



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

THIS LENT, INDULGE IN THE BREAD OF LIFE



I recently heard an interview with professional football player Kirk Cousins, quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings. Cousins, who grew up in a home where faith in God was right there with salt and pepper on the table, tells of a trying time in his life. He played on the high school football team, and it wasn't until his junior year that he actually got a chance to play on the field. Sadly though, that didn't last long because he suffered an injury which put him back on the bench. This hit Cousins especially hard because junior year is when the scouts come and recruit for colleges. Cousins thought it was over, his chances of playing college ball done. But his Dad was quick to put his despairing son back on track. "Remember Proverbs 3:5-6," he said: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

Cousin's dad wasn't trying to promise his son that football was still his future, but rather he was imploring him to trust in God, that no matter how this turned out, God still had a plan for him. As it turned out, Cousins did make it back on the field, and now he plays for the pros. What a miraculous turn around. "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

For Cousins, this experience was a turning point for him and it is a continual testimony of God's faithfulness to never leave us or forsake us. God is real, and God desires us to trust Him and walk in relationship with Him. The interview also mentioned a weekly practice of Cousins' team and other professional teams, of having Bible study and chapel. This devotion time goes right alongside their other routines like working out in the weight room and running drills on the field. What a witness to the importance of faith in their lives that these titans on the field, also find it important to bow their knees before the Lord.

We are about to enter the season of Lent, a season which kicks off this year on Wednesday, February 17th with a retelling of a prominent moment in Jesus' life when He hungered and thirsted in the wilderness. While He was tempted by Satan to give in, His hunger for God was greater, as He declared to the tempter, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

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GOD IS STEADFAST, ESPECIALLY IN THESE DAYS

LAY LEADER MESSAGE - Dave Smith

Although our worship time together has been curtailed by the Covid pandemic, we are seeing our God working through and within it. PUMC has many different groups who are meeting, learning and worshiping in new and exciting ways. Words such as Zoom, streaming, Covid and virtual now have everyday use. However, the word of God has not changed and He is there for us, always. But who is this Christ? Who is this Messiah we read, pray and talk about and what proof do we have that he existed? In the study, "The Case For Christ", an atheist seeks to find the answers and, in a scientific and logical manner learns that the case for Christ is supported by history, science, archeology and facts. Time and time again the experts in their respective fields

tell the author, "My research and findings have brought me closer to Christ not because I believe any greater but rather because it helped my disbelief." Referencing Mark 9:24, "Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

I'll close here with a fact from the study that touched my heart. Messiah in Hebrew means "the promised and expected deliverer". When the term is used in the Old Testament, it specifically pertains to the Jewish people. The Greek word for "Messiah" is "Christ". In the New Testament the Christ is revealed to be the anointed one and the deliverer who has come for all who would receive Him. He is there for us all through these days and forever.



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

OFFERINGS&REFLECTIONS

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This season, may you hunger and thirst for God in your life. God is who we truly need. During this season, I encourage you to evaluate what priority your relationship with God has in your day to day life and decision making. Putting Jesus first in our life means setting aside time each day for personal and family devotions, spending time weekly in the study of the Bible, weekly participation in either the online or in-person outdoor services of worship at PUMC and spending time daily in honest conversation with God through prayer. As we each do this, not only will we grow closer to God, but we will become more like Jesus in the way we live and love - we will find renewed joy each day and be filled with the peace and hope that Jesus, our living Savior, offers to each of us. May it be so for you and for me.

Prayerfully,

Becky Shirley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



The Logos Class surprised Pastor Becky with flowers and a card for her and the staff shared a delicious cake with her on her birthday. Pastor Becky, we give thanks to God for his calling on your life. May you experience the radiant presence of God in you and through you, as you serve Him so faithfully.



BUNDLEUP! OUTDOOR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES STARTING FEBRUARY 14, 2021

PUMC is offering Sunday Outdoor Worship services on the lawn adjacent the Fellowship Hall on February 14th, 21st, and 28th at 10:00 am and Ash Wednesday services, February 17th at 12:30pm or 6:00pm. By March, we hope to be able to return to worship indoors, but until then, let's praise God together in the great outdoors!

SAFETY PROTOCOLS: While no one can guarantee a completely safe environment during this time, but we are working hard to keep our community safe and asking you to partner with us in that mission. Our congregation and our communities' health and safety is of the utmost importance to us. With that being said, please see the safety practices for this event:

- Practice social distancing – maintain 6 ft apart from non-family
- Avoid physical contact with others
- Stay home if you have been sick in the last 24 hours or have been around someone who is sick
- Masks are required

HOW LONG WILL THESE SERVICES LAST? Approximately 35 minutes.

