



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

PEACE, UNITY, RENEWAL AND RESOLVE

Seek Peace and pursue it.

-Psalm 34:14

While you are likely reading this note well after the new year has begun, I am writing it as I sit in the glow of our Christmas tree lights and reflect on various decorations that adorn our tree. As a child, I was always fascinated by the shiny stings of tinsel Mama always

let us hang on the tree. She told us that the tinsel was meant to remind us of the Christmas spider and what she can teach us. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task. There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the animals felt the spider would

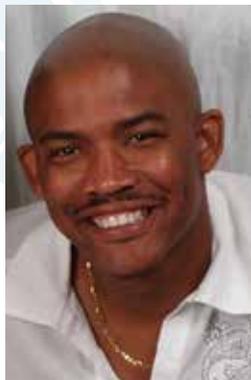
be helpful. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

As the Holy Family made their way from Bethlehem to Egypt, little by little, all but the donkey and the spider abandoned the Holy Family – the long journey proved to be too much for them. Joseph and Mary, weary themselves from the strain of the journey needed to stop and rest before reaching their destination, but with Herod's troops on the march seeking them, they had no choice but to try and hide. Finding a small and inconspicuous cave, they huddled inside to rest. Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air. Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby warm. The spider had just finished her weaving when

continued on page 2

2020 WATCH WORDS ARE ENGAGEMENT & UNITY

My second year as Chair of Philadelphia United Methodist Church Council follows a strong and stable 2019 which was representative of engagement, growth and stability for our congregation. It begins with a several changes to the makeup of the Council as approved by the members in a vote at the Charge Conference held in November. I am happy to welcome all those members who have answered God's call to serve our church in leadership roles, and sincerely thank each person who has completed their service and those who are returning to continue the work of our Saviour in this community, through this church body.



Gordon Connell
2020 Council Chair

This year will be full of opportunities to Worship, Grow and Serve in Love as your Council continues to keep our mission at the forefront of our planning and activities, both those focused on our congregation, and those aimed at outreach into our Fort Mill community. You may notice that we have established our Evangelism Committee as a standalone committee and also formed a Small Groups/Discipleship Team for 2020. We believe that the important work of our Missions and our Evangelism teams deserve dedicated committees in an effort to continue strong service and outreach ministries. In the coming year, you will see a renewed focus on children and family, youth and small-group ministries. There will be opportunities to serve PUMC and the community. We will seek to strengthen our worship services and use music to share the message of Jesus in exciting and

continued on page 2



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

inspiring ways.

The members of the Council are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Church Council Chair | Gordon Connell |
| Vice Chair | Jesse Jay |
| Lay Leader | Dave Smith |
| Staff-Parish Relations Cmte. | John Sageser |
| Trustees | Connie Martin |
| Evangelism | Jan Manring |
| Missions | Shannon Dolch & Dawn Edwards |
| Altar Guild | Pam Brenwald |
| U.M. Women | Cindi Cahaly |
| U.M Men | Lance Holmes |
| Church Historian | Doug Chapman |
| Member at Large | Bill Ray |
| Church Treasurer | Debbie Walters |
| Recording Secretary | Anna Collen |

Council meets on the third Sunday at 3pm each month. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend and may share their thoughts, ideas, or concerns with any Council

Member. New items for discussion should be brought forward prior to meetings in order to be added to the agenda. However, if at all possible, I ask that you allow Council Members the right to enjoy Sunday morning services by inquiring if there is a better time to discuss matters of importance to you, our church and ministries.

Finally, I would like to also address an important matter that will come before Church Council and our congregation this year. As you know, the United Methodist Church denomination has been grappling with the issue of same sex marriage and the question of the ordination of LGBTQ persons as ministers for several years now. The Council has had numerous discussions on the issue during our regular meetings and annual planning session; we have diligently read numerous different writings from authors on all sides of the issue; we have sought to understand the perspectives of our congregation through surveys on the matter and discussion in Adult Sunday School; we have attended various meetings regionally, seminars nationally and conferences in our efforts to fully understand and appreciate all the dimensions of the issue. Our intention as Council members has been to have reasonable and open-minded conversations as brothers and sisters in Christ. We know that this is a sensitive matter and as open further discussion with the congregation we seek to serve as examples of the Open Hearts, Open Doors and Open Minds we profess. News of a split in the Methodist Church topped the headlines on January 2nd and we are reading and seeking as much information as we can on this most recent proposal. Generally, it seems to be proposing a Traditionalist Methodist denomination that would split off from the United Methodist Church in favour of more traditional interpretations of the scriptures on the issue of homosexuality. It outlines various protocols on how this might work and also allows for how other Methodist denominations [other than Traditionalist or United] that might be formed can split off from the United Methodist Church. This proposal and several other will be presented at the General Conference in May this year for a vote, but until then it is still unclear what decisions we will have to make. I urge you to seek information on this topic and be prepared for the discussions we will have to have as a congregation. I am prayerfully confident that we can have these conversations in loving and respectful ways based on the model we have established as a Council and the culture and character of PUMC. The following websites are good sources of information we recommend:

