



THE TOWER NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE LOVE, EMBRACE CHRIST, ENGAGE THE WORLD MARCH 2026

It is both joyful and bittersweet to share that Dr. Jeffrey B. Hampton, will retire this April. His last official Sunday with us will be **April 26**. Licensed to preach in 1976, Jeff has given over fifty years of faithful service to Christ and the Church. Over the decades, he has stood in many pulpits and served on numerous ministry staffs, always bringing a pastor's heart, a teacher's wisdom, and a steady, gracious presence. Since 1999, Jeff has served at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church as Pastor of Caring Ministries. In that role, he has done what he does best — care deeply and faithfully for people. He has walked with couples preparing for marriage and those strengthening long-standing marriages. He has sat with families in grief. He has led cancer and grief support groups. He has coached lay ministry teams. He has helped individuals and congregations imagine spiritual growth and renewed vitality — whether that congregation numbered three or three thousand. Beyond titles and responsibilities, Jeff has simply been present. In hospital rooms. In counseling conversations. In quiet prayer. In moments when steady faith mattered most. His ministry has often been unseen by many, but it has never been unfelt.



On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for Jeff's partnership in ministry. His wisdom, perspective, compassion, and institutional memory have strengthened not only this church, but me as well. As we approach his retirement, I invite you to help us surround Jeff with the love and appreciation he deserves. Cards of thanks are warmly welcomed and may include a personal note and, if you wish, a gift to celebrate his ministry. You may drop your cards off at the church office in advance of the reception, or bring them on April 26 and place them in the gift basket at the reception sponsored by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee in Argue Hall between services. Join me in giving thanks for a remarkable ministry and in praying God's richest blessings over Jeff and Cynthia in this next chapter of life. Well done, good and faithful servant!

-Rev. Jay Clark, Chief of Staff

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES



APRIL 4, 2026

Easter Saturday Service

5:00PM | Sanctuary

APRIL 5, 2026

Classic Worship

8:30, 9:45, 11:00AM | Sanctuary

Modern Worship

9:45, 11:00AM | Wesley Hall

Classic Worship

10:00AM | KATV

PHUMC.COM/EASTER



You may notice some new signs popping up on the walls of our church! A dedicated group of women has been working behind the scenes to catalog the artwork throughout our building, gathering stories and details so we can better share their meaning and history. Some of the signs even include QR codes you can scan to learn more about each piece.

A huge thank you to Shelley Gentry, Lynn Monk, Marsha Allbritton, and Susan Robbins for their thoughtful and faithful work on this project!

PHUMC HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MARCH 29	THURSDAY APRIL 2	FRIDAY APRIL 3	SATURDAY APRIL 4
PALM SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 & 11:00 AM - Palm Procession (All Services) - Sanctuary & Wesley Hall • 10:15AM - Children's Palm Parade - Courtyard 	MAUNDY THURSDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00-1:00 PM - Drop-in Communion and prayer stations - Sanctuary • 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary 	GOOD FRIDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 PM - Service of Oratorio - The Last 7 Words of Christ - Sanctuary <p><i>In this beautiful service, we will experience 7 expressions attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion.</i></p>	EASTER EGG HUNT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM War Memorial Park Pavilion. • Hunt begins at 11:00AM EASTER WORSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00 PM Saturday Night Easter Service

Beginning in 1960, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church experimented with broadcasting our services. What started as periodic radio broadcasts became periodic telecasts and then became a bold vision in 1965 when the Administrative Board approved a request from Charles Meyer Jr. to raise money to begin broadcasting weekly. This was an innovative move led by then-Senior Pastor Dr. James B. Argue, who invited 30 members of the congregation to invest \$1,000 each to bring the idea to life. Those significant contributions launched what has become one of the longest-running local church broadcasts in the country.



Billy Ross (left) Clarence Schmidt (center), and Cecil Kelly (right) work in the old control room.



On March 6, 1966, PHUMC stepped into that bold new chapter of ministry. With two secondhand black-and-white cameras purchased from a television station in Dallas and equipment set up in the balcony and a basement room, PHUMC broadcast its

first regular Sunday morning worship service on Channel 4 (KARK). What began as a simple setup with bulky cameras and a small volunteer team quickly became a defining outreach of the church. In 1991, the Television Board of Directors was formed to oversee operations and funding, autonomous from the church operating budget, to ensure the ministry would remain strong for future generations.

What started as a local broadcast now reaches across Arkansas and far beyond. In the past year alone, PHUMC averages 28,237 viewers each week. With viewers tuning in from across Arkansas to Canada to the Philippines, this ministry makes PHUMC one of the most attended United Methodist congregations in the country. The broadcast is no longer simply a window into worship — it is a doorway. Over 80 full members have joined the church without ever attending in person. What once allowed viewers to observe now invites them to belong.

