

**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



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**Church Staff**

*The Rev. Gerald Thomas*  
Pastor

*The Rev. Tim Shoaf*  
Minister of Music & Programs

*Traci Canter*, Office Administrator

**Information on Coronavirus**

As we keep up-to-date on how to care for one another during this season, the following internet sources may prove helpful:

North Carolina:

[www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina)

Nationally:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html)

Internationally:

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public)



Volume 3, Number 10

April 2020

**THE VISITOR**



**Pfafftown Christian Church**

**Continues Ministry in Unprecedented Time**

Aiding our national attempt to lessen the effects of the virus, Pfafftown Christian Church has joined with other churches and organizations to limit our exposure and bring this outbreak to a quicker end by not meeting in large groups. This means we have canceled all group activities in our building. This includes Connect Groups, worship, music practices, ministry team meetings, scout and community gatherings.

Our facilities will remain unavailable for group gatherings **through April 5**. On April 5, the Board will meet again at 2 p.m. to re-evaluate. The earliest we plan to meet for Sunday worship is on Easter, April 12. We will clarify this possibility following the April 5 Board Meeting.

Many of our ministries continue in this time: pastoral care calls, Crisis Control contributions, and Newborns in Need are a part of these. Please continue to support our church by mailing your financial contributions to P.O. Box 130 Pfafftown, NC 27040 Attn: Office Administrator.

**Pastoral Care**

During this season, you can expect to hear from Tim, Traci, and myself as we call our parishioners. You can also expect to hear from your family's Elder. If you should have a need (such as someone to pick up medications or food and drop them at your door) or would simply like to talk during this time, do not hesitate to contact me or one of the persons listed below:

Gerald Thomas: 336-504-8206

Timothy Shoaf: 336-692-5214

Traci Canter: 336-407-1277

Elders: See your Yearbook

**Worship With Us on YouTube**

On Sunday mornings, you are invited to enter into a time of worship and meditation through music, scripture reading, and sermon. This opportunity is available on YouTube. Timothy has prepared a brief concert of music. We are also offering a scripture lesson, sermon, and prayer. You can access these opportunities in one of three ways:

\* Go directly to YouTube.com and type in the search line: Pfafftown Christian Church. At our channel, you will find Tim's music and my sermon. While you are at this site, press the "Subscribe" option and you'll receive updates every time we publish a new offering.

\* Go to our church's website: [pfafftownchristian.org](http://pfafftownchristian.org). Click on the "Watch services" option in the upper right corner of the page.

\* Click on the link found on the Pfafftown Christian Church Facebook site.



## As Way Leads On To Way

Fred Rogers shared, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

I’ve been thinking about helpers this week. In our current state, it is no mystery as to why. What I find is that some helpers are easy enough to see, but others require a bit more looking. After all, Jesus taught us “Whenever you give...do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing.” Some folks think Jesus was pretty serious about this. Indeed, some are most comfortable being hard to see. It’s what made me think of Betty...

“Try the other side door, that one is locked!”

The voice was Betty’s, but all I could see were flowers.

As I left the church gym on a cool spring day in Fitzgerald, Georgia, I realized the advice was directed to someone attempting to enter the gym kitchen. From her vantage in the church’s flower garden, “the voice” had noticed a struggling church member. Turning back to the flower garden and squinting through the morning haze, I finally discerned the Facilities Coordinator, Betty Sims. Standing on the down-hill side of the garden, she appeared to be working in head-high roses. I had enjoyed the flowers in passing. Had she not offered help, I would not have detected Betty’s presence.

I remember when Betty helped organized to meet the needs when the church opened a disaster shelter. I wonder how many people were able to pick up a Sunday School class record because the office and education buildings were unlocked. We used to pack folks into a gym “just so” at homecoming. Lovers engulfed enough to venture “I will?” She arranged many wedding receptions, birthday parties, class or family reunions, and church ministry meetings. We entered worship to find the cooling or heat turned on so we could kibitz about the temperature. Sat for years in deacons’ meetings and planning meetings and devised grand and glorious ideas for fellowship or ministry, always to hear a staff member say, “I’ll get with Betty on that!”

