



OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

PREPARE HIM ROOM



Advent is once again upon us! This is the season in which we prepare for the coming of Christ, celebrating His incarnation in Bethlehem so long ago yet also examining our hearts to ensure that we are ready for Him to return. Since we have no idea when that will be and since Jesus told us to always be ready, it is a good thing for us to take this annual opportunity to make sure we are prepared.

So, as we go through the Advent season, I will be asking some questions during the sermons. Hopefully you will spend some time considering these questions as a way to "let every heart prepare Him room".

As we begin this journey, I will start out with this question: What roadblocks are inside my heart that might be keeping Christ out? Some examples would be lingering anger over an old hurt, resentment toward people in your life you don't always see eye-to-eye with, or perhaps prejudices that you've never quite

gotten rid of. These things affect our relationships in the here and now as well as putting strains upon our relationship with Christ. He wants to know each one of us fully AND for each of us to know Him fully as well.

May God send blessings your way as we travel through Advent together!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Larry

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In November, UWF hosted our annual Pancake Packing Party to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Items were collected throughout October and even a truck load of donations, including many handknit items, was brought from Canada by Carol Sine! It was a blessed evening full of wonderful food, servant hearts, and prayer. Attendees started by putting their handprints on the boxes. They added handmade jump ropes, toothbrushes, crocheted pencil pouches, washcloths and backpacks. Then, they added school supplies, toys and clothes. Many attendees included cards and letters and then most importantly covered the boxes in prayer. We packed 370 boxes of love! That's 28 more than last year. You also donated over \$3,000 to help with shipping. On November

24th, Pastor Larry lead us in prayer over the boxes and later they were delivered to the Charlotte processing center. We had to take two SUVs and a truck to get them there!

In December, we have three groups, 25 adults and youth, going to the processing center in Charlotte, working five and six hour shifts to inspect and organize the boxes by gender and age. The Charlotte center has already processed over 1 million boxes this season. Thank you to everyone who donated to, helped organize, packed, and prayed for this mission project. What better way to introduce children to Jesus and his unconditional love than for them to receive a gift from a complete stranger on the other side of the world? All glory to be to God.

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Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

Advent

Thank you to those who decorated our church so beautifully for our Christmas season worship! It is a large, but joyful task bringing our church to life with the anticipation of our Lord's birth.



Chrismon Tree

A focal point of our beautiful and meaningful decorations is the Chrismon Tree in our sanctuary. Ornaments made from Christian symbols are called Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms'. The first Philadelphia UMC Chrismon Tree was decorated in 1979 and coordinated by Emma Jo Thomas, wife of Rev. Van Thomas. For the original tree, several members cross-stitched chrismons which are still hang on our tree today. Since then, church members, circles and children have provided various chrismons.

Worshipping in Love

Advent Wreath

Another focal point in the sanctuary is the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath, four candles with a Christ candle in the middle on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. Families light a purple candle each Sunday of Advent along with delivering a reading pertaining to each week's focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus. Lenny Mull, a member of the Harris family, made our advent wreath.

The Wise Men

The Christmas season begins at sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This period is popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas." We know from the Bible that 3 Wise Men visited Jesus in Bethlehem. Look for our Wise Men to make their journey around our stained glass windows until finally arriving to our alter table to see the baby Jesus on Epiphany Sunday.

As you come to worship each Sunday, take a moment to look a little closer at these decorations and in their beauty, we hope that they serve as a reminder of the beautiful and selfless gift that God gave to us on Christmas.

DECEMBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

DEC 1ST - ADVENT BEGINS

DEC 8TH - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DEC 15TH - CHRISTMAS CANTATA 11AM

DEC 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM: FAMILY SERVICE

6PM: CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE COOKIE OFFERING

PLEASE BRING BAKED COOKIES BY THE DOZEN TO EITHER THE 4PM OR 6PM SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE. WE WILL PRAY OVER THESE COOKIES AND ASK 6PM WORSHIPPERS TO DELIVER TO THOSE WORKING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

Philly Christmas Card Mailbox

Each Christmas, we put the Philly Mailbox in the Narthex so congregants can give each other Christmas cards and save on postage! Please put the recipient's first and last names on the envelope and put in the slot that corresponds with their last name.



