



THE TOWER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 167, NUMBER 7 LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, CHANGE THE WORLD JULY 2021

WORSHIP UPDATE

Dear Congregation,

As we are all too aware, vaccination rates are low and Covid infection rates are dramatically increasing daily. Consequently, we are immediately implementing the following requirements at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church until further notice:

- Masks MUST be worn in all worship services and while in our facilities.
- Worship services are limited to 80 people per service.
- Sign-ups for worship are required starting. You can register at phumc.com/worshipregistration.
- Social distancing practices must be followed.
- If you are immune compromised, even if you have been vaccinated, we encourage you to stay home and watch our services online or on television.

Childcare for worship services is available for babies through preschoolers with no registration. Sunday school classes can meet via Zoom or in-person at their own discretion. Youth and children's sunday school will take place from 10:10-10:50 in the youth and children's areas.

I am keenly aware that making decisions like this creates potential criticism. Please know, we are most concerned about the physical well-being of anyone who attends any event here. That takes precedent over the inconveniences we all face as a result of this on-going pandemic.

We are doing the best we can with what it is we all face. The last thing we want to do is close our facilities, so please know we are taking every measure possible to try to avoid that scenario. Thank you for your understanding and patience and pray that more and more will get vaccinated and we can leave this part of our history behind once and for all.

I am proud to serve as one of your pastors.

Dr. John Robbins

3RD GRADE BIBLES & 3rd/4th GRADE BIBLE BOOT CAMP!

3RD GRADE BIBLES!



On **August 22nd**, 3rd graders will be receiving a very special gift from the church — a Bible! We have a wonderful and long tradition of giving each third grader his/her very own Bible, and at PHUMC giving you a Bible is truly a JOY! Parents, please go to phumc.com/bibles and complete the form by **July 29th** to let us know what name you want inscribed on your third grader's Bible and which service you plan to attend!

Also, we are hosting two Bible Boot Camps this year! Bible Boot Camp is a Saturday adventure at Ferncliff Camp in West Little Rock for campers in 3rd and 4th grade. They will learn how to use their Bible through hands-on workshops, crafts, games, missions, food, and friendship! We have one date for rising 4th graders, **August 21**,

and one date for rising 3rd graders, **August 28!** Learn more at phumc.com/biblebootcamp!

BIBLE BOOT CAMP

Rising 4th graders - August 21st

Rising 3rd graders - August 28st

phumc.com/biblebootcamp

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021 UPDATE

Greetings from your lay and clergy members to the Arkansas Annual Conference. This year our conference was offered in a hybrid format, both in-person at Hot Springs, and via Zoom. As in the past, together as one body in Christ, we worshipped, prayed, conducted business and heard reports about the status of our United Methodist church. We were so fortunate that two morning worship services included our newest staff, Brooke Hobbs.

The Bishop's Episcopal address "The Gift of an Unexpected Pause," stressed opportunities local churches should take during the pause caused by a global pandemic and before the next General Conference meeting to: (1) strengthen congregations by praying, being bold, taking risks and being compassionate; (2) double-down on mission and (3) make Jesus the heart of everything the church does. Bishop Mueller noted that Jesus is not a "liberal" thing, Jesus is not a "conservative" thing, instead Jesus is God's thing for the world, for everyone.

We voted and passed a petition to engage in partnership with Project Transformation. This is a program that brings young teens and young children together, with the older mentoring and teaching the younger. The older teens have an opportunity to discern their gifts for ministry, while the younger children engage in learning opportunities. Dr. Robbins noted that his own son had engaged in this program and it had given his son direction into ministry.

Phoebe Sanders, ACCYM President, and a member of PHUMC presented the youth address via video. She spoke about the struggles that ACCYM had gone through in the past year, but the hope she felt about the future of the United Methodist Church as well as the welcome news of Project Transformation's partnership with the Arkansas Conference. More outstanding however, was the presentation to her of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award given out every year to two individuals, a youth and an adult recipient, who exemplify what it means to be a disciple in their own communities. Congratulations to Phoebe.

