



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

THE POWER OF EMMANUEL



Dear Church Family,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

An Advent season ago, I was overcome with emotion in realizing the true definition of “Emmanuel.” I understood the meaning of the word, Emmanuel, “God Is with us.” Yet asked myself, “What does it really mean”? I celebrated Advent by singing the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” I read the Scripture Matthew 1:23, and I put up the Nativity for the Christmas holidays. January 1, when it was time to pack up the Christmas decorations, Toni asked if we could enjoy our nativity scene awhile longer? We chose not to pack it away and enjoyed it until our move in June. Then we packed it away to come to our new parsonage. This change made me reflect on our tradition of packing the nativity away until the next

year. What if we kept the Nativity on display throughout the year to remind us?

“Emmanuel, God is with us,” means that God is with us in our loneliness, at our lowest point in life, in fact God being with us started in Mary’s womb. When God spoke through the Angel to Mary and Joseph something amazing was about to happen, they just didn’t know it yet. Have you ever noticed the amazing events happen during the Christmas season?

Something amazing is taking place at Philadelphia UMC. I felt it the first time I entered the sanctuary. I could feel the presence of Emmanuel, God is with us. I see God in your eyes, I feel his presence in worship, even in our meetings. I celebrate those who are coming back home to worship at PUMC, and it reminds me that God never leaves us...we may leave... but God is with us. For those who have been missing, we welcome you home into our doors and into our hearts.

continued on page 2

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - ADVENT

Advent is the beginning of the church year, derived from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming”. It is when we recognize the transforming power of God in the world and look forward toward the birth of Jesus and the celebration of spiritual light. Advent is a time for reflection and preparation...a time of expected waiting.

Each week until Christmas, we light a new candle on the Advent wreath. The flame of each candle reminds us that something is happening now, but something more is still to come. The light of Advent grows brighter and brighter guiding us towards hope, personal peace, shared joy, and more love.

The first Sunday candle is a reminder that God’s constant presence with us gives us reason to HOPE. The second Sunday calls us to rest in his PEACE. The third is JOY... not just simple cheer but the experience of joy that cannot be contained. The fourth Sunday candle is lit as a reminder that there is no greater power in the world than LOVE. On Christmas Eve we light the Christ Candle, reminding us that Christ is the Light of the World.



We pray that you and your family will draw closer to God during this Advent season and we invite you to join us in person or via our live stream worship to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit together.

continued on page 3



Worshipping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

continued from page 1

Mary could have said “no” to God. Joseph could have chosen to bring shame and ruin on Mary when he discovered her pregnancy. Mary chose to say, “Yes” to God. Joseph chose to stand with Mary. That took faith and courage. There are times when we are doing the best we can, with what we have, and we believe it is not enough, yet it is. God is with us.

Friends and family, during this season of Advent may we come to see the power in understanding “God is with us.” May we come to understand no matter what happens in our lives, regardless of the ugliness we hear and see around us, “God is with us.” May we seek to find what is good and courageous in the world and share our faith with others. My prayer is that we discover our way back to Emmanuel, to Philadelphia, UMC and into the hearts of one another. Emmanuel. God is with us!

I hope to see you in the pews, or meet you at the altar.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

One Blood

Evangelism is proud to announce the bloodmobile will be in the PUMC parking lot four times in 2022! Our goal is 60 units for the year. Mark your calendars!!

Sunday, January 23rd: 8:30am to 12:30pm – Sign up in January

Saturday, April 30th: 9am to 12pm - with the Shred-It truck

Sunday, August 21st: 8:30am to 12:30pm

Sunday, November 13th: 8:30am to 12:30pm

Greeters Needed

A training session for greeters is being planned for early January. Greeters are the first contact worshipers have with our church, so we can't emphasize enough the need for friendly faces. If you are willing to be a greeter, please contact Jan Manning at jmanring.jm@gmail.com. Greeters are asked to commit for a month at a time. It is a pleasant and easy way to serve and only takes 20-30 minutes of your time before service. Greeters may also be asked to serve at other functions at the church or at community events.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2: 10

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

Christmas Cookie Sale

The annual Cookie Sale is back! It will be held on December 12th before and after the Christmas Cantata. Cookies are package by 6. Mix & match - \$5.00 per dozen.