Remember to check the box every time you are in the building and take home your cards so you can be blessed by those who have thought of you.

Children's Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8th, 9 and 11am

Start your Christmas season out on a most joyful note. Our 'Children's Chimes' and 'Joyful Noize' have been working hard to bring you a Christmas program celebrating the birth of Jesus.



Serving In Love: David Hodges, Molli Moon and Phil Brigman work to incorporate many types of music into our worship, To the side, youth bring their talent to musical instruments to the chancel choir and handbells. Above, the Beginner Bells and Joyful Noize enhance our worship services with their talent and enthusiasm.

PHILLY YOUTH GROUP (PYG)

PYG is wrapping up 2024 with all things Operation Christmas Child! Sunday School made all of the boxes that we used for the pancake packing party. We also had almost all youth partake in the actual packing! Coming up in December several more will get to experience working at the warehouse to see how the final steps are completed before the boxes are shipped all over the world.

We continued serving in November by hauling the church's Christmas decorations out from under the stage (it can be a scary place under there) and putting up the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall.

Lockout will be back for the first time in years on December 13th! I am so excited to share this fun night out with youth. This is the event that got me started into youth ministry. It is a night full of surprises of both fun, fellowship, worship, and ministry. This year we are trying something different in which middle school will join with high school until 10pm and then high school will continue on an overnight adventure.

Our last regularly scheduled PYG of the year will be 12/8 and we will not meet again until 1/5/25. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels over the holidays!



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (SPRT)

As we close out of 2024 and start to frame our minds to a new year, a fresh start and a year of exciting opportunities for us at PUMC – I take a moment to also reflect on 2024. The SPRT has worked very hard to support our staff (and each other) during a tumultuous year! We have helped celebrate the retirement of Pastor David after years of service in Ministry and welcome to PUMC (even if on an interim basis) Pastor Larry. We have welcomed new additions to our staff – Beth (nursery) & Deanna (finance). We have also said our sweet goodbyes to Greg (A/V) and Mark (CORE). During periods of transition, we've also had folks step in to help – priceless!

This will be the last newsletter from me, Molli Moon, as this is my last year on SPRT. Be on the lookout in January for a refreshed listing of the members of SPRT, their contact information as well as who will be the Chair of this critical committee. The members of

this team have been an absolute joy to get to know better & to work alongside of – being on SPRT (like all committee's within PUMC) is not without its unique challenges and opportunities. This group really stepped up to support all that was needed to accomplish, and did it with grace, grit and a lot of prayer.

I'm a firm believer in that God places you just where you need to be, when you need to be there, with the people that need you (and that you need) – even when you don't understand...or see his vision... at the time. In reflection, I believe he did that for me these last 3-4 years. I'm very grateful.

As we round into 2025, may we all remember that God has also placed YOU at PUMC for a reason. I encourage all of us to carry our light, our talents and our ministries into 2025 in a positive and loving way. Merry Christmas!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Harvest Dinner

Women and young ladies met in November to give thanks for God's blessings and to hear from guest speaker Christine Heffernan, President of the Fort Mill Care Center. We learned how big an impact that the Care Center has on those in Fort Mill struggling to make ends meet. Applicants are vetted and based on income circumstances may be eligible for groceries once every 28 days, electric or water bill payment once every four months, emergency dental work and prescription assistance. The FMCC is run entirely on volunteers! No one takes a salary, and they only use around 3% of donations for operational expenses. They do not receive

government assistance, so they rely entirely on businesses, grants and primarily on community members like you. We collected items for Thanksgiving dinners and provided a monetary donation to the Care Center as a part of UWF missions.

Bake Sale & Cookie Sale

Thank you for your support of our fundraisers this year. Half of the funds raised were given to the church's general budget to help support our staff and ministries. The other half allowed the UWF to give Christmas donations to organizations that support women, youth and children like the Children's Attention Home, Tender Hearts and the Fort Mill Care Center



United
Women
in Faith



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Angel Tree

It's time to bless local children and their families with Christmas gifts! Scan the QR code below with your smart phone camera to sign up for clothing and toys for individual children OR pull a tag from the tree in the Narthex to purchase a gift card for a family. Important! Please wrap your gift and tag with the child's name, age and the family number. Blank tags are in the Narthex for you to use. All gifts and gift cards are to be returned no later than 11:00 am on



Sunday, Dec. 22th. If you choose a gift card from the Angel Tree, please return gift card to Linda Honeycutt or the church office. Questions? Contact Linda, honey6239@comporium.net. Thank you for your generosity.

Bethel Men's Night Shelter

Mark your calendars! Our next opportunity to serve at the Bethel Men's Night Shelter is Monday, January the 13th. We will serve a meal and work in the donation center. The planned menu includes hot dogs left over from Truck or Treat, bowls of chili, crackers or cornbread, creamed corn and corn on the cob, tea, lemonade and a desert. Contact Eugenia Taylor taylorj@comporium.net to join in this mission.

Spread the Warmth Annual Coat Drive

Thanks to the loving spirit of our church, we were able to donate 10 coats and 16 accessories to Haven Men's Shelter, who provides shelter for 27 homeless men in Rock Hill. We also collected and delivered 28 women's coats, 34 children's coats, and 64 accessories to Tender Hearts Ministries, who has given a helping hand to 600 women and children in Rock Hill. Many will be warmer this winter due to your generous gifts to this year's Share the Warmth Drive.



NURTURE COMMITTEE

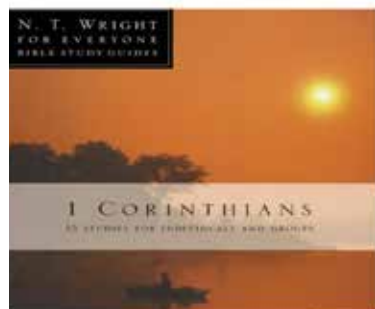
The Nurture Committee is a vital ministry supporting members in times of need, connecting those who can't be with us in person and providing opportunities for small groups to meet for service and fellowship. A nurture meeting is scheduled for December 15th immediately following 11am service. Amanda and I continue to work out details for merging Nurture and Evangelism. I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas season! May God bless you and your families. Blessings, Beverly Burgess

Senior Friends Christmas Party Tuesday, December 10th, 11:30am

Our Senior Friends enjoyed a great Thanksgiving meal in November. 46 persons enjoyed good food and fellowship and a wonderful musical program by Rev. Larry. He sure is talented. December 10th, everyone is asked to bring your favorite appetizers to share and appropriate items to assemble 50 gift bags for the FM Care Center to be distributed to their golden age clients. Please come and enjoy Fun, Food and Fellowship!

Single Ladies' Lunch Bunch

Will not meet in December. Make plans to join us in January!



A Six-Week
Bible Study
for Adults
Coming in 2025



Growing in Love: Members of the Ladies' Bible Study went to see "Bonhoffer". The group meets on Friday mornings and completes several different studies throughout the year. Contact Jean McDade if you would like to know more, jmcdade@comporium.net.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Parsonage Sale: The trustees are busy preparing the parsonage for sale. Big thanks to Larry McDonald and Sandie Weaver for managing the sale of the parsonage which includes finding a realtor. A small pile of firewood was moved from the parsonage to our church. So, if you have a need for some "ready to burn" firewood, please help yourself. The firewood is located behind the United Methodist Men's green trailer across from QuikTrip.