- umc.org
- umcsc.org
- advocatesc.org



Thank you for your support in 2019 and I look forward to a successful and blessed 2020.

Serving in Love

OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

continued from page 1

suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath. As the soldiers passed by the cave, one soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening.

Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider woven ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

Mama told us that this is kind of life Jesus wants us to live every day – a life marked by acts of kindness, courage and peace with justice. As a new year begins, we will be given the opportunity to renew our resolve to live this Jesus way of life.

Prayerfully,

Becky Shirley
Becky

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Ministry Menu

Each Fall, members of the Finance and Stewardship Teams organize a campaign asking us to prayerfully consider how God is calling us to share the Time, Talent and Treasure we have been entrusted with so that the work of God's Kingdom through the ministries of PUMC might continue in the new year. While the response to the financial commitment has been delightful and helpful in guiding planning for 2020, see more below, only 43 Ministry Menu forms have been received. The Ministry Menu indicates those ministries that members will devote a portion of their time and talent to fulfilling in 2020. I want to thank each of you who has prayerfully taken the time to complete one of these forms. If you have missed this, I am asking you to take a moment to fill out this important commitment of your service.

Even if you decide to remain with the same committees or volunteer activities that you engaged with in 2019, we still ask you to fill out a Ministry Menu so that volunteer coordinators and staff will know that you are willing to serve again in 2020. Thank you, Becky

Scan the QR Code to visit the Ministry Menu form online or you can also find ministry menu forms in the church office, and at the welcome table outside the sanctuary.



**Ministry Menu
scan w phone**

Stewardship Campaign

Thank you all for your wonderful response to the financial portion of our stewardship campaign. So far, we have received 92 pledges for a total of almost \$436,000. This response will enable your Church Council to examine potential new ministries in 2020. Be on the lookout in 2020 for more giving options to help make it easier and faster to fulfill your pledge.

If you have not yet completed the estimate of financial giving card and/or the ministry menu, please prayerfully consider the ways God may be leading you to share in our ministry and indicate that on the estimate of giving and/or ministry menu forms. As always, your pledge is only seen by our Financial Secretary, Stefanie Hill, Stefanie@pumcfortmill.org.

FINANCE REPORT

The 2020 budget has been approved by church council for a total of \$763,387. This budget was developed with prayerful consideration after all the committees' requests had been received. It includes all the church expenses and ministries such as apportionments, salaries, loan payments, VBS funds, piano maintenance, youth group activities, paper, mission activities, and much more. We are ending the year in good financial condition due to our faithful giving and our leadership's responsible usage of your gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Finance Chair, Ron Bailes at bailesusc78@yahoo.com.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Your Nurture Committee is ready to begin another season of congregational service, care, and encouragement as led by the examples Jesus set before us. We have many areas of membership care with varying time commitments. If you would like to join us in helping show love and support to others, please contact Nurture Chair, Carleen Grossman at nurture@pumcfortmill.org or complete a Ministry Menu form.

Senior Friends will meet Tuesday January 14th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All adults are invited for a soup lunch and to listen to the guest speaker from the Bethel UMC Men's Warming Shelter. For more information contact Linda Honeycutt, honey6239@comporium.net, or Caroline Helms, cdhelms1@yahoo.com.

Connexion Group is serving Room In the Inn on January 30th. We will provide food, set up, break down, host guests, launder, and prep and serve food. There are many volunteer roles for every type of ability, which allows most of our group to participate. We are blessed to be able to serve these men right here in our Fellowship Hall. Contact Pat & George Wilson at gpwilson71@gmail.com.



