



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

THOMAS “THE CURIOUS”



Dear Church Family,

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ~ John 20:24-25 (NIV)

In reading John 20:24-29, I became curious about Thomas and why he was not with the other disciples when Jesus appears to them on the third day. Did he need time alone to grieve? Did he need time alone to process the events of the last 72 hours? Was it his turn to prepare the meal and he had to go to market? We just don’t know? Yet, Thomas is labeled as “Doubting Thomas.”

When returning to be with the others, they shared with Thomas they had seen the Lord, the Lord had been in their presence. What was going through Thomas’ mind at that point? What caused him to respond the way that he did? Is it really doubt or is it curiosity?

I believe that Thomas was curious. I believe that Thomas was seeking to have a personal encounter with Christ, he wanted his own story to tell...he wanted to believe...but in order to believe, he had to see and experienced presence of Jesus for himself.

What can we learn from THOMAS? How can we share our personal experience, our faith, our belief with others? How can we help others experience Christ love?

As we continue this journey through lent, ponder these questions as ways we can learn from Thomas, “The Curious.”

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

Holy Week Services

- March 24th, 9 am & 11 am - Palm Sunday
- March 28th, 6:30 pm - The Last Supper Re-Enactment
Communion Will Be Served
- March 29th, 6:30 pm - Good Friday
- March 31st, 7 am - Sunrise Service
- March 31st, 9 am & 11 am - Easter Celebration

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we continue our Lenten series from Tom Berlin’s *The Third Day*, we pray that you are seeing seeing the Resurrection of Jesus through a new lens. Maybe something more personal than before as we’ve been looking at those who were first impacted by the Resurrection. This event transformed the lives of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, Emmaus, and Paul and it can transform yours as well. Please continue the series with us and conclude Lent with the powerful services offered during Holy Week. continued on page 2



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

continued from page 1

Palm Sunday, March 24th (9:00am & 11:00am) – Celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a celebration music and waving of palms. John 12: 12-13 “The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the king of Israel!’”

Maundy Thursday, March 28th (6:30pm) - Experience the last supper of Jesus through the ‘Living Last Supper’ and communion. Based on the painting by Leonardo da Vinci, PUMC actors will help us to imagine Jesus’ last night with his disciples in the Upper Room. We will then share the bread and the cup in remembrance of that night.

Good Friday, March 29th (6:30pm) - On this day of mourning, we reflect on the Crucifixion of Jesus through a Tenebrae Service. Scriptures are read and darkness will gradually increase. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ’s death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, March 31st - We return to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection! It is truly a day of celebration!

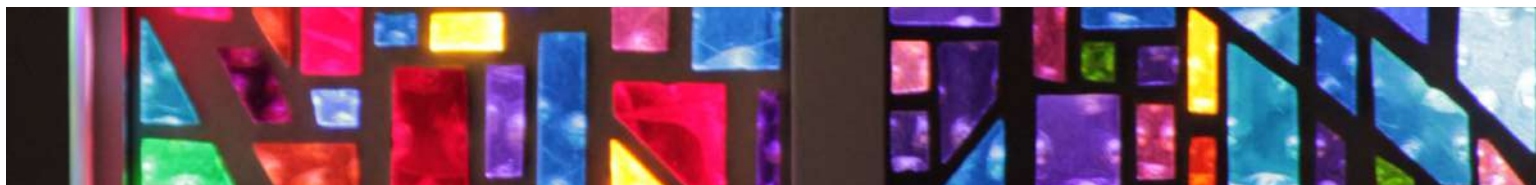
7:00am - Sunrise service begins at the three crosses in our cemetery. We’ll transition to the cross at the front of the church inviting all who pass to be moved by the Holy Spirit.

9:00 & 11:00am – Celebration Services with special music and guest musicians! We invite you to bring live flowers to decorate our living cross as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. There will be four locations available for family Easter pictures.

