henrico Ministers' Conference & Vicinity.

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A Word of Thanks

West Richmond certainly has a servant's heart. When I shared a request for helpers to empty the old file cabinets in the office building before the new free lateral cabinets arrived, I had four volunteers and an offer to come later if the group didn't finish. I was thankful for the response and they finished before lunchtime.

The cabinets arrived the next day and put two of our men to task getting them in the building. Fortunately, we had some carpet pieces to put under the cabinets and slide them into place. Everything is back in the storage room — it needs some work, but it already looks like there's more space in the room than before!

Now I'm looking for some more hands. Hands to sort through what we have, determine what to put back or put in a digital format, and return things to the cabinets. We have photo albums and loose pictures to go through. Who is willing? Who is able? Please let me know. It's not going to be finished in a day, and I know it's a lot to ask.

Barbara Beers

P.S. My helpers were Kevin Beers, Bob Gangwer, Susan Mbeboh, Ben Mbecha, Vanessa Morton, Alyce Newman, Faye Urban, and Pastor Dave.

P.S.S. Anyone need an old file cabinet? All are vintage — two are metal (one is legal size) and the other two are wooden. I have pics or stop by the office!

