

**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH**    RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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**Church Staff**

**Rev. Rodney Stilwell**

Minister

**Rev. Tim Shoaf**

Minister of Music & Programs

**Traci Canter**

Office Administrator

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Permit #2

**This Independence Day, we're reaching out to say  
the best things in life really are FREE...  
just like God's love for you!**

*Come and join us in the wonderful things happening at  
Pfafftown Christian Church!*

**July 2023**

**THE VISITOR**



This week a dear friend died. Her name was Chrissy. The last few times that we were together her focus and energy were lower than usual. I heard that she had been ill with COVID. Then later there was more news, and it wasn't good. Chrissy was diagnosed with leukemia and would need to be hospitalized for several months of chemotherapy. But the cancer was too advanced and she died unexpectedly after a few weeks in the hospital.

The morning I heard of the diagnosis, we were hiking into a small town. Entering the community, we met a local craftsman, selling his handmade wares of leather. I bought a bracelet and wore it to honor her struggle, and to remind me to pray for Chrissy as I walked. I planned to give it to her while in the hospital.

You know, this all happened so fast. Most of it occurred while I was out of town hiking. Too often that's how it goes. We don't get a chance to give others a gift from our heart before a loved one is gone. One day, I am going to give that prayer bracelet to her teenager. I had hoped that the bracelet, would serve as a reminder of God's love for my friend, offering strength as she overcame the disease. That's how I saw it then. But that's not how it turned out. Nothing will ever replace Chrissy for her family but now I hope the gift will bless her daughter.

Even, and especially, in such times we have hope that comes from God. And in this hope, we acknowledge the pain of loss as life doesn't always turn out as we plan. Sometimes God's hope has to wait. Meanwhile, hold on to your hope – as if it's a path to follow – because if we have God's hope, we have everything. And it's still the same hope but sometimes our bracelets give strength to a different arm, facing a different recovery.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God. Psalm 42:11

*Rodney*



**Vacation Bible School 2023**

**Saturday, August 12**

**9:45 am – 1:30 pm**

**(Pre-K through 5th Grade)**

**Downstairs Fellowship Hall**

Join us for Bible Lessons, Crafts,  
Splash 'n Dash Games, Lunch,  
and lots of learning and fun!

You may register your child by calling me  
at 336-692-5214, or by calling the church  
office at 336-924-9925. *-Tim*

***Freedom***

It is important to be reminded that freedom came at a very high cost. The lives and the sacrifices of men and women in the past and still today comes at a high cost as they serve and protect our nation. This great nation was founded with God in the minds of the architects of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with Christian values and freedom for all. Let us not forget that it was a freedom to serve others and do good. Our time on this earth is short; let each one of us be a blessing to people around us, and to not grow weary of doing good to others, like the book of Galatians 6:9 says. And most importantly let us remember that a *true freedom* was revealed to us not many years ago from the British crown, but in a manger in the middle east over 2000 years ago in the person of Jesus Christ. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

\*Portions of this article were taken from Focus On The Family



## July Elder Leaders

Steve Clodfelter, Leader  
Ruth Saalweachter, Back-up

## Communion Stewards

Pam Backi and Doug Ramsey

We are in need of volunteers to prepare communion for October and November. Please sign up in the Narthex. Thank you to those who are willing to assist with this worship ministry in our church.

## VBS Adult Volunteers Needed!

We will need several adult volunteers to lead/assist in Lessons, Crafts, Bible Games, Splash n' Dash Games, Lunch and set-up for our Vacation Bible School held on Saturday, August 12, from 9:45 am - 1:30 pm at the church. Our VBS plays a vital role in the spiritual formation, nurturing, and growth of our children in the Christian faith.

Please call me if you are interested in helping or place your name, email and phone number on the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex. Once we have a list of volunteers, we can contact you and meet to finalize plans and provide instructions and materials. Thank you in advance! *Tim*

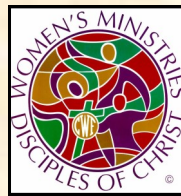


There will be **NO** Taste and See Bible Study Luncheon in July. Our next Taste and See will be held on Wednesday, August 9, from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall.



The Crisis Control gift for the month of July is **Toilet Tissue**. Thank you for your continued support of this vital and local ministry that PCC supports.

*As each one has received a special gift,  
employ it in serving one another as good stewards of  
the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10*



## CWF News

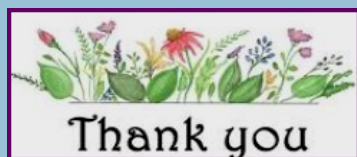
On Tuesday, June 27, the CWF meet at 6:00 p.m. at Sherwood Grille in Winston-Salem. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal with wonderful, sisterly fellowship. There will be **NO** CWF Meeting during the month of July. Please enjoy your summer and we will begin our meetings again shortly!



Olivet Moravian Church will be having a Blood Drive on Saturday, July 15, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. If you want to participate and have not given blood since May 20, you may schedule your donation at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter Olivet Moravian. You may also call the church at 336-924-8063. God bless you for helping others!

## July Worship Schedule

July 2	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
July 9	~	Rev. Robert Wolfe
July 16	~	Rev. Jeff Carter
July 23	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
July 30	~	Rev Robert Wolfe



*Dear Pfafftown Christian Church,  
On behalf of the Forsyth County Board of Elections, we thank you for your help in serving our community by making it possible for voters to continue to go to their home precinct and cast their ballots last year. You are valued, appreciated and a true community hero.*

*With Warmest Regards,  
Forsyth County Board of Elections*

## Notes from Tim

*O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain;  
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain.  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee;  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.*

As we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th and recall the spiritual heritage and freedom of this great country we call the "United States of America," let us pay tribute to the author and the interesting story behind one of our most cherished patriotic hymns-- *America the Beautiful*.

In 1893, Katherine Lee Bates, a noted English professor at Wellesley College in Boston, along with other teachers and professors went to Colorado Springs, Colorado to teach a summer course. En route, she stopped at Niagara Falls, where she was inspired by its beauty. She traveled on, stopping at the Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago, which celebrated the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. Here she experienced the man-made spectacle of the fair, where the ice-cream cone, the hot dog and the Ferris wheel were introduced, along with the other rides and exhibits. They left the "Windy City" behind them as they continued on their journey westward. Once in Colorado, they made the trip by a mule-drawn wagon up to the famous Pike's Peak which was named for the American general who discovered it about 1806 (Zebulon Montgomery Pike). It was a long journey, but she was thrilled by the vistas, and seeking out every new flower, tree, animal and bird she saw along the way. When she saw the view of the magnificent Rocky Mountains she said, "I felt great joy! All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with sea-like expanse."

Miss Bates had learned from childhood to always carry a notebook and pencil. So, as she sat near the top of Pike's Peak, she picked up her notebook and started writing phrases that described her experience. She compared the Chicago Exposition (a man-made spectacle) with the magnificent Rocky Mountains and the view from Pike's Peak (fashioned by the hand of God). She and her group also discussed the two stones that played important parts in the nation's history--the Ten Commandments and Plymouth Rock--and agreed that their fellow-citizens could couple the daring of the pilgrims with the moral teachings of Moses. Later that night, with the events of the trip vividly in her mind, Miss Bates sat down and expressed her dream of a Christian nation in these words. *America! America! God shed His grