



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

YOU HAVE TO TOUCH FIRST BASE



Dear Church Family,

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30. (The Message)

How would you answer the following questions today? “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?” If your answer is “yes” then come along beside me as we learn how to “reset our soul.”

Soul Reset, by Reverend Junius Dotson reminds us to keep the most important thing...the most important thing. Growing up in Hartsville, South Carolina, one of the very first words they teach a boy is “ball.” Yes, Baseball, Basketball, and Football were a part of your life in this rural town and there were

leagues at every age level for everyone to be involved. Baseball was the sport I chose to participate in.

I started at a very young age, I enjoyed playing and encouraging my teammates. One of the most important lessons we learned in baseball was how to run the bases. If you got a hit, run as hard as you could to first base and make sure that you touch the bag. If you miss the first base bag, then nothing else really matters. If you hit a home run and forget to touch first base, it’s not a home run. If you hit the ball and it gets into the outfield and you run to second, without touching first base, it doesn’t matter.

Why is this important? The first thing, we must remember as a Christian, is to touch first base. Our first base is staying close to Jesus. Wake up with him, walk with him through your day, serve with him, eat with him, love your family and friends with him and rest in him.

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WORSHIP COMMITTEE

New Sunday Schedule

Renew Worship - 9:00am

All Sunday school classes - 10:00am

Traditional Worship - 11:00am

New Worship Time - Beginning February 6th

After evaluating input over the last 4 months on the Renew Worship Service, Church Council decided to move the service time from 8:30am to 9:00am. Our goal to continue to promote and grow family and worship activity between services, ie Sunday school and allow blended congregation time. Nursery is still provided from 9am-12pm and children are always welcome at both worship services. Coffee will continue to be available in the Coffee Connections Room. We hope you will take time to grab a cup,

fellowship with one another and look at our various missions and ministries taking place. There are adult, youth and children Sunday school classes from 1-11am. Please stop by the welcome center to learn more or contact Nicolas Gold, nicolas@pumcfortmill.org.

Lenten Season

Lent is a season to prepare for the death and resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ. We begin on March 1st at 5:30pm with a Shrove Pancake Dinner, followed by an Ash Wednesday Service, March 2nd at 6:30pm where the ashes from the previous year’s Palm Sunday palms are rubbed in the sign of a cross on congregants’ foreheads. Genesis 3:19: “...For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

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Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

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Think about your first experience with Jesus. Did you feel him tugging on your heart to serve him, grow with him, and worship him? Do you feel the same today? If so, how did you sustain that feeling? If not, what do you need to hear from God?

As we begin 2022 together there are many opportunities for us to grow, serve and worship in love. In order to do so, we must be spiritually healthy. We cannot do the work God Calls Us to do on our own. F.R.O.G. Yes, we must F.R.O.G. Fully-Rely-On-God to do this work and to remain spiritually healthy.

I want to encourage you to read Matthew 11:28-30 again.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30. (The Message)

Take time to reflect on how your heart and soul responds to these words from Jesus.

See you in the pews. Meet you at the altar.



LAY LEADER MOMENT

by Tom Goebel

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve PUMC as your Lay Leader. As such, I am privileged to represent the congregation in our various committees and church council and will encourage all our laity to become more involved in the many ministries in which our church participates. To better equip you in our ministries, I will inform you about training opportunities offered by our church, our district, and our conference. I encourage you to reach out to me with what’s on your mind – I will listen and do all I can to act on your behalf. Recently the church leadership team participated in an outstanding weekend retreat of prayer and discussing norms, values, missions, visions, spiritual growth, and goals, and I am excited about where God is leading us.

I look forward to getting to know you better, and please do not hesitate to contact me at 803.242.2363 if I may be of service. And remember PUMC . . . as we Grow, Worship and Serve God the best is yet to come!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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Scout Sunday - February 13th, 11:00am

Much like the rest of the world, the Troop and Pack have seen a year of adversity, but as Scout movement founder Lord Baden Powell once said. “A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances.”

The troop has been busy since last Scout Sunday. Hiking hundreds of miles, climbing thousands of feet in elevation to see spectacular sights, from Mount Mitchel, NC to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM.