I lived a chunk of my life that came down to “getting with Betty.” Without her contributions, and the work of those she supervised, First Baptist would have been a huge garden plot, upturned soil rich with anticipation—all fenced in from the hand of the Sower.

So for all the ways Betty’s work brought God and people together in a place, who would blame her for drawing attention to herself? Instead, she devoted personal time to self-giving nurture. As a pastor to plants, she slipped into my office and apologized to my vegetation for their plight of indifference. She fretted over them and they were born again. Beyond worrying over the details of programs and ministries, Betty fussed over the blooms of roses and the fruit of pecan trees. She awarded fresh flowers to our eating tables and office desks. She poured herself into plants and people alike. The only favor she asked was that we occasionally bloom.

Sometimes we did. More than just occasionally, it was because Betty Sims had her hand in these things. She was much like the Spirit of our Lord: it was hard to catch her in the act. She lived her vocation so well, sometimes all we could see were the flowers.

This week it was good to remember Betty bunched up in a bouquet of helpers. Good, because I’ve got a feeling that by the time this difficult season is over, a bunch of helpers are going to need the inspiration of people like Betty. Inspiration to bloom.

### Volunteers for Children’s Sermons

If you would like to be on a rotation to share responsibility for the children’s sermon on Sunday mornings, please contact our pastor. We are establishing a schedule where our pastor brings the sermon every-other Sunday. The rest will be shared by parishioners.

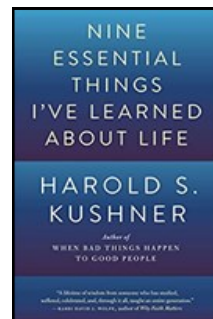


### Join Us When We are Able to Gather Again Deep Blue: Weekly Adventures Through the Bible

Bring your children and your grandchildren, age 9 and under.

**Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m., Room 107**

*Deep Blue Connects: Loving God, Loving Neighbor* is a comprehensive Bible study for children. The study incorporates Bible stories, service learning, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience.



### OFF THE SHELF

*Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*

Anchor Books, 2013

By Harold S. Kushner

Many will remember Rabbi Harold Kushner for his book, *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People*,

In this compassionate and deeply personal work, Rabbi Kushner distills his experiences as a twenty-first-century rabbi into nine essential take-aways. Offering readers a lifetime’s worth of spiritual food for thought, pragmatic advice, and strength for trying times, he gives fresh, vital insight into belief, conscience, mercy, and more. Grounded in Kushner’s brilliant readings of scripture, history, and popular culture, *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* is practical, illuminating, and compulsory advice for living a good life.

## Notes from Tim

### Hymn Story: *In Times Like These*

Stress and strain was part of daily living during the height of World War II. Many did not know what to expect or what was coming next. Many families experience personal “sorrows or tragedies”.

Ruth Jones was a mother of five and a pastor’s wife. She was a busy housewife, during World War II. One day while going about her daily duties, she felt a “direct inspiration from the Holy Spirit”. She stopped her work and “quickly put down both words and music just as they were given to her by God.” Many of the song lyrics are also inspired by Hebrews 6:19, which says: “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast....”

In 1948, the Jones’ founded a radio ministry in Erie, PA, broadcasting a weekly family devotional program from their home called “A Visit with the Jones.” Several years later, the words provided comfort to the writer as she recovered from a serious surgery. She is said to have tears come to her eyes when she watched George Beverly Shea sing her song on a Billy Graham telecast. She said “I can’t believe I had any part in writing this song. I just feel that God gave it to me, and I gave it to the world.” She wrote fifteen other hymns, but *In Times Like These* remain her best known.

As we continue to live in these uncertain times, I find the words of this hymn continue to provide comfort and guidance for us as a people of faith at Pfafftown Christian Church and throughout the world.

