

***This week's essay is from PHUMC member Pat Hoy following General Conference***

*Transformations  
Pat C. Hoy II*

I am a retired soldier who often takes an unholy delight in chaos. Life's most trying experiences have confirmed time and again that order is always lurking within the turmoil waiting to reveal itself--if only I can step aside so that order can prevail.

And yet knowing is one thing; doing another.

Last Monday, February 25th, our older son Patrick Hundley Hoy arrived for a six-day visit from London where he lives with his husband. On Tuesday the General Conference voted to deny LGBTQs full-fledged membership in our Methodist community, a community I was welcomed into when Bishop Paul Galloway christened me a lifetime ago, the same community that had also welcomed Katherine Ann Burns a couple of years later, and then, in turn, our two children, Patrick and Timothy--a community that narrows itself now to this one here at Pulaski Heights. I feel the power of this particular church deep in my bones because in 1915, 23 years before my birth, my uncle, Rev. L.E.N. Hundley, became its third full-time minister. I am bound by blood to this church's history.

By betraying our congregation here and around the world, the Conference put me in a whirl on Tuesday. I was stung to the quick when I realized the severity of the restrictions placed on our members and on our pastors. Sitting downstairs glued to the bad news on social media, my visiting gay son slept upstairs. My immediate thought was a selfish one.

I reasoned to myself that Patrick was leaving Saturday, so we wouldn't have to be reminded on Sunday morning--as we sat side-by-side on the pew--that the official Church considers his being gay "incompatible with Christian teaching," and considers too that marriages between one man and another man cannot be performed in our church. Neither can LGBTQ people be ordained in the Methodist church. The effect of these decisions by the Conference is burdensomely clear: our church home, my family's church home, recognizes neither my son's God-given nature nor his legal marriage.

Nevertheless, at the end of the week Patrick left us as he always does, restored from his travels and blissfully happy. Rest, good food, and his ever-loyal Hendrix classmates livened his spirits and ours.

Saturday night Ann and I honored our booking at PHUMC and, while there, began to find an even deeper peace of mind. Songs of love modulated by Rev. Wells' profound, often witty, commentary left us soaring....

***STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE..***



## **GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION SESSION**

**Monday, March 11, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

We realize that many of you have questions and concerns following the General Conference last week in St. Louis. Join us Monday in the Sanctuary to hear from our delegates and clergy who attended the conference and where we are now moving forward. PHUMC members Karon Mann and Miller Wilbourn were part of the Arkansas delegation to General Conference will also participate.

But nothing was quite so uplifting as the 9:00 service Sunday morning. From Britt Skarda's pledge of allegiance to love and inclusion, to Jay Clark's sly reminder, through the children, of our own "sacred worth," mingled with the prayers and sacred music, to Sam Wells' exceptional sermon on "Three Ways to Pray," we learned that PHUMC has our backs, that we need not fret, that we need not lose faith in our given church--and that the struggle with the other Church is not yet finished. Nothing has changed at PHUMC except an even deeper commitment to what we already are.

And yet, there is still my older son, there are still all of those others who have struggled for years, and are still struggling, to be what they are, what they were born to be. It is not right that our UMC has officially betrayed them, denied them the right to an unfettered belonging. So there is work to do, much hard work to do both here at home and in the larger Church.

It is impossible to imagine that God, who is love, could possibly deny Patrick Hoy his rightful place in a church, any church of his choosing.

I remember well when Patrick told me, finally, that he was gay, remember that he had told me before he told his mom, hoping that I would tell her, that I would somehow be able to make it easier for her, for him, for us. I told him that I could not be his messenger, that I understood what he was going through, understood what he would gain and what he might lose, told him we all had to come to terms with what was right for him.

When Patrick revealed to us that he was gay, we did not know how to deal with what he told us. But our own transformations through those early years taught us the most heartfelt and profound lessons of our lives. We began to learn in earnest what love really is, what it amounts to, what is so sacred about it. And we are still learning, more than thirty years later, that there is a heavenly order, that in the midst of chaos, clinging to hope and one another, we can find a harmony that transcends human understanding.

A few years ago, at a West Point reunion, a classmate's wife, upon learning that we have a gay son, said to Ann, "I'll pray for him."

Ann responded in the quietest voice you can imagine, a voice akin to those six heavenly voices from St. Martins-in-the-Fields that we heard last weekend, "If you want to pray for my son's happiness, go ahead, but if you want to pray that he will be changed, please don't bother. God won't hear you."

