



## OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

### LET THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVE YOU



*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

"Gray skies are gonna clear up. . ."

Do you know the song I'm referencing here? It is from the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" and the first line in the song is: "Gray skies are gonna clear up, put on a happy face!" That song came to my mind recently as I was looking back over all that has transpired this past year. I thought about it because gray skies are definitely clearing up each and every Sunday, as we see more and more people attending our in-person worship service each week. It is as if we are seeing the sun come out and we are beginning to bask in its warmth. A "new

normal" is emerging as the vaccines roll out and more activities and events are being planned. I want to say a heartfelt "Thank you" for the patience and compassion you've shown by observing recommended safety precautions and as you continue to do so. Your practices are an exercise of love for the most vulnerable among us. For now, we are still keeping safe, by wearing our masks, and keeping our distance, as recommended by the SC United Methodist Conference Guidelines and CDC recommendations. However, our chancel choir members, handbell choir, as well as the new children & youth handchime choir are now joining with The CORE contemporary music team to add musical variety to our times of worship. Small groups are also starting to meet inside the building and in social gatherings outside the building. The joy and excitement of reconnecting with persons we haven't seen in months is a reminder of how important Christian community is to our spirits and our wellbeing.

While we haven't yet resumed a schedule of multiple services of worship on Sunday mornings, by holding only one in-person service of worship right now, we've been able to get to know persons who in our pre-COVID days attended worship at a different time than we did. As a result, new friendships being forged even as we rekindle old relationships.

With these changes taking place, it feels as if we are going through a "re-birth" of the church. In many ways, it reminds me of the events *continued on page 2*

### CARBONATED HOLY WATER

#### LAY SERVANT REFLECTIONS - Sandie Weaver

Several weeks ago, I was listening to an interview with an inspirational author who was offering ways to help us deal with the psychological effects of this last year. When she described laughter as "carbonated Holy water", I immediately wanted to get a bottle of that stuff. I felt better just saying the words.

Later I decided to search the scriptures to find out what the Bible said about laughter. In Ecclesiastes 3:4 we are reminded that there is a "time to weep and a time to laugh". In James 5:13 we read if anyone is cheerful, "let him sing praises." But the most comforting scripture I found was Psalm 126 which describes the celebration of the Israelites when the Lord brought them out of captivity. *"Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting. Then they said among the nations, the Lord has done great things for us."* To me that absolutely

sounds like "carbonated Holy water."

It seems that in this last year we have been held in captivity. We have been in exile from our family, friends and anything that would have been considered "normal" in our daily lives. So much so, that we have often found it difficult to find anything to smile about, let alone laugh. But laughter is a very useful tool that allows us to deal with pain, break the tension in uncomfortable situations, allows us to rid ourselves of anger and often opens the door for forgiveness.

Perhaps we all need come to the "fountain", take a drink of that "carbonated Holy water", and fill our mouths with laughter as we focus on the great things that the Lord has done for us. We will be refreshed and can look forward to coming out of exile.



Worshipping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

# OFFERINGS&REFLECTIONS

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that took place on what we call “The birthday of the church” – the day of Pentecost. On that day, the Holy Spirit came as mighty rushing wind – changing everything and everyone in its path. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, fear became hope, hesitation turned into action and doubt was transformed into passionate faith. Because of this, the first disciples were able to fulfill Jesus’ final commission to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” Inspired and enflamed in their faith by the Holy Spirit, that small group of unlikely disciples preached the Gospel throughout the known world, continuing the ministry and mission of Jesus. That was the beginning of our magnificent Church and nearly 2000 years later we are called to continue to nurture what was handed on to us. The way we “do” church now and in the days ahead may not look like it did back in the first century or even like it did in our pre-COVID days, but the same Holy Spirit is with us, my friends, to lead us and guide us. Just as surely as the Spirit was with the first disciples, we can be assured that the Spirit’s movement among us will continually equip us and empower us to meet whatever challenges and new beginnings come our way. As gray skies continue to clear up and new days begin, may we always be open to the Spirit’s leading and move forward in faith trusting that