Our Cub Scout Pack has continued its long tradition of keeping the scouting program fresh and fun. Recruiting 40 new scouts and 5 new adult leaders. They may be small, but our cub scouts help our community in numerous ways. Last year both groups collected 4,006 lbs. of food for Lakeshore food pantry while participating in Scouting for Food. Our Scouts and adult leaders lent a hand to various organization with 800+ hours of service (577 of that for Eagle Projects).

Our scouts continue to strive to make their church and community proud and thank Philadelphia United Methodist church for their continued support.

Chris Voigt
Scoutmaster
Scouts BSA Troop 832



Troop 832 has been a presence at PUMC since 2002 and it's our pleasure to hear from them during our worship time. The troop is a great service to us and the community.



2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

Council currently meets on the third Sunday each month at 3:00pm. If you would like to attend the meeting or share information on an item of interest, email Council Chair, Terry Dolch. Please hold these volunteers in prayer as they give of their time and talents for our church.



Terry Dolch, Council Chair
council-chair@pumcfortmill.org
terrydolch@yahoo.com



Tom Goebel, Lay Leader
goebeltom77@gmail.com



Donna Schaefer, Recording Secretary
nordon50@aol.com



Tom Edwards, Trustees Chair
edwardstf@yahoo.com



Martha Rachels, Treasurer
pmrachels@comporium.net



Molli Moon, SPRC Chair
mmoon06@gmail.com



Danielle Holmes, Nurture
holmdani@yahoo.com



Dawn Matchinske, Worship Chair
dmatchinske@gmail.com



Doug Chapman, Historian
dougchapman@comporium.net



Dawn Edwards, Missions Chair
lendyloo@gmail.com



Jan Manring, Evangelism Chair
jmanring.jm@gmail.com



Lance Holmes, UMM President
holmlan12@gmail.com



Marie Thompson, UMW President
marie@thethompson.net



Serving In Love: Church leadership met in January for a planning retreat to evaluate data from the listening sessions and discern goals to help advance the mission and ministry of Philadelphia UMC.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Historic Paradise Community

PUMC assisted three families during the month of January. One family was tripping over unglued linoleum, creating a safety hazard for an elderly resident. Our team installed new vinyl plank flooring and a bright new kitchen blind. The resident can now safely walk across the floor not fearing a fall.



During our January weekend event, two sets of railings were constructed for elderly homeowners. These families required extra support for safety as they climbed up and down their stairs leading in and out of the house.

Wonderful fellowship was felt by all. The photographs tell the rest of the story. Join us the second Saturday of each month. In February, we plan to paint three safety railings, re-hang a screen door, replace brick molding around a door, paint a kitchen ceiling and remove electric heaters. Women and youth are welcome. A willing heart to serve in love is all required. Register in the coffee connection room, on the following sign up genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DAFA92BA0F58-serving> or contact Dawn Edwards 802-355-4224 or lendyloo@gmail.com.

Words shared by the Historic Paradise president, "not only are we doing God's work, but changing lives, futures and giving hope as we build relationships reducing the trust deficit."

Room In The Inn

We have four more Thursdays to host men who are experiencing homelessness. In our Fellowship Hall, we provide clean, warm beds, shower access, fellowship, hot dinner, breakfast, and bagged lunches. There are many different volunteer opportunities from



washing sheets and towels, to cooking and just coming to eat dinner and engage in conversation with our

guests. We especially need men to stay overnight with the guests and drive. [Click Here](#) to volunteer in this rewarding ministry.

If you would like to know the requirements for a position you are considering, or to be added to our email list, please contact Glenda Warren glendaw@comporium.net.



Serving In Love: Volunteers set up warm beds for overnight guests of Room In The Inn.



Left: Check out the smile on Rosie's face as she holds onto these new railings.

Right: New flooring also provides safety for residents.

Just 3 hours on a Saturday morning can make a world of difference to someone right here in your community.



PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)



January kicked off a new year and several new studies for the youth of Philadelphia! During Sunday school, we have been learning about Deborah, a warrior woman from the Bible. Through Deborah we have been learning about leadership and faith and are excited to complete the study early in February. Mr. Phil is going to begin leading our Sunday mornings on February 6th, so come say "hello"!

Some of us hit the road for Columbia and enjoyed a day of worship with 800 other SC youth. Pastor Sam lead us in exploration of John 15 and how we can abide in Jesus through Connection, Completion and Conviction.

Most people start a new year with new goals and we have too! During PYG we have been looking in to "Goals" with a study from Grow Curriculum. Whether they are short-term or long-term goals we are learning about how to use our resources and spiritual gifts to reach those God sized goals! Welcome Erik Gommer as he is going to be helping lead our middle school on Sunday evenings.

If a goal of yours is to grow in your faith, ask tough questions in a safe environment or just find a group who accepts you for you, now is the time to check out the Philly Youth Group. A goal of Pastor David's is to re-form the Youth Council with students and adults to help guide PYG mission and activity. If you are interested in Youth Council or being involved with youth, email youth@pumcfortmill.org for more information.



UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

Mark Your Calendars! The UMM Retreat at Asbury Hills Center has been set for **September 9th-12th**.

It will be similar in format to the 2021 retreat with speakers, group discussions, music and worship. Asbury Hills is a great facility near Caesar's Head, the highest peak in South Carolina.

"This was a wonderful men's fellowship for a holy purpose" ~Jim Price

"I felt God's spirit with us from the moment we arrived and throughout the entire weekend. All the topic sessions were very moving."

~Will Cotton

"Asbury Hills is an awesome place to commune with God." ~Bill Hildebrand

Upcoming Events

- March 8th Men's Fellowship Dinner
- March 19th Men in the Mirror
- Mar. or Apr. UMM Car Show & Brunswick Stew
- April 8th Topgolf
- April 16th Men in the Mirror
- April 23rd Shred-It Day BBQ
- May 6-7th Strawberry Festival
- May 17th Knights Baseball – vs Norfolk
- May 19th Men in the Mirror



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

At various services throughout the year we welcome new members to our congregation. We apologize for the delay in formally introducing these families and individuals as some of them joined right as Covid turned the world upside down. Many of these faces and names are already be familiar as they have attended services, participated in church events, and are engaged in the life and ministries of our church. When you see our new family members, be sure to give them a hearty PUMC hello!



Audrey Laney



Blair & Karla Preston



Amanda Gyemant



Kathryn Hose



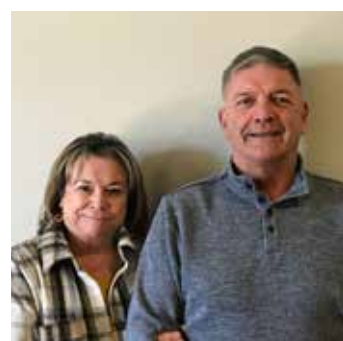
Sally Pardue



Jack & Nita Merritt



Linda LaRocque



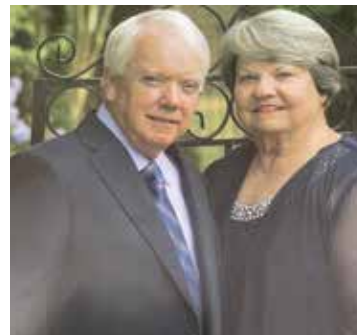
Ron & Susan Murphy



Gene & Clara Baker



Gary Brocious



Bobby & Beverly Burgess



Growing in Love

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

RightNow Media Spotlight

Walking With God In a Pandemic, by Patrick Morley

Have you had times in your life when you've prayed so earnestly for God to intervene and it seemed like he left you to handle it on your own? As we are surrounded by all that COVID-19 brings—illness, death, economic hardship and uncertainty—where is God? Why would he let this happen? Why won't He—or why can't He—just heal us right now? What is He waiting for?

Here's the promise: Jesus is here in the perfect time with the perfect solution. He loves us deeply. He grieves when we grieve and rejoices when we rejoice. No other God is like our God.

