



This is important! Please follow this link:

<https://www.mudcreekchurch.org/prayingonthemountain>

This church is starting a movement to pray for a spiritual awakening in America on May 5th. To our PBC family: We will have our church sanctuary open on that day for prayer from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. Please practice your distancing, but please come and pray.

Who is Fred Lunsford?

Earlier this year several ministers went to visit Rev. Fred Lunsford to talk to him about his continued fervent praying for a spiritual awakening in America. I had the privilege to be one of them. When we arrived, he had already been to his special place to pray even though the temperature was a cold 17 degrees on that January morning. We couldn't help but notice that the wall in his small den was covered with medals and plaques of recognition awarded for his service to our country. You can imagine how impressed we were to learn that he was one of the brave soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in 1944. Although he never once referred to his medals, we were in the presence of a genuine military hero!

While Rev. Lunsford is a very patriotic American, it is his burden as a soldier of the cross for a spiritual awakening that really captured our attention. He told us that he spends every day longing for it, praying for it, and truly believing in it. He invited us to travel with him the two-mile track to his special prayer place to join him in prayer for a spiritual awakening. Along the way, I was inspired by how important prayer is to him that he would make this journey every day just to pray. Contrast that with the reality that many struggle just to bend a knee by their bed, and I could clearly see why God has left him here for 95 years to continue to pray. What a prayer warrior!

When we arrived at his prayer garden, he began to share with us some of his daily experiences in prayer with the Lord. He said, "Two years ago I thought I was going to die at the age of 93. I was very sick and asked the Lord to let me die. I wanted to go to heaven, but God said, 'Not yet!'" He asked the Lord, "Why are you leaving me here?" He said the Lord answered him by saying He was "leaving him here to pray for a spiritual awakening!" Rev. Lunsford said he has not stopped praying for a spiritual awakening since that day two years ago. He believes that God is hearing his prayers, evidenced by our seeking him out with a stirring in our hearts. He then said, "Gentlemen let's pray for a spiritual awakening!" As we prayed that day, I felt God in a way that I hadn't experienced in a long time. Heaven came down and the area in which we were praying could barely contain us. Rev. Lunsford closed our time by uttering these words, "Thank you Lord, the spiritual awakening has begun!" He said those words came from God.

The next morning, I called Rev. Lunsford to talk to him about what we had happened the day before. He told me he had already been talking to God about our experience. He said he wanted us to come back and pray again, but that God had prompted him to invite more preachers to come and pray with us next time. "Let's get 100 preachers over here on this mountain praying for a spiritual

awakening!" he said. I told him I would love to be a part of something like that and I felt there were many preachers who would want to participate. He asked if I would help him send an invitation to preachers around the Carolinas. "God will prompt their hearts if He wants them to come!" he said.

As he said that to me, I couldn't help but reflect on how God seems to "prepare the way for a spiritual awakening through one man." The reports of the great revivals that swept the Carolinas in the early 1800s happened when God began "to do a work in the heart of one man who then turned into a larger setting of other men." I believe Fred Lunsford is that man and we quickly had nearly 200 preachers committed to come pray together for a spiritual renewal. God had something bigger in mind. God had the attention of 200 preachers, and He was about to get the attention of our nation!

It's been over a century since there has been a major spiritual awakening in America. The history of spiritual awakenings teaches us that you rarely experience a spiritual awakening without first being brought to a place of desperation which leads to prayer. Fred and many others had been praying for years that God would do whatever it might take to turn our nation back to Him. Some say you can trace those prayers back to the 1960s. It appears that Fred's prayers and the prayers of many other saints have been answered. Our nation has been brought to a place of desperation and we are again crying out to God in prayer! Those of us who heard Fred say that day, "The spiritual awakening has begun!" weren't sure exactly what that meant. His words brought us excitement, but it also brought us a measure of fear. We wondered what it might take to bring a nation back to its knees. None of us could have imagined what would transpire in the coming days! Only God in His sovereign omniscience knew that the Coronavirus was coming! This pandemic has brought our nation to a screeching halt. None of us predicted what would happen nor could we ever perceive that our churches and parking lots would be empty on Easter! God help us! Fred said, "What we need is a pandemic called prayer!" More than ever Christians are feeling a need to bind together in prayer. Individually we are praying daily but we want to do more and cry out to God in a more fervent way so that God will hear our cries. There is something spiritually significant about collectively praying together which is clearly seen in the book of Acts.

When the only thing we can do is pray, let's pray together!