Roof Repair: The trustees are looking for a roofing contractor to repair the damaged parts of our church roof. If you know of a contractor who does patch work, please contact Evan Lackey, Gary Brocius, or the church office. We have found contractors who want to replace the entire roof, but for now we only have enough funds for the patch work.

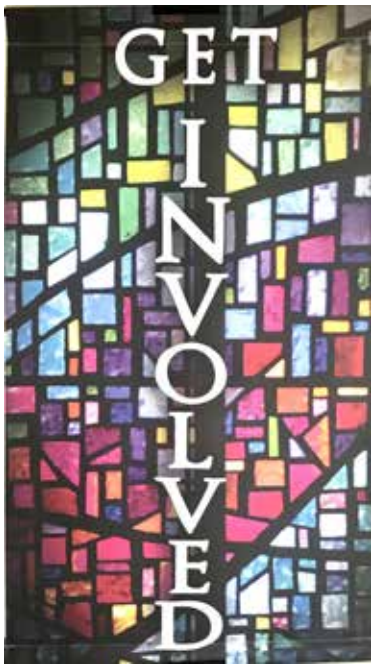
Sign on Highway 160: The data cable to update the message on

our sign has been laid from the sanctuary to the kitchen. All that is left to do is bury the cable in the ground between our church and the sign. Currently, we are having trouble finding a contractor that can help us bury this cable. If you know of a contractor that buries cable, please contact Gary Brocius or the church office.

Fire Inspection: On Wednesday, December 11th, our church will be having its annual fire inspection. The inspection will start at 8:00 AM and should conclude by 12:00 PM. Sometime during this time, all the fire alarms will be tested.

Parking Lot: A hole in the parking lot that caused an ankle turn has been repaired.

Thank You: Once again, the trustees want to thank you for your monetary support and service. It takes all of us with our contributions and service to maintain our church campus.



DECEMBER - MONTH AT A GLANCE

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Dec 8	Children's Christmas Concert	9:00 & 11:00am
Sun, Dec 8	Christmas Cookie Sale	8:30am - 12:00pm
Sat, Dec 10	Senior Friend's Christmas Party	11:30am
Fri, Dec 13	Youth Lock Out	4:45pm
Sat, Dec 14	Children's Christmas Craft	2:00 - 3:00pm
Sun, Dec 15	Christmas Cantata	9:00 & 11:00am
Sun, Dec 22	Angel Tree gifts due	11:00am
Sun, Dec 17	Middle School Christmas Party	4:00 - 7:00pm
Sun, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Family Service	4:00pm
Sun, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00pm
Sun, Dec 29	Children's Clang Buckets	9:00 & 11:00am

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCIAL REPORT
November 24, 2024

\$12,412 is needed each week to meet our annual budget of \$645,406, we received \$7,521 this week

\$488,607 has been received towards the General and Building Funds

\$537,206 has been spent from the General and Building Funds

\$24,979 Cash Available to Support Church Expenses, Missions & Ministries

\$702,784 Loan balance for Building

Ways to Give
 Cash & Checks accepted every Sunday during Offering!
 Visit us at www.pumcfortmill.org/give/
 Via Zelle App - gifts@pumcfortmill.org
 Transfer Stocks, Bonds, Brokerage Assets
 Mail or Drop-off your gift during regular office hours.
Have questions about giving?
 Please contact PUMC's Financial Associate, Deanna Bradner at accounting@pumcfortmill.org

Mailing Address

2764 Pleasant Road
 Suite A, PMB 11804
 Fort Mill, SC 29708

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. Larry Dimick
 Director of Music Ministries - David Hodges
 Director of Discipleship & Children's Ministry - Nic Gold
 Director of Youth Ministry - Jessica Inman
 Office Manager - Denise Watson
 Financial Associate - Deanna Bradner
 Pianist - Denise Harding