



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

THE FIRST LOVE OF GOD



Henri Nouwen, the Roman Catholic priest, professor, and writer, summed up the Gospel as, “You are the beloved of God!” Nouwen, struggled with feelings of inadequacy and often felt unsure that he was really loved. He found peace in the message that you and I are the beloved of God. The scripture, I John 4:19, “We love because he first loved us.” affirms this message. This is important because it means that God’s love isn’t responsive; God’s love acts first. God’s love is not reactionary, but primary. In fact, human love is reactionary to the gift of love from the God who is love.

What this does, is to remind us that God’s love is not a response to who we are or what we’ve done. It’s not because God finds some qualities in us that attracts him. This is difficult to understand because human love is usually reactionary. Even though it is not always explainable, human love responds to people. When we say we “fall in love” what we mean is that we cannot explain how or why, but we find ourselves loving someone. We meet them, get to know them, we find they complete us in some way. Love may surprise us, and it’s a reactionary response to a particular kind of encounter.

God’s love is different. We love because He first loved us. God’s love was the impetus for creation. God loved us before he created us.

continued on page 2

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

Thank you, Pastor David and congregation, for allowing us to share our talents and love of Jesus with you during the Youth Service on May 22nd. We pray that through us, you can see how God could use you in service to His people. We may be small, but mighty are our efforts. Thanks be to God!



continued on page 2



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

continued from page 1

Only God can love us beyond and before an encounter. This makes God's love secure, because it is not based on who we are but based on who he is. God's first love means that God's love for us is established and secured in God's own character. He does not love us as a response, but as a choice. God chooses to love us, that is to say, God chooses to love us because God chooses to love—not because we are worthy of love. God's love is unconditional.

So perhaps the most famous verse in the bible, John 3:16, is often only half-understood. Most focus on the "...gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." But what precedes it quite amazing too, for it shows us the motivation of God, "For God so loved the world, that he gave." In other words, it was not the world itself that precipitated God's movement towards us. It was not pity or our helplessness that moved God to act. It was God who moved God to act. God so loved the world that he gave. God's love motivated him to be the God of love.

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

continued from page 1

The youth enjoyed making cookie dough again for Defend the Fatherless. These cookies will be the first smell foster children encounter in their new homes. God's love through fresh baked cookies! We also bagged donations from the congregation to make grab & go breakfasts for the men who seek a night's rest at the Bethel Men's Shelter in Rock Hill.

We'll take a break from weekly meetings this summer but keep checking your emails and Remind for scheduled activities. Email youth@pumcfortmill.org for more information and let us know if you have a rising 6th grader!



You and I are the beloved of God. Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking God's love is like the love we experience in human relationships. But human love is a derivative of God's love. It is lesser. We love because he first loved us. Because human love is often conditional, we think that God's love for us goes up or down depending on our behavior. But actually, God's love is not based on who we are or what we do. God freely gives us his love because God is love. God's love is not a response; it is the primary life-giving movement of God.

So today, wherever you happen to find yourself be confident in this: Your sin can't separate you from the love of God. Your brokenness and imperfection can't separate you from the love of God. In fact, Paul himself says, "Nothing can separate you from the love of God." So, let us draw near to the One who has come to us first. Let us rest in knowing that we are loved not for who we are, but because God has chosen to love us! You—are the beloved of God!

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

LIFE GROUPS

Senior Friends - June 14th, 9:15am

Those 65+ are invited to join us as we travel to Landsford Canal to view the Spider Lillies. Each member is asked to bring their own picnic lunch. Meet at the church parking lot near the basketball court at 9:15am to carpool. Entry fee to the park for Seniors is \$3.75. Contact Caroline, cdhelms1@yahoo.com with questions.

Single Ladies Lunch Bunch - June 18th, 11:30am

Meet at Salmeri's Italian Kitchen, 526-104 Mercantile Place (across from Captain Steve's). If you are a single lady and would like to gather with friends for fellowship and good food, please join us. Contact Donna Schaefer at nordon50@aol.com if you have any questions.



