

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Church Staff

Rev. Rodney Stilwell
Minister

Rev. Tim Shoaf
Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter
Office Administrator

*Please make plans to join us and see what's happening new at
Pfafftown Christian Church!!*



We would ❤️ to have you visit with us!



December, 2022

THE VISITOR

A Word from Rodney...

Well, if you are reading the December newsletter that means it's almost here again. Christmas! And all that goes with it is coming right at us. Traveling. People rushing around spending money. Cards in the mail. Hound dogs barking Jingle Bells. People asking for money. And TV specials starring everybody from Elvis' 3rd cousin to Tom Brady to Kanye West. There's a lot to do - so we better get ready. Yes, **PREPARING** is where the joy really is at Christmas.

Here are 3 ways we can **PREPARE TOGETHER** for Jesus' Birthday this year at PCC.

GATHERING TOGETHER! Just as the shepherds and angels did - we will gather to sing, pray and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Plan to be at PCC on Sunday mornings at 11:00 for worship, the Cantata on December 11, at 5:30 pm; at the Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. and on Christmas Sunday Worship at 11:00 am. Make it a priority to join together here with family and friends.

GIVING TOGETHER! Our church will share its blessings with others in this community who need God's support and encouragement. As in years past, we will collect gift cards for needy families from Old Richmond School.

GROWING TOGETHER! Enjoy a daily devotional to learn and listen during the Advent season. We can prepare a few minutes each day by reading and reflecting on Richard Rohr's book, "Preparing for Christmas." There are copies available at no cost for each of us in the Narthex and Church office. AND we will meet from **11:30am to 12:30pm, over lunch on November 30 and December 14**, in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall to discuss Rohr's book. **TOGETHER LET'S CELEBRATE HIS BIRTHDAY BY GATHERING, GIVING AND GROWING!** -Rodney *Rodney



An Evening of Christmas Music

Sunday, December 11

5:30 p.m.

Cantata presented by

The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
accompanied by Strings, Harp, Flute, Oboe,
clarinet, Trumpet, Timpani,
Percussion, and Organ.

Jill Gardner
Soprano Soloist
Rev. Tim Shoaf
Minister of Music and Organist

Choral, Solo, and Orchestral
Christmas works by Mozart, Rutter,
Handel, Bach, Hayes

*A reception will follow in the
Upstairs Fellowship Hall*

December Worship Schedule

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| December 4 | ~ | Rev. Rodney Stilwell |
| December 11 | ~ | Rev. Rodney Stilwell |
| December 18 | ~ | Rev. Rodney Stilwell |
| December 25 | ~ | Rev. Rodney Stilwell |



Christmas Eve Service
December 24 at 5:00 p.m.
*Please join us as we gather in the
Sanctuary to sing carols of praise and
thanksgiving as we celebrate the birth of
our Savior. We will hear the wondrous
Christmas story in God's Holy Word and
celebrate the Lord's Supper. This heart-
warming service will close by lighting
candles as we open our hearts to God's
loving grace and prepare ourselves to go
out into this broken world to be
His light to others.*

Merry Christmas

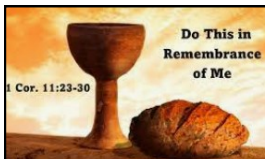


Christmas Tree of Hope

PCC will be sharing the love, joy and hope with the families and children at Old Richmond Elementary School again this year. We will be collecting gift cards to be used at Target, Walmart, Food Lion, or Lowe's Foods. The Guidance Office will distribute these gifts to four families and others in need. (If you would like to make a monetary donation, we can purchase the gift cards for you). You may bring your gift cards or monetary donations to the church office or to Tim no later than **Monday, December 12**. Thank you for sharing the gift of HOPE to these families at Christmas! -Tim



During the month of December, we will be collecting **Beef Stew** for Crisis Control. During the year of 2022, PCC once again went over and beyond in giving to this local ministry that has always been so dear to the hearts of our congregation. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus within our community!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is asking for volunteers to help prepare communion for the upcoming months beginning January - June, 2023. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your continued service. If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Bryant or Jo Stanley.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP

Please join your church family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on December 25!

