



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

FORGIVENESS IS FREELY OFFERED TO ALL WHO ACCEPT IT



One of the history lessons I recall learning when I was a student at Columbia College is that the middle Ages popes had tremendous political power as well as ecclesiastical power. As a case in point, in Germany, Pope Gregory excommunicated King Henry IV when he insisted on divorcing his wife Bertha of Savoy. This was not only devastating to Henry spiritually, but politically, for this made Henry ineligible to sit on the throne of Germany.

The king, who well knew what the Pope expected of him, came to Rome to do penance and to seek absolution. He found that the Pope was away in the mountains. And so, during the harsh winter of 1077, King Henry IV and his servants made a long and dangerous journey through the snowy mountains of northern Italy to meet with the Pope. They met in a small town called Canossa in the mountains of northern Italy.

When Henry and his servants arrived, Pope Gregory humiliated Henry IV further by making him wait in the bitter cold for three days before finally agreeing to see him. When Henry IV was finally permitted to enter the gates, he walked barefoot through the snow and knelt at the feet of the Pope to beg forgiveness. As a result, Pope Gregory granted him absolution.

In contrast to what King Henry IV went through to obtain absolution for his sins, our Holy Week and Easter celebrations remind us that Jesus, out of love, has obtained our absolution for us. He suffered in our place and He doesn't require us to beg for forgiveness. Forgiveness is freely offered to all who will accept it.

It is by his initiative that we are saved, not our own. That is why, while for some in other traditions, specific dates are noted for one's salvation, for United Methodists, the question, "When were you saved?" is answered by the following: "I was saved 2000 years ago on the cross at Calvary."

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PUMC LIVES OUT ITS PURPOSE OF MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Sleep In Heavenly Peace

It was one of those crisp spring mornings where you can't help but thank God for His beautiful creation. As the sun rose, so did tents in the PUMC parking lot. Set up was beginning for our Lenten mission project, Sleep In Heavenly Peace. Large boxes of tools and pallets of wood were dropped off as volunteers began to arrive with coffee and servant hearts. They didn't know what to expect, but were just allowing God to use them as needed. Quickly, the buzz of saws, clouds of sawdust and the smell of wood stain was in the air. Working together as the hands and feet of Christ, we took those pallets of wood and made beds, 20 beds to be exact; beds that will bless children in our area who are currently sleeping on the floor.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the 75+ who volunteered time, talent,

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Serving In Love: We are the hands and feet of Christ in action! Helping to fulfill the Sleep In Heavenly Peace mission that "No Kid Sleeps On A Floor In Our Town", young and old worked hand in hand to build bunk beds for local children.



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast

The Nurture committee and United Methodist Men are making preparations for Easter Sunrise Service breakfast. This continental breakfast will be hosted in the church Fellowship Hall immediately following the Easter Sunrise service on the 21st. Please plan to join us in this time of fellowship as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN)

In March, some of our "Soul-Mates" running group participated in the Joe Davis Run for Recovery in Fort Mill. Several participants placed among the top three in their age groups in the both the 5K and 10K events. Proceeds from the race help Keystone Substance Abuse Services, a local non-profit promoting health, hope and healing to those impacted by substance abuse. Look for Soul-Mates to continue to meet in the coming weeks to have fun while enjoying God's beautiful outdoors and striving to improve our physical fitness. All are welcome to join us!



Serving In Love: We ran in the Joe Davis Run for Recovery to aide those suffering with substance use disorders.

Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) also offers monthly prayer walks at PUMC. Meet at the church for a brief devotion and then a walk through the Baxter neighborhood. These are suitable for all faith and fitness levels. Saturday, April 13th, May 11th, and June 8th at 10am are the next walks.

Join Steve Bevil on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11am for the Tai Chi Balance class in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on FAN, call Kristin Gommer. 803.487.2440

Senior Friends

Senior Friends will have a covered dish meal with Easter Egg Hunt on Tuesday April 9th, at 11:30am. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. For more information contact Linda Honeycutt at honey6239@comporium.net.

OFFERINGS&REFLECTIONS

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On Easter Sunday, we will begin our morning celebrating this good news as we gather in our new Columbarium garden at 7am for a sunrise service. We will gaze upon the empty tomb and the empty cross reminding us that Jesus was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead. And we will be reminded that because He lives, we can face whatever today and all our tomorrows bring to us knowing that not even death can separate us from God's love for us. This is the good news we celebrate every time we gather for worship.

Because He Lives,

Becky Shirley



Growing in Love: Senior Friends celebrated St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage, and enjoyed the Carolina Copy Cats bringing back memories of 'Sonny & Cher'.