WHAT TIME WILL IT START? Sunday outdoor service will begin at 10:00 am. Please note this new time!

WHERE WILL OUTDOOR WORSHIP BE HELD? Outdoor Worship services will be held on the side lawn outside the Fellowship Hall.

WHAT IF IT RAINS OR TEMPERATURE DROPS? In the event of inclement weather, Outdoor Worship will be canceled, and attendees are encouraged to watch our online service. Cancellation information will be updated on our church website and Facebook page.

WILL ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUE? Yes! You can continue to worship online every Sunday via Facebook and our website.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING? Your mask, a camping or folding chair (if you wish to sit), comfortable shoes (if you wish to stand), and blanket (if desired).




**Worshiping
in Love**

WORSHIP ARTS

The last 12 months...what a long, strange trip it's been! As we continue into the new year, the Worship Arts Team has been looking at ways to enhance our worship experience while observing all necessary COVID protocols to keep our community and congregation safe.

While our physical building may be closed, our spirits are not! We have been blessed to have online worship services available each week, but we do miss the sense of community that comes with being together....even if socially distanced. With that in mind, PUMC will be offering outdoor worship services February 14th, 21st, and 28th beginning at 10:00 am. Please see below for more information.

We have been through some tough times since last Lent which, for some, have shattered our sense of mind and spirit...like a vessel fractured into pieces. As we enter this new Lenten season, let us reflect on the healing and celebrate the journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Please join us on Wednesday, February 17th, where we will be offering two outdoor Ash



February 17th
12:30 & 6:00
Outdoor Services

Imposition of Ashes using safety protocols

Bring your chair & join us on the lawn beside the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday services opportunities including the Imposition of Ashes at both 12:30pm and 6:00pm. During this service, you will be given a piece of sea glass. We invite you to take it home, pray and then drop into a tub at one of the Sunday outdoor services. We will be collecting them throughout the season of Lent. You will also have opportunities to pick up your piece of sea glass at an outdoor worship services and other key events.

On behalf of the Worship Arts and the Worship Design teams, we look forward to a blessed 2021 and helping enhance your worship experience! If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Matchinske at dmatchinske@gmail.com.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee has twelve members who work together giving their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to support the needs of their fellow congregants. The committee is divided into nine active teams (and soon to be ten) and each team has members who give their support. For example: praying, knitting, calling, sending cards and providing meals are a few ways that we try to show the love of God to someone in need because they have a broken hip, are anxious about final exams, feel lonely, or are celebrating a birthday! If you would like to help support one or more of our teams, please contact Nurture Chair Fran Ray at 404-281-5523, nurture@pumcfortmill.org or contact Denise in the church office 803-548-0102.

2021 Nurture Teams

1. Sunshine Ministry: connects to our those who are in nursing homes, homebound, or otherwise unable to regularly attend church service.
2. Hospital/Rehab Visits: personal visits or calls to those in temporary health crisis.
3. Caring Cards: sends birthday, sympathy, cards of encouragement and celebration.
4. Lay Eucharist: delivers the sacrament of Holy Communion to those "unwillingly absent" from worship.
5. Prayer Chain & Meals: requested prayers are shared with those who have committed to pray for those in need. Meals/snacks

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Serving In Love: Jennifer Lare helps Lollie while she is recovering by walking her dog.



Serving In Love: Lollie Rae wears her beloved prayer shawl to comfort her as she recovers from a recent fall. She is also enjoying one of many meals made and delivered by members of The Ladies' Bible Study and Meal Ministry Team.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

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are delivered to people who have been in the hospital, have had a death in the family, are going thru serious illness or who are less mobile.

6. Philly Friends: connects with those aged 18-23 to mentor and support young adults during these transitional years by praying for them, sending emails, cards, and if possible, a small goodie on occasion.

7. Prayer Shawl Ministry: knitting/crocheting to create tangible objects of love for comfort

8. Senior Friends: a group of older active adults who meet monthly in fellowship. Often going on outings.

9. FAN: Faith, Activity & Nutrition: provides opportunity to grow your faith as you improve your health.

FAN - FAITH, ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

Blood Drive - February 7TH, 9am - 1pm



Did you know each whole blood donation has the potential to save 3 lives? Generous blood donors are the only source of blood for patients in need of a blood transfusion. Please consider donating when the Big Red Bus comes to PUMC.

It's a wonderful act of compassion, caring and servanthood.