Growing In Love: Santa brings a smile to everyone's face as he visits our Senior Friends.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

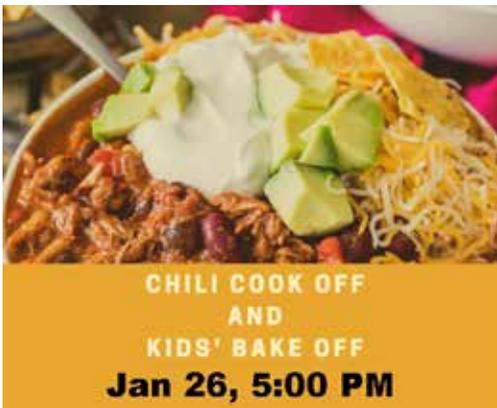
Winter Wednesday Connections

Wednesdays, January 22nd thru March 4th from 6:00-7:00pm.

Wednesday Night activities start on January 22nd with opportunities to worship, grow, and serve in love. There are choirs for all ages and Bible classes for adults all of which start at 6pm. No meal will be provided, but you're invited to join us for as we worship God and learn to be disciples by studying his Word. Look for more information in the Narthex.

Chili Cook-Off and Kids' Dessert Bake-Off

Join us Sunday, January 26th at 5pm for our church-wide Chili Cook-Off. All youth and adults are welcome to bring their best chili for everyone to try. Children and youth are invited to participate in the



Kids' Dessert Bake-Off. Everyone who attends can try a sample of each chili and dessert and vote for his or her favorites. There will be great prizes in both divisions. There are no judges, YOU decide. Every person will get three chili votes and three dessert votes. This event is free and open to the public so friends can enter as well. Please register through the sign up below with your name, email address, and the name of your chili or dessert. More details will be sent to you. We can't wait to see you there! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0849adaa23a2f58-chili1>

Breakfast with Santa

A huge thanks to everyone who came out with Breakfast with Santa on December 15th and donated a toy. A very special thank you to everyone who helped by donating food for the breakfast, setting up, and helping with serving. We could not have done it without you. We look forward to seeing Santa again for breakfast next year.

Children's Ministry Parent Email

The Children's Ministry has a monthly parent email. It is a great way for parents and families to learn about what's going on in the Children's Ministry at Philadelphia Church and what is available for families. Contact Children and Family Ministries Director Nicolas Gold, nicolas@pumcfortmill.org if you would like to receive this email.



Serving In Love: The holiday spirit was alive as children and their families had a great time meeting Santa, having breakfast, and giving presents to needy children in our community.



Worshipping in Love; "Let us now go even onto Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."



Serving in Love: "wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, 2 saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Youth serve as actors to bring the Christmas story to life during our children focused Christmas Eve service.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

2020 means new opportunities and changes for PUMC's music ministry. It looks to be an exciting year and one that brings new energy for us. Our music ministry is poised to grow in 2020 and we have room for you to be a part of this ministry. Contact Jim Lowder at jim@pumcfortmill.org about rehearsal times and musical opportunities.

Sound System

Our current system has aged and does not provide consistent or quality sound. Much research is being done to ensure that we purchase a new system that will serve our needs for years. A new system will increase the quality of sound with new state of the art equipment to enhance the worship experience for those who attend all our services and special events.

9:45 Contemporary Worship

2020 promises to be a reawakening for our Contemporary Worship Service. Our Church Council has approved the hiring of a Worship Leader to lead our contemporary worship service in a rebirth with a goal of Easter, April 12, 2020 for our new beginning.



Worshipping in Love: Our children's choirs kicked our Christmas Holiday Season off with delightful performances.

Children's Choirs / Wednesday Nights

Children's choirs begin on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm (NEW TIME). Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join us for this first rehearsal in the Sanctuary to receive rehearsal and performance information and meet our age level leaders. Invite your friends to join us - music is a great way to share your faith and the message of God's love! Wednesdays also provide classes for adults, Jubilate Ringer practice (handbell choir) and Chancel choir rehearsal.

One Combined Service, Sunday January 19th at 11:00am

We will have a brunch fellowship potluck at 9:45am prior to service. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship, worship and of course great food. And we don't mind if you just slide by Bojangle's and get some biscuits on the way; we just want you there! There will be no children's Sunday school at 9:45am, but nursery is always available.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism is taking a new direction in 2020! I gratefully thank everyone who has coordinated these ministry efforts through the Missions & Evangelism team, and look forward to leading a team dedicated specifically to Evangelism as chair. Evangelism ministries are focused on connecting people to Christ through building relationships with those in our community and our team will help lead the congregation in outreach and welcoming ministries.