**FAREWELL EVENT AND LOVE OFFERING**  
TO BE HELD FOR PASTOR BECKY AND RICHARD

Sunday, June 6th will be the last PUMC service officiated by Pastor Becky. A “Goodbye Event” will also be held June 6th from 2pm to 4pm in the Fellowship Hall to give people a chance to express gratitude and say goodbye to Pastor Becky and Richard in person. Thank you Linda Honeycutt for leading this effort! Please consider giving to our “love offering” for Pastor Becky and Richard by donating online or by check with “love offering” in the memo section. Your consideration and generosity are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to leave a card or a message in a Memory Book for Pastor Becky and Richard, A basket to place cards and the memory book will be located outside of the doors of the Sanctuary on Sundays as well as at the event.

In order to make it a safe and organized event, we ask the following:

- Families wishing to participate in the event sign up by Sunday, May 31st.
- Families with last names starting with (A – K) visit the church between 2pm to 5pm and families with last names starting with (L – Z) visit between 5pm to 4pm.
- Masks and social distancing will be required.
- Beverages, finger foods and dessert will be available.

**A-K** **L-Z**

the “new normal” will be blessed by God.

Prayerfully,

*Becky*

## EVANGELISM TEAM



Thank you to Richard Shirley for bringing OneBlood (The Big Red Bus) to PUMC on a regular basis. With Richard and Pastor Becky moving to Columbia, the Evangelism Team considers the blood drives to be community outreach, and therefore, will begin coordinating this ministry. **The Big Red Bus will at PUMC**

**May 23rd, 9am-1pm.** Sign up online at [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org).

**#PUMCROCKS** Some may wonder what painting rocks has to do with Creating Disciples of Jesus Christ? Well, the answer is found in a message shared through the PUMC Instagram Account: “found your “Love Wins” rock today and it was just the right time. If I told you about the week we’ve had, you wouldn’t believe a word of it. Thank you.” One of our members then responded that they were praying for this person and their unknown situation. You never know who, when or where the Lord is going to use you, or a rock, to change someone’s day or maybe even their life. Keep spreading God’s love in our community in whatever ways you can. Don’t forget to tag us on Facebook and Instagram #pumcrocks with a picture and story when you find a rock!

Please continue to pray for friends and neighbors, send them a note, text, etc to let them know and then inviting them to PUMC. The beautiful weather should encourage us all to begin “Thank You Lord” walking groups where you just walk with others and tell God how much you appreciate His glorious creation.



*Growing In Love: This “You Are Blessed” rock was painted at the Evangelism/PYG painting event and found at Tega Cay Fire Station #2 at the base of a mailbox they painted to collect worn out American flags.*





## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34*

Of course in all things we should be thankful, but we were especially thankful that this year we were able to worship in-person for Holy Week. We started with a beautiful Palm Sunday worship which included music by the Jubilate Ringers and the Core. The congregation waved palm branches as we commemorated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Ash Wednesday, we gathered outside to begin Lent with a mark of the ashes. It was a solemn reminder of human mortality and need for reconciliation with God. Maundy Thursday we broke bread and shared the wine remembering Jesus' last supper and His commitment to us, his people. We followed a traditional Tenebrae service (Latin for "darkness"). This involved a reading of John's story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus. After each segment was read, a verse was sung and a candle was extinguished symbolizing the descent into darkness.