*In times like these you need a Savior*

*In times like these you need an anchor*

*Be very sure, be very sure*

*Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One*

*This Rock is Jesus, the only One*

*Be very sure, be very sure*

*Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*In times like these you need the Bible*

*In times like these, O be not idle*

*Be very sure, be very sure*

*Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*In times like these I have a Savior*

*In times like these I have an anchor*

*I'm very sure, I'm very sure*

*My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One*

*This Rock is Jesus, the only One*

*Be very sure, be very sure*

*Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

Love and Grace to you. *Tim*

## Remembering in Prayer



### WF Baptist Medical Center:

Brandon Whitley (friend of the Fletcher Family)

**Brighton Gardens:** Edna Williamson

**Rose Tara:** Vallie Cline

**Walnut Cove Rehabilitation:** Mary Ferguson

**Willowbrook Rehabilitation:** Bud Barker

**Church Family:** Helmut “Steve” Backi, Pat & Frank Barber, Jack Bryant, Ken Davis, Christine Faircloth, John Grice, Jodi Saunders, Bill Simpson, Ed Snuffer, Garland Terry, Julie Tilley, Tommy Timmons, Richard Yarbrough

### Others:

Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groffs’ friend

Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley’s friend

John Davis: Ken and Vicki Davis’ friend

Tommy Disher: Traci Canter’s Uncle

Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel’s granddaughter

Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher’s aunt

Jan Everton: Jo Stanley’s sister

June Fulton: Jill Robertson’s friend

Elaine Grice: John Grice’s sister

Betty Haddock: Sharon Binkley’s mother

Cayden Kingsbury: Rodney Stilwell’s grandson

Chuck Kolstad: Evelyn Nifong’s son-in-law

Sharon Linscott: Gerald & Marlene’s friend

Ramon Mandry: Pat Millsap’s family

Doug McClay: Marlene Thomas’ uncle

Scott McDaniel Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher’s friends

Sue Miles: Jo Stanley’s friend

Plemmons Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher’s friends

Daniel and Lewis Shields (infants): Jill Robertson’s friends

Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher’s sister

Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson’s niece

Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson’s sister

Emory and Ella Thomas: Gerald Thomas’ parents

Judy West: Ann Fletcher’s cousin

### Loved Ones in the Military:

Joshua Hughes, Norfolk, VA.;

Chase Lee, Guam; USS Key West;

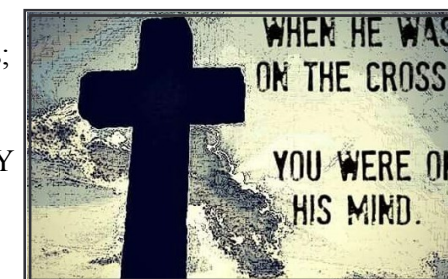
Major Hope

Poster, NG, Texas;

Cpt. John G. Van

Hoy IV,

Fort Campbell, KY





2 - Jordan Myers  
4 - Beth Petree  
8 - Brad Fletcher  
9 - Eric Smith

11 - Ann Fletcher  
13 - Harry Nifong  
17 - Beth Katsilis  
19 - Bob Faircloth  
Fred Muetzel  
23- Jack Groff  
27- Kevin Cline  
28- John Romanello



2 - Ben and Gennie Sinclair  
9 - Brad and Anne Fletcher  
13 - Paul and Jeanette Shropshire  
20 - Kevin and Leigh Bell



### \*\*\* CORN PLANTING\*\*\*

We are planning to plant corn in the PCC Garden beginning at **9:00 am on APRIL 18th, 2020**. Please join us if you can and bring a hoe if you have one! If we have enough folks, we should finish by noon. In case the weather does not permit, we will let you know as soon as possible by phone tree, email and/or telephone. Thank you!

# April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Staff Mtg. 11:00 a.m. Pastor's Study	2	3	4
9:30 am Connect 11:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Board Mtg	5	6	7	8 Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	9	10
12 9:30 am Breakfast 10:00 am Egg Hunt 11:00 am Worship	13 Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday	14 Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm DFH	15	16 Pastor Relations 7:00 pm Pastors Study	17	18 Proposed PCC Garden Planting Day See comments to the left ←
19 9:45 am Connect 11:00 am Worship	20	21 CWF Mtg. 6:30 pm DFH	22 Administrative Professionals Day	23	24	25
26 9:45 am Connect 11:00 am Worship	27	28	29	30		