Our immediate focus is to develop a roster of servants willing to open all of the doors of PUMC and WELCOME all who enter. No handshakes required, just open the door with a welcoming smile and a friendly "welcome" gesture.

We are in need of servants for ALL services. Families and teen are welcome! You may sign up on the connection card in the bulletin, sign up sheets in the Narthex, complete a Ministry Menu, email Jan Manring at jmanring.jm@gmail.com or call 614-975-4859. Additional opportunities will be forthcoming.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

UMM enjoyed a well-attended annual meeting at Captain Steve's Seafood restaurant on Tuesday, December. We agreed on giving \$2500 to community organizations and \$2000 to the Sanctuary sound system.

Our priorities for 2020 are:

1. Men in the Mirror - a group of men providing spiritual support
2. Annual UMM Retreat - Restored Feb 29th, at Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington, SC
3. Younger Men Initiative - Our objective is to reach out to younger men
4. Room In The Inn - PUMC must seek new leadership. UMM supports this mission. The officers dedicated \$400 toward this mission for this season. We took a collection at the meeting and \$325 was additionally contributed as a result.
5. Golf Event - This will be a major new fund raising event this year

For more information contact Lance Holmes, lance.holmes@siemens.com.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions committee is looking forward to another successful year of serving our Lord and Savior. We hope and pray that our service in 2020 is done in His name and glory and will bring more people to know Jesus and His love for us all. We are excited to continue with our support of the Room In the Inn, Fort Mill Care Center, Habitat for Humanity, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (April 25th) and Classroom Ready. We will have more information and times for sign up for each of our missions throughout the year.

Angel Tree - 12 families were helped this year. They were very appreciative of all the gifts and some thank you notes are attached to the tree. Thank you to everyone who donated to the angel tree and those who helped sort and give the gifts to the families.

Spread the Warmth – Coat Drive We received 153 Warm Items:

- o 37 Children's Coats
- o 41 Women's Coats and Sweaters
- o 53 Men's Coats
- o 22 variety items (scarves, kids' pants, gloves, hats, 2 men's suits)

Donations went to Pathways Community Center in Rock Hill serving all of York County to provide "stability, supportive services and shelter, to renew broken lives".

Room In The Inn (RITI)

Thank you to all who have participated with RITI this season. We have already provided 3 nights of keeping men out of the cold and rain! The outpouring of generosity from the congregation has been put to good use and has enabled us to rent a mini bus from Adventure Vans who have graciously given us an extreme discounted rate due to the nature of the ministry. Rarely received toiletry items such as shaving cream, chapstick, and deodorant are a blessing! Many groups have come together in fellowship and support of RITI. The UMW Ruth Adkins Circle donated to and assembled over half of this season's toiletry bags. UMM donated monetarily in such a way that will help secure a second season continuing to rent a mini bus. The Connexion group is fully sponsoring and volunteering for January 30th. We are in need for of persons to prayerfully consider serving in leadership rolls to help support RITI ministry. We are exploring ideas of having the ministry broken down into sections with team leaders. Another idea is to break the season down into

continued on page 7

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Make 2020 the year you become a part of The United Methodist Women here at PUMC! We work both as a group and through our circles to support our church and Methodist ministries for women and children. A few of our projects include shut-in support, Shrove Pancake Dinner, Graduation luncheon and the Pancake Packing Party. We have three circles (or small groups) that meet monthly for women to explore their faith, share life's joys & sorrows, and serve Christ through service projects. Any woman of the church is welcome to join!

- Friends in Christ meets the second Friday of the month at 10:00am at the church. Contact Eve Chapman, evechapman@comporium.net.
- J.R. Jones meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm at various locations. Contact Elaine McDonald, emcd4505@gmail.com.
- Ruth Adkins meets the first Tuesday of month at 6:30pm at various locations. Contact Cindi Cahaly, cahaly@comporium.net.

Thank you to everyone who baked cookies and those who bought cookies for our last fundraiser of the year. UMW uses all fundraiser money to support organizations such as: Bethel UMC warming shelter, Children's Attention Center, Fort Mill Care Center, Lily Pad Haven, Room in the Inn, Pilgrims Inn, Safe Passage and Winthrop Wesley.