Walking With God In a Pandemic is a personal six-session, 15-minute bible study that you can watch in your home, at work, or wherever you are.

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Senior Friends

Join us for a Valentine's Day lunch February 8th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The UMW are preparing a delicious meal and we'll play the "Not So Newlywed Game". All those 55+ are invited!

Single Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet Saturday, February 19th 11:30 am, at Town Tavern (2000 Hwy. 160W, Fort Mill) Come meet fellow sisters in Christ! Contact Donna Schaefer at nordon50@aol.com to join us.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

All Call to Prayer and Self-Denial February 20th, 2-3:30pm, Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join us for worship with other women in Fort Mill and Rock Hill. We will come together around the theme "Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call." This year's offering will support the vital and vibrant ministry of deaconesses and home missionaries, consecrated laity who have dedicated the entirety of their lives to vocations including social work, health care, immigration reform, anti-poverty initiatives, antiracism efforts, firefighting, legal justice. Refreshments will be served.

House of Hope

Help support the House of Hope crisis shelter in Rock Hill. Donations of pale twin sheet sets, detergent, paper towels, toilet paper & feminine hygiene items may be left in Coffee Connections Room through February.

Shrove Tuesday March 1st, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Learn about this Christian tradition and share a meal with one another. All are welcome as we begin serving at 5:30 our program is at 6 and pancake flipping is 6:15.



Serving In Love: Members of the Ruth Adkins Circle assembled toiletry bags to be given to our homeless guests that will spend the night at PUMC throughout February and March.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism is not limited to those on the committee. We all believe Philadelphia to be a friendly and welcoming church, but it takes all of us! Go ahead, invite a friend to worship either in person or via live stream. Our doors are open on Sunday morning and all are welcome!!

If you see someone at church you don't know, introduce yourself, ask if they have questions, introduce them to other church members. We have moved the Welcome Center towards the front door to make visitor information more visible.

Greeter training is **February 27th at 12:00pm** and we need more volunteers to be sure we have folks at all doors and the Welcome Center each service.

Mark your calendar - **Saturday, April 23rd**: One Blood 9am -1pm and the Shred-It truck 11am-1pm. UMW will have a bake sale and UMM will offer BBQ lunches. Spread the word! Contact Jan Manring: jmanring.jm@gmail.com.

The Philadelphia United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, is made up of a group of women whose purpose is "to know God...develop a creative supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church". The goal of the UMW is Missions: to serve women, children and youth. Where a need for help is warranted, many hands make light work.

PUMC offers three circles: Friends in Christ, JR Jones and Ruth Adkins. These circles meet at different times to give everyone a chance for fellowship and service. But, you do not need to join a circle to participate in the activities of the UMW. You just need a desire to want to make a difference in the lives of others.

When there are UMW events, for example: Fall Festival bake sale, we reach out to those who are not circle members to contribute their gifts and talents. The money raised and donated from these events are distributed in the community, and this past year donations were made through UMCOR to aid the tornado victims and those from the hurricane in the Philippines. When a donation is made to UMCOR 100% of the donation goes to the victims.

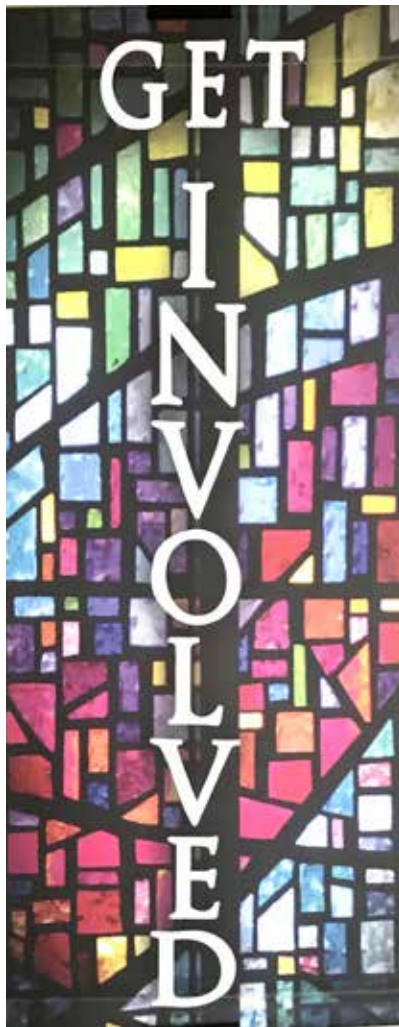
If you feel the call to do something, consider the UMW. It gives you a chance to be a part of something greater than yourself, the chance to love your neighbor in the spirit of Christian love, be a blessing to someone else and grow in Christian faith with fellow women. Contact: Marie Thompson, President UMW, marie@thethompson.net.