Growing In Love: Senior Friends met at the home of Caroline Helms on May 10th for a picnic. Beth Ann from RENEW Montessori Center for Aging and Memory in Fort Mill presented information about their services for adults with early-onset cognitive delays.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Bethel Men's Night Shelter

The May 23rd Bethel Men's Shelter meal was a great success. The men enjoyed the fellowship and sloppy joe dinner with fixings. All said the food was delicious and they were definitely full!! Thanks to everyone who supported the event by serving dinner, preparing food, providing food items and other donated items (bookbags, socks, personal hygiene items). The youth also bagged donated items for breakfast bags given to each man. Emily Sutton, Bethel's pastor, provided a tour of the shelter prior to us serving the meal. There are a lot of



needs at the shelter and the mission team will be bringing forth additional opportunities later this summer. Please visit the Coffee Connections Room to provide your email so you can be included in the Signup Genius for future events or reach out to Eugenia Taylor at taylorj@comporium.net.



Children's Attention Home

On April 29th and May 24th, the PUMC purchased an evening meal for 30 youth at the Children's Attention Home. The Children's Attention Home is a residential facility in Rock Hill providing temporary shelter, compassionate support and individualized care for youth who have been referred to them. It was established in 1970 by the Rock Hill Ministerial Association. The home has been searching for a full-time kitchen manager and so providing hot ready to serve food is an immediate need. For more information on the organization visit their web site at attentionhome.org.



MUSIC MINISTRIES



The Memorial Day Service and all the support I received touched my heart and showed me what an amazing team God has blessed me with at Philadelphia. We can do amazing things when we all work together! I found the anthem in the file cabinet when I just started and was discovering the wealth of music and anthems at my disposal. I am a creative, 'idea' person and I like to come up with special things for holidays, so I started envisioning what that anthem on Memorial Sunday could be. My own imagination could not grasp what God would turn it into. Denise hooked me up with the cream of the crop horn players from Winthrop. What an honor to work with this very talented group of musicians: Keenan Harmon, Keelen Lovvorn, Alexander Dudek, Ruth Rowell and Sarita Maxwell. I asked my friend Matthew Bratton to add percussion taking it to the next level. My dear friends, Richard Avery and Tom Watkins drove down from Charlotte to join us. Dawn Matchlnske made a gorgeous alter and arranged the stage beautifully. Jim Price was an amazing emcee and said just the right words to usher in the anthem. Denise played the piece expertly, of course, and it was such a moving tribute to our service members. I got chills when I heard the applause ringing out for the men and women who served. The women of the choir joined us for our beautiful "Blessed is the Nation" anthem to bring everything to its focal point which is the fact that our Nation needs the love of God, healing and restoration through his word and his people who seek after Him. I'm so thankful for a talented choir that can communicate His word to the people of the congregation. To me, this past Sunday was the perfect example of the Body of Christ at work in His Church. I look forward to many more magical moments as the Holy Spirit guides us all in service. Blessings ~ Diane Carrouth, Director of Music Ministries



UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

If you're looking for fellowship, service opportunities and Christian support, we hope that you'll come to an event and meet other brothers in Christ.

Fellowship Dinner, Tuesday, June 14th, 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall We will have a wonderful meal together. The program is a preview of the upcoming Retreat at Asbury Hills (September 9-11th).

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

After a two year hiatus, the Town of Fort Mill resumed the SC Strawberry Festival in full capacity. Held at the 12-acre Walter Elisha Park near the center of town, there were bands and other entertainment on a newly constructed stage, carnival rides, sales vendors, and food vendors including PUMC Men who have participated since 1986.

We had to setup at 5:30am on Saturday morning due to the Friday weather delay. But, we were ready to "rock and roll," by 10:00 when the festival gates opened. There were about three dozen PUMC volunteers in all. Although the Men's Group had the leadership of this event, a good many of the volunteers were wives and youth, so this was truly an all-PUMC event.