Fred realizes that due to the "stay at home" mandates issued by governmental officials, the event planned for 200 preachers to physically gather together on a mountain to pray at this time isn't going to happen. While many of us longed to experience that, we are presently restricted from even gathering with our congregations on Sundays to worship. That hasn't discouraged Fred Lunsford from praying for a spiritual awakening. He says perhaps God has brought us back to a place of making prayer the priority it should have been all along. He said, "through prayer God has shown me that the promotion of the *Praying on The Mountain* event was simply God's way of getting the attention of 200 preachers who realized the urgent need to come together and pray." Fred went on to say that God revealed to him, "now that I have their attention, I want them to help organize an army of prayer warriors who will fast and pray on May 5th for a spiritual awakening. Fred said, "I should have seen this coming because God kept giving me hints of this when so many laymen kept asking me if they could be a part of the *Praying on The Mountain* event for a spiritual awakening. There was a growing interest, but logistically I wasn't sure how we were all going to physically gather everyone together into one place to pray on that mountain on May 5th." He continued, "I now realize that it never was about us gathering physically to pray but joining our hearts and souls to collectively pray together for a spiritual

(Continued on inside of bulletin.)

Philadelphia Baptist Church

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Giving Thanks



Wi-Fi Information

Sanctuary:

Network Name: WIN_504629; Password: rxz8p7h6fb

Fellowship Hall:

Network Name: WIN_700468; Password: 3q7g7kwsc8

Family Life Center:

Network Name: WIN_505855; Password: gptz73g2tt

R. Carol Anthony, Pastor

Jeff Jenkins, Youth Minister

Richard Taylor, Music Minister

Linda Day, Pianist

Sheri Rodgers, Secretary

Melba Zimmerman, Organist & Treasurer

"Lost!"

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (NKJV)

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the ^[a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Opportunities of the Week

See Pastor Carroll's Facebook Page and our church Facebook page throughout the week for devotionals and activities for you and the kids. 😊

Sunday

10:30 AM Drive In Morning Worship 😊 Come join us in the parking lot.

Tuesday

9:00 AM-9:00 PM Church Open for Prayer for spiritual awakening in America.

Wednesday

6:00 PM Bible Study on Pastor Carroll's Facebook Page (Carroll Anthony)

Next Sunday

10:30 AM Drive-In Service and Mother's Day Offering Ingathering

If you would like a printed copy of the bulletin mailed to you, please contact the church office. Thank you. 😊

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is stocked for anyone who needs to use or if you know of a family in need. Please call the church office at 704-624-5121 to set up a time to stop by.

Stewardship/Enrollment Report: April 26, 2020

Weekly Required: \$ 7,302.42

Weekly Received: \$ 5,376.00

Requirement to Date: \$ 255,584.70

Received to Date: \$ 244,554.87

Sunday School Enrollment: 250; **Present:** 0

AWANA/Youth Enrollment: 123; **AWANA/Youth**

Present/Outreach: 0

(No "In Church" Services due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19); however, we had our first church "Drive-in" Service on Easter Sunday, April 12th)

Prayer List

Please contact church office to update the Prayer list.

New: All Essential Workers, All those effected by Covid-19

Monroe Square, Brookdale: Eugenia Smith

Military: David Booth

On Going: Robin Aldridge, Helen Anthony, Sherrie Anthony, Chelsea Autry, Alisha Bell, Kim Cattie, Matthew Collier, Julia Crain, Aaron Duke, Loree Evans, Joyce Faircloth, Paul & Lavonne Floyd, Shelby Hendrickson, Bill Johnson, Jamie Jenkins, Mary Paula Keith, Charles Knight, Sherry Lane, Bill McLaurin, Nellie Moore, Mavis Moree, JoAnne Mucci, Bonnie Newland, Wilma & Vann Parker, Christi Phillips, Ralph Pope, Shirley Pope, Rick Pressley, Elaine Price, Virginia Rollins, Shirley Rorie, Peggy Rushing, Laura Sims, Butch Smith, Ona Ruth Smith, J. T. Starling, Ashtin Stutts, Estelle Sullivan, Brent Vaughn, Dylan Wallace, Hunner Wallace, Patricia Wallace, Thomas Wallace, Willie Watts (Candy Porter's Father), Tim Williams, Billy Ray Woodward

(Continued from back of bulletin.)

awakening. God has reminded me several times of Isaiah 55:8 which states 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.'

We can still pray together on May 5th!

The Coronavirus is a pandemic that might have physically restricted our travel, but it can't spiritually stop us from praying! Would you like to participate with thousands of Christians who want to pray specifically for a spiritual renewal in our families, churches and our country? Fred is asking God to impress on the hearts of at least 10,000 Christians who will join him from their special place of prayer as he prays on the mountain on May 5th for a spiritual awakening in America. He realizes the National Day of Prayer is later that week, but God has impressed on him to lead thousands of Christians to fast and pray on May 5th. Fred states, "We can't pray too much. There is an urgency for Christians to pray now! God is not waiting on Hollywood, the media, or even politicians to give a revival. God is waiting on the church!" The Bible states, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Joel 2:1

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand.

Joel 2:12-13

Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Joel 2:17

Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar...

May God bless you and this nation!

Dr. Greg Mathis, Senior Pastor, Mud Creek Church



Graduate Recognition Day will be held in June. High School and College Graduates, please go online at: www.pbcmarshville.org and under "Forms" fill out the Graduate Form and submit to us. Thank you!