1. The living cross 2. The Sanctuary altar 3. The outside cross in front of the church 4. The three crosses in the cemetery. Please share your Easter family photos with us by texting them to Cindi Cahaly at 803-493-4550



HE IS RISEN – HE HAS RISEN INDEED!



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Keep putting your change in those baby bottles! Did you know one bottle full of change can weight 3.5lbs and have \$30-\$50 in it? We’re praying that PUMC can fill 100 bottles by Easter.

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.

You can still pick up a bottle (or a 2nd) after Sunday service. Pray over this bottle and the clients of PWC, fill the bottle with change or other monies as you remember Jesus’ sacrifices, and return it either on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus’ victory over death.



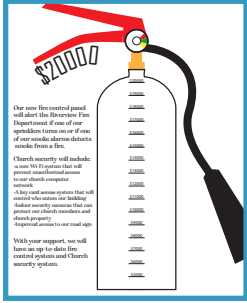
Hugaroo - Stuffed Animal Collection

We continue to collect new huggable stuffed animals for our April 14th lunch and animal prep event. This service opportunity is for all ages - preschoolers can count, bag and move animals from station to station, children through senior adults can remove labels/tags, repair tears and add Hugaroo tags. What a great time for all ages to interact and have fun together!

Stuffed animals should be new, unused and about 10”-12”. They should be huggable - soft and squishy - and have stitched eyes (no plastic eyes). These new stuffed animals are provided to organizations helping children heal during illnesses or traumatic events.



TRUSTEES COMMITTEE



In collaboration with the members of the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Trustees, a fundraising event has been launched to raise funds for a new fire control panel and increased church security. Our current fire control panel is over 16 years old, and it is time to replace it with newer technology. Likewise, our church security system needs to be updated. Two of the security

updates will include a new “key” card door access system and a new set of security cameras. A new church security system will allow us to improve the safety and security of our church’s parishioners and property. We will also install a secure wi-fi system which will aide in the ability to change our roadside LED sign. Please take time to review the fundraiser display board in the Narthex and prayerfully consider donating. Use the QR code to donate online. Checks and cash should be designated for “Fire Panel”.



PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

PYG started the Lent season by assisting Connie Harris burn last year’s palms to create the ashes we used for Ash Wednesday. She spent time teaching the youth about the traditions and roots of Lent. We wrapped up by having a fire and making s’mores.

Mission Wednesday started back by making muffins for Bethel Men’s Shelter overflow hosted by PUMC. That evening the men came into the fellowship hall filled with the smell of fresh baked goods and were so appreciative to have the homemade breakfast. We also made dog toys from old t-shirts for shelter animals. These will be donated to Clover Area Assistance Center. Our next Mission Wednesday will be creating care packages and cookies for our Golden Angels on March 6th from 6-7pm.

Looking ahead, our Spring Youth Retreat is approaching quickly. Youth with travel to Lookup Lodge in Travels Rest, SC April 19th-21st. Retreats are an important time to take time to connect with God and further develop their friendships within the group. Youth are encouraged to invite guests and we need adult chaperones. We will also do a parking lot fundraiser on March 16th during the Baxter St. Patrick’s Day Parade to help fund our youth retreat.

Contact Jessica Inman 910-833-0752 jessica@pumcfortmill.org for more information on youth events.



LIFEGROUPS

Senior Friends

Thank you to the Ruth Adkins Circle for your gift to the seniors. The Valentine's Day luncheon was very special from the decorations and delicious food to being waited on and the games. Thank you Denise Harding for the beautiful piano music. What a fun afternoon!

St. Patrick's Day Party, March 12th. 11:30 Fellowship Hall. Celebrate with us! Kopy Cats will be there, lunch provided but bring sweets. Be sure to wear something green! Please let Linda know if you plan to attend, honey6239@comporium.net.