Serving In Love: Women pour love into hand crafting cards to send shut-ins and others needing to feel loved during the Christmas season.



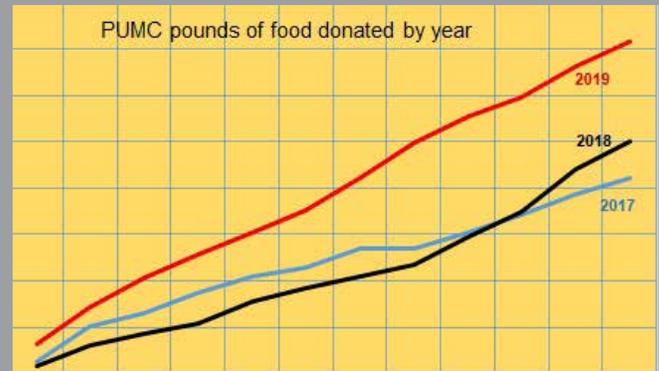
Serving In Love: Ladies work a 4 hour shift at the Charlotte processing center for Operation Christmas Child. It is the largest center in America, can handle well over 1000 volunteers at a time and will process around 2.5 million shoeboxes in in a 3 ½ week period.

continued from page 6

smaller time slots instead of a continual 4 months to make it easier for someone to commit their time. If you feel God's call to serve within the RITI ministry please contact Jessica Inman at 910-833-0752 or jessica.m.inman@gmail.com

- Habitat for Humanity: We are looking for people that would like to help organize our habitat builds. This can be anyone that has a passion for helping families realize dreams of having their own home. Leaders would only need to attend 1-2 Habitat meetings per year and help coordinate our church build with Habitat leaders. Contact Glenda Warren at glendaw@comporium.net with any questions.
- 2nd Sunday Social January 12th in the Fellowship Hall, 10:30 - 11am. Take this opportunity to chat with old friends and to make new ones! If your Sunday school class, church committee or family would like to sponsor one of these socials please contact LeeAnn Clark at lpisarek27@gmail.com.

- Fort Mill Care Center: In 2019, PUMC donated over 3,500 pounds of food items. Thank you! A word of thanks to Leo and Judy Smith and to Donnie and Rachel Helms for their continuing work supporting this ministry by picking up and delivering the weekly donations to FMCC. For more information contact Dave Smith at sunnyfield@aol.com.



PYG - PHILLY YOUTH GROUP

During December the youth enjoyed Christmas celebrations and caroling.

The High Schoolers had a blast at the high school lockout. We enjoyed a night full of fun activities. We began our night with communion at Lynnwood Equestrian Center. From there, we went to Sports Connection, ice skating at Pineville Ice house and then to Adventure Air Sports! We closed out our evening at Walmart to participate in a charity shopping spree. We purchased items for local charity organizations including Fort Mill Care Center, Humane Society of York County, and Safe Alliance.

Confirmation Class 2020

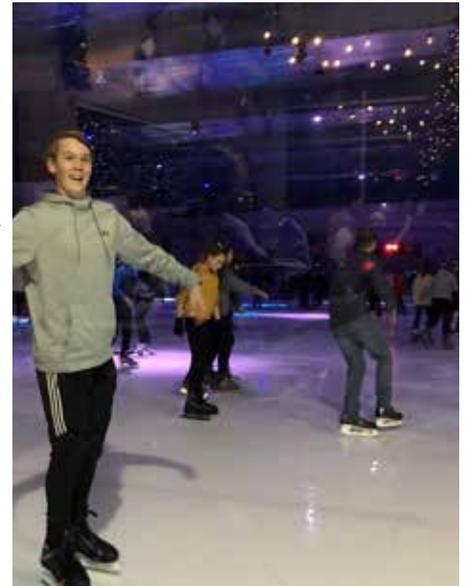
We will have a parent/youth meeting January 19th, 3:30-4:30pm about confirmation!

Young Adult Career Mentoring Network Coming in 2020!

