



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2023 Court Street United Methodist Church

Reflection

The spiritual disciplines are receiving a sort of resurgence within the Christian church today, with good reason. As Christianity has stagnated in the USA, a new emphasis has been placed on true discipleship within the Christian church. However, one of the spiritual disciplines which has not received a great deal of attention is that of reflection. Speaking from the Reformed perspective, I believe the reason for this inattention to be twofold. First, our American society tells us to never slow down and keeps us running frantically from one thing to the next. Everything in our lives is fast paced, and any time spent in reflection would obviously be seen as wasted time. Unfortunately, this attitude has crept into the church. As church members we are whisked along from one meeting to another, from one program to the next. Slowing down is simply not something we are good at. Second, I believe our Reformed theology has led us to disregard reflection. We have taken up the Calvinistic idea of reforming all of creation and bringing all things under the Lordship of Christ. However, we have often gone too far in thinking we are the ones bringing the kingdom, and we have busied ourselves too much in this kingdom work. By no means do I mean to undermine reforming all of creation but, like all things, it needs to be kept in check. So, what is the value of the reflection? Regular reflection always reminds us to constantly check in on the state of our spiritual lives. We can take an honest look at ourselves and see our weaknesses and our strengths. Reflection also allows us to keep our spiritual things in the forefront of our minds. If we reflect daily on what God is doing and has done in our lives, it makes living in God's presence much easier for us. Reflection allows us to look for God in our own lives, in the lives of those around us, in our churches, and in our world. I believe wholeheartedly that reflection is something that we as Christians need to integrate into our daily lives. Reflecting on who we are, who God is making us, how God is working in us, and how God is working around us will allow us to live more fully Christian lives. Christian reflection will allow us to step away from the worldliness of life and reorient ourselves to our Savior and Creator. Reflection will truly allow us to become better disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM.

FEBRUARY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

February 5: "Loving as God Loves"

February 12: "A Parent's Love"

February 19: "True Friendship"

February 26: "Living for Others"

Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.

JANUARY CONCERT WAS A BIG SUCCESS!!



The Schubert String Quintet in C Major, performed in the Sanctuary on January 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., brought tears of joy and exclamations of praise and wonder. The artistry from members of Shenandoah Conservatory string faculty Akemi Takayama, violin; and Julian Schwarz, cello; and members of the Liberty University String Faculty Yevgeniy Dvogyuk, violin; Luca Trombetta, viola; and David Feldman, cello joined talents to provide 130 guests with an exceptional performance that is rare for a city the size of Lynchburg.

Thank you, Yevgeniy Dvogyuk, for your vision, gifts, and planning to bring this concert to Court Street United Methodist Church. The free concert was made possible by the Virginia Whitehouse Music Endowment Fund.

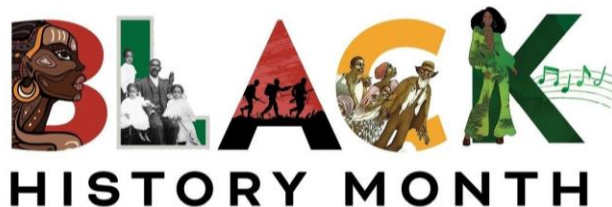
Susan Hall created exquisite posters, flyers, and printed as well as digital programs. The concert was advertised on every media site possible and in the newspaper. Posters and flyers were distributed to schools, universities, churches, grocery stores, and restaurants.

Anne Langley, Randy Hurst, Kathy Mason, Suzy Campbell, and Susan Hall solved the problems of poor lighting inside and out with additional lights, stronger light bulbs, and cleaning existing fixtures.

As guests arrived, they heard the bells played by Dennis Pruitt.

Friendly people from Ecclesia School of the Arts, under the leadership of Michelle Velastegui; staff, and members of the Church greeted and welcomed visitors at various entrances. **Thank you**, Pastor Bill Burleigh, Harriette Cash, Jodi Center, George Clark, Jay Kelly, Susan Leazer, Gary Lowe, Julia Pearl, Dennis Pruitt, Mark Roper, and others, for helping visitors feel comfortable and enjoy the concert.