The sales for that one day exceeded any 2-day total of the past. Why was this such a success? Many factors contributed. We expanded our menu beyond a pork chop sandwich and corn on the cob. We added a fish sandwich, deep-fried pork rinds and a Krispy Kreme strawberry dessert. Many PUMC volunteers helped promote our presence through social media and we had new signage that told the PUMC story of financial outreach and personal service to this community.

Indeed, that is our mission, to reach out to our community to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort by prayers, physical labor, word or mouth or purchasing food. We pray that our love was felt throughout the community and that the monies raised will be blessed to His work.

Men in the Mirror, Saturday June 18th, 7:30am Fellowship Hall

Topic: *Love Like You Mean It!* This is not a class, but a topic discussion each meeting where men provide spiritual growth and support to one another. Coffee and breakfast biscuits are provided. Contact Jim Price: theprices@comporium.net.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Assembly 2022

Nearly 3,000 women gathered virtually and in person for Assembly 2022. Marie Thompson represented PUMC and the RH District at the assembly. The theme was "Turn It UP". Our new name, United Women in Faith, was presented to encourage turning up our faith to be inclusive. Some asked, why change the name from UMW to United Women In Faith? Why not? Women of faith need to come together to express the love of Christ regardless of which church they attend or religion they practice. Faith is born out of action not denomination. Christ had no church home. He was the church and all it stands for.

The Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow brought a keynote message on the rampant racial discrimination and injustice toward Asian American women and girls. Yet she knows the power and love of Christ is the same power working to create a world where all live with dignity as beloved children of God. "I challenge you to go deeper in your care and love for your neighbors. Show care in a way that is inconvenient for you." As a group at PUMC, we strive to go deeper in our care and pray you will join us.



Worshipping In Love: Marie Thompson joined other women from the Rock Hill District to attend Assembly 2022 in Orlando.



Growing In Love: About 70 women, children and youth gathered for an evening of fun and laughter at the Girls Got Game Night. Each table had a different theme and games like Bible Trivia, Name That Tune, Let's Make a Deal, and The Price is Right created some friendly competition. The JR Jones circle sponsor this annual event in May in celebration and honor of women everywhere.

continued on page 7

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Contact Nic Gold about all ministries nicolas@pumcfortmill.org

MONUMENTAL VBS 2022 Set for June 20th thru 23rd - 9:30-11:45am. Register Now!



Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form

a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Day 1 – God loves you no matter what (Psalm 89:2).

Day 2 – God is with you everywhere (Joshua 1:9).

Day 3 – God is in charge (Psalms 147:5).

Day 4 – God is stronger than anything (Romans 8:38).



To register scan the QR code or

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/f45be0>

Volunteers Still Needed! VBS Training Dates

- **Sunday, June 12th at 12:00pm**
- **Saturday, June 18th at 9:00am**

Volunteers for VBS are still needed. Please attend one of these two training sessions. You will receive an overview of this year's VBS, learn your station or crew designation, pick up your guide, learn VBS and Safe Sanctuary policies, and purchase your blue volunteer shirt (\$5) if you do not have one from a previous year. A pizza & salad lunch will be served on Sunday and a continental breakfast on Saturday. Let Nic Gold know which of the two training sessions you will attend.

Donate Items for VBS

Decorations:

- Medium to large boxes (like those from Amazon).
- New or leftover spray paint in blues, pinks, purples, yellow, red, orange, green, purple.
- Staplers and staples.

Volunteer Snacks:

Cases of Water, Assorted Gatorade, Cookies, Crackers, Muffins,

Candy Bars, Granola Bars, Chips, Fruit Snacks, and Blue Cheese.

Clang Bucketeers Wanted

Clang Bucket Sunday is held every first Sunday at the beginning of the 11:00am service. Contact Nic if your child or grandchild would like to pass the Clang Buckets for Children's Missions on the first Sunday of a month in 2022.