As we celebrate 60 years of the Pulaski Heights Broadcast Ministry, we give thanks for the vision of those who launched it, the volunteers who have sustained it through more than 3,000 broadcasts, and the countless lives touched each Sunday morning. From two black-and-white cameras to a global digital reach, one thing has remained constant: the faithful proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When the proposal came before the Administrative Board in 1965, *The Tower* wrote, "Through this program, our church will have an almost unlimited potential for reaching thousands of persons not presently belonging to a church of their own". Even they could not have imagined the tens of millions of viewers who would worship with PHUMC in the decades to come. And by God's grace, the next chapter is just beginning.



We have installed new pew cushions in our Sanctuary. These cushions are intended to offer greater comfort to all who worship here and to enhance the beauty of this sacred space we share. To help us care for them

well and keep them clean for years to come, we ask that food and beverages not be brought into the Sanctuary. You are most welcome to finish any food or drink in the Gathering Hall before entering worship.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for the many ways you help us care for this place where we gather to pray, sing, and encounter God together.

-Pulaski Heights UMC Board of Trustees

Oscars Watch Party

Sunday, March 15

Wesley Hall

Doors open at 5:30

You are welcome to come and go as you please!



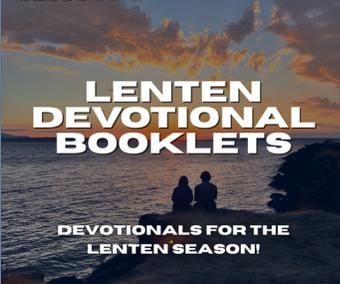
Join us Sunday, March 15th in Wesley Hall for an Oscars watch party! Doors open at 5:30pm and everyone is welcome to come and go as they please. We do hope you'll stick around to see who wins Best Documentary Short Film; *Armed With Only a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud*,

by Craig Renaud, is nominated. It tells the story of Little Rock native Brent Renaud whose family are members of PHUMC. Come show your support and hangout with us while we watch the 2026 Oscars!

SENIOR SUNDAY

Graduating seniors and families, Senior Sunday is May 3rd! During the Sunday School hour, we will host a Senior brunch for students and their families/guests and a senior slideshow will run during the service. We would love it if all of our church's seniors are celebrated this day. If you would like to participate, we ask that you complete the online form at phumc.com/senior-sunday and upload the requested photographs for the slideshow. The deadline to sign up and provide photos will be April 15th.

WITNESSING JESUS
LENTEN SEASON
SERIES BOOK



Lenten Devotional Booklets are now available at the Welcome Desk, outside of Wesley Hall, or in the PHUMC App. You can also go to phumc.com/lent and sign up for our daily email devotionals. If you would like one mailed to you, call the church office at 501-664-3600 or email lbarnes@phumc.com.

PHUMC presents...

Vacation Bible Camp

July 7th-9th, 2026



phumc.com/vbc

This summer, we're trying something a little different—and a lot of fun! Join us July 7–9 for Vacation Bible Camp, The Story of Moses, in a brand-new evening format designed for the whole family. We're hosting an interactive dinner theatre experience where children, parents, and grandparents can all gather around the table, share a meal, laugh together, and dive into faith in a creative and engaging way. It's Vacation Bible Camp reimagined; fresh, interactive, and full of surprises. RSVP beginning March 1 at phumc.com/vbc.



Don't miss your chance to watch the children's choir spring musical on March 8 at 4pm in Wesley Hall! They will be performing **Called** by Mark Burrows, a musical about what it means to be called by Jesus. The choir will also be singing a preview in worship that morning.

In addition, our children have chosen a meaningful cause and will be collecting donations to help make a positive difference in our community. So come enjoy the musical — and don't forget to bring your "change for change!" Questions? Contact director Karen Clark at kclark@phumc.com.

Foundation Memorials & Honoraria

The following gifts were received for the following funds: Altar Guild, Building, Children's Ministry, Choir, Diaper Bank, Food Pantry, Helping Hands, Mission, Music Ministry, Operating, Primetimers, This Place Matters, TV Ministry, Youth Food, and the glory of God.