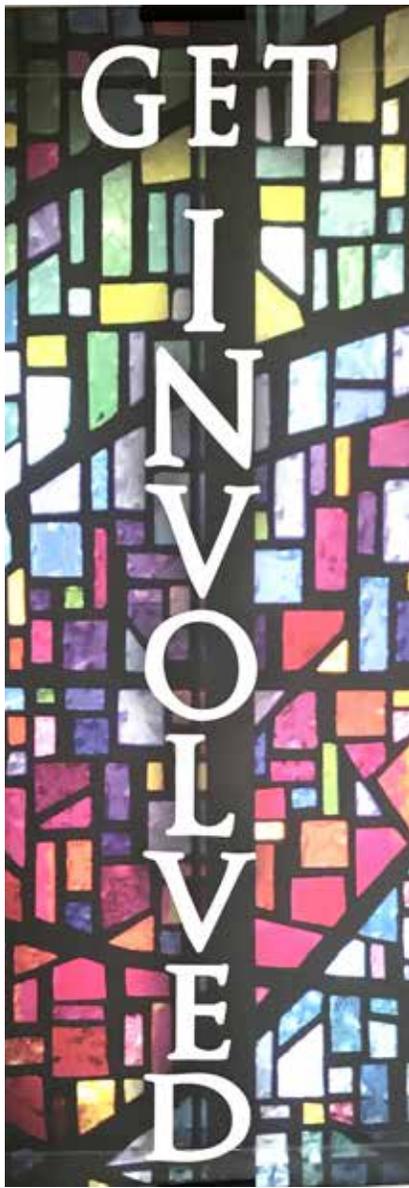
In 2020, we will launch the PUMC Career Mentoring Network to expand our ministry to young adults aged 15-26. This ministry is targeted at high school and college students, those in trade school or community college, and those already in the workforce in any job. There will be career-related programming on how to interview, how to write an effective resume, how to make a good impression in part time and summer employment, and how to advance in any current career. But, the key to the Network will be the wise counsel of experienced PUMC volunteers who are willing to share advice on their industries, their jobs, and their careers.

We are recruiting volunteer mentors, working and retired, to share their knowledge and experience in a variety of career fields. We are also recruiting young adults, ages 15-26, who are interested in gaining knowledge of their intended career fields and job skills. You do not need to be a member of the congregation to participate.

In Spring 2020, we will host a "Meet Your Mentor" program at the Church to help people engage on a personal level and to network with others in the program. Finding one's calling and a satisfying career is not simple. Working together, we can make it possible. For more information or to provide suggestions, please contact Maggie Justus, Maggie@pumcfortmill.org and Douglas Ray, dray@stu.edu.



Serving In Love: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Youth and leaders make a joyful noise singing Christmas carols to the residents at Wellmore.



JANUARY - MONTH AT A GLANCE

| Date | Event | Time |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Thu, January 02 | Room in the Inn | 3:00PM - 10:30AM |
| Sun, January 05 | Philly Youth Group Kick Off | 5:00 - 7:00PM |
| Fri, January 10 | Friends in Christ Circle | 10:00 AM |
| Sun, January 12 | Second Sunday Social | 10:30-11:00AM |
| Sun, January 12 | Church Council | 3:00 PM |
| Tue, January 14 | Senior Friends Luncheon | 11:30 AM |
| Tue, January 14 | UMM Dinner Meeting | 7:00 - 8:30PM |
| Thu, January 16 | Room in the Inn | 3:00PM - 10:30AM |
| Sat, January 18 | Men in the Mirror | 7:00 - 8:15 AM |
| Sun, January 19 | Pot Luck Brunch | 9:45 AM |
| Sun, January 19 | One Combined Worship Service | 11:00 AM |
| Tue, January 21 | JR Jones Circle | 6:30 PM |
| Wed, January 22 | Children's Choirs Starts | 6:00 PM |
| Sun, January 26 | Chili Cookoff | 5:00 PM |
| Thu, January 30 | Room in the Inn | 3:00PM - 10:30AM |
| Every Friday | Women's Bible Study | 9:45 AM |
| Every Thursday | CORE Contemporary Band practice | 6:00 PM |
| Every Wed & Friday | Tai Chi - Fellowship hall | 11:00 AM |
| Every Wednesday | Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal | 6:00 PM |
| Every Wednesday | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM |
| Every Sunday | Philadelphia Youth Group | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE



Worshipping in Love

Worshipping In Love: The warmth and glow of the candles on Christmas Eve are reminders of Christ's love for us. Let us set our minds to shining his light to all in 2020.

Address

1691 Hwy. 160 West
Fort Mill, SC 29708

Contact

803-548-0102
Office Hrs: Mon - Thurs
9am - 12:30pm
info@pumcfortmill.org
www.pumcfortmill.org

Staff

Senior Pastor - Rev. Becky Shirley
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