

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

*Listen to our service online at
www.fumccollingswood.org.*

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108

Phone: (856)858-1186

Fax: (856)858-1775

E-mail: info@fumccollingswood.org

Church Staff

Pastor Sam Mountain, Senior Pastor

(pastorsam@fumccollingswood.org)

**Shawn Zook, Pastoral Assistant for Outreach
and Youth (shawn@fumccollingswood.org)**

**Maria Gianfrancesco, Administrative Assistant
(maria@fumccollingswood.org)**

Will Walker, Organist

(will@fumccollingswood.org)

Pat Gunning, Children's Program Director

(pat@fumccollingswood.org)

Matt Peace, Connections Pastor

(pastormatt@fumccollingswood.org)



Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
www.fumccollingswood.org and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
ewindows@fumccollingswood.org to subscribe.***

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The submission deadline for the
February issue of Windows is
January 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



From The Pastor's Heart

The Christmas Journey: Drawing Near At Christmas



We are preparing for our Christmas journey for 2019. The theme for this year is “Drawing Near at Christmas.” Christmas is all about the journey. There are so many different ways people celebrate Christmas. We see it even in the many different movies we watch. Think about it - there are

many different versions of Christmas stories. There is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *A Christmas Story* with Ralph and Randy and the Red Ryder BB gun. There are Christmas stories from Hallmark to Christmas to Lifetime movies to Jingle all the Way! There are also the fan favorites like *It's A Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street*. All of them describe different aspects of different Christmas journeys. As entertaining as they can be the greatest Christmas story of all is still the journey that Jesus made 2000 years ago!

At Christmas, we are reminded that God sent His only son in the humble form of a baby so that anyone who believes and trusts in Him would have eternal life. This is the greatest gift anyone could ever receive! The journey Jesus took 2000 plus years ago from heaven to earth to live in our hearts and lives is a journey that needs to be read and reread as we enter this Christmas season! What an amazing gift of love that we can receive and share with others. That is why this year we added all the scripture of the “Birth of Jesus” to our outside nativity so the complete Christmas journey of Jesus can be read and seen right along Dayton Ave.

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And

everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

What an amazing journey when you think about it! As we celebrate this Christmas season, may the Lord's love and presence shine in our lives once again. May the Lord's presence cause us to share God's love in what we say, do and in random acts of kindness so others would know that it was from the heart of God to them. What a way to live our journey celebrating the life of Jesus!

What a privilege it is to be a part of the First Church Family. We are grateful for each one of you. You are a blessing!

In the love of our Savior,
Pastor Sam



Merry Christmas



In case of inclement weather, you can find
updated service and event information
at the following locations:



- ◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186.
- ◆ Visit our website at www.fumccollingswood.org.
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page.



Holiday Events



December 15th Discipleship Classes at 9:40 am.
Combined Service at 10:45 am.
Family Christmas Presentation (Children's Play -
Ring the Bells)
Presentation of Staff Love Gifts

December 18th "Draw Near" Family Christmas Dinner at 6:00 pm
followed at 6:45 pm with a Christmas Worship
Night.

December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelighting
Service at 6:45 pm.



This year we will once again decorate our
Sanctuary with poinsettias placed by members
and friends. Please fill out the envelopes placed
around the church in honor or memory of loved
ones! The cost is \$6 per poinsettia. Please turn
in by Sunday, December 15th.

December Sermons and Scriptures



Drawing Near at Christmas takes us on a journey through time to explore the Christmas story from a variety of perspectives - from prophecy to Jesus' birth. We will draw near to truths and stories that transformed lives then and today. Our prayer is that you may experience the closeness of the Savior as we draw near this Christmas!

