



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

EXPLORING “THE LAST THREE DAYS”



Dear Church Family,

The birth and resurrection of Jesus changed our world and continues to change our lives. It's a profound journey that we often discover through the most unlikely people, offering us a unique perspective on the resurrection of Christ.

I invite you to join Toni and I as we dig into the heart of Lent and explore “The Last Three Days”. During this study, we'll walk in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene, experiencing hope in her journey. Next, we'll follow Simon Peter, understanding how a new life in Christ can restore and give purpose. Thomas, in the middle of a crisis of faith, will teach us about the way the risen Lord seeks us.

The road to Emmaus will introduce us to a pair of disciples who, though hearing of Jesus' presence, lost their sense that God was still working. Experience the real presence of Christ alongside them.

Saul of Tarsus, once an opponent of Jesus, underwent a life-changing encounter, transforming not only his life but also his name. In our last session together, we'll explore the purpose of the Resurrection—how it fulfilled Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God and the power that makes the kingdom possible on earth as it is in heaven.

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MISSIONS: FEED MY SHEEP

Bethel Men's Night Shelter January 22nd was a night to remember as we planned to serve the largest number of men we've ever fed - 100 men! We started late afternoon at the church collecting donated food and drink items, packing jelly in individual containers, and cooking turkey sausage and biscuits. Loaded to the gills, our five vehicle caravan headed to Bethel to meet our other volunteers! Arriving there felt totally chaotic - unloading the vehicles, lots of volunteers and guests around - we had so much - where to put it all??? The chaos soon settled into efficiency as groups wiped down tables, set up the serving line, drink table, found a home for all the crockpots, filled breakfast bags, starting cooking gravy, more grits, biscuits, and eggs, then finally carrying items up to the Donation Center. The men were lined up down the sidewalk and across the parking lot - 103 of them in total!! Tables were packed and men ate on the floor, on suitcases and any other horizontal surface they could find! A great hot home cooked breakfast is something they no longer receive. They kept raving about how wonderful the food was and were wondering who prepared it all! Forty pounds of scrambled eggs, 7+ crockpots of grits, 50+ pounds of cooked apples, many quarts of gravy, a 14 pound country ham, 350+ pork and turkey sausage patties and around 300 biscuits - all devoured by the men. The night was such a blessing - the regulars now know us and are happy to see us as they know we really care, and they will get an awesome meal!



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Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

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Beginning on Wednesday, February 7th at 10:30 a.m., we'll lead an in-person study at the church. To reserve your spot, please call the Church Office (803)548-0102. For those unable to join us in person, we'll also lead the same study via ZOOM on Thursday evenings, starting February 8th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Scan the QR code to register for the Zoom session.



I hope and pray that you will join us, either in person or online, as we immerse ourselves in Scripture and discover how the Resurrection can shape our lives today. This journey promises to be both enlightening and transformative. Contact me with any questions, david@pumcfortmill.org.

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



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Lent Begins

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th and ends on Holy Saturday (day before Easter). The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always 'little Easters,' the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.



Ash Wednesday: Service of Worship February 14th - 6:30pm.

The Lenten season is a preparation for celebrating Easter as we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Worshippers are invited to participate in the Imposition of Ashes, (marking the forehead with the sign of the cross using ashes of palm leaves). This ancient practice can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. The ashes we use are from the burning of the palms we used on Palm Sunday of the previous year.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

In January, two couples pledged to serve God through membership at Philadelphia UMC. Please welcome our new family members and help them to learn more about our ministries!



Christian, Crandall and Geneva Grace Hansen

Married on June 26, 2021, Christian and Crandall live in the Bridgemill neighborhood in Indian Land. Precious Geneva Grace was baptized at PUMC on January 21st and just turned 9 months old!

The Hansens met on a blind date in 2019 where Crandall's best-friend played matchmaker. Christian grew up in Tennessee while Crandall is a "local girl" from just down the road in Lancaster.

They both work in Clinical Research. Crandall left her 12-year career in local news to work alongside Christian. Christian likes to play golf, while Crandall loves to curl up with a good book or bake some treats! They have a sweet 6-year old boxer, Zadie-May, who enjoys pet-friendly restaurants and golf cart rides around their neighborhood.