Single Ladies Lunch Bunch Saturday, March 16th at 11:30am

ALL single ladies are invited to join us at the Town Tavern. Contact: Donna Schaefer, nordon50@aol.com If you are a Single Lady (of any age) and haven't joined us before, what are you waiting for? We'd love to have you!!

Living Our Faith in Small Groups Starts Sunday, April 7th at 10:00am

A six-week series to introduce you to small groups (LifeGroups). Are you not in a small group? Looking for a new small group experience? Not involved in a Sunday School class? This is a class for the curious. Contact nicolas@pumcfortmill.org.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Linda LaRocque continues to send cards of encouragement and sympathy. As a result of the January Journey, we had a couple of folks sign on to visit those on our Sunshine Ministry list. Last month, I highlighted our Bereavement Ministry. We had one death in the church family and the family was offered a meal, but they had everything covered, so a memorial of \$50 was made to the charity of their choice. Monetary donations to the Bereavement Ministry are always welcome to help offset the cost of the entree and bread. Each team member is asked to provide sides and desserts when their team is in charge.

Caring Meals Ministry led by Eve Chapman. When there is an illness in the church family, Eve prepares a meal and takes it along with a visit. If there is an extended illness, she sends out a sign-up genius so that others may help with this ministry. Meals can be prepared at home or sent from a local restaurant. There is also the option of just making a monetary donation to the Caring Meals Ministry. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Eve Chapman at vechapman@comporium.net.

There are many opportunities to serve without being on a particular committee! Blessings, Beverly Burgess

JANUARY JOURNEY



Serving In Love: Thank you to everyone who participated in January Journey. We have so many ways to serve Jesus at Philadelphia UMC!! If you didn't get a chance to check out our variety of mission, ministry, discipleship and small group opportunities, contact Nic Gold, nicolas@pumcfortmill.org and he will assist you in getting plugged in.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thank you to everyone who entered our Chili and Dessert Cook Off. There were many delicious and creative entries. Thanks also to all who made the sacrifice of tasting all the entrees and casting your votes. Congratulations to all the winners!



Chili Cook Off Winner Lucky Steak Chili - Matt Miller

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 2 T vegetable oil | 1 lg red onion, chopped |
| 1/2 bulb garlic, pressed | 1 lb ground beef |
| 3/4 lb beef sirloin, cubed | 20oz Guinness |
| 1 14 oz can beef broth | 1 cup strong brewed coffee |
| 1 14.5oz can diced tomatoes with juice | |
| 2 6oz cans tomato paste | 4 15oz cans kidney beans |
| 3 T and 1 1/2 tsps chili powder | 1 T unsweetened cocoa powder |
| 1 tsp ground cayenne | 1 tsp dried oregano |
| 4 fresh red chili peppers, seeded, chopped | |
| 1/2 cup packed brown sugar | 1 T cumin seeds |
| 1 tsp ground coriander | salt to taste |
| chopped green onions | Extra sharp shredded cheese |

- Heat oil over medium heat. Liberally salt chopped sirloin and ground beef, and cook with onions and garlic for 10 minutes, or until the meat is well browned and the onions are tender.
- Mix in the diced tomatoes with lager, beef broth, coffee, tomatoes with juice and tomato paste.
- Season with brown sugar, chili powder, cumin, cocoa powder, oregano, cayenne, coriander and salt. Stir in 2 cans of beans and chili peppers.
- Reduce heat to low and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Stir in the 2 remaining cans of beans and simmer for another 30 minutes. Season to taste, top with scallions and cheese, serve



Dessert Bake Off Winner

Argentinian Chocotorta

Gisel Gomez (Graver's exchange student), and Nathan Graver

Chocotorta is an easy Argentinian dessert. It is made out of chocolate cookies dipped in regular milk and layered with a dulce de leche sauce. Chocolinas are the traditionally used cookies, available everywhere in Argentina (or on Amazon). Gisel didn't realize we didn't have these cookies in traditional American grocery stores, so we didn't order them in time. After discovering we couldn't find Chocolinas at the store, Nathan offered to make brownies instead. Gisel brought jars of dulce de leche with her. You can find it on Amazon or make it yourself. Nathan made two 9x13 pans of brownies and Gisel mixed one cup of dulce de leche with one cup of heavy whipping cream. Half was poured onto one of the pans of brownies, then she placed the second layer of brownies, followed by the rest of the sauce. Enjoy!



