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## Sowing the Seeds

The Bible often uses metaphors for conveying wisdom and truth. One example of this is “sowing seeds” that will blossom in beautiful things later in life, seeds even as small as a mustard seed. This reminds us to think beyond the present to the future and how our actions and choices impact tomorrow and beyond.

When you choose to invest in or borrow from Seedling, you are thinking to the future. Investors plant the seeds through their investments. Churches reap the harvest through the loans to grow their ministry. Seedling is the farmer who manages the crops. We all get to watch the trees bearing the fruits of our labor. The growth of ministry lasts far beyond the immediacy of today and impacts future generations.



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# Springing Forth at Camp Hill UMC

Christmas in 2020 looked a little bit different than in years past, but that didn't stop Camp Hill UMC from thinking "outside" the box – literally! As fall began, not knowing whether services would be able to be held inside for Christmas, a team came together and created a safe outdoor worship experience called Follow the Star.

This was a live, experiential, walking journey of the birth of Jesus. Folks would walk from station-to-station meeting shepherds, wise men and shop keepers. After knocking on the door of an inn, the innkeeper told them there was no room and told them to go to the manger. At the manger was the Holy family (complete with live goats!) and the Angel giving her message of great joy. The journey for our participants would end at the station where a pastor or church council member would give out a small candle lit lantern as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world and call the participants to carry that light into our neighborhoods, communities, and world.



In addition to advertising this service, there were community members who stopped by because they saw the lights and wondered what was happening. There were many folks who came saying that they were so glad to be able to do something together that was a form of worship for Christmas.

The services were scheduled for the two weekends prior to Christmas and for Christmas eve. In addition to their regular evening offerings, they also had a sensory friendly version (less crowded, in daylight and with little noise) during an afternoon.

What a wonderful and innovative way to engage the congregation and community during the Christmas Season! Check out their video at: <https://youtu.be/VhskakLD8LO>