Larry and Linda Rager

Larry and Linda's relationship goes waaaay back. They were born in the same Illinois hospital a day and a half apart and were in the nursery together! Of course, Linda points out that Larry is older! It may have been love at first sight as they started dating in high school.

They have lived in Four Seasons at Gold Hill for fourteen years. Previously members of Pineville UMC, they felt it was time to find a church closer to home and are glad to be part of PUMC. Daughter Laura, son-in-law David and two granddaughters live in Tega Cay.

Larry is a CPA and first worked in the business world before earning his doctorate in accounting. He loved teaching at St. Francis University in Pennsylvania. Linda taught elementary school and later transitioned into studying and teaching Japanese embroidery. They are participating in the Disciple Sunday school class and the choir and Linda enjoys the Ladies' Bible Study.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

PUMC celebrates and thanks you for supporting its missions and ministries with over \$651k in contributions to the General, Building and Designated Funds during 2023. This represents a 5% increase over 2022: the first increase in annual giving since 2016. PUMC also experienced a 3% increase in the number of families contributing during the year. In December, PUMC received \$79k in General Fund Contributions (and \$19k in designated gifts): the largest December contributions since 2018!

During 2023, PUMC paid 100% of its apportionment. Total General and Building Fund Expenses were \$623k. This amount was \$110k less than its \$733k budget. Based on lower actual expenses along with current economic realities Church Council reduced PUMC's operating budget by \$88k for 2024 to \$645k. Apportionment payments will decline again in 2024 and all ministry areas including staffing, office, and trustees agreed to budget reductions.

We thank you again for your generous gifts to PUMC during 2023 and appreciate your commitment in 2024 to support our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

PYG was back in this January as we started a study called "Beneath the Surface" which focuses on finding God's identity for us by looking closely at the stories from the early life of Jesus. The cold and dark early evenings had us inside more, so we had to pull the 9 Square In the Air out! We also had a scavenger hunt in the Fort Mill area. Several parents volunteered to drive teams around Fort Mill to find different locations and earn points. The winning team scored a giant trophy and bragging rights!

Looking ahead, we have Mission Wednesdays starting back on select Wednesdays from 6-7pm where we will work on projects for Bethel Men's Shelter, animals in shelters, and PUMC's Sunshine Ministry (homebound). Registration for our Spring Retreat at Lookup Lodge in Travelers Rest on April 19th-21st will open in February as well as our Salkehatchie Camp the week of July 13th-20th. If you would like any information on how you can become more involved in our youth programming, please contact Jessica Inman 910-833-0752 or jessica@pumcfortmill.org.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

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The regulars do know us now - they know it is not a "job" for us but that we really care.

"The most moving part of the evening for me was when I offered some apples to one of the regulars. He who barely meets your eyes and I've never heard him speak a word. He would only nod or shake his head in response to a question. Last night he looked at me and said - "yes, thank you". To build that trust with those who are so in need is truly amazing." - Eugenia Taylor

Thank you to everyone who cooked, donated, and served. Join us next time - you will be blessed as much as you are a blessing.



Fort Mill Care Center

Thanks to all who donate to the Fort Mill Care Center. We donated 1,589 pounds of food and toiletry items in 2023. Giving increased greatly in the 4th quarter (641 pounds); which was a blessing around the holidays for those families in need!



NURTURE COMMITTEE

I'm Beverly Burgess and as the new lead for the Nurture Team, I would like to thank Danielle Holmes for being so organized... big shoes to fill! Our first meeting was January 14th. The Nurture Committee is comprised of the following sub-ministries: Caring Cards, Caring Meals, Bereavement Meals, Sunshine Ministry, Senior Friends, Hospital/Rehab Visits or Calls, and Prayer Chain Emails. We care "nurture" members of PUMC that may not be able to participate in the life of the church as they once did, those that need a little help in special circumstances and those wanting to assimilate into the life of the church. One of our goals for 2024 is to hold a quarterly meeting for new members to learn their skills and desires and help engage them in ministry at PUMC. I also would like to highlight one of our ministries each month to

heighten awareness of its purpose and invite others to join us in ministry.

