

I'm human



## Memorial presbyterian church of fox chase

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The history of Memorial Presbyterian Church is deeply intertwined with that of Fox Chase and the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Founded by Mr. Gustavus Benson, a generous philanthropist who built a sanctuary for his family when they moved to Fox Chase in the late 1800s, the church's early days mirrored the area's growth into a village from a smaller slice of land surrounded by Rockledge Village. The first Pastor, Rev. Samuel J. Milliken, was installed in 1883. Over the years, significant additions and changes were made, including a new Christian Education building constructed in 1972 and the demolition of the old Sunday School building to make way for it. Other notable projects included renovating an old barn to accommodate youth programs and relocating and repairing the sanctuary organ in 1964. As Fox Chase underwent demographic shifts with the influx of Catholic residents from the city, Memorial Presbyterian Church adapted by focusing on community involvement and expanding its mission through initiatives like Food 4 Hope, a food distribution program supported by local churches and institutions. Today, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Timothy Wotring, who has roots in Cumberland, Maryland, and has been part of the church throughout his life, Memorial Presbyterian Church remains a vibrant presence in Fox Chase, committed to its mission and looking forward to an exciting future. Until matriculating into Union Theological Seminary in New York City in fall 2013, Timothy sought to attend a seminary renowned for innovative worship and liturgy. He graduated from Union in 2016 and continued working at Broadway Presbyterian Church, initiating volunteer programs, redesigning pantries and clothing distribution systems, and creating monthly free dinners. He also coordinated Young Adult Volunteer and led campus ministry leadership. In Philadelphia, Timothy taught Sunday school, worked with a homeless youth shelter, and collaborated with Pastor Sarah on community outreach. He recently co-led annual faith-based service trips to Cooper Creek and led worship for Bryn Mawr Presbyterian's youth group. Throughout his career, Timothy has been driven by a passion for serving those on the margins, having spent over a decade working or volunteering at homelessness organizations. Additionally, he is a lifelong learner, having completed a Climate Planting and Revitalization Certificate Program in Spring 2019. Timothy looks forward to leading his diverse congregation to serve the community. Memorial plays a significant role in the church's life, with the Chancel Choir performing anthems during worship from September to June. Membership is open to anyone aged 12 and above who loves to sing. The Memorial Presbyterian Church of Fox Chase was born outta Gustavus' interest in the Fox Chase Presbyterians, 'cause his son Frank was already a member, and he wanted to build somethin' for dem if it ever came together. On November 13, 1883, the church got organized by the Presbytery of Philadelphia North, and on December 5, Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Milliken became its first pastor. Den da noticated architect Theophilus Parsons Chandler drew up da plans, and dey laid da cornerstone on July 1, 1884. Six months later, on December 30, dey dedicated da whole buildin! Dey started work on a new Sunday School buildin in 1912 and finished it on April 30, 1916. In 1917, dem installed a pipe organ in da worship hall. The Benson family wanted a call it da "Memorial Presbyterian Church of Fox Chase", so dey put up a weather vane wit' a big ol' "B" on top. Dey renovated da worship hall in '66 and broke ground for da Christian Education Buildin on May 8, 1971. Den dey dedicated dat new buildin on September 1972. They had some mighty fine pastors over da years, includin Rev Samuel Milliken, Rev William H Pumphrey, Rev Josiah H Crawford, and many more! Today, you can find dem at 7902 Oxford Ave in Philadelphia, PA 19111, right next to Wawa and Dean Givnish Funeral Home. Give 'em a call at 215-745-2844 if ya need somethin!