You must be symptom free from COVID-19 for 14 days to give. You can give blood if you have received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Click on this link to make an appointment: <http://oneblood.org/donate-now/> Search for PUMC (zip code 29708) There are 2 different buses and plenty of slots available. You do not have to be a member of PUMC to participate.

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP - PYG

The youth enjoyed a zoom baking night! We made 3 ingredient cookies using cake mix! We had so much fun trying something new together and all really enjoyed the cookies! We hope to do a baking or cooking zoom again!

The youth are excited to get back to our weekly PYG meetings! Due to the current safety guidelines, we are going to be alternating between meeting in person and meeting on Zoom! We have some very exciting events in the works!

During Sunday School, we have really been enjoying our access to the Right Now Media. We love watching the videos together and learning more about God's word! We are currently watching a series about the book of James! Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30am on Zoom!

Please email Maggie Justus Maggie@pumcfortmill.org to be added! This is the best way to stay up-to-date with youth news!

Camp Gladiator

2020 was a challenging year and many struggled to maintain their fitness routine with gyms closing and mask mandates. The start of the new year is a great time to help others get back on track with their fitness goals and I would love an opportunity to help the members of Philadelphia UMC kickstart their 2021 fitness goals with a free month of camp - unlimited access to all of our outdoor or virtual camps - no strings attached - all of February!

Camp Gladiator - is an award winning adult fitness program for all fitness levels with a mission to positively impact the physical fitness and ultimately the lives of as many people as possible. Our 60-minute workouts, we call them camps, are bootcamp style and we are (or were) 100% outside. Last year, we began offering virtual workouts. I am opening our first Fort Mill location in your church parking lot with classes on Monday & Wednesday at 5:15am and Monday & Tuesday at 5:15pm. Our virtual options are literally all times of day Monday through Saturday. We have a strong focus on community and free workouts is one way we like to give back.

Have questions? Please contact Mara Burdick ~ Partner Trainer
C (704) 400-0542

Text Only (704) 769-9962
campGladiator.com



Scan to register for a free month of workouts or click here
<http://bit.ly/pumccgwithmara>



MUSIC MINISTRY

Pastor Becky recently directed me to a blog from a fellow Choir Director. In it, the writer was conversing with his wife about this time in history and what our world is dealing with (pandemic). He referenced the phrase, “for such a time as this” from the book of Esther (Chap. 4:13). This Scripture is part of a conversation between a man (Mordecai) and his adopted daughter (Esther) who had become the Queen, wife of King Xerxes. Believing that Esther could have a positive influence upon the king which would in turn make a positive difference in that day’s society, Mordecai presented Esther with this thoughtful question, “Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

I'm excited that we have plans to resume Sunday in-person worship on February 14th outdoors!! We plan to go back into our beautiful sanctuary as soon as our church council and staff feel it is safe to do so. In the meantime, rehearsals for the CORE will begin again in February and I will be starting another 'virtual' Chancel Choir rehearsal as well. If you have not been a member of the Chancel Choir in the past but would like to be a part of the virtual choir (with in-person sectional rehearsals in small groups), contact me at jim@pumcfortmill.org.

I want to close with a verse from Harry Emerson Fosdick's hymn, "God of Grace and God of Glory": "God of grace and God of glory, On your people pour your power. Crown your ancient Church's story; Bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour."

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

ROOF ABOVE - PUMC Missions is delighted to share preliminary plans for a lunch packing event supporting our brothers and sisters in need. March 30th, PUMC will be providing a bag lunches for 130 guests of Roof Above. Roof Above is the combined effort of Urban Ministry Center and Men's Shelter of Charlotte. "Whether through our shelters or our housing programs, we are committed to providing the safety, protection, and dignity of a roof above. "Roof Above" is also meant to serve as an aspirational call to what we want everyone in our community to have – above all else, the simple comfort of a roof to call one's own."

PUMC members can assist in the following ways:



- purchasing food items
- sandwich preparation
- assembly of bag lunches
- delivery of lunches Uptown

Assembly of the lunches will follow CDC guidelines in conjunction with Church Council. Nine people will be allowed in Fellowship Hall at any one time. A Sign-Up Genius will be coming the first of March.

CLASSROOM READY - Who are we? Classroom Ready is a Foundation for Fort Mill Schools program, run by community volunteers and funded by grants and donations from our supportive community. Classroom Ready provides free school supplies to students in need.

Who do we serve? We serve every school in the Fort Mill School District. In the summer months, we work with individual families, SON Ministry and The Fort Mill Care Center to identify needs prior to school starting. During the school year, we work directly with FMSD guidance counselors to meet student needs.