Connexion

Love listening to a powerful church organ? Then join us for a concert that will move you! Thursday, April 25th at 9:30am. Meet in the church parking lot to carpool to Calvary Church to attend their monthly organ concert. One of our member's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Hildebrand, will be playing their huge organ that day. We attended one of her concerts last year and were overwhelmed with her talent and willingness to explain all about the organ to us. We will then head upstairs to enjoy a delicious plated luncheon! Please RSVP to Pat and George

Wilson at gpwilson71@gmail.com by April 14th to confirm lunch reservations.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Kids' Easter Party

Join us for the Kids' Easter Party - Saturday, April 6th from 11:00am-1:00pm. Families are invited to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as we enjoy games, prizes, craft activities and complimentary hot dogs.

Please consider volunteering for this fun afternoon. We need help with the following areas: monitor games, crafts, food, set-up, takedown, and donations of hot dogs and candy. Please contact Nic Gold to volunteer nicolas@pumcfortmill.org.

ROAR VBS

June 24th - 27th, 9:30am-11:45am, ages 3 thru 5th grade



Make Vacation Bible School (VBS) the *mane* event of your summer! This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.

Register today to participate and volunteer. Visit the website at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/768ae3>

Children, Cookies, and Canvas

A big thank you to everyone who came out last month to participate in our kids' painting event. We had 25 children who came out on a Saturday morning to enjoy cookie treats and learn about the resurrection of Jesus in a fun and creative way.



Growing In Love: Children are able to express themselves artistically at our first painting party.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT PUMC

All are invited and encouraged to join us for the upcoming Holy Week Services.

- April 14th - Palm Sunday: 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00am Worship
- April 18th - Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm
Communion Worship observing the Last Supper
- April 19th - Good Friday: 7:00pm
Worship commemorating the Crucifixion of Jesus
- April 21st - Easter Sunday: 7:00am
Sunrise Worship in the Columbarium; 9:45 & 11:00am
Worship in the sanctuary celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT

\$13,338 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$693,589

\$48,350 has been received in February towards the General and Building Funds

\$55,795 was spent in February from the General and Building Funds

\$1,247,249 Loan balance for Building and Parsonage

MISSION & EVANGELISM

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snacks and prayers for our Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) build day. Your efforts showed the love of Christ to those in need. Imagine what a blessing sleeping in a new bed, instead of the floor, must feel like to the body, mind and heart.

Room In the Inn

As of March 28th, our season of Room In The Inn has come to an end. Urban Ministries reports that the 106 Charlotte metro area host sites provided a total of 16,407 beds to 1,494 neighbors. PUMC continued to support this ministry by hosting 9 regular host nights plus 1 emergency weather night. During those 10 nights, we hosted a total of 117 men! With volunteers totaling over 75 people, 351 meals were served along with precious fellowship that included chess matches, meaningful conversations, TV nights and prayer.

Thank you to each and every person who participated from donating funds and toiletries to fellowship, communion, laundry, drivers, and meals. Each night we hosted our neighbors, it took the support of 20-30 volunteers. We saw many new volunteers this year in addition to the people that serve this ministry week after week. The dedication of each of your hearts to provide for our community in need so compassionately is an extension of God's love. Each week the men always expressed gratitude to the care taken to provide them with somewhere warm and safe to lay their heads.

I am so appreciative to work with all of the volunteers that make RITI more than a shelter but a night for everyone to experience a family in Christ. May kindness be given to each of you in the same beautiful way it was given. God bless you all.

Habitat for Humanity

As we celebrate the life of Jesus this month, let us continue to give a new outlook on life to those in our area. Make plans for to attend our new construction Habitat for Humanity build on April 27th. Sign up in the Narthex. Builders must be at least 16 years old and we'll also need volunteers to provide lunch. If you are interested in joining the Habitat planning group for PUMC, please contact Glenda: glendaw@comporium.net.

Second Sunday Social

Join us for the Second Sunday Social April 14th, 10:30-11am. What a blessing this fellowship opportunity has been! We would like to add a simple service component to our time together. In May, help us expand our support of the Fort Mill Care Center. During the May 12th Second Sunday Social, please bring laundry detergent for the Fort Mill Care Center. We will continue to have the grocery cart in the Narthex for food pantry donations. Thank you to everyone that gives to the food pantry!



YOU CAN STILL HELP!