Bereavement Meals

Our Bereavement Ministry provides a meal to families who are dealing with the loss of

The mission team is excited to announce two new mission opportunities - Palmetto Women's Center and Hugaroo! Both offer engagement opportunities for all ages and are focused on children's welfare. If you're interested in any of our mission projects, please sign up in the Coffee Connections Room.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Serving York and Chester counties, The Palmetto Women's Center (PWC) promotes life by offering gospel-centered care and counseling, excellence in medical services, and focused education and resources.



During Lent we will host the Baby Bottle Boomerang to collect "change" as a fundraiser for PWC. Pick up your baby bottle during Shrove Tuesday or Ash Wednesday, pray over this bottle and the clients of PWC, fill the bottle with change or other monies as you remember Jesus' sacrifices and teachings, and return it when we celebrate Jesus' victory over death on Easter Sunday.

Hugaroo

Founded by a PUMC member, Hugaroo is a humanitarian effort to provide new stuffed animals to organizations helping children heal during illnesses or traumatic conditions. We will start collecting animals in late February. Stuffed animals should be new, 10"-12" in size, huggable - soft and squishy - and have stitched eyes (no plastic eyes). On Sunday, April the 14th at noon, we will have lunch and work on prepping and bagging the animals for disbursement.



a loved one. Jean McDade and Joelyn Shugart co-chair and we have three rotating teams. A team leader contacts the family to see how we can best support them as they grieve whether it be refreshments after a funeral in the fellowship hall or a family meal delivered to a home. If you would like to join a bereavement team or are interested in becoming a part of the nurture team, contact beverly65@comporium.net.

Senior Friends

Join us **February 20th at 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon. The Ruth Adkins Circle is providing a delicious italian meal, games and David Hodges and Denise Harding are our musical guests. All those 55+ are invited!

Single Ladies Lunch Bunch

Saturday, February 17th, at 11:30 am Meet at the Village Pizza (Tega Cay). If you are a Single Lady (of any age) and haven't joined us before, we'd love to have you. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at various restaurants. Contact Donna Schaefer at nordon50@aol.com or 704-604-2210.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

UMM Meeting - Thursday February 15th, 7pm

All UMM & visitors are welcome to join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall as we review what we have scheduled so far this year. If you plan on attending, please use the QR code to sign up.



Men in the Mirror - Saturday, February 17th, 7:30am

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." -Proverbs 27:17 . Join us every 3rd Saturday morning, in the Fellowship Hall, for biscuits, coffee, fellowship, and biblical discussion.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Sunday, February 11th, 2-3:30pm, Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to this educational, worship and fellowship opportunity. We will come together with St. John's UMC and other women of the district. Refreshments will be served.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 13th, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

The Methodist version of Fat Tuesday! Bring the family and join us for a pancake and sausage meal, learn about this Christian tradition and let the kids have some fun flipping pancakes.

2023 Praises

United Women In Faith exists to build up and support Women, Children and Youth in our church, community, and world. We have three circles (smaller groups) that meet monthly for fellowship and to engage in service activities as well as plan events for the church. Through our fundraisers, of which we thank you for your support and participation, we were able to give \$1,650 to various ministries including The Children's Attention Home, Epworth Foster Care and Safe Passage. We were also able to supply two lunches for Salkehatchie campers, dinner and a donation for a ramp for Winthrop Wesley, a donation to our women's softball team among others. Contact Elaine McDonald, emcd4505@gmail.com.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

This volunteer team is responsible for leading the congregation's evangelism and welcoming ministries and assisting the people of PUMC in understanding that ministries of hospitality and evangelism contribute to the mission of the church, which is "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". Evangelism ministries are focused on connecting people to Christ through building relationships with those in our community.

A primary focus for our group in 2024 is to partner with other committees to help intentionally build connections, advertise, and create meaningful events. For example, at the Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Ball we are making "swag bags" for the attendees

SC Conference Retreat

Act Like A Man - Saturday Feb. 24th 8am-2pm. The 2024 Men N Ministry Statewide Conference is an opportunity for men of all ages to come together for a time of fellowship, inspiration, spiritual enrichment, but most of all for practical and insightful ways to widen their witness. \$65 with lunch included. This QR Code will take you to the RSVP link and information page.