Easter Story

EASTER GAME DAY

GAMES

Snacks

March 23rd
3-5pm

Egg Hunt

† J E S U S

Families and kids of all ages are invited to Easter Game Day where we learn about and celebrate the blessing of Easter! Please use the QR code to RSVP or contactr Nic Gold.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

Looking ahead to Easter morning and Jesus' resurrection, I am always blessed to be able to pick uplifting and exciting music for that day. At the 11am service we will have guest brass musicians, as well as our Jubilate Ringers and Chancel Choir. Several of the Jubilate Ringers, along with brass, will accompany the choir anthem that day, entitled 'Christians, Celebrate and Sing'. In addition, we will have brass accompanying with Denise on the opening prelude and first hymn, 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today'. Our Jubilate Ringers will also perform a celebratory piece of their own. It is sure to be a day that we can glorify God and His risen Son through music. If anyone is interested in participating with the choir just for Easter, or on a more permanent basis, feel free to contact me (dhodges@pumcfortmill.org), or just come on out on Wednesday night at 7:15. In Christ, David Hodges



UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) Men in the Mirror

The UMM met on Thursday 2/17 and had a pizza dinner. We discussed the events for this year and what that looks like. The UMM plan on having a golf tournament fundraiser in October. If you would like to participate, volunteer or have any questions, please reach out to Lance Holmes, holmlan12@gmail.com.



Saturday, March 16th, 7:30am, Fellowship Hall

"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.

UMM Meeting

Tuesday, April 16th, 7:30am,

All UMM & visitors are welcome to join us for dinner and a devotion. If you plan on attending, please use the QR code to sign up.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)



Growing In Love: On Shrove Tuesday we enjoyed "cleaning out the cupboard" of pancakes and sausage, flipping pancakes and learning about Shrove Tuesday traditions. Thank you to the UWF for coordinating this annual event to begin the Lenten season.



EASTER BAKE SALE

The UWF is hosting a cake and pie bake sale to make your Easter dinner a little easier and raise money for their missions. All sales are by pre-order. A list of baked choices will be available through a sign up. A QR code will be in the bulletin and emailed later this month. Pickup will be on Saturday, March 30th from 3:00-5:00pm.

Contact Linda Honeycutt if you would like to donate a pie/cake or have other questions, honey6239@comporium.net.

DADDY DAUGHTER SWEETHEART BALL

A huge thanks to everyone who made our 1st Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Ball a raving success! PUMC came together as a team, guided by the Holy Spirit, to minister and fellowship with the over one hundred daddies and daughters who attended. The feedback from the attendees (most of whom came from our surrounding community) has been tremendously positive! As you look at the precious pictures, realize, this goes beyond a two-hour dance. Philadelphia UMC plays a role in discipling these men to be Christian fathers, so that they might be godly examples to their families. These dads are showing their daughters just how special they are, how they should be treated and how they are loved.



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (SPRT)

SPRT's first staff spotlight is Nic Gold. He has been at PUMC since 2017 and is our Director of Discipleship and Children's Ministry. You can see him in action each Sunday service as he delivers the Wee Worship message.



About Me

- Current Residence: Rock Hill
- Family: Wife Lisa and daughter Dakota. Pets - 2 turtles named Coca and Cola
- Fun fact: Turtles have personalities. They play; they fight.