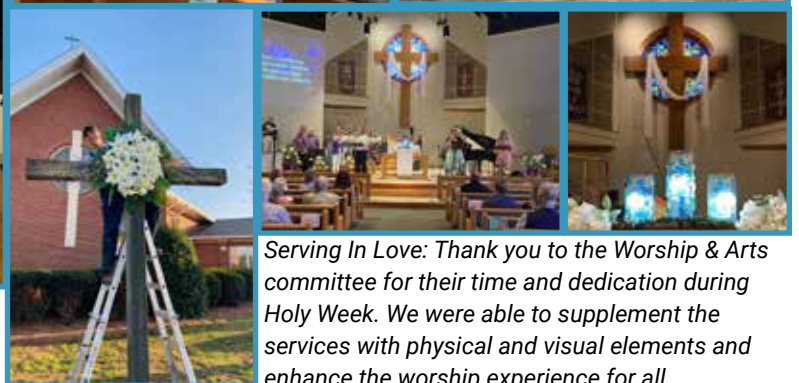
We gathered on Good Friday for a service Pastor Becky wrote called "Nails of the Cross". Between each reading, a verse of "Were you there" was sung by members of the Core. Congregants picked up nails on their way into the sanctuary, and as they left they had an opportunity to place the nail in a wooden cross symbolizing Jesus' suffering.

To commemorate Jesus Christ's resurrection from death, we began by gathering on the lawn with our sunrise service, followed by our 10 o'clock service where the Choir and Core led the congregation in the celebration of Jesus' triumph over death. At this service we also unveiled the sea glass artwork, where the broken pieces of sea glass that you surrendered as a symbol of giving your brokenness to Jesus, were made into beautiful candle holders as part of the conclusion of our Broken to Beautiful series.

As we continue into the Easter season, you will have opportunity to continue the celebration each Sunday. We invite you to join us as the Core, Choir, and Jubilate ringers rotate Sundays and lift our praises in song, while our Worship Team will keep the congregation artwork on display up until Pentecost on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Worshiping In Love: Your pieces of broken sea glass were made into beautiful candle holders as a reminder that through Jesus, our brokenness is made beautiful.*



*Serving In Love: Thank you to the Worship & Arts committee for their time and dedication during Holy Week. We were able to supplement the services with physical and visual elements and enhance the worship experience for all.*

## PHILLY YOUTH GROUP - PYG

The youth baked bread over zoom while learning about Maundy Thursday and the origins of communion! We made Croatian Milk Bread, a bread that does not contain yeast and we learned about the traditional foods served at the Passover meal! It was so much fun to bake together even from a distance and to learn about the history behind such an important day in our Easter celebrations.

On May 16th, the youth are going to be participating in a high ropes course at Camp Caanan in Rock Hill. If you are interested in going with us please email [maggie@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:maggie@pumcfortmill.org) to sign up!

The youth are excited for summer coming up and if you want to be involved, this is a great time to join! Email Maggie or check our our Instagram and FB page for more information!



**Are you in high school?** Are you looking for fun, fellowship and discipleship activities? Join our Philadelphia Youth Group High School group chat! Use the QR code to join or email [Maggie@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:Maggie@pumcfortmill.org) for more information!



## GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Join us on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> as we celebrate the Class of 2021! Immediately following the 10am service, graduates and their families will be available for you to congratulate and extend best wishes. The families will be set up down the one way street starting from the portico. We ask that you walk through to speak with the grads.



*Congratulations Graduates!*

- Zander Beasley – Nation Ford High School
- Alex Coffey - Palmetto Homeschool Association & Liberty University
- Lauren Finch – Catawba Ridge High School
- Jadyne Forbes – Fort Mill High School
- Kara Gommer – Nation Ford High School
- Collin McCann – Fort Mill High School
- Mia Rohlfs - Fort Mill High School
- Reagan White -
- Lacey Field – Winthrop University
- Jake Harris – Liberty University
- Norris Rachels – Coker University
- Clay Quinn – Winthrop University
- Jordyn Williams – College of Charleston



## MUSIC MINISTRY

As we continue in-person, one service worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary, I am striving to plan a variety of music using the Core, Chancel Choir, Jubilate Ringers, Youth Chimes, our wonderful pianist, Denise Harding plus soloists and ensembles. These groups are striving to give their best in order for our worship to be most timely, true and meaningful. We hope to blend elements of traditional and contemporary worship so that all may be blessed by the gift of music in worship.