In a business session the conference voted on "A Resolution Regarding Decisions about Potential Separation, Departure, or Realignment as an Annual Conference" which passed after amendment. The resolution will bring together diverse ideological groups within the Arkansas Conference, including the Wesleyan Covenant Association/Confessing Movement, UMCNext/Uniting Methodist, and the Black Methodist for Church Renewal, in a wide-ranging discourse concerning the potential vote of separation that could occur at General Conference 2022. Rev. Whitney said the goal was for people to come together in Christian conferencing to discuss their thoughts, feelings, anxieties, and more about the upcoming General Conference session.

We were privileged to hear Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley and Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson address the sin of racism and its manifestation in our churches. They noted the need to acknowledge racism, affirm that all people are of sacred worth, and to take action individually to initiate change. We also heard from the Rev. Dr. Michael Beck of Fresh Expressions US. Dr. Beck came to us via Zoom, and spoke on the mission of Fresh Expressions, which is to go into places where we don't normally think church can happen, and form relationships and connections with people in new ways. Some of the places that Rev. Dr. Beck mentioned where Fresh Expressions have popped up include tattoo parlors, burrito restaurants, dog parks, and virtual spaces. All these speakers challenged us to be intentional and as Dr. Robbins has noted in his sermons, get uncomfortable with being a Methodist.

Thank you to PHUMC for allowing me to attend and be a part of our connectional fabric.

Sylvia Borchert

PHUMC FOOD PANTRY UPDATES

The Judy Huddleston Strohm Food Pantry Ministry is happy to announce that an anonymous donor has committed to match donations from "Lovers of the Food Pantry" up to \$3,000. Please may make your gift to PHUMC Food Pantry until September 1 to participate in this matching gift program. These funds will be the start of a new PHUMC Foundation endowment when total gifts reach a threshold of \$10,000.

As you have seen through various publications, the Food Pantry has been extremely active for many years in PHUMC's efforts to reduce food insecurity in the Greater Little Rock area. Church food donations have made this possible for more than 70 families who 'drive-through' for food distribution from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday each month. Recently, the Food Pantry has also offered a Job Fair trying to match some of these clients, their families and friends with member and other local businesses.

This past month, the food pantry distributed 110 bags to 67 families! You can bring donations to Entrance 7 off of Lee Avenue from 7:30am-7:30pm Mondays-Friday! Or bring food with you on Sundays when you come to church! Our Food Pantry currently needs peanut butter, canned beans and canned meat with pasta (e.g spaghetti).



PHAITH STORIES

SAINTS, SINNERS & SPICY TAKES

We released the first episode of our new podcast, PHaith Stories: Saints, Sinners, & Spicy Takes this month! Rev. Kathleen McMurray & Rev. Jay Clark look back on stories of church history & events and discuss how they remain relevant today!

You can find our podcast wherever you listen to podcasts or go to phumc.com/podcast! Be sure to like and subscribe!

HAPPENING HOUR
A TIME OF COMMUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS
TUESDAYS FROM 5-7PM
CONTACT KMCMURRAY@PHUMC.COM
FOR MORE INFO!

Calling all young adults! Introducing Happening Hour, a time for young adults to meet and be in community with one another! We will meet Tuesdays from 5-7 at different locations around town!

Contact kmcmurray@phumc.com for more info or go to phumc.com/yam to sign up for updates!

PHUMC GAME SHOW
Wednesdays

While we take a break from Bible Study on Wednesday nights for the rest of the Summer, our staff is going to be playing different gameshows!

We will be playing Hot Ones, an interview show with a twist & Jeopardy! Don't miss out! Join us on Wednesday at 6:30 on Facebook and YouTube!

PHUMC TAKEOVER @ THE TRAVELERS
AUGUST 13TH, 7:05PM!
PHUMC.COM/TRAVS

PHUMC TAKEOVER @ THE TRAVS!

We are excited to come together as a church family and be in community with one another, after spending almost 17 months apart due to the pandemic. We are excited to announce PHUMC Takeover @ The Travelers on Friday, August 13th at 7:10 PM. Join us for an all-church event at the Arkansas Travelers baseball game.

The cost is just \$5 per guest, which allows you to sit with our church. Food and drink are not included in the \$5.

We hope you'll put it on your calendar and join us at the game this August! Sign up at phumc.com/travs! If it rains, the make up date is August 27th.

CONGRATS SAM!
Congrats to Rev. Sam Robbins on his recent ordination!

Congratulations to Sam Robbins, John and Susan's son, on becoming ordained as a United Methodist Elder!