If you missed the concert; you can watch a recording of it on our YouTube Channel <https://youtu.be/qiJ2MBWV9rs> Or through our website www.courtstreetmethodist.com the link is on the home page.



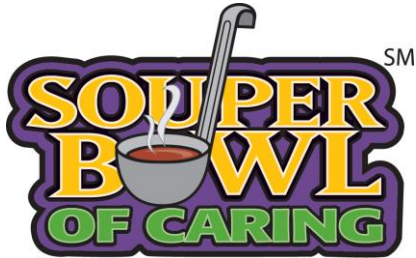
Jackson Street UMC invites you to celebrate Black History Month with them on Thursday February 16th at 6:00pm as they go back into the past and present the play: *In the Beginning*. This original production will be a rendition of a worship service from 1868. We look forward to seeing your congregation during this celebration. Yours in Christ,

Rev. Reason A. Chandler Sr., Pastor

MISSIONS NEWS:

The Missions Team wants to help you “clear your clutter” in 2023!

For the next few weeks, we will be collecting new and gently used backpacks, duffle bags, small suitcases, and ladies’ purses to be used for future Missions Team service projects. Repurposed items may be used to provide support for women and children in crisis, local seniors and veterans in need and community members who are down on their luck. Containers will be provided in the Bishop Early Hall to collect your donated items. With many thanks, in advance, for your assistance with this worthwhile project. Blessings, *The Missions Team*



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SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY The Missions Team will take up a special collection on Super Bowl Sunday February 12th.

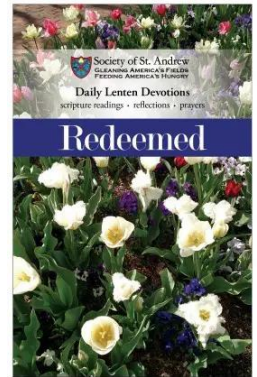
Vote for your favorite team to win by placing your donation in the cans on display in the Bishop Early Hall! (We will announce the winner Sunday the 19th)

The souper bowl of caring has taken place every year on the day of the big game for over 30 years! Please plan to donate no matter how big or small; we can all be part of ending hunger in our community. All donations will be given to Parkview

tacklehunger.org

Community Missions’s Food for Families. Make checks payable to Court Street UMC with “Food for Families” on the memo line. Thank you! ~ *The Missions Team*

LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW are available in the Bishop Early Hall. These daily devotionals start with Ash Wednesday, so you have extra time to take a few to friends and neighbors. If you would rather get the devotion emailed to you daily; go to SoSA’s website to sign up. <https://endhunger.org/lent/>



Call the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you ☺



Goodbye Jackson Family:

January 15, 2023 was the last Sunday at Court Street United Methodist Church for Assistant Pastor Jesse Jackson, his wife Janice, and their eight children.

In July of 2021, Jesse Jackson was hired by Court Street United Methodist Church to be the Assistant to the Pastor. He and his family were enthusiastically welcomed and supported by the membership.


Unfortunately, within four months of his employment, the financial picture at Court Street experienced a major downturn. For this reason, twelve months later, it was concluded that Jesse Jackson’s salary and housing package could no longer be sustainable, and the position of Assistant Pastor was eliminated.

We recognize Jesse’s vast knowledge of the Bible and his enthusiasm for his ministry. We wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

If you would like to send a card of appreciation, the address is:

The Jackson Family
224 Shady Oak Lane
Forest, Virginia 24551

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries	March Birthdays
Lauren Hudnall Knapp February 02	Kathy & Robert Draper Feb 09	Sharon Brooks March 04
Mary Tyree February 02	Robin & Irby Hudson Feb 12	Randy Speer March 05
Kenneth Bagshaw February 13	GiGi and John Sweeney Feb 21	Janice Jackson March 09
Lewis Averett February 15		Lori Letchford March 12
Sarah Leazer Johnson February 18		Susan Angus March 14
Reiman Shober February 22		Amy Pillow March 15
Brenda Whitehead February 22		Rick Pillow March 18
James Blankenship February 23		David Petty March 19
Bill Burleigh February 24		Bill Puckett March 22
Bobbi Hurst February 24		Marty Diuguid March 27
John Spencer February 24		Shanda Horner March 31
	March Anniversaries Amy & Rick Pillow March 15 Karen & David Hudnall March 20	
		