Dec. 1	1 st Sunday of Advent • Communion	<i>Remembering God's Miracle</i> Luke 1:5-25
Dec. 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent	<i>Reasons to Hope</i> Luke 1:57-80
Dec. 15	3 rd Sunday of Advent • Children's Presentation - <i>Ring the Bells</i> • Presentation of Staff Love Gifts	<i>Prepare to Be God's Clay</i> Luke 1:26-38, 46-56
Dec. 22	4 th Sunday of Advent	<i>Journey of Courage and Faith</i> Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	<i>Christmas Good News</i> Luke 2:8-20
Dec. 29	Student Sunday	Drawing Near At Christmas Continues



What a privilege it has been to serve you as your pastoral staff this year. We hope and pray that the peace Jesus brought as the baby in the manger may be yours this Christmas.



The Staff of First United Methodist Church wishes you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is a privilege and joy to serve you! We pray God's love and blessings upon you.

Pastor Sam, Shawn Zook,
Will Walker, Matt Peace,
Pat Gunning,
Maria Gianfrancesco,
Ed Davis
and Mike Tribulas.

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to extend a BIG thank you to:

- Phil Boswell for all his hard work (and patience!!) each month with the church newsletter.
- The volunteers who help with the church mailings and those volunteers who cover the church office when I'm out.
- Bob Gordon for being our bulk mail delivery person.

I appreciate each and every one of you for all the special help and things you do for the church.

God bless you in the New Year.

With love,
Maria

We approach the end of yet another year. As always, I'd like extend my thanks to everyone who helps get Windows out the door every month. Special thanks to Maria for making sure that submissions get to me on time each month and Kathy for proofreading each issue.



I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone who helps to keep the ministries of our church going. Thank you to all of our teachers, helpers, ushers, greeters, musicians, singers, tech crew, nursery workers and everyone who has helped out and pitched in this year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



'TIS THE SEASON TO REMEMBER

As we celebrate the holidays and approach the year 2020, let us remember all our missionaries in prayer.

Pray for:

- Peace during festivities where distance separates families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons
- Strengthening of each missionary in his or her daily walk with God
- Enthusiasm and renewed commitment to each of their ministries
- Health and safety in many unstable political situations
- Adequate finances to do the job well



Remember
Our Missionaries
This Christmas



December 1-7 United States

Bob and Barbara Alber, Texas

Alan Bachmann, FL

Boxley and Joyce Boggs, FL

David and Andrea Brunner,
Idaho

Curt and Carol Detweiler, FL

Ken and Jan Hibbs, Maryland

Arthur and Dorothy Jackson,
Georgia

Norman and Sue Kapp, Illinois

Armand and Jean LeBlanc,
Illinois

Dave and Sue Linton, CO

Tom and Glenda Lowell,
North Carolina

Richard and Mary Ann McCloy,
South Carolina

Ken and Karen Pregizer, Yukon

Ken and Donna Rudy, CO

Greg and Sue Stowers, PA

Neil and Wannee Thompson,
Colorado

Don and Norma Toland, PA

MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

December 8-14 Philadelphia Area

Dave and Eileen Bailey,
Ranch Hope
Griener Family,
Family Christian
International
Luis and Elsie Centeno,
Philadelphia
Melvin Floyd, Philadelphia
Jim and Diane Larkin, PA
Saints Prison Ministry, NJ
Tim and Kathy Sheetz, PA
Lorraine Stirneman,
Philadelphia
Charles and Janice Walton, PA
Fred and Julia Wentz, PA



December 15-21 Central and South America

Larry and Fay Buckman, Brazil
Teamwork Associates, Jamaica
David and Phyllis Schmid, Haiti

Africa

Chuck and Beverly Truxton,
Nigeria
Lowell and Claudia Wertz,
Tanzania

December 22-28 Europe

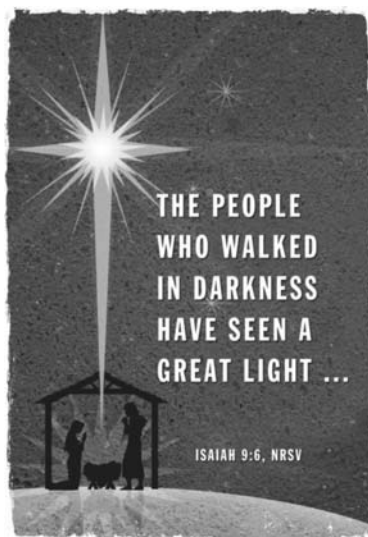
Vera Boodt, Netherlands
Dana and Debbie Cherry,
Germany
Tim and Jackie Faulkner, Italy
Neale and Barbara Goetsch,
England
Woody and Sue Lewis, France
Walt and Pat Stuart, France