If you are willing to bake cookies, please package 6 to a bag and label. Bags are in the Coffee Connections Room. Please drop off cookies on 12/11 between 9 am and NOON in the Coffee Connections Room. We appreciate your help and can't wait to see your delicious cookies! Proceeds are given to local missions. Please contact: lesliekelly0212@gmail.com or marie@thethompson.net with any questions.

continued on page 5

MUSIC MINISTRY

After 40 plus years in music ministry, beginning as a summer intern in college, serving churches in Greensboro, Durham, Nashville, TN, Dyersburg TN, Charlotte, Belmont, Manteo and finally in Fort Mill here at Philadelphia UMC, it has become time for me to step away from directing choirs and begin the next chapter in my life. As I turn 67 years old this December, I believe it is time for me to leave my music position at PUMC.



Words cannot express the love I've felt from this congregation during my ministry here. I have enjoyed working with perhaps the best staff in all my years. It has been a hard decision but my main reason for retiring from church ministry is to spend more time (especially weekends) with my wife, Debra, and able to see my son and daughter who are in Winston-Salem, more often.

Philadelphia UMC is a wonderful church with a great mission-minded congregation. I know the Lord has great plans for PUMC in the future. May the Holy Spirit be your guide and lead you to great things for the Kingdom of God.

God bless Philadelphia UMC!

Peace & Alleluia! Jim

Sheep In Heavenly Peace

Sunday, December 5th, 3:00pm

It's a zoo out here! Bethlehem's homes and inns may be bursting at the seams with travelers for the census, but because of the animals they brought with them, the stable is simply out of control. Camels, donkeys and goats up to the rafters! Even the normally-sleepy hillsides are now teeming with an abundance of sheep, and Bethlehem's top temp agency must call on their most eager but often-inept family of workers, the Wooltons to step up and answer the call (temporary "staffing" takes on a whole new meaning!). What they expect to be an unglamorous assignment will soon put them face to face with the angel Gabriel, a sky-full of the Heavenly Host, and ultimately the Good Shepherd himself – Jesus! Please join us to watch our youth present this great musical. Graciously directed by Phil Brigman and Dawn Machinske.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

continued from page 1

Our PUMC elves were busy transforming the church in preparation for the Advent season. It is always such a blessing to walk in and see the season come alive, highlighted by our beautiful Christmas tree! Chrismons are a type of Christmas Tree decoration used in many churches and often in the homes of Christians. The symbols used represent a variety of biblical and theological concepts that are well known among most believers, such as the Holy Trinity, Angels, Eight Pointed Star, etc. Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, etc. Our PUMC Chrismoms were lovingly made by members of our congregation over the years. We invite you to take a closer look after one of our services!



Serving In Love: Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas!

Holy Communion - 1st Sunday of each month

We are now offering two ways to partake in communion each month. (1) You have the option to choose whether to take communion from your seat using the pre-packaged communion cups which can be picked up in the Narthex on your way into the sanctuary. (2) Alternatively, we have once again begun offering communion by intinction at the front of the sanctuary as we did pre-COVID. All are invited to the table...whichever way you are comfortable participating.

Finding Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus

Join us as we seek to find Jesus this Advent season. Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus will be moving around our Sanctuary, and we invite you and your family to find them each week. When you find the Holy Family, please leave them where you find them because others will be searching too. Be ready to talk to Pastor David about the family at Wee Worship. As you search, we pray that you will find faithfulness like Joseph and Mary and welcome Jesus into your home and heart as we prepare to celebrate His birth.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 12th, 11:00am

One Joint Service at 11:00am and Sunday School at 9:45am

"Light of the World" - a Christmas Cantata celebration of the birth of our Savior, who became the "Light of the World" Presented by the Chancel Choir and the Core with soloists and an original song from Jim Lowder.

PUMC Advent Devotion 2022

We would like to create a church-wide Advent devotional to be published for next year. All ages are invited to participate to make this a true church family project.

As you engage in reflection this Advent season, we are asking you to share your faith by expressing what Advent and the Birth of Christ means to you. Write your thoughts in a paragraph or two or even poem form that will be shared in a digital/printed format next Advent. Submissions should include your own thoughts and/or proper credit for your inspiration, any Bible verses and version used, pictures if appropriate, and your name and contact information (so that I can contact you if needed, not to publish). Submissions will only be edited if necessary.

Devotions can be emailed to Kristin Gommer at kristingommer@gmail.com Submissions will be collected through February 2022.