If you missed our build day, you can still support SHP by turning in your Lenten calendar donation envelope on Easter Sunday, or buy bedding directly through Amazon. Use the web address: <http://a.co/c5s5xbD>



Worshipping in Love: As we meditate on the grace God gave us in sending His only son to die for us while we were yet sinners, let us extend this grace to everyone we can. Please continue to pray for those that will receive the beds from Sleep In Heavenly Peace.



Worshipping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

Thank you to the Connexion group for starting our month off with a great Game Night. We enjoyed dinner, the wonderful fellowship between the youth and seniors, and playing games! The youth enjoyed getting to know and spend time with other members of the Philadelphia family.

March 15th -17th was our spring retreat weekend at Look Up Lodge in Traveler's Rest, SC. Our theme for the retreat was Avengers: Infinity War. We discussed themes of space, power, mind, time, reality and soul. We had so much fun spending time together and enjoying all of the activities Look Up Lodge has to offer, including paddle boats, a giant swing, and a campfire complete with s'mores, of course!

In April, we are looking forward to our annual scavenger hunt around Fort Mill and beginning to prep for Youth Sunday on May 19th. All youth 6th - 12th grade are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings from 5 - 7pm. Contact Maggie: Maggie@pumcfortmill.org.



Growing in Love: Our youth build meaningful bonds and grow in faith at Look Up Lodge, Traveler's Rest, SC.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Have you been Shriven? At the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, we learned that Shrove Tuesday is a day to celebrate, to be thankful of our abundance (represented by the pancake ingredients) and also a day to confess one's sins "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" - Romans 3:23. While it is important to confess sins, being shriven is also the process of being forgiven of those sins. As Easter approaches, may we all know that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness of all sins. "Everyone who puts his trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven through His name." - Acts 10:43

Home Away From Home - Testimony

I caught up with one of PUMC's young adults to ask about his experience with The Wesley Foundation. "Wesley wasn't the only thing that I was blessed to be a part of at Clemson, but to me - it was everything. God worked in my life in countless ways that I did not deserve through Wesley. I saw places and met people that have shaped who I am today. Everyone who is a part of the ministry is a friend and a brother or sister in Christ. It made Clemson feel like home, and right now I miss my home dearly. I hope to model its community into the new places that God leads me." Gratefully, Shuler Cotton.

The Wesley Foundation is a nationwide United Methodist campus ministry where students are able to find a "home away from home" in a Christian community just as Shuler and others at PUMC have done. We are proud to support to the students at Winthrop Wesley.

Any Graduates?

If you're a proud parent of a high school or college graduate this academic year, please contact Cindi: cahaly@comporium.net to be sure your student is acknowledged in our May 19th celebration.



Growing in Love: There is a lot of skill to flipping pancakes. Just ask our 3 champions from the Shrove Pancake Flipping Contest!



Growing in Love: Every spring the UMW takes a home cooked meal to the students of Winthrop Wesley.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Kairos Prison Ministry - Offering Forgiveness to the Imprisoned

"I was in prison and you came to Me". Matt 25:36. Jesus asks us to reach out to the needs of the imprisoned. PUMC baked 150 dozen cookies and members committed to pray at a certain time around the clock in support of the SC Kairos Prison Ministry. How does this further Jesus' words?

In March, Jim Price and Don Brenwald spent four days at Kershaw Prison. Jim was part of a 36 man team that were in highly structured one-on-one engagement with 36 prison inmates from the general population who requested a Christian encounter.

That encounter also includes special food, and Don was part of that team. It involved home baked cookies that the inmate is asked to share with others, and you were part of that team. In part of the program the prisoner is told someone is praying for them "right now." You were part of that team. Lives were changed! Four inmates became Christians through confession of faith. About 80% of the group had a life changing experience including one Muslim who accepted Jesus, not as a prophet but as Lord.

More than 30% of South Carolina inmates return back to prison within 5 years. "The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and loves of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities." Through the Word, this prison ministry strengthens the inmate to better withstand the prison environment and prepares the inmate for a successful life after release. This engagement ministry also changes the members of the team, like Jim and Don. They are strengthened in their faith. Indeed you who baked cookies and prayed around the clock also engaged in this life changing ministry and you also are strengthened by it.

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

The Apostle John is speaking to the prisoner, and he is speaking to you. Have life and have it more abundantly.

Kairos Prison Ministry
...bake cookies, serve Christ



GUEST COLUMN

- The Rev. Joe Long, District Superintendent

Rock Hill District, United Methodist Church of South Carolina

Lifted - the baby in Mary's arms.

Lifted - our hope for new life.

Lifted - a lame man from his mat.

Lifted - living water for a weary woman.

Lifted - bread for the multitude.

Lifted - a widow's son from death.

Lifted - palms in shallow praise.