Asia

Ellie
Mark and Carol Hepner,
Papua New Guinea
Helen
Donald and Esther Parsons

December 29 - January 4

Handi*Vangelism
Neighborhood Center
Seeds of Hope



<div> <div>DECEMBER</div> </div>			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver <i>1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT</i>	2 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Church Council	3 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	4 6:45 PM "Draw 6:45 PM Master
8 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver <i>2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT</i>	9 Church Office Closed	10 10:45 AM Followers Bible Study 12:00 PM Followers Bible Study Christmas Luncheon	11 6:45 PM Master
15 Children's Christmas Presentation, Staff Love Gifts 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Combined Worship Service <i>3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT</i>	16 Church Office Closed	17	18 6:00 PM "Draw Dinner 6:45 PM "Draw 6:45 PM Master
22 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM NO Ryver <i>4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT</i>	23 Church Office Closed	24 6:45 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship Service CHRISTMAS EVE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS
29 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM NO Ryver	30 Church Office Closed	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

ER 2019

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
w Near" Night er's Men	5 Keswick Hymn Sing 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	6	7
er's Men	12 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	13	14
w Near" w Near" Night er's Men	19 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	20	21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER
ISTMAS!!	26 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	27	28
AS DAY			

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Drawing Near Nights Something for Everyone!



Draw Near

*“Draw near to God
and he will draw close to you”
James 4:8*

Wednesday nights at 6:45 pm will be exciting at FUMC. This will be a time of prayer, reflection and drawing near to God. In a world with so many uncertainties, we will have an opportunity to draw close to God together each week. We believe God has great plans for us, and we know you believe that, too! So don't miss Draw Near Nights from 6:45 - 8:00 pm in the Great Room (Temple) as we celebrate as one church family what God has done, and seek Him together for what's to come. For those of you with kids, these “Draw Near” nights include a great program for kids - nursery through 5th grade. Grades 6 and up are encouraged to join everyone else upstairs! The dates for the remaining “Drawing Near Nights” of 2019 are: Wednesdays, December 4th, 18th. There will also be a dinner at 6:00 pm on December 18th.

*Let us draw
near to God*

with a sincere heart ... Let us hold
unswervingly to the hope we profess ...

Hebrews 10:22-23, NIV



TECHNICAL MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES

Do you enjoy learning new things? Do you like working with computers or would you like to learn to work with a computer? Ever wonder how a sound board works but were afraid to ask? Would you like to be part of the praise team but don't sing or play an instrument? You might be the right person to join FUMC's Technical Ministries team which includes the laptop ministry.



We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. The laptop ministry assists Pastor Sam as well as the praise team in providing a positive worship experience for the congregation. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others.

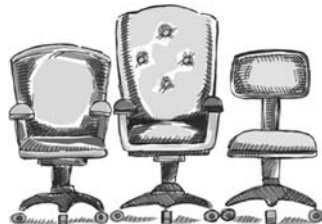


You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell (e-mail: pdboswell@verizon.net), Shawn Zook or the church office. You are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.

SHOWING OUR LOVE TO OUR STAFF

Our staff works diligently to serve the Lord and to serve us. Each year we give you – our church members and friends – an opportunity to show them love and thank them for all they do. You should have received a letter in the mail describing this annual event. The letter will describe how you can give and asks that all monies be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 8th so we can present checks to our staff on Sunday, December 15th. Every gift is important; any amount is welcome. Any questions can be directed to the SPR ministry team. Thank you in advance for your generosity toward our selfless staff.

Carol Doron, SPR Chairperson.