Serving In Love: Reaching beyond our walls, 17 people from both the community and PUMC successfully donated blood in January. This means as many as 51 patients will receive life saving blood!



FEBRUARY - MONTH AT A GLANCE



| Date | Event | Time |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Fri, February 4, 18, 25 | Ladies' Bible Study | 9:45 - 11:00am |
| Sun, February 6 | Children's Clang Buckets | 11:00am |
| Sun, February 6 | Philly Youth Group (PYG) | 5:00 - 6:30pm |
| Tue, February 8 | Senior Friends Valentine's Lunch | 11:30am |
| Thur, February 10 | Room In The Inn (Roof Above) | 5:00pm |
| Sat, February 12 | Saturday of Service in Paradise | 9:00am - 12:00pm |
| Sat, February 19 | Single Ladies Lunch (Town Tavern) | 11:30am |
| Sun, February 20 | A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial | 2:00 - 3:30pm |
| Sun, February 20 | Church Council | 3:00pm |
| Tue, February 22 | JR Jones Circle | 6:30pm |
| Tue, February 22 | Ruth Adkins Circle (location TBD) | 6:30pm |
| Thur, February 24 | Room In The Inn (Roof Above) | 5:00pm |
| Sun, February 27 | Philly Youth Group (PYG) | 5:00 - 6:30pm |
| Tue, March 1 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner | 5:30 - 6:30pm |
| Wed, March 2 | Ash Wednesday Service | 6:30pm |
| Every Wednesday | Youth Handchimes | 4:30 - 5:15pm |
| Every Wednesday | CORE - praise band | 5:00pm |
| Every Wednesday | Handbells | 6:00pm |
| Every Wednesday | Chancel Choir | 7:00pm |

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Despite the challenges presented over the last two years, the congregation at Philadelphia Unit-ed Methodist Church continues to advance the United Methodist Mission to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ. Our missions, evangelism and nurture ministries remain strong and supported by dedicated volunteers. This includes....

.....nurturing the congregation through Shut-in, Hospital and Rehab Visitations, Caring Cards, Prayer Shawl, Lay Eucherist, Senior Friends and Caregiver ministries

....engaging the community through Fall Festival, Blood Drives, the Shred-It event and Vacation Bible School

....missional service through Historic Paradise work days, Room In the Inn, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and financial and food support for Fort Mill Care Center, Epworth Children's Home and UMCOR

.....supporting 100% of our apportionments to the South Carolina United Methodist Conference to support conference

administration, scholarships and world missions


PUMC celebrates and thanks you for your generous gifts in 2021 of \$561,000 to the General and Building Fund, which supports the missions, outreach ministries, facilities and staff of PUMC. In addition, missions and ministries received over \$34,000 in designated support.

However, PUMC has not been immune to the national trends in both church attendance and giving. Our cash position declined to \$89,000 despite carefully reducing annual expenses by \$100,000 during 2020 and 2021. The Church Council approved budget for 2022 of \$756,710. This equates to \$14,552 needed weekly in giving to be able to fund all the ministries in which our church would like to participate.

Thank you for all that each of you do for our church with gifts of not only your money, but your time and talents. We look forward to continuing to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ!

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
www.pumcfortmill.org

Staff

Senior Pastor - Rev. David Taylor
Contemporary Worship Leader - Mark Gannon
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Nic Gold
Office Manager - Denise Watson
Financial Associate - Colleen Demmy