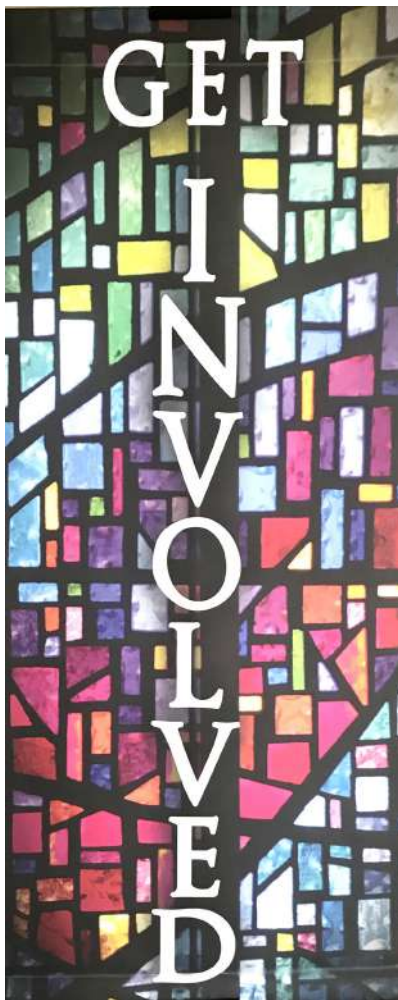
They watch cartoons and when scared, will dive into water.

- Hobbies: Reading, Movies, and Music (Beck, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, The Who)

My responsibilities as the Director of Discipleship and Children's Ministry

- Organize Children and Family events
- Oversee LifeGroups (Sunday School, Bible studies)
- Coordinate Wed night meals and LifeGroups
- Perform Background Checks and coordinate Safe Sanctuary training
- Create and maintain Social Media (Manage the Facebook pages and Instagram account, and the PUMC website)
- Oversee Technology (Video and Audio)

MARCH - MONTH AT A GLANCE



Date	Event	Time
Wed, March 6	Mission Wednesday (PYG)	6:00 - 7:00pm
Tue, March 12	Senior Friends Luncheon	11:30am
Sat, March 16	Men In the Mirror	7:30am
Sat, March 16	Single Ladies Lunch (Town Tavern)	11:30am
Sun, March 17	Safe Sanctuary Training	12:00 - 1:30pm
Mon, March 18	Church Council	6:30pm
Sun, March 25	Coffee & Conversation with Pastor David	10:15 - 10:45am
Sat, March 23	Easter Game Day	3:00 - 5:00pm
Thu, March 28	Maundy Thursday - Last Supper Reenactment	6:30pm
Fri, March 29	Good Friday Service	6:30pm
Sun, March 31	Children's Clang Buckets	9:00 & 11:00am
Sun, March 31	Easter Services	7:00am, 9:00am & 11:00am
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

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Thank you to all who continued your financial support of PUMC's missions and ministries in January. During the month, PUMC received \$33k in support for the General and Building Fund plus an additional \$4k in support for ministry areas like Missions, Children and Youth. While giving declined from January 2022 and 2023, that resulted from the strong support received in the last weeks of December combined with two larger gifts moving to later in the year.

Monthly expenses of \$47k were \$6k under budget. Most ministry areas have lower expenses in January and the timing of payroll results in staff support remaining under-budget 10 months out of the year. Besides staff support and our facilities, giving during January supported youth activities and the renewal of copyrights for our music ministries among other items.


Outside of financial gifts, the church received many in-kind gifts

of time and service in the form of maintenance and repairs to the Church property and volunteering in services, ministries, and missions! Thank you again for your generous gifts to PUMC!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT
February 25, 2024
\$12,412 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$645,406, we received \$10,539 this week
\$80,947 has been received towards the General and Building Funds
\$96,285 has been spent from the General and Building Funds
\$31,746 Cash Available to Support Church Expenses, Missions & Ministries
\$760,129 Loan balance for Building
<p style="text-align: center;">Ways to Give</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cash & Checks accepted every Sunday during Offering! Visit us at www.pumcfortmill.org/give/ Via Zelle App - gifts@pumcfortmill.org</p>

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
 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