Welcome, 2020!

JANUARY EVENTS



Communion will be held on Sunday, January 5th
at both services.

Men's Breakfast January 18th at 8:00 am.



Wee Soccer for grades K through 3rd.
Registration will be held on January 18th
from noon to 2:00 pm.
Games will be played on Saturdays in February
starting at 9:00 am.



Do your kids need to burn off some energy?

Indoor Wee Soccer 2020



FUMC is again sponsoring an indoor soccer program for children in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade which will begin on February 1st. There will be 2 age level programs — Kindergarten and 1st grade and a 2nd and 3rd grade program. All games are played on Saturday mornings in February beginning at 9:00 AM. Sign up Saturday, January 18th from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. (Use office entrance on Dayton Avenue.) There is a registration fee of \$10.00 per child to participate in the 4 week program.

For more information on the program
please call the church office @ 856-858-1186.

SAVE THE DATES!

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day during December, add an item to a backpack.

On Christmas Sunday or Christmas Eve, bring your filled bag to church and place in the collection chest in the front of the Sanctuary. On Christmas Day, the filled bags will be given to the homeless in Camden.

December 1 - buy a backpack,
duffel bag or sturdy
drawstring bag

December 2 - fleece throw

December 3 - winter hat

December 4 - gloves

December 5 - scarf

December 6 - socks

December 7 - toothbrush

December 8 - toothpaste

December 9 - comb

December 10 - Chapstick

December 11 - disposable
razors

December 12 - deodorant

December 13 - band aids

December 14 - hand cream

December 15 - Vaseline

December 16 - tissues

December 17 - granola bars

December 18 - peanut butter
crackers

December 19 - hard candy

December 20 - meat jerky

December 21 - gum

December 22 - Wawa or
McDonalds gift card

December 23 - Christmas card

December 24 - prayer

*"The root of Jesse will come ...
in him will the Gentiles*

Hope
(Romans 15:12, ESV)



If you would like to deliver backpacks on Christmas Day, you may take them home on Christmas Eve. You can deliver them any time on Christmas Day. In December, Pastor Matt will share guidelines about how to do this.

ADVENT: A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Join us each week as we celebrate the Advent season together. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of the next four weeks is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in His first Advent and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in His second Advent.

Daily Scripture Readings for Advent

The weeks of Advent remind us to set aside some of the hectic business of the Christmas season, and to quietly reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. The Bible readings listed below relate to the Advent themes of waiting, preparation, light in the darkness, and the coming of the promised Messiah.



First Week of Advent

Sunday - Romans 13:11-14
Monday - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Tuesday - Mark 13:33-37
Wednesday - John 1:1-5
Thursday - John 1:6-9
Friday - Jeremiah 33:14-16
Saturday - Isaiah 60:19-22

Second Week of Advent

Sunday - Romans 15:4-13
Monday - Psalms 43:3-6
Tuesday - Psalms 27:1-4
Wednesday - Psalms 119:105-106
Thursday - John 12:35-36
Friday - Ephesians 5:6-14
Saturday - 1 Peter 2:5-9

Third Week of Advent

Sunday - Isaiah 60:1-3
Monday - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Tuesday - 1 John 1:4-7
Wednesday - John 3:16-21
Thursday - Isaiah 40:1-11
Friday - John 9:1-7
Saturday - Luke 3:1-6

Fourth Week of Advent

Sunday - Isaiah 11:1-10
Monday - Zephaniah 3:14-17
Tuesday - Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday - Luke 2:8-20
Thursday - Matthew 4:14-16
Friday - Isaiah 2:1-5
Saturday - Luke 2:25-33

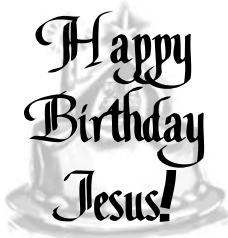


Dec. 4 Keith VanPelt
 Dec. 9 Carol Shiropshire
 Dec. 10 John Cluelow, Sr
 Dec. 12 Michele Cobert
 Linda Sabin
 Dec. 17 Tyson Chamberlain
 Dec. 19 Leslie Wallace
 Dec. 20 Zachary DeRue
 Dec. 22 Bill Doron
 Lillian Schwehm
 Dec. 23 Doug Wagner
 Dec. 24 Joyce Cluelow