If anyone would like to be added to the UMM email distribution, please email Jeremy Inman at jinman0425@hotmail.com



Serving In Love: Members of the Ruth Adkins Circle started off 2024 by making freezer meals for Defend The Fatherless. These meals will go to foster families to ease family transitions.



with fun items and church information. We will also be on hand to personally welcome and speak to all visitors. This year, we would also like to help our members establish nametag consistency and be a presence at two offsite events making our church more widely known in the community. We would like to share a praise that during January Journey, 8 people signed up to be greeters! Our greeters are the first impression visitors have when they come to PUMC and they are vital to our mission. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of this vibrant committee, contact Amanda Burns, amandalpburns@gmail.com.

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (SPRT)

My name is Molli Moon and on behalf of the SPRT, we want to take this opportunity to (re)introduce ourselves, review our goals/objectives and to continue the open lines of communication with you – our fellow congregants and friends in Christ!

Finishing his three-year tenure, Ken Finch is rotating off the committee. We appreciate and thank Ken for all he's done to support PUMC and our staff! To fill this vacancy, we welcome Lee Caulder! Below is the complete listing of your 2024 SPRT committee, along with contact information. We encourage you to share any questions or concerns you may have with one or all of us as you feel so led.

The SPRT serves a key role in establishing and sustaining the ministry focus of the pastors and staff in relationship with the congregation. As advocates for the pastor and staff, the SPRT helps to interpret staff roles and ministries and supports and nurtures the whole congregation. The SPRT has three primary responsibilities related to the administration: pastoral and staff evaluation; maintaining a connection with the District Superintendent (DS); and communication among pastor/staff, congregation, and the DS.

A fun initiative for 2024, will be to have "Staff Spotlights" in upcoming editions of this newsletter. We hope that you will look forward to learning more about the church's staff! This team works in very public ways – and in even more ways behind the scenes – to further the ministries of PUMC. We look forward to highlighting our hardworking staff so that you might grow to know them better.

Last, but certainly not least, the SPRT and Pastor David Taylor, have agreed to alter the job title of Nic Gold. Effective immediately, his new title will be Director of Discipleship and Children's Ministry. We believe that this title is more reflective of the role Nic serves at PUMC, but also the designation "Discipleship" is more inclusive and advertises a broader concern for ministry and emphasizes our church's mission to create Disciples. In next month's newsletter, please be on the lookout for the Staff Spotlight of Nic and his role at PUMC!



Molli Moon, SPRT Chair
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Amy Patrella, Vice-Chairperson
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Elizabeth Graver, Secretary
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Tom Goebel, Lay Leader
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Sherry Pearson
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Glenda Warren
glendaw@comporium.net

DISCIPLESHIP & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MINISTRIES

The Class Meeting

"Reclaiming a forgotten and essential small group experience."

Beginning February 7th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm, join Toni Taylor as she helps us to learn more about using small groups as a powerful discipleship tool. This book is a call to recover the Methodist class meeting as a vital means of grace with an eye on the renewal of the church in 21st century. If you are seeking to experience the depth of God's purpose and meaning in your life, you can discover it in a class meeting. Join us to learn more about using small groups as a powerful discipleship tool. "The Class Meeting", by Kevin Watson can be purchased online. Contact Nicolas@pumcfortmill.org to participate.



Growing in Love

CHILI COOK-OFF

And Kids' Dessert Bake-Off

2.4.2024 **IT'S BACK!** 5:00pm

Starts Feb 7th Led by Toni Taylor

THE CLASS MEETING

A Six-Week Study on Wednesdays 6:00-7:00pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

4:30-6:30pm
Starts February 7th

Wednesdays 6-7pm

PRINCE CASPIAN

Bible Study for Kids

Starts Feb. 7



Serving In Love: During Children's Church, our young persons made thank you cards for the staff letting them know how much they are appreciated. Caroline Burns hands hers to Pastor David and we heard Shawn the Sheep received three cards! He was so happy that the children love him so much!

Children's Church meets after Wee Worship at both 9am and 11am.