Sam is on staff at White's Chapel United Methodist Church in Southlake, Texas!

Congratulations!
ELLEN & SEAN!

You may notice a new name on our staff list now! Our Minister to Youth & Families, now Ellen Rowland, got married this month! We are so happy for Ellen and Sean!

CENTRAL ARKANSAS DIAPER BANK

This month the Central Arkansas Diaper Bank distributed over 9,500 diapers to 127 children and 82 families! In addition, we gave out wipes for every child.

We are in need of Spanish translators for the first Wednesday of each month! Folks who are interested can email hawleyerine@gmail.com.

Learn more about how you can get involved with the Central Arkansas Diaper Bank and how you give donations by going to phumc.com/diaperbank.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS

EXTENDED to family and friends of Joan "Jo" Gillum Jacobs in her recent death; to Dawne Vandiver, Shannon Aston and families in the death of their father, Buddy Benafield; to Mike Marlow and family in the death of his father, James Wesley Marlow; to Eden Holman and family in the death of her great-grandmother, Betty Jean James; to Jackson and Mallory Stewart in the death of their mother, Carmen Stewart; to the family and friends of Bob Bailey in his recent death; to the family and friends of Wilma Womack in her recent death; to Georgann McKinney and family in the death of her husband, Robert H. "Bob" McKinney; to Mary Claire Patton and Emma Patton and family in the death of their grandfather, Don Meyer; to Tommy Owen and family in the death of his sister, Melanie Owen Webre; to Amanda Craven and family in the death of her husband, Eddie Craven; to Wayne McBride and family in the death of his father, Aubrey McBride; to Grace Anne, Collier and Parker Hartsfield in the death of their mother, Jill Hartsfield; to Dr. David Hall and family in the death of his mother, Helen Hall; to Christian Harris and family in the death of his uncle, Hoel Lively; to Dale Garland and family in the death of his brother, Larry Garland; to Christi Oliver and family in the death of her nephew, Matt Clift; and to Ali Noland and family in the death of her grandfather, Don Brady.

WE REJOICE IN THE BIRTH of Ruth Elizabeth Brick, child of Megan and Phil Brick; of Jack Thomas Bizzell, child of Jamie and JR Bizzell.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Molly Rosenthal and Richmond Giles in their recent marriage; Ellen Gotelli and Sean Rowland in their recent marriage; and to Anna-Lee Pittman and Sam McSpadden in their recent marriage

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patrick Couch, Sam McSpadden, Ellen and Sean Rowland, Margaret Morgan, and Clarice Schellinger.

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

Return Service Requested



@pulaskiheightsunitedmethodistchurch



youtube.com/pulaskiheightsumc



Twitter: @pulaskiheights

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Contact Information

Website: www.phumc.com • (501) 664-3600
Fax: 664-4835 • Email: phumc@phumc.com

Church Office Hours:

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

You are welcome to utilize our available spaces during the week for gatherings, as long as reservations have been made at **phumc.com/espace**. At this time, masks are required for all who enter.

WE REJOICE IN THE BAPTISM

of Henrietta Ruth Cowley, child of Jordan and Adam Cowley; of Willa Elizabeth Gattin, child of Allyson and Ryan Gattin; of John Charles Young, child of Olivia and Michael Young; of Elizabeth Britton Cross, child of Annie and Michael Cross; of Blake Lee Katzenberg, child of Meredith and Michael Katzenberg; of Mark Daniel Grinnan, Jr., child of Jennifer and Daniel Grinnan; of Landry Rolston, child of Leah and William Rolston; and of Ruth Elizabeth Brick, child of Megan and Phil Brick.



GIVE A KID A CHANCE

DONATE TO SUPPORT WAKEFIELD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As we are noticing school supplies and back packs and school uniforms in stores we remember our great joy as a church family to provide school supplies, back packs and uniforms for the precious children at Wakefield Elementary as well as expressions of appreciation for the staff at Wakefield.

A gift of \$40.00 provides a child with school supplies, back pack and uniforms. To contribute, one can go online at **phumc.com/give** or mail a check made out to PHUMC with Give a Kid a Chance in the memo line.



JULY STAFF BIRTHDAYS

JAY CLARK - JULY 26

TIM JACKSON - JULY 30

TRENTON TEEGARDEN - JULY 31