Vacation With Shawn

Going to the beach this summer? The mountains? Carowinds, Disney or Universal? Wherever you're headed to for rest, fest, and fun ... you can take Shawn the Sheep with you. Shawn is taking time off for Summer 2022 and wants to take it with YOU! Contact Mr.



Nic to take Shawn on your trip, take a picture of you and Shawn, and then submit a pic and a favorite bible verse when you return.

*Growing In Love (right):
By voting for her favorite of five 3-minute Shawn the Sheep Bible Lesson videos, Amelia Moon was randomly chosen to host Shawn for a sleepover weekend and receive a \$25 TCBY gift card. Congratulations!*



*Worshipping In Love (left):
During Sunday School, the children learned how to be disciples like Jesus. We looked at different pictures & portrayals of Jesus. Someone peeked his head into the room at just the right time.*

*Growing In Love (right):
Mr. Nic has declared a Thumb War. Rehearsals for the Opening & Closing Sessions of Monumental VBS have begun. Mr. Phil says, "All hands on deck!"*



VBS DECORATING DAYS

JUNE 11th & 12th

JUNE 18th & 19th

Saturdays start at 10am and Sundays at 1pm

We're going to transform the halls, sanctuary and classrooms in creating a magical atmosphere to share the love of Jesus with over 100 children. Contact Dawn Matchinske: dmatchinske@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

continued from page 5

Graduation Celebration

Congratulations to our graduates! Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share and stayed to break bread together. It was a fabulous turn out to show these grads and their families our love. Continue to pray for these young persons as they embark on new adventures and challenges.



Award Recipients

Kara Gommer (left) is the first PUMC recipient of the SC Conference Women In Faith Presidential Scholarship. There were just 3 winners in SC! Kara just finished her first year at Anderson University where she is working towards a BS in Nursing. She still enjoys singing and was a part of Baptist Campus Ministries at school.

Taylor Pittman (right), granddaughter of Donna Schaefer and a member of Troop 1513, earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. Taylor collected toys, games and \$355.00 in gift cards for the Children's Hospital. Congratulations to Taylor on achieving her goal and for letting Friends In Christ Circle sponsor her. Taylor appreciates the support of PUMC and all those who donated toys & gift cards.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism is excited to partner with Pastor David in a new hospitality opportunity he announced will start June 5th! Each Sunday, just after each service, visitors and interested persons will be invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary for a brief meet and greet to learn more about PUMC and/or Methodism. Evangelism will begin by asking already engaged Greeters to participate with Pastor David, and with so many knowledgeable and friendly PUMC members, we are hoping others will volunteer in this new opportunity to grow our hospitality ministry. If you are willing to participate for 15-20 minutes any given Sunday, contact Jan Manring: jmanring.jm@gmail.com or text 614-975-4859.

July 4th Parking Lot Fundraiser, 8:30am-10am We are looking for volunteers to collect money and help direct traffic/parking. PUMC will offer on-site parking for visitors for \$5 per vehicle during the Baxter parade. We will also use this as a way to share information about the church. 10% of the funds collected will go to the building debt, and the remainder will be used for PUMC branded items to give visitors at community events.

Big Red Bus Blood Drive -August 21st Register to donate: https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1169700. Let's fill all those spots and help save lives!