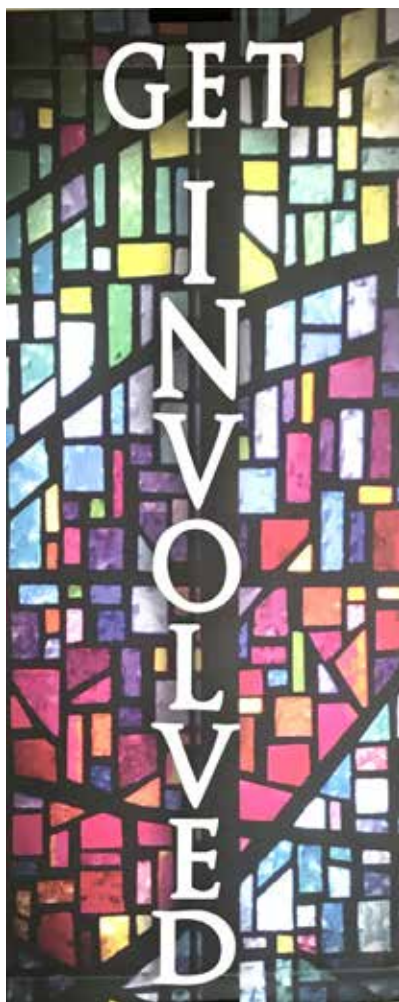
SCUBA

diving into friendship with god

Vacation Bible School 2024

June 24-27 - 9:30am-11:45

FEBRUARY - MONTH AT A GLANCE



Date	Event	Time
Sun, February 4	Children's Clang Buckets	9:00am & 11:00am
Sun, February 4	Chili Cook Off & Kid's Bake Off	5:00pm
Sun, February 11	UWF - A Call To Prayer	2:00 - 3:30pm
Tue, February 13	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	5:30 - 6:30pm
Wed, February 14	Ash Wednesday Service	6:30pm
Thur, February 15	UMM Dinner Meeting - Fellowship Hall	7:00pm
Sat, February 17	Men In the Mirror	7:30am
Sat, February 17	Single Ladies Lunch (Village Pizza)	11:30am
Sat, February 17	Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Ball	5:30pm-7:30pm
Tue, February 20	Senior Friends Luncheon	11:30am
Sat, February 24	Men's SC Conference Retreat (Columbia)	8:00am - 3:00pm
Sun, February 25	Coffee & Conversation with Pastor David	10:15am-10:45am
Every Wednesday	Joyful Noize	4:30 - 5:15pm
Every Wednesday	Beginner Bells	5:15 - 5:45pm
Every Wednesday	Philly Chimes	5:15 - 6:00pm
Every Wednesday	CORE - praise band	5:30pm
Every Wednesday	Jubilate Ringers - Adult Handbells	6:00pm
Every Wednesday	Chancel Choir	7:15pm



Coffee and Conversation

Beginning February 25th, from 10:15-10:45am, join Pastor David for coffee/tea the 4th Sunday of every month in the Pastor's office. This is designed for our newer members to have a time of fellowship with each other and the Pastor, learn more about the church, small group opportunities, and ways to serve. Please email Pastor David at david@pumcfortmill.org to let him know if you are able to join.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT
January 28, 2024

\$12,412 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$645,406, we received \$6,133 this week

\$35,351 has been received towards the General and Building Funds

\$32,562 has been spent from the General and Building Funds

\$49,747 Cash Available to Support Church Expenses, Missions & Ministries

\$766,350 Loan balance for Building

Ways to Give
 Cash & Checks accepted every Sunday during Offering!
 Visit us at www.pumcfortmill.org/give/
 Via Zelle App - gifts@pumcfortmill.org
 Transfer Stocks, Bonds, Brokerage Assets
Mail or Drop-off your gift during regular office hours.
Have questions about giving?
 Please contact PUMC's part-time Financial Associate, Mayra Leon at accounting@pumcfortmill.org

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Mailing Address</div> 2764 Pleasant Road Suite A, PMB 11804 Fort Mill, SC 29708 1691 Hwy. 160 West Fort Mill, SC 29708	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Contact</div> 803-548-0102 Office Hrs: Mon - Thurs 9am - 12:30pm info@pumcfortmill.org www.pumcfortmill.org	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Staff</div> Senior Pastor - Rev. David Taylor Director of Music Ministries - David Hodges Contemporary Worship Leader - Mark Gannon Director of Discipleship & Children's Ministry - Nic Gold Director of Youth Ministries - Jessica Inman Office Manager - Denise Watson Financial Associate - Mayra Leon Media/Audio Visual Specialist - Greg Millett
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