Christmas Eve Worship

Children & Family Service - 4pm
Candlelight Service - 6pm

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Historic Paradise Community

Saturday of Service

PUMC assisted four families this past month. Two extra high toilets were installed for two families. Previously, one homeowner had to carry water from the sink to the toilet, each time a flush was required. Another resident no longer has the strength required to lift herself off a lower toilet. In the third home, the refrigerator door was constantly open due to a worn gasket; a new gasket made keeping food cold an easy task.

Seeking answers to a cracked foundation and helping the homeowner figure out the real problem and solution is the fourth task for the month. After an analysis by an engineer, the homeowner discovered the value of several opinions. A willing heart to serve in love is all required. Register in the coffee connection room, on the following sign up genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DAFA92BA0F58-serving> or contact Dawn Edwards 802-355-4224 or lendyloo@gmail.com.



Coat Drive

Thank you! Thank you! You donated 125 items to Pathways!!!
12 children's coats ~ 48 women's coats ~ 20 men's coats
3 shawls ~ 37 sweaters/sweatshirts ~ 5 socks/PJs
Pathways Community Center in Rock Hill provides "stability, supportive services and shelter to renew broken lives". They serve all of York County.

Angel Tree

We are excited to be able to bring the joy of Christmas to local families again this year through our Angel Tree. The tree in the Narthex has gift card angels only. Use the QR code below to sign up for gift angels or you Contact Linda Honeycutt, 803-548-6239 if



you're unable to access the list. **Presents are due on December 19th by 11am worship.** Please wrap your gifts and don't forget the angel tag with name, age and family number. The tag is very

important to ensure all the children receive their gifts and blank tags can be picked up at the tree. Do not wrap gift cards. Please bring them to the church office (M-Th 9:30-12:30) or give to Linda on Sundays. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



Roof Above

During the winter months, PUMC partners with Roof Above to host homeless men in our Fellowship Hall. We provide clean, warm beds, shower access, fellowship, hot dinner, breakfast, and bagged lunches. Thanks be to God that although we faced some challenges, we were able to host nine men on December 2nd. We have two more dates in December (16th & 30th). There are many different volunteer opportunities from washing sheets and towels, to cooking and just coming to eat dinner and engage in conversation with our guests. [Click Here](#) to volunteer in this rewarding ministry.



If you would like to know the requirements for a position you are considering, or to be added to our email list, please contact Glenda Warren glendaw@comporium.net. The ministry will continue through February and a new sign up will be forthcoming.

We are also collecting travel sized toiletry items for the men. Please donate the following in the Coffee Connections Room: shave cream, razors, deodorant, chap stick, ear plugs, granola bars, and dental floss.



Serving In Love: Help us give a warm bed and nutritious food to men in our community this winter.

Classroom Ready

PUMC donated 1,917 3 ring 2 pocket plastic folders to the Fort Mill children this fall and completed our goal ahead of schedule! Both small and large donors helped PUMC reach this goal, helping assure that all Fort Mill children have the same access to learning tools. We have a wonderful giving community.

PHILLY CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX

Our beautiful handcrafted mailbox is in the Narthex. Christmas cards are a wonderful way to spread cheer throughout the congregation. To honor our King's birth, think about adding people you don't know as well to your list. Call the church office to obtain a directory.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. - Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

This month the youth at Philadelphia have been enjoying spending time in fellowship during Sunday School and PYG! We have been playing tons of games and working together as teams to accomplish goals!

The youth are so excited for December! To kick off the month on the 5th the youth will be having a service night where we will participate in a couple service projects to support some of the mission initiatives at the church. We are going to putting together bags for our Sunshine Ministry to celebrate Christmas! We are also going to be baking cookies that will be added to stockings that are will be distributed to the Historic Paradise community.

December 12th, the Cahalys are arranging a bonfire night with s'mores. There will be devotion time and it wouldn't be the Cahalys if some friendly competitions didn't break out.

On December 17th, our high school students will head out for a night of fun and adventure during the High School Lockout! The actual activities for the evening are kept a secret, but it's not a secret that it is one of the most exciting nights of the year!

Our middle school students won't be left out; they will be having a middle school party at Camp Canaan where they will go ziplining on the 19th from 2-5pm! Dinner will be served!

Please email Maggie, maggie@pumcfortmill.org, to participate in the Christmas festivities.