LAY LEADER MOMENT

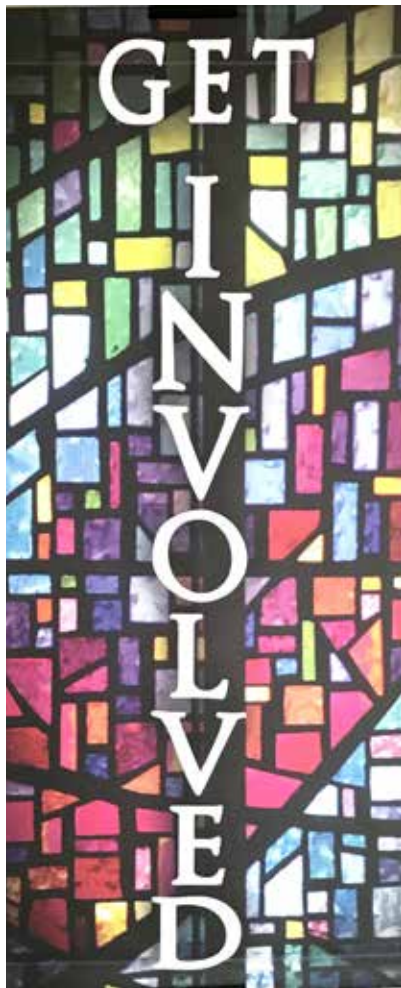
Summer is here - some welcome it while others prefer it didn't happen. For many it will be a more relaxed time with picnics, swimming, vacations, and other family adventures. But for others it may be a period of increased stress and worry. As we enter summertime, in all cases remember what God says to us, "I've got this!" God oversees every area of our life. We can take comfort in the promise given to us in Isaiah 41:13 - *For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."*

Don't you see? God's got this! All our problems and concerns, stress, and worries. Every area of our life. It's all in His hands. And all means ALL. Wouldn't our life be changed if we really believed that God's got it all?

Remember my friends, the Best is yet to come. See you soon.

Your Brother In Christ, Tom Goebel





JUNE - MONTH AT A GLANCE

Date	Event	Time
Fri, Jun 3	Men's Night @ Top Golf	6:15pm
Sat, Jun 4	VBS Workday	10:00am - 2:00pm
Sun, Jun 5	Children's Clang Buckets	11:00am
Fri, Jun 10	Friends In Christ - Towne Tavern	11:00am
Tue, Jun 14	Senior Friends @ Landsford Canal	9:15am
Tue, Jun 14	Men's Fellowship Dinner	6:30pm
Sat, Jun 11	VBS Decorating	10:00am
Sun, Jun 12	VBS Decorating	12:00pm
Sun, Jun 12	VBS Training	1:00pm
Sat, Jun 18	Men In the Mirror	7:30am
Sat, Jun 18	VBS Training	9:00am
Sat, Jun 18	VBS Decorating	10:00am
Sat, Jun 18	Single Ladies Lunch Bunch - Salmeri's	11:30am
Sun, Jun 19	VBS Decorating	1:00pm
Jun 20 - Jun 23	Monumental VBS	9:30am-11:45am
Sun, Jun 26	Church Council	1:30pm
Every Wednesday	CORE - praise band	5:00pm
Every Wednesday	Chancel Choir	7:00pm

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Epworth Children's Home was established in 1895 by the South Carolina Annual Conference. It is located on 32 acres in Columbia, SC and has over 70 staff members and 80 children. Children are here through both private and government placements and receive comprehensive services to meet their emotional, physical, educational, and spiritual needs. Many come from a fractured family life and have experienced abuse, neglect, or loss. For more information, see epworthchildrenshome.org. Epworth is not an apportioned ministry of the Conference, but United Methodist churches across the state support the church through special donations. At PUMC, we historically collect a Mother's Day love offering for Epworth Children's Home and this year we received \$2,172 that will be forwarded to support the children currently residing at the home. Thank you for your support of this important conference ministry. Contact our Financial Associate, Colleen Demmy, colleen@pumcfortmill.org if you have any questions about giving.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT

\$14,552 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$756,710

\$250,355 has been received as of 5/27/22 towards the General Budget and Building Funds. \$69,789 short of goal YTD.

\$983,709 Loan balance for Building and Parsonage



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Staff

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Director of Music Ministries - Diane Carrouth
Contemporary Worship Leader - Mark Gannon
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Nic Gold
Office Manager - Denise Watson
Financial Associate - Colleen Demmy