## LENTEN SERMON SERIES

### "REHAB: NEW YOU, NEW ME, NEW CHURCH"

There is much to mine from considering our Lenten journey this year within the frame of rehab, much to explore, much to learn. But the core of the learning in rehab, like the core of the learning in Lent, isn't cognitive. It's behavioral. In rehab, we learn how to live differently, to set a "new normal" for ourselves and our relationships after a period of time or perhaps a crisis has made it clear to us it is impossible to live as we had before. Likewise in Lent, we focus on helping those coming to faith in Christ for the first time, as well as those making their way back to Christ and the fellowship of the church after a period of absence or neglect, primarily in concrete, behavioral ways. Our goal for all who engage this period of time is that the way of Jesus becomes either the "new normal," or, for those who have been consistent in the journey over time, is strengthened as our normal.

Worship  
With Us

## WILDERNESS

REHAB WORSHIP SERIES

March 8th and 10th

### WORSHIP THIS WEEK: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Sermon Title: Wilderness** *On Lent 1 we acknowledge we are entering a wilderness, uncharted and perhaps unchartable territory for us.*

#### Worship Services

Friday, March 8, 6 p.m. - Sanctuary · Rev. Britt Skarda

Sunday, March 10, 9 & 11 a.m. - Sanctuary · Rev. Britt Skarda

Sunday, March 10, 9 & 11 a.m. - New Heights · Rev. Rev. Britt Skarda (9am) **Children's Musical "The Good News Garden" at 11 a.m.**

Sunday, March 10, 9:30 a.m. - St. Luke Campus · Rev. Andrea Cummings

## LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP YOUR TEAM



As of this week only 7 teams have officially signed up for Mac-N-Cheez Mania on April 6th. **SIMPLY PUT...WE NEED MORE TEAMS!** If we do not get enough teams soon we will unfortunately have to cancel or postpone the event.

**LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Here is how you can help:

- 1) Sign up your own homestyle team at [phumc.com/LRMacMania](http://phumc.com/LRMacMania).
- 2) Help organize a business or corporate team.
- 3) Know of a chef with a great mac n cheese? See if they want to join us with their best cheesy mac dish!

We want to be able to help out our 5 great nominated charities this year in their efforts of helping the homeless! For any questions, email [LRMacMania@phumc.com](mailto:LRMacMania@phumc.com).

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

- Purchase wrapped candy and fill Easter egg kits – return by April 14
- Purchase candy and eggs and fill – return by April 14
- No time to fill but will buy candy and/or eggs for someone else to fill – return by April 7.

#### Pick-Up & Return locations are as follows:

Church Welcome Center  
Children's Welcome Center  
Connect Point in Wesley Hall



Rev. Dr. Sam Wells and the St. Martin's Voices touring Little Rock on Saturday.



T.J. AND INEZ RANEY  
LECTURES

### Thank you for Attending 2019 Raney Lecture Series

What a great weekend it was hearing from Rev. Dr. Sam Wells and the beautiful St. Martin's Voices. If you missed out on any of the events, don't worry. Head to our website [phumc.com/raney2019](http://phumc.com/raney2019) for videos of the concert and sermons and text of Rev. Sam Wells' lectures. You can also purchase a dvd of Raney Lecture series at the Welcome Center at PHUMC.

**Lastly, we want to thank the Raney family for making this weekend possible. And to all of the volunteers who helped with set up, food and decorations, thank you so much!**

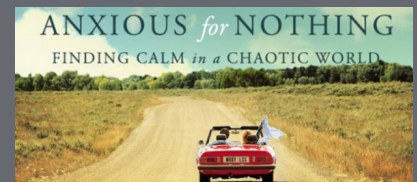
## COMING UP @ PHUMC



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION

**UMW CIRCLE OF HOPE  
MONDAY, MARCH 11  
11:45 A.M., PHUMC PARLOR**

Morgan Leyenberger, Executive Director of *Compassion Works for All*, will be the guest speaker. *Compassion Works for All* is a Little Rock nonprofit that offers therapeutic programming to women and men in Arkansas prisons. Circle members and anyone else who is interested in attending should call the church, 664-3600, and register for the meeting. Please bring your own lunch. Refreshments provided.



**BOOK STUDY  
SUNDAYS, MARCH 24-MAY 4  
2:30 TO 4:00 P.M., C239**

*Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*, by Max Lucado. Led by Annie Lankford. Books are available for purchase at Welcome Center for \$12.