Lifted - a bloody body on the cross.

Lifted - a savior from the grave.

Lifted - our Lord to the Father's side.

Lifted - His name upon my lips.

And my life from sin lifted.

- Joe N. Long Jr.

This April holds special days which brought to my memory the above poem I wrote a couple years ago. Palm Sunday recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowd welcomed him with palms and praise. A few days later, Jesus would be deserted. At his trial before Pilate, the crowd would shout "Crucify him." May we lift our praise to the Lord with true

devotion and commitment.

Good Friday observes our Lord's sacrificial death upon the cross. He had said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). May we ponder his passion, explore it's meaning and embrace the One who loved us so much.

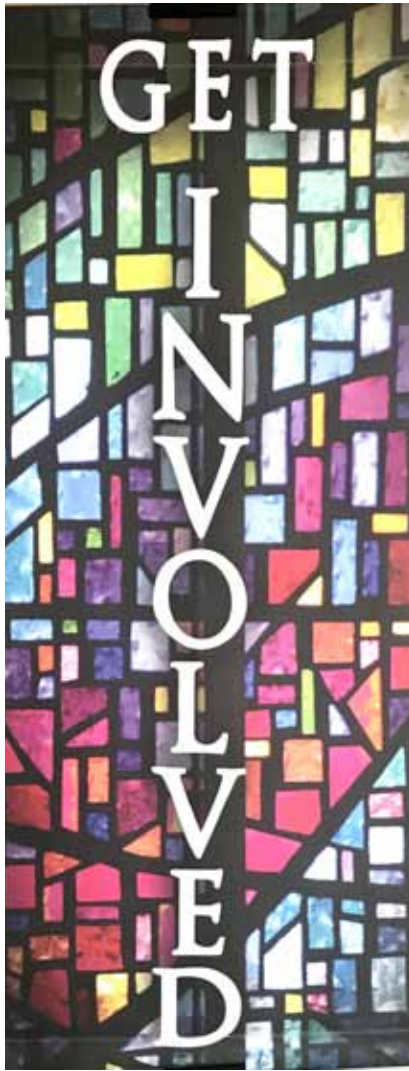
Easter celebrates our Lord's being raised from the dead. With him we are lifted in hope and new life. "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

May you today in faith call upon the Lord and experience salvation.

Joe



APRIL - MONTH AT A GLANCE



Date	Event	Time
Mon, April 01	Missions and Evangelism Committee	6:30pm
Sat, April 06	Kids' Easter Party	11:00am - 1:00pm
Sat, April 06	UMM Family Baseball - Winthrop vs High Point	3:00pm
Mon, April 08	Missions and Evangelism Committee	6:30pm
Mon, April 08	Trustees Meeting	7:00pm
Mon, April 08	Finance Committee	7:00pm
Tue, April 09	Senior Friends	11:30am
Tue, April 09	UMM Dinner Meeting	7:00pm
Sat, April 13	Prayer Walk	10:00am
Sun, April 14	Second Sunday Social	10:30 - 11:00am
Sun, April 14	Children's Team Meeting	12:00pm
Sun, April 14	Next Steps Class for New Members	4:00pm
Thu, April 18	Maunday Thursday Service	7:00pm
Fri, April 19	Good Friday Service	7:00pm
Sat, April 20	Men in the Mirror	7:00am
Thu, April 25	Connexions - Calvary Church Organ Concert	9:30am
Sat, April 27	Habitat for Humanity New Build	9:00am
Sun, April 28	Nurture Committee	2:00pm
Sun, April 28	Church Council	3:00pm
Sat, May 04	Adopt a Road	9:00am
Sun, May 05	Childrens' Choirs Concert	4:00pm
Every Wed	Children's Choirs; Jubilate Ringers; Chancel Choir	5:00pm; 6:00pm; 7:00pm
Every Thurs	CORE Rehearsals	6:00pm
Every Wed & Fri	Tai Chi Balance Class	11:00am
Every Fri	Ladies Bible Study	10:00am



MUSIC & WORSHIP

As you know, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) to Easter Sunday. Each Sunday in the Lenten season is celebrated as a 'little Easter', in which we are able to truly celebrate the risen Christ! In this season of Lent, we prepare ourselves for the events of Passion Week, which starts with Palm Sunday and finishes with the resurrection celebration on Easter Sunday. Join us for the worship services listed above to observe the events in Christ's life leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection!

All 3 of our children's choirs: Little Lights, Joyful Noize & Joy Praize will perform at our Children's Concert on May 5th. We look forward to seeing your their to lift up and support our children.

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