Memorials

Nancy Archer by Helping Hands Volunteers
Gerald Cound by Jan Meyer Swindler
Kay Dietz by Annadell and Fred Fowler
BJ Dunn by Laura and Mark Spradley
Charlie Ferrill, Jr. by Sarah Polk
Dale Fiske by Rene Mitchell, Dodie Angulo and Kitty Sanders, and Earle and Rebecca Phillips and Family
Marshall Gazette by Kathy Roberts
Greer Grace by Erica and Jay Jimenez, Rusty and Elizabeth Ann Ketz, Barbara Moore, and Rog and Carolyn Rogers
Rev. Dr. Gunnar Gundersen by Kathy Roberts
Bo Hawk by Crata Castleberry, and Jim Ingram
Marian Huggins by Carol and Gary Isom
Rev. Lynn Lindsey by Sharon Mankin, and Ray and Lavern Schaap
Biff Morgan by Kathryn and Joe Miles
Dr. Mack Moore by Kathy Roberts
Rev. Louis Mulkey by Pamela Hunter
Tony Owens by Carol and Gary Isom
Cindy Price by Pamela Hunter, and Kathy Roberts
Marylee Robinson by Crata Castleberry, Steve Holcomb, Pamela Hunter, Barbara Moore, Sarah Polk, Kathy Roberts, and Rog and Carolyn Rogers
Patty Smith by Helen Baldwin, and Sarah Polk
Carolyn Stiles by Kevin Hinkle, and Cherrie Wilkerson
Sam Stiles by Kevin Hinkle, and Cherrie Wilkerson
Robert Tinkle by Virgle and Sandra Lyons
Buddy Villines by Corey and Charles Brooks
Bob Wall by Jane Anderson

PHUMC Green Team



The newly organized PHUMC Green Team's mission is to inspire our congregation and community toward environmental stewardship through encouragement and example. We'll be using this newsletter to share practical, environmentally friendly ideas you can use right away—starting with recycling.

Did you know that Kroger accepts not only plastic grocery sacks, but also resealable zipper bags, bread and cereal bags, dry-cleaning bags, outer plastic wrap, shipping materials, and bubble wrap? These are items that are often difficult to recycle for free.

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, we'd love to have you join us. The Green Team meets every third Tuesday at 11:30am at the church.



MARCH HAPPENING HOUR

Tuesday, March 3
5:30PM
Professor Bowl



Our PHUMC Clothing Closet volunteers are hard at work thanks to your kind donations! We are so thankful to all our volunteers for the 642 hours spent dedicated to this cause. Thank you for your continued support in allowing us to donate to our partners to help those in need.

As a reminder, please only donate gently used items.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Cecile Kimmer at cecile.kimmer@yahoo.com.

EASTER FLOWERS

To honor or memorialize a loved one

To purchase visit:
phumc.com/easter-flowers

Call 501-664-3600 or visit the Welcome Desk

Deadline is March 27th



Honoraria

Elise Argue by David Stotts
Karen Clark by Bev Villines
Dr. Frode Gundersen by Bev Villines
Dr. John and Julie Jones by Gretchen Gray
Pam Lentz by Louise Skiles
Becky McCoy by Kathy Roberts
Michael McMurray by Bev Villines
Lynn Monk by Barbara Moore
Sabbath Christ Care Group by Cathy Spivey
Jamie Scott by Carol Scott
Stacy Sells by Maurine Walker
Franklin Shirrell by Gene Crawford
Nancy and Greg Sink by Maurine Walker
John, Marisa, Jack and Elisabeth Spivey by Bill and Cathy Spivey
Jennie and Michael Stewart by Annabelle, Caroline, Luna, and Serial Dye
Emily Stotts by Karen Barnwell
Amy Sullivan by Billie and Skip Rutherford
Dr. Joe Thompson by Louise Skiles
Bev Villines by Corey and Charles Brooks
Leanna and Colin Wall by Jane Anderson
Tom and Anne Wallace by Helen Baldwin
Gay Wyatt by Amy Sixbey

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to Missy Graham, Bobby Graham, Abbey and Kate Graham in the death of their father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Richard Graham; to John Harvill and family in the death of his grandmother, Norma Louise Harvill; to Brad Sanders and family in the death of his father, Terry Sanders; to Lee Archer and family in the death of his wife, Nancy Archer; to the family and friends of Larry Rogers in his recent death; to the family and friends of Karen Hopkins in her recent death; to Dot Morey, Rev. Mike Morey, and their families in the death of their daughter and sister, Donna Morey; to Marilyn Porter and family in the death of her husband, Dr. Rob Porter, Jr.; to Libby Smith and family in the recent death of her father, Nolen Smith; and to the family and friends of Karen Hopkins in her recent death. To Allen Bird and family in the death of his wife, Sherry Bird.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Boyce Bethel and Scott Bueche in their recent marriage.

WE REJOICE IN THE BIRTH of Eloise Elizabeth Parsons, daughter of Harrison and Hannahbelle Parsons.

WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM of Ford Foster McCain, son of Nelson and Olivia McCain.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Chris Pledger & Jack Pledger; Jon Stewart; Barbara Hartwick; Kerrie Lauck; and Kim Finn.

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
4823 Woodlawn
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Return Service Requested

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Visit us at phumc.com

Contact Information

phumc.com • (501) 664-3600
phumc@phumc.com

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Member Contributions	\$ 294,736
PHUMC Foundation Contributions	\$ 12,500
Other Income	\$ 20,548
Total Income	\$ 327,784
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 575,604
Tithe Payment payable	\$ 21,507
Total Expenses	\$ 597,111
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (269,327)