**PRIMETIMERS AND FRIENDS  
ON THE GO LUNCH  
FRIDAY, MARCH 22  
CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER**

This month we will visit the exhibits at the Clinton Presidential Center on March 22 and have lunch at 42 bar and table afterwards.

For those who want to ride the church van, please meet at entrance 9 at 9:15. Others are welcome to meet us at the Clinton Center around 9:30. We will return to PHUMC around 1:00 pm. In order to plan seating at lunch, please make your reservation by noon Wednesday, March 20.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

10:10-10:50 am

**All Things Considered**, M314 (all ages)  
**Argue** Named for Dr. Argue M318 (ages 45+)  
**Beatitudes**, M316 (ages 30-45+)  
**Bible Study**, C239 (all ages)  
**Coffee Talk**, M313 (women all ages)  
**Deeper Connections**, D371 (ages 20s-30s)  
**Drop-In Class**, Wesley Hall  
**Fathomers**, C235 (ages 55+)  
**Foundations**, C236 (couples ages 20s-40s)  
**G.I.F.T. Class**, M308 (all ages)  
**Journey**, D366 (ages 20s-40s)  
**Koinonia Dialogue**, C135 (ages 50+)  
**Newton Good News**, M101 (ages 50+)  
**G.I.F.T. Class**, M308 (all ages)  
**Pairs and Spares**, D277 East (young couples/singles)  
**Pop-Up Class**, M304 (all ages)  
**Roundtable**, M312 (ages 50+)  
**Tower**, C237 (ages 40+)  
**Turning Point**, M311 (Young adults)  
**Wesley** M320 (all ages)

**Early Christian Awareness (ECA)** Infants/Toddlers, Norma Story Children's Building  
**Preschool Lions** (ages 2-3), **Tigers** (ages 3-4), **Bears** (ages 4-5)  
**Grades K-3**, Rotation Sunday School  
**4th Grade**-Bible Adventures  
**5th Grade**-Bible Study  
**Grades 6-12**, phuyouth Sunday School  
**(All youth meet at 10 a.m. in the phuyouth Assembly Area.)**

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

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### Contact Information

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Fax: 664-4835 • Email: [phumc@phumc.com](mailto:phumc@phumc.com)

### Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The church is also available seven days a week, beyond regular office hours, for special events or meetings.

St. Luke Campus | 6401 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. | Little Rock

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GET THE SCOOP ON UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

**HILLCREST COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE KICK OFFS FRIDAY MARCH 8. Noon. Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church.** Ruskin Falls will be preaching. Next Friday (March 15) will be at PHUMC. Join us for a 30 minute service and lunch. Fr. John Marconi will be preaching.

**FAITH AND RACE DISCUSSION GROUP. Sun., Mar. 10 – Mar. 31, Every Sunday from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Room C236.** Class led by Ron Copeland and Paula Patterson. Discussion will include a deep dive into racial divisions that are hard to overcome, and what it takes to become a just society.

**FILL A BAG FOR ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY.** Help support the needs of our St. Luke's food pantry by grabbing a brown bag and filling it with any of the following items: canned meat, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, dried beans, pasta, canned vegetable and fruit. You can drop off bags at any of the connect points on Sundays.

**AFTER HOURS PHONE SERVICE.** Normal church hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. After hours, the church telephone will be answered by a local answering service. To reach the pastor on call after hours regarding an emergency, or if you need to leave a non-urgent message for a staff member on their voicemail, simply call the church and your call will be transferred.

**EASTER FLOWERS ON SALE.** Colorful flowers will be purchased for Sanctuary and New Heights Worship services to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. To honor or memorialize a loved one, please fill out a connect card Sunday and return it with \$15.00 in the offering or at the Welcome Center. Names received by April 5 will be listed in the Easter Bulletin. Check payable to PHUMC - Easter Flowers.

### Joys and Concerns

**DEATHS:** Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mark Barr and family in the death of his aunt, Ellen Woodward Barr.

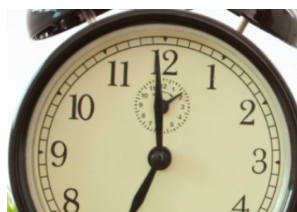
### NEW MEMBERS:



Dianne and Mike Hocut



Meagan Davis and Jack Lofton



spring *forward*  
FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 10