As I look to the summer months, the Core and Chancel Choir will continue to provide the music and I would love to incorporate soloists and hopefully some special guests. If you have sung solos in the past, and would like to be a part of our music for our current service, contact me: [jim@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:jim@pumcfortmill.org) or cell phone (704) 562-5570. The church would love to hear your testament through your music. Thank you to everyone who makes our music department here at Philadelphia so wonderful and spirit-filled!

See you in church! Peace & Alleluia! Jim

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE HISTORIC PARADISE FOUNDATION

Your missions committee is working closely with Danielle Redmond, the "boots on the ground" organizer for HPF to determine how we might best focus our efforts to help their mission. We have been asked to help a family in the community.

Deborah is 62 with severe arthritis raising her grands, and great grands. She works hard to instill a work ethic and love of Christ in her children. Deborah has identified numerous household projects with which our church can help.

A small crew from PUMC has already worked on various jobs including patching small holes in sheetrock, cutting a door down, prepping walls for painting and cleaning the yard of debris to prevent rodents from entering the home. These are both short term, small group projects. Watch for upcoming painting and food donation opportunities.

Our goal is to create a long-term working relationship with the Historic Paradise Foundation as we work together spreading the love of Christ within our town and serving as Jesus did. Contact Dawn Edwards: [lendyloo@gmail.com](mailto:lendyloo@gmail.com) for additional information.



## NURTURE COMMITTEE SR. FRIENDS

Sr. Friends was formed over 40 years ago to give our older adult members a way to fellowship outside of Sunday worship times. Sr.



Friends is open to anyone 60 and older although if you are younger and want to come; we would love to have you too!

We typically meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am in the fellowship hall but of course Covid threw us a curve ball! Some months we may have an outing, but we email the event information to our members and have it in the bulletin. We have programs, special speakers, music and discussions. March, October, November and December are usually planned as special events.

May 11<sup>th</sup> - 11:30am picnic at the home of Caroline Helms. Fried chicken provided. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert. Contact Caroline at 239-565-0301 if you have questions or need directions.

July 13<sup>th</sup> - Old fashioned hymn sing at the church

October – Apple Picking

November - Thanksgiving

December - Christmas

We always welcome new friends! Contact Linda Honeycutt at [honey6239@comporium.net](mailto:honey6239@comporium.net) or Caroline Helms at [cdhelms1@yahoo.com](mailto:cdhelms1@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list.

## CARGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Do you care for a loved one? Do you feel stress? Do you feel alone? Are you taking care of you? The Caregivers Support Group @PUMC is to give those who care for others a safe place to meet, listen and learn. We will help each other gain knowledge and insight on taking care of ourselves while taking care of our loved ones. Through sharing the stresses, challenges and rewards of being a caregiver, you will know you are not alone. For more information, contact Vickie Goddard: [vickie752@yahoo.com](mailto:vickie752@yahoo.com)

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT

\$14,072 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$731,757

\$153,588 has been received as of 3/31/2021 towards the General and Building Funds

\$1,065,532 Loan balance for Building and Parsonage

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00-11:00am

Children's Sunday School classes and Nursery have resumed for the 10:00am worship service hour. We need leaders and helpers for both Large Group and Small Group sessions, in the Pre-school class, and in the Nursery. Please contact [nicolas@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:nicolas@pumcfortmill.org) to be a part of this important church ministry.

## YOUTUBE

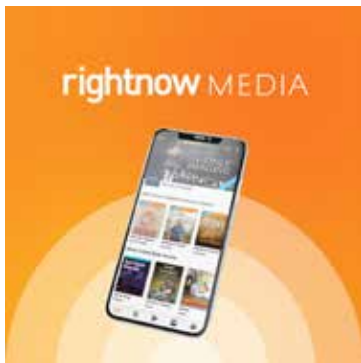
Don't forget to keep checking the [Philadelphia Church Children's Ministry YouTube Channel](#). New content is added weekly, including Gospel Project lessons, PUMC kid videos, and Shawn the Sheep shorts.