The youth are very exciting to be teaming up with some of the adult Sunday school classes during the Advent season for The Heart That Grew Three Sizes, a Bible study based on the Grinch Who Stole Christmas! Now is a great time to join us at 9:45am and see what Sunday school is all about!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

continued from page 2

On November 18th, thirty-four women came together for the annual UMW Harvest Dinner. At this annual potluck meal, all three circles join together and welcome all women of the church to enjoy fellowship, here an informative speaker and have the last business meeting of the year. This year the speaker was PUMC's very own Toni Taylor, who gave the ladies a preview of her upcoming book *Walk With Me, Your Spiritual Esteem Journey*. Bette Jean Janicke, the Rock Hill District Program Resources officer from Woodlawn UMC, and her daughter Tonya Janicke, were the district visitors. Bette Jean installed the new officers and commented on how wonderful it was to see so many ladies together. She mentioned that the worldwide UMW is making a concerted effort to attract and encourage younger generations to join and become active. The PUMC UMW is donating \$1400 at Christmas to various charities throughout our area that help



women and children. We also took up a World Thank Offering which is sent to the Conference UMW to advance the work of missionaries around the globe. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Harvest Dinner a great success!

Growing In Love: Everyone had a wonderful evening giving thanks to God for their blessings and spending time together

PANCAKE PACKING PARTY

It's a joy each November to come together and pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Gifts like hand-made jump ropes and dolls, crayons, a toothbrush, a ball, pencils, sewing kits, things that seem so small to us carry the love of Jesus around the world. Thanks to your generosity, we packed 205 boxes and were able to cover the \$9 shipping for all of them! Please continue to pray for the children who will receive these boxes that they might know they are loved and come to know Jesus.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Great News Christmas

Great News Christmas is the seasonal emphasis of the Children's and Family Ministries of Philadelphia Church. It's a reach-in, reach-out celebration of the birth of Jesus. We keep Christ in Christmas with fun events and activities throughout the Advent season to teach kids about the Great News of Jesus and the true meaning of this time of year. It's a wonderful time to invite friends to join you in our celebrations. Events and activities include:

Christmas, Cookies & Canvas

Saturday, December 11th, 10-11:00am

All children and youth are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a painting activity, cookies, milk, and a story! Children under 6 should have a parent or guardian help with the activity. RSVP at nicolas@pumcfortmill.org



Shawn the Sheep Christmas

All Advent season long, Shawn the Sheep and Friends will be celebrating the birth of Jesus in both serious and silly ways.

Be sure to visit the PUMC Children's Ministry YouTube Page to see the Christmas classics playlist. You can watch Christmas stories, Christmas jokes, PUMC kids telling the Christmas Story, and Christmas Adventures with Shawn and Friends.

And look for Shawn each Sunday. No, he isn't missing, but he is on a journey this Advent Season. Each Sunday, (miniature) Shawn the Sheep will be traveling across the Sanctuary with the Wisemen as they make their way to Bethlehem. See if you can spot Shawn

during the Christmas season services. Who are the Wisemen? Why do they want to go to Bethlehem? What's so important?



PUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
IT'S A VERY MERRY SHAWN THE SHEEP CHRISTMAS!
Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

Family Advent Study

This new four-week Advent study for adults, youth, and children explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Contact nicolas@pumcfortmill.org to find a Sunday School class in which to participate. Starting Sunday, December 5th.



continued on page 8



Serving In Love: It was our pleasure to honor long-time staff member, June Masek, for her many wonderful years of service to the children of the PUMC. God has used her mightily over the years to be a blessing to many families. We are thrilled to officially acknowledge what everyone has always recognized. Thank you, June. God bless.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

What does nurture mean? The dictionary reads: to care for and encourage the growth or development of someone. A BIG thank you to all of you who supported the Nurture Committee in 2021, the year that will always be known as the COVID-19 epidemic year! It was a hard year for soooo many people and your efforts were greatly appreciated!

If you prayed for someone, brought some one Holy Communion, made a shawl or a lap blanket, or you sent a card of encouragement, sympathy, get well, happy birthday, and/or "I miss seeing you" card, you were nurturing someone. If you shared a meal, called someone to check on that person, invited someone to Senior Friends to share in some great Christian fellowship, you nurtured someone. You were supporting the missions of the PUMC's Nurture Committee. You were being the hands and feet of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Read Philippians 4:4-9 for more inspiration.

We would love for you to consider joining us to give love and support to others. Please contact our 2022 chairperson, Danielle Holmes, holmdani@yahoo.com.

