

PATHFINDER

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

The Joy of Christmas

One of my most vivid memories of Christmas is sitting in a church pew on Christmas Eve, sharing a hymnal with my mother, and singing “Silent Night” in the dim candlelight glow of the sanctuary. It was our church’s tradition to quietly sing that beloved hymn in the darkness, before standing to sing “Joy to the World” immediately afterward. As we sang, we would lift our candles high above us—illuminating the entire sanctuary with the light of Christ and joyfully proclaiming, “Joy to the World! The Lord is come!”

The Christmas story begins and ends with joy. When Mary rushes to see her cousin, Elizabeth, and shares that she has been visited by an angel of God with life-changing news, Mary sings out with joy: “My soul magnifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” Months later, as Mary lays her newborn son in a manger, an angel appears to a bunch of shepherds in a field nearby and proclaims to them:



“Do not be afraid! For I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the world! To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!” Joy to the world, indeed.

During the month of December, as we journey through the Advent season, we will reflect together each Sunday on the “Joy of Christmas.” The word “advent” comes from a Latin word that means “coming,” and Advent is the season when we prepare and anticipate the coming of Christ. I look forward to worshiping with you this month as we celebrate the Joy of Christ’s coming!

“Joy to the world,” the beloved hymn says.
“Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing!”

Love, Sara Beth

Christmas at PUMC!

One Starry Night

Saturday, December 1
5pm to 8pm

Children’s Choir

Sunday, December 2
8:45 & 11am Services

Cantata

Sunday, December 9
10am service
(One Service Only)

Youth Fundraiser

Brunch

Sunday, December 9
Following the Cantata

Christmas Parade

“Cocoa on the Lawn”

Sunday, December 9
2:30pm in front of the church,
Parade begins at 3:00pm.

Cantata Encore

Thursday, December 13-7pm

Christmas Orchestra

Sunday, December 16
8:45 & 11am Services

Christmas Handbells

Sunday, December 23
8:45 & 11am Services

Christmas Eve Services

Family Nativity Service 4pm
Candlelight Communion
Service 9pm

Welcome New Members!

Bill and Judy Knight moved to Encore in October, 2017 from Eden, NC. Bill is from the eastern shore of Maryland and Judy is from East Tennessee. They met in college and upon graduation, Judy trained in Chicago to become an airline hostess for United Airlines and was based in Washington, D.C. Bill and Judy were married in March, 1970 and have two daughters. Myra and her husband, Jon, live in Chapel Hill and have three children-Lillian, 15, Margaret 13 and Jack, 11. Myra has an online calligraphy business. Lara lives in NYC and is a VP for American Eagle.



Bill earned a doctorate degree from Virginia Tech and served as an Academic Dean and Executive VP at Rockingham Co. Community College in Wentworth, NC until retirement. While serving 22 years as an Army Reservist, he was sent to Iraq during Desert Storm and served from 1990-91. He earned the Bronze Star for his leadership of a Civil Affairs/Military Intelligence Team.

Judy is a retired Physical Education/Health Educator during which time she was also president of Eden Garden Club, president of Eden's Women's Club, and chairperson of several community projects and church related programs. She has been involved with several flood recovery mission trips to Louisiana (twice), Alabama, Swansboro and Raleigh, NC and for the homeless in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Operation Christmas Child is one of my favorite mission projects to do with the kids. This year the kids truly helped from start to finish. In November the children made pictures and wrote letters to put in their boxes, and shared a little about themselves so the children who received these boxes could know they had a friend here at PUMC! One of my favorite parts of this worksheet included a section for the children to write why they loved Jesus. In their own words with their own thoughts, they came up with some awesome responses:

1. He is my father.
2. He loves me.
3. He is always saving us.
4. He is God's son.
5. He gives us life.



It is incredible to see God working in these children today. Thanks to your continued generosity and support 118 boxes were filled!! Our prayer is that each child who receives a box feels God at work in their hearts too!



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What Pilgrimage Means to Me by Anna Pickens

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. And whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” - 1 John 4: 7-12

I believe 1 John 4: 7-12 is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible, and when I think of Pilgrimage, it immediately comes to mind. The sense of love and peace I feel at Pilgrimage is overwhelming and unlike anything I feel anywhere else. Although I love listening to sermons, singing songs, and learning through inspiring testimonies at Pilgrimage, that sense of love is why I feel the event is so important. Each year, I leave understanding more than ever that God is love, and that as Christians, the best thing we can do is love one another.

Pilgrimage, what a weekend!!



Youth Fundraisers:

The Soup & Salad lunch (Oct 28) was a huge success. The congregation's generosity exceeded our fundraising goals. Two additional opportunities to support youth mission work - If interested in ordering a newly designed PUMC Youth Fellowship t-shirt, please contact Bailey Jones (bcjones729@gmail.com). On Dec 9, following the church service, the youth group will be hosting a church brunch. All funds are used to help fund trips like Pilgrimage, Appalachia Service Project and local mission activities. Your love toward our youth has helped create a wonderful fellowship.

Pittsboro United Methodist Church
71 West St.-PO Box 716
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Return Service Requested

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm
www.pittsborounitedmethodist.org-follow us on Instagram
pittsboroumc@gmail.com-(919) 542-2330
Traditional Worship: 8:45 & 11:00 am Contemporary Worship: 5:00 pm



Mission Work at PUMC! Answering CORA's Call

Thank you to everyone who
donated to CORA Toilet
Paper Drive!
153 pounds!!!

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sign up in the Johnson
Room Today!

Questions contact
Megan Bolejack at

M_bolejack@hotmail.com.



STARS

Seniors Together And Rejoicing Strong

The STARS meet quarterly and we continue to grow our faith, make new friends, and be with old friends at the same time enjoying the ability to break bread as disciples of God! Please join us for our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 8, 12pm at K & W Cafeteria in Chapel Hill. Please RSVP to Cathy and Bob Harris at cathyharris911@gmail.com If you want/need a ride or are interested in helping with car pool, please contact us.



PUMC STAFF

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