## YOUTH HAND CHIMES

### Wednesdays, 5-6pm, Sanctuary

PUMC has expanded our music ministry and youth ministry via a Youth Tone Chimes Choir! This choir consists of children & youth 4th grade and up! We work on rhythm, learning to read music and most of all - having fun! We will learn some pieces quickly so the kids can minister to others by performing in church. Please reach out to me if you have any interest. We will always welcome new members! Molli Moon: [mmoon06@gmail.com](mailto:mmoon06@gmail.com)



## RIGHTNOW MEDIA

PUMC continues its partnership with RightNow Media to bring you free access to their amazing catalogue of Christian content. It's Christian Netflix with bible studies, films, speakers, documentaries, and content for kids.

Two ways to start your free account:

1. Use this link and it will direct you to the Register Page of our church's account.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/PhiladelphiaUMC>

2. Or you can also contact [nicolas@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:nicolas@pumcfortmill.org)



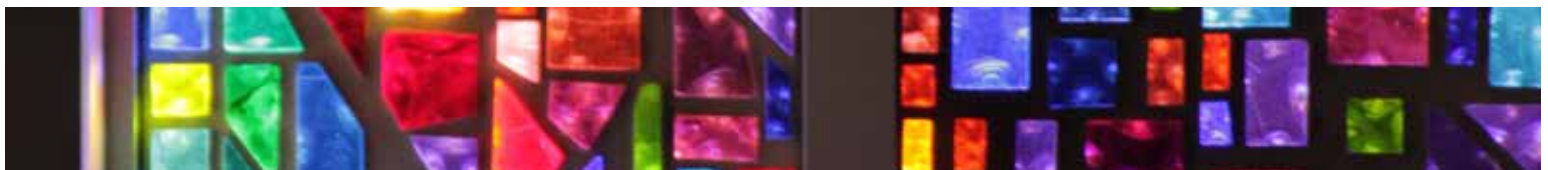
## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Rocky Railway VBS is coming to Philadelphia Church August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-11:45am. We will be following both CDC and UMC up-to-date guidance to ensure the health and safety of all participants and volunteers. Register today to participate and volunteer: [vbspro.events/p/b4aed5](https://vbspro.events/p/b4aed5)

## PUMC LIFE GROUPS



*Growin In Love: The Ladies Bible Study takes advantage of the wonderful spring weather. They meet every Friday at 10am and are doing a "Guided" study of the Book of Proverbs. Contact Linda Jacoby [barklin@aol.com](mailto:barklin@aol.com) or just bring a chair and join us one Friday!*





# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thank you to all those who have brought in bottle caps to help build benches for Miracle Park! Please bring all tops by May 15th! Miracle Park is being built on Cherry Road, near Winthrop University. The park, when completely built out, will include two Miracle fields, two multi-purpose fields, a special needs playground, and a café that will employ people with disabilities. Benches for the park are going to be made from recycled bottle caps and lids (those with # 2, 4 or 5). It takes 400 pounds of recycled plastic for one bench! Find out more on Miracle Park on Fb or [miracleparkrockhill.com](http://miracleparkrockhill.com).



*Serving In Love: The UMW lovingly created Easter baskets for each member of a local family. They also collected essential household products to make life a little easier.*

# UNITED METHODIST MEN

## Gun Safety

Gun Safety is a popular UMM family event. PUMC member Marshall Burns, is a SC State Trooper and a Firearms Instructor for the South Carolina Highway Patrol. He was the instructor on Friday evening April 23<sup>rd</sup> at a nearby range. The purpose of this event is to bring new gun owners to a higher level of comfort and safety with their gun, introduce safe gun handling and shooting to youth, and provide a safety refresher to the recreational shooter.

Contact Bill: [billnoneray@yahoo.com](mailto:billnoneray@yahoo.com) to be added to our email.