10:30 a.m. - Fellowship Time in the Narthex with light Christmas Refreshments
11:00 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Worship and Communion
(Casual dress and abbreviated service)



Who Am I?

Can you guess who this precious little sweetheart is? When God made this little boy, He made him with an extra amount of love and compassion for others. This man loves Jesus so much and wants others to know and love Him too. Answer can be found hidden somewhere within this newsletter... please look for an * and their name.)



CWF NEWS

CWF will meet on December 13th at 6:00PM in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided. Please bring a donation for Meals on Wheels and a \$15-\$20 gift if you would like to participate in a special gift exchange. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Baked/Frozen Goods Sale. Proceeds will go to support local and regional charities.

TASTE AND SEE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

11:30 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

Join us as we continue to study God's word together. Sign up for lunch in the Narthex or by calling church office by December 12.



Notes From Tim

Carol: Mary's Little Boy Child

Joseph Hairston (July 9, 1901 - January 18, 2000) was an American composer, songwriter, choral conductor, and actor. He was regarded as a leading expert on spirituals and choral music. His notable Christmas composition was "Mary's Little Boy Child" that our Handbell Choir will play at this year's Christmas Evening of Music Program on December 11. Also, this beloved Christmas carol is traditionally sung as a solo each year at our church's Christmas Eve Service.

Incidentally, Hairston was born (not far from Pfafftown) in Belews Creek NC, a rural community on the border of Stokes, Forsyth, Rockingham and Guilford counties in North Carolina! At an early age, he and his family moved to Homestead, Pennsylvania, just outside Pittsburgh, where he graduated from high school in 1920. Hairston, who gave up studies at Massachusetts Agricultural College in the 1920s, went on to graduate from Tufts University in 1928 and studied music at the Juilliard School of Music. Hairston pledged Kappa Alpha Psi (Chi Chapter) in 1925. He worked as a choir conductor in the early stages of his career. His work with choirs on Broadway eventually led to his singing and acting in plays, films, radio programs, and television shows. Hairston wrote this beautiful song "Mary's Little Boy Child" in 1956, and set the melody to a rhythmic Calypso style accompaniment. The text is as follows:

*Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible said,
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ, was born on
Christmas Day.*

*While shepherds watch their flocks by night, they
see a bright new shining star, they hear a choir sing
a song, the music seemed to come from afar.*

*Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem
that night, they found no place to bear her child, not
a single room was in sight.*

*And then they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn,
and in a manger cold and dark, Mary's little boy child
was born.*

*Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new king was born
today, and man will live for evermore, because of
Christmas Day! Mary's boy child Jesus Christ, was
born on Christmas Day!*

What a wondrous gift our loving God gave to the world on that glorious morn so many years ago! God's grace, peace, and joy be with you always.

Love to all. *Tim*



Church Family:

Jo Poplin (*Vienna Village*) Frank and Pat Barber (*Brookdale*), Jack Groff, Helen Johnson, Jeanette Shropshire (recovering from surgery), Skip Stanley, Garland and Sue Terry, Betty Tilley, Julie Tilley

Others:

Jason Alexander: Friend of Jack and Mary Groff
Mike Booth: Friend of Pam Backi
Jerrie Connelly: Sister-in-law of Betty Barker
Jan Everton: Sister of Jo Stanley
Bill Flynt: Cousin of Robert Flynt
Betty Haddock: Mother of Sharon Binkley
Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of Rodney & Beth Stilwell

Kathy Mason: Friend of Tim Shoaf
Sue Miles: Friend of Jo Stanley
Dene Pitts: Friend of Traci Canter
Pamela Reynolds: Friend of Traci Canter
John Shoaf: Cousin of Tim Shoaf
Heather Stokes: Niece of Jill Robertson
Joy Stokes: Sister of Jill Robertson
Mike Stokes: Friend of Pam Backi
Judy West: Cousin of Ann Fletcher



"YOU CAN NEVER TRULY ENJOY CHRISTMAS UNTIL YOU CAN LOOK UP INTO THE FATHER'S FACE AND TELL HIM YOU HAVE RECEIVED HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT."

— JOHN R. RICE

God's Greatest Gift

The Birth of Christ