Jan. 4 Jean Adams
 Jan. 5 Carolyn Thompson
 Jan. 7 James Jungclaus Jr.
 Jan. 12 Neil Kinky
 Jan. 17 Linda Adams
 Jan. 18 Jessica Brown
 Jan. 22 Myrtle Aurig
 Jan. 23 Armand LeBlanc
 Jan. 24 Rebecca Burgoon
 Jan. 26 Nicholas Santulli
 Jan. 30 James Jungclaus Sr.

Please give your birth dates and
 anniversary dates to the church office
 in writing or by e-mail:
maria@fumccollingswood.org.

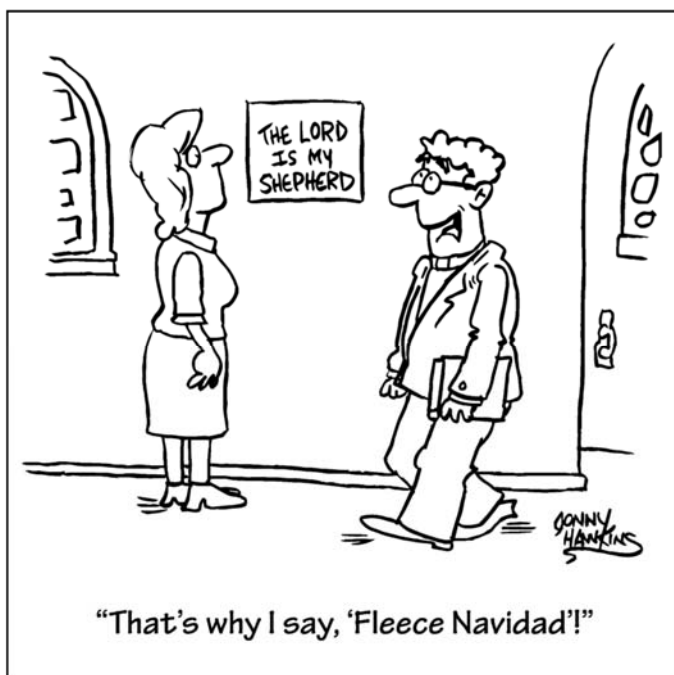


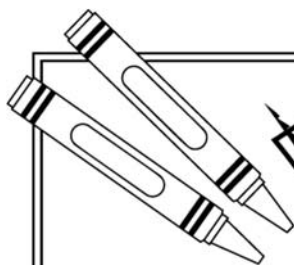
Dec. 23 Louis and Cynthia VanPelt



Transferred to the
 Church
 Triumphant

Mary Previte
 November 16, 2019





PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

☐ ☐ _ _ _ _ ☐

tree that keeps its leaves

_ _ _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way

_ _ _ ☐

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood

☐ _ _ _ _ &
_ _ _ ☐ ☐ _ _

sounds to announce
good news

☐ _ _ _

has no beginning or end

_ _ _ _ ☐ _

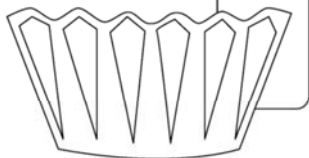
Th ☐ ☐ ks b ☐ to ☐ od fo ☐ ☐ is
indesc ☐ ☐ ba ☐ le gif ☐ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

Bible Quiz

Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt



COMING ATTRACTION

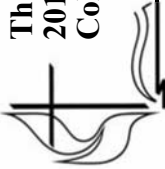
Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is "the first gleam of Christmas," writes W.E. Sangster. "It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King.



'Get ready,' he seems to say. 'Get ready. He is coming!'"

Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)

The First United Methodist Church
201 Dayton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108



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*To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.*