*Marshall Burns instructs Bill and Elaine Stevenson on safe firearms handling. A major objective of the UMM Gun Safety sessions is to bring new gun owners to a higher level of comfort and safety. Father and daughter night: Jason Cahaly is proud of Cambell's accuracy at the gun range.*



## Men in the Mirror

### A time of spiritual renewal for men

**Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30 AM, Columbarium**

### Gone But Not Forgotten

Men in the Mirror focuses on spiritual answers for concerns of Christian Men. This is not a class or lesson book series. It is a group of men providing spiritual growth and support. All are welcome. Bring your own chair and join us!

### Missions

Although we were unable to participate in the Strawberry Festival, we are happy to have the opportunity to raise funds for our mission work by selling BBQ at the Shred Event. We continue to help those homebound members who need a little help here and there with small projects such as some lawn work.



## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (SPRT)

Spring arrived! The flowers have bloomed, the trees have sprouted their leaves and the temperature is warm. All of these are signs of rebirth after a long, cold, wet winter and it's God's gift to all of us! It reminds us to get outside, enjoy his gifts and prepare ourselves, and our lives, for the changes that are happening and the wonderful – and new – gifts that are in store. As the SPRT continues to support our church, our congregation and our staff through the upcoming changes and gifts that God has in store for us, we wanted to provide a few updates for you.

We continue to search for our Contemporary Worship Leader as well as our Coordinator of Audio/Video Technology. These are very important roles in the life, and future, of our church. We are excited about who we are meeting and the progress we are making. If you would please share these opportunities on your own social media, through word of mouth, etc., we would appreciate it. You can find these roles posted on the PUMC Facebook and Instagram as well as Indeed and at [pumcfortmill.org](http://pumcfortmill.org).

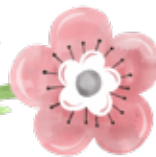
As we prepare for Pastor Becky and Richard to transition to their new Church Home, we do not want to miss the opportunity to show our love, regard, appreciation and even sadness for their pending departure! Join us for a Drop-In on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm, in our Fellowship Hall. We will continue to practice social distancing, wear masks, etc. and will do our best to form an environment where we can fellowship and spend time with Pastor Becky and Richard in a relaxed setting. We ask that those whose last names begin with "A - K" come between 2:00 and 3:00 and "L - Z" come between 3:00 and 4:00. If possible, we'd appreciate you signing up so we can ensure proper amounts of refreshments. Details of this sign-up process are available through the bulletin, PUMC social media, website and during our worship services. The deadline for sign up will be May 31st. A Love Box for notes, cards, or small monetary gifts that you'd like to leave for Pastor Becky and Richard, is located in the Narthex each Sunday until June 6th. There will also be a Memory Book that we'd love you to sign.

In June's edition of this newsletter, the SPRT will share more information regarding Pastor David & Toni's arrival, as well as upcoming function(s) to welcome them to PUMC! This will be a great opportunity for you to meet them both and fellowship together.

Lastly, thank you for your patience, understanding and continued prayers through this very busy time in the life of our church. We appreciate all of you who have taken the time to reach out with your thoughts, concerns, positivity, and prayers! Please continue to do so as the SPRT always welcomes your call, email, text, etc. Contact Jennifer Jay: [jenejay5@gmail.com](mailto:jenejay5@gmail.com).



## HAPPY EASTER FROM PUMC



### Mailing Address

2764 Pleasant Road  
Suite A, PMB 11804  
Fort Mill, SC 29708

1691 Hwy. 160 West  
Fort Mill, SC 29708

### Contact

803-548-0102  
Office Hrs: Mon - Thurs  
9am - 12:30pm  
[info@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:info@pumcfortmill.org)  
[www.pumcfortmill.org](http://www.pumcfortmill.org)

### Staff

Senior Pastor - Rev. Becky Shirley  
Director of Worship Art - Jim Lowder  
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Nic Gold  
Director of Youth Ministries - Maggie Justus  
Office Manager - Denise Watson  
Financial Secretary - Stefanie Hill