

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

The July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday was anything but joyous to those who lost friends and family to devastating floods in south Texas. The destructive fast-moving waters that began before sunrise that Friday in the Texas Hill Country killed at least 80 people and an unknown number remain missing. Those still unaccounted for included 27 girls from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along the Guadalupe River in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered.

We as Christians and humanitarians ask, "what can we do?" The best thing we can do at this point is through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). UMCOR is providing support to the Texas disaster through financial grants, Early Response Teams (ERTs), and material assistance. They are working with the Rio Texas Conference and other partners to address immediate needs.

UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to the Rio Texas Conference to assist with their response efforts to the flooding. Early Response Teams (ERTs) have been dispatched and are coordinating efforts to help with debris removal, tarping roofs, and cleaning out homes in the impacted areas. Resources like flood buckets and other essential items are being gathered.

UMCOR's disaster response will continue throughout the recovery process, including home repairs and rebuilding efforts. Long-term collaboration will continue with local churches, the Rio Texas Conference and other partners to provide comprehensive support.

So, how might we at PUMC help? We have already helped some with our UMCOR Sunday contributions which pay for running the program. With those costs taken care of, 100% of

donations made now will be put into the relief effort. Donations can be made to the Rio Texas Annual Conference Disaster Fund (<https://riotexasresponse.org/take-action>) or to UMCOR Advance #901670 (<https://umcmmission.org/about-the-advance/>) to support UMCOR's U.S. disaster response. These links can also be found on our website at [www.ComeToParadise.org](http://www.ComeToParadise.org).

This is just one way the connectional system of the United Methodist Church works, providing direct and instant assistance wherever it is needed. Our thoughts and prayers continue for those swept up in this disaster. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Blessings on your heads!

Pastor Rob

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Please join us for Sunday School at 9:45 Sundays. We are starting a new study by James W. Moore, "O Say Can You See? Biblical Stories About Spiritual Blindness." Just let me know if you would like to join us, I'm happy to get more books if needed! Angie

**JULY POTLUCK**

The next Potluck meal is July 27th! Bring a dish and come join the fun right after church!

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

The Ice Cream Social is coming soon! Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-5pm. We will send out more information in the next few weeks! It is a great time to bring a neighbor or friend!

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

Well, PUMC family you continue to amaze me. Your generosity provides for those who are in a season where a helping hand is welcomed. We had 9 who took a Saturday morning and volunteered to help people shop and wheeled

groceries out and loaded up cars for the folk at A Turning Point on June 21. We will be going back later this year if you'd like to join us you would certainly be welcomed! We have been talking in Sunday School about Being the Presence of Christ and what that looks like. We've had discussions on identifying other areas to help. If you have somewhere that you like to volunteer that could use a hand, please let Tooti know.

**July Missions Collections**

Smithville Food Pantry – Canned Veggies – no corn or green beans

Trimble Food Pantry - Monetary

Monetary Collection - Grocery Store gift cards to be given out to the Smithville School District and Smithville Housing Authority in place of the reverse Advent boxes. This will allow more flexibility for the recipients. There is a choice in the drop-down menu “Christmas Gift Cards” in the online giving. If you would prefer to purchase a gift card at Price Chopper instead, you are welcome to do that and place them in the wooden box on the table in the Missions area in the family center. A \$50-\$60 gift card is what is suggested but smaller amounts are welcome too. Please paperclip or tape your gift receipt to the card so we know the value of the card.

**June Missions Collections:**

The Smithville Food Pantry - 68 boxes of cereal, 8 boxed meals, 16 rolls of bathroom tissue and \$50

Plattsburg Pantry \$350

Paradise Cemetery \$25

Peace With Justice Sunday \$270.55

Trimble Food Pantry \$150

**Unhoused Meals**

We will be providing 2 more meals for the unhoused through the Fishes & Loaves Ministry that Darcy & Scott are involved with. We will be providing meals August 2 and December 6. The August 2 meal will be a little different than in the past. Since the Rubies are on summer break and will not be gathering that day, there will be a signup sheet for main dish ingredients, fruit cups and sheet cakes. The main dish ingredients will be combined and cooked off the morning of August 2 at the church. Individual fruit cups can be delivered anytime between now and August 2. Please label them “Fishes and Loaves” and put them on the kitchen counter. The sheet cakes can be dropped off August 1 or 2 and labeled “Fishes & Loaves” and put in the refrigerator in the kitchen. Signup sheets are on the clipboards in the mission area. Watch for the recipes to be posted behind the signup sheets.

**PUMC DIRECTORY**

Dave Jacobs is a new member who has offered to help with verifying information from our church management software such as name, address, phone, email and pictures to be updated so that we have everyone’s most current information. After that it will be printed out (or emailed) if requested and made available to members. For those who use the Church Connect App (if you don’t have the app, please let me, Tooti, know and I will help you get it and get set up) you can review your information at any time and also choose what is available to other members of the PUMC church family through the online directory section in Church Connect.

**MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report for June 2025 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$32,451.71
General Offerings:	+\$8,532.50
Capital Improvement:	+758.55
Expenses:	-12,018.22
Final Balance:	\$29,724.54