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

- Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Matthew Diuguid – 3501 A Ave. 1st Platoon, Bravo Company 266 Qm Bn; Fort Lee, VA 23801
- Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502
Grandson of *Mary Tyree

In Need of Prayer

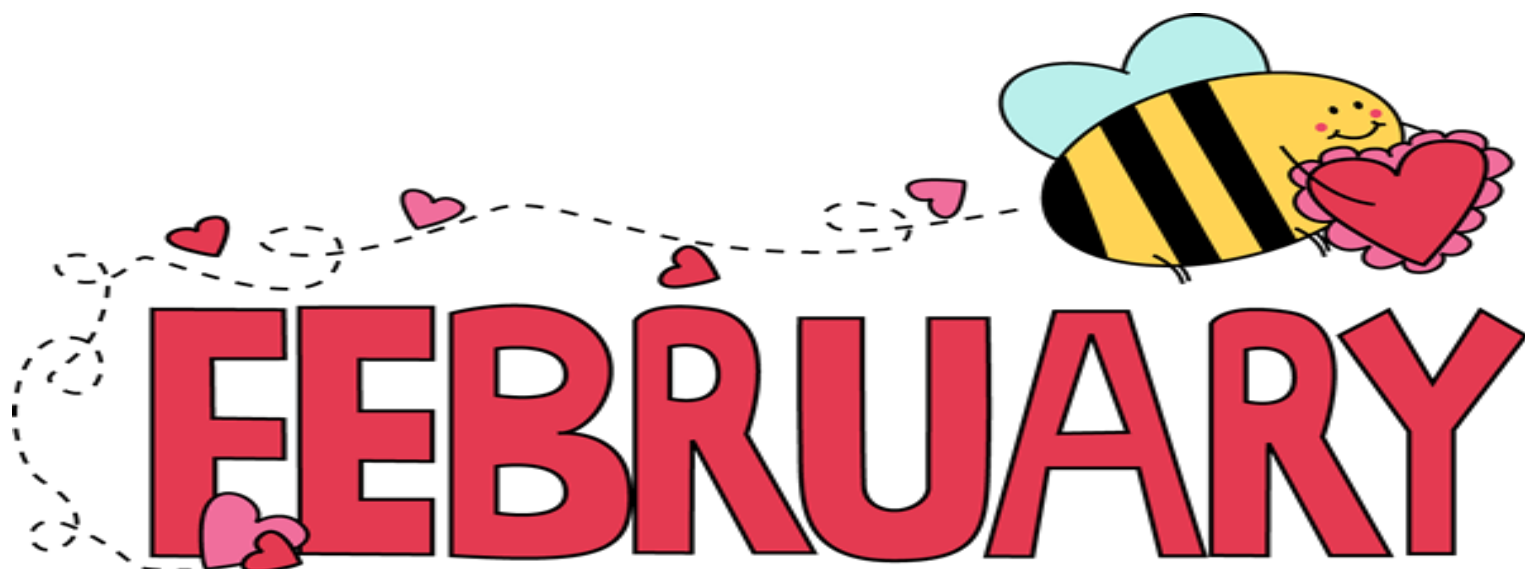
- Dee Brown ~ aunt of Christopher Lilley.
- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Christopher Lilley – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Toby Lilley ~ Buena Vista,va ~ uncle of Christopher Lilley.
- *Phil Ripley – C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- Matthew Russell ~ Norfolk,VA ~ cousin of Sharon Brooks.
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *John Sweeney - 1487 Jennings Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin
- * Church members

“
 Loving God, I pray that you will comfort me in my suffering, lend skill to the hands of my healers, and bless the means used for my cure. Give me such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when I am afraid, I may put my whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.
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MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

January Offerings: 5,938.00
 January Expenses: 25,008.56
 Shortfall: 19,070.56

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



FEBRUARY

In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