Senior Friends

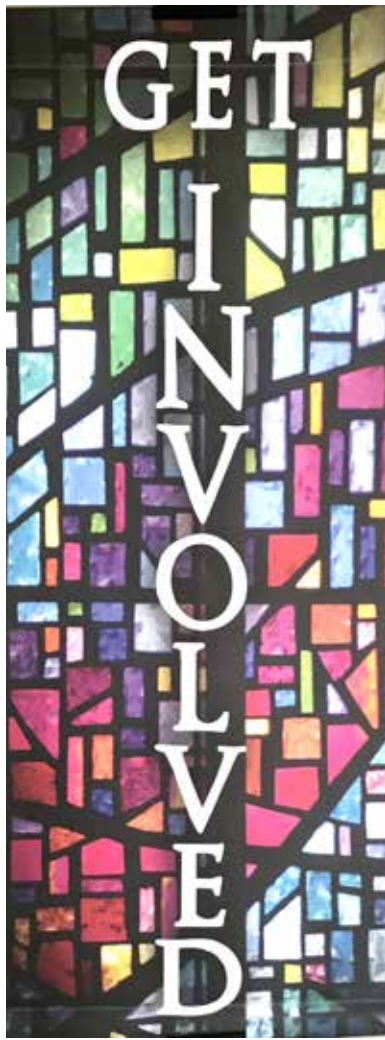
Tuesday, December 14th, 11:30am - Fellowship Hall

Join us for our Christmas luncheon. Ham, turkey and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert or side dish. We will begin with the meal at 11:30 followed by a table game from Leslie Kelly then, we will do a Christmas ornament gift exchange. After the ornament exchange, Ben Himes and Jerry Burdick will lead us in singingsome of our favorite Christmas carols. We hope you can join us and please bring a friend!



The Single Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Single Ladies Lunch Bunch will be gathering at The Fish Market in Baxter, Saturday, December 11th, at 11:30am, for fellowship and lunch together. Contact Donna Schaefer at nordon50@aol.com if you would like to join us.



DECEMBER - MONTH AT A GLANCE

Date	Event	Time
Fri, December 3 & 17	Ladies' Bible Study	9:45am
Sat, December 4	Breakfast with Santa	9:00 - 11:00am
Sun, December 5	Sheep In Heavly Peace Musical	3:00pm
Thur, December 9	Men's Christmas Dinner (Towne Tavern)	6:00pm
Sat, December 11	Saturday of Service in Paradise	9:00am -12:00pm
Sat, December 11	Christmas, Cookies & Canvas	10:00 - 11:00am
Sat, December 11	Single Ladies Lunch Bunch (Fish Market)	11:30am
Sat, December 12	Christmas Cantata - One Service Only	11:00am
Sat, December 12	Christmas Cookie Sale	
Tue, December 14	Senior Friends Lunch	11:30am
Thur, December 17	Roof Above	5:00pm
Sat, December 18	Men In The Mirror	7:00am
Sun, December 19	Church Council	3:00pm
Fri, December 24	Children & Family Service	4:00pm
Fri, December 24	Candlelight Service	6:00pm
Thur, December 30	Roof Above	5:00pm
Every Wednesday	CORE - praise band	5:30 - 7:00pm
Every Wednesday	Chancel Choir	7:00pm
Every Sunday	PYG (Philly Youth Group)	5:00 - 7:00pm

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

continued from page 7

Christmas Cards for the Seniors

We will be creating Christmas Cards for the seniors in the Historic Paradise Community. You can make your cards at home, make cards at Sunday School, or create one at any of our Great News Christmas Events.

RightNow Media – Kids Christmas Series

There are numerous Christmas videos for kids available with RightNow Media. These videos are great when traveling for the holidays or just when you want entertaining and thoughtful Christian content. If you haven't already signed up to get your free RightNow Media access through PUMC, here are two ways to start your free account:

1. Click the link and it will direct you to our church's account.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/join/PhiladelphiaUMC>

2. Or you can also contact Nicolas@pumcfortmill.org

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT

\$14,072 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$731,757

\$487,223 has been received as of 11/30/21 towards the General and Building Funds

\$1,012,477 Loan balance for Building and Parsonage




Online Giving:

Visit pumcfortmill.org to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

Thank you for your generous giving this year! Our church is alive with mission and ministry. Any contributions received on or before December 31st will be counted as a 2021 contribution.

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Contact

 803-548-0102
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Staff

Senior Pastor - Rev. David Taylor
Director of Worship Art - Jim Lowder
Contemporary Worship Leader - Mark Gannon
Director of Children & Family Ministries - Nic Gold
Director of Youth Ministries - Maggie Justus
Office Manager - Denise Watson
Financial Associate - Colleen Demmy