Classroom Ready needs only 1,019 more plastic 3 ring 2 pocket folders to fulfill their 2020-2021 need. PUMC members have donated 781 folders to date. Way to go PUMC!

Drop off at church Mon - Thur 9am-1pm or call Dawn at 802-355-4224 for a porch pick up. The following links make shopping easy!

https://www.officedepot.com/a/products/9515909/Office-Depot-Brand-School-Grade-3/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&gclid=CjwKCAiAgJWABhArEiwAmNVTB887cMe0_

[JAM Plastic 2 Pocket School POP Folders with Metal Prongs Fastener Clasps, Assorted Primary Colors, 6/Pack - Walmart.com](#)



CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

KIDS' VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday from 9:50-10:30am

We continue to offer Zoom Sunday School classes for preschool and elementary ages. Fun, talk, videos, lessons, activities - this is great family time, before the 11:00am worship service. If you'd like to be placed on the list to receive the weekly Zoom link, contact Nic Gold. nicolas@pumcfortmill.org

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE VIDEOS

Shrove Tuesday is February 16th. It's a time to reflect on God, Jesus, and ourselves as we enter the Lenten season. We're all sad that we can't get together and eat Mrs. Linda's pancakes and have the Pancake Flipping Contest, but you kids can help from home!!! Make a video for us to share at church and on social media!!

1. Have your parents record you doing either one or both of the following:

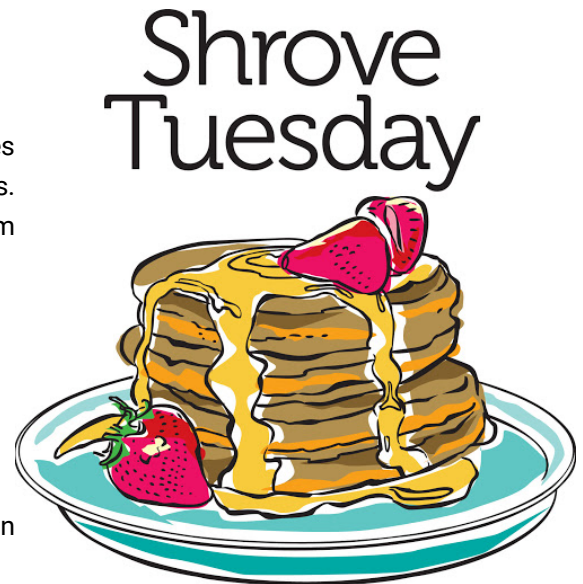
- Tell us about your favorite pancake recipe.
- Show us one or more examples of your best pancake flipping skills.

2. Answer one or both of the following questions on your video:

Shrove Tuesday is a time when we think about how to change the wrongs things in our lives and ask God to make us better people.

- What is something in your life or a behavior that you want God to help you change?
- What is something in this world that you want other people to change about how they behave?

Please send your video to Nic Gold, nicolas@pumcfortmill.org, by Wednesday, February 10th and we will post it in church and on the PUMC Facebook pages and the Children's Ministry YouTube page. Thank you for sharing and don't forget to have a yummy pancake dinner on the 16th and look at the [PUMC Facebook](#) page that night! Check out the pancake recipes from the UMW in this newsletter.



LIFE GROUPS

During this Covid era, Philadelphia Church continues to make disciples by worshipping, growing, and serving in love. LifeGroups are one of our best ways to serve God and further our disciple-making mission. In addition to our current LifeGroups, new LifeGroups will be starting this year including Bible 101: The Parables, groups on prayer, race, men's discipleship, and one for those looking to start their own LifeGroups. Check out our [PUMC LifeGroup Page](#) for current and upcoming opportunities.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

PUMC is partnering with RightNow Media to bring you FREE access to their amazing catalogue of Christian content. It's Christian Netflix with thousands of bible studies, films, speakers, documentaries, and content for kids. To start your free account: Click the link and it will direct you to the Register Page of our church's account. <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/PhiladelphiaUMC> or you can contact Nicolas@pumcfortmill.org.



Growing In Love: The Ladies' Bible Study has remained steadfast in fellowship and study throughout this last year. They are currently meeting via Zoom on Fridays at 10am and are in the 3rd week of study on disciples. They be meeting outside at church again when the weather permits.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SHROVE TUESDAY, February 16th

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes for Shrove Dinner? Or what is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the old Christian ritual of “shriving”, where a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and pain.

Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods you will be giving up for Lent. It used to be that Christians would not eat many foods during Lent such as meat, fish, fats, eggs, or milk. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn’t through Lent. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday, as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house.

This year, we encourage you to enjoy a Shrove Pancake Dinner with your family. Try one of our favorite pancake recipes given below. Check the [PUMC Facebook](#) page or [PUMC website](#) for a special messages on Shrove Tuesday from Kristin and Erik Gommer and children from PUMC. For more information on our UMW, please contact Pam Brenwald at pambrenwald@gmail.com or 803-493-0980.

Fluffy Blueberry Pancakes

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1+ cup fresh blueberries
- more butter for the pan

Instructions

1. Mix the milk and vinegar and let it sit for a minute or two (you’re making “buttermilk” here).
2. Whisk the dry ingredients together. Whisk the egg, milk, and melted butter into the dry ingredients until just combined.
3. Heat a nonstick pan over medium heat. Melt a little smear of butter in the pan (essential for giving a yummy golden brown crust).
4. Pour about 1/3 cup of batter into the hot skillet and spread it flat-like (it will be pretty thick). Arrange a few blueberries on top. Cook until you see little bubbles on top and the edges starting to firm up. Flip and cook for another 1-2 minutes until the pancakes are sky-high fluffy and cooked through.

Cream Cheese Pancakes

Ingredients

- 2 cups self rising flour (if you only have all-purpose flour whisk in 3 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 tsp salt)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1-1/2 to 2 cups milk
- 4 oz softened cream cheese (can add more if you want to) - cut up in small chunks
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions

1. Combine self-rising flour and sugar in a large bowl, make a well in the center of the mixture
2. Combine egg, milk, cream cheese, butter and vanilla; stirring well.
3. Add wet to dry ingredients, stirring just until moistened
4. Pour 1/4 cup batter fore each pancake onto a hot, lightly greased griddle. Cook pancakes until tops are covered with bubbles and edges appear to be cooked. Turn and cook other side.

Notes:

Don’t press down the pancake with the turner or they will be tough and heavy; these pancakes will rise and will be light and fluffy!

Feel free to add fixings (blueberries, chocolate chips, nuts, etc.) to the batter after you pour it on the griddle; that way you can make them to order!!

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 832

Scouts BSA Troop 832 is a vibrant and active organization within the church. The troop (ages 11-18) meets Tuesdays from 7 - 8pm. Presently, the weekly meetings are virtual, via Zoom. We operate in association with the PUMC United Methodist Men. Our mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The weekly meetings provide a variety of instructional lessons and fun activities.

Our schedule normally would have an outdoor activity every month, generally backpacking trips into the wilderness of the western North Carolina Mountains. The scouts are encouraged to explore and enjoy the outdoors. However, with COVID-19 activity restrictions, it is difficult to carry out the Scouting coronavirus mitigation protocols. As such, the troop has temporarily suspended our camping activities.

Our troop will be completing its 9th year this month! Some highlights from 2020:

- Journey to Excellence - Gold, for excellence in achieving the goals of Scouting.
- Maintained a membership of 26 Scouts aged 11 to 17
- Four Scouts earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
- 2,245 pounds of food collected for a local food pantry.
- 668 hours of service. Additional service opportunities and community involvement will continue to be offered in the coming year.

We continue to be grateful for the support of PUMC in allowing our youth to have a safe space to learn and develop.

For more information please contact:

- Scoutmaster Brian Moegling, smtroop832@gmail.com
- Committee Chairman Doug Finley, troop832fortmi1@gmail.com
- Charter Organization Representative Dawn Matchinske, dmatchinske@gmail.com.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

With the doors of Philadelphia UMC closed due to Covid, it seems impossible to invite the community in; however, there actually are opportunities abound!

The Evangelism Team would like to start a "I Prayed for You" campaign. We are asking every church member to pray for a neighbor or friend who is not a member of PUMC. Then send them a note to let them know you prayed for them and invite them to visit our website at pumcfortmill.org for available activities and Sunday morning sermons.

Your neighbors and/or friends might be interested in:

- Camp Gladiator - outdoor exercises - Monday & Wednesday, 5:15am; Monday & Tuesday, 5:15pm
- February 7th - blood mobile – 9am-1pm
- February 14th - outdoor service – 10am
- February 17th - Ash Wednesday service – 12:30pm & 6:00pm
- Every Sunday - online worship via Facebook and on our website

Mailing Address

2764 Pleasant Road
Suite A, PMB 11804
Fort Mill, SC 29708

1691 Hwy. 160 West
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Contact

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Staff

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Director of Worship Art - Jim Lowder
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Nic Gold
Director of Youth Ministries - Maggie Justus
Office Manager - Denise Watson
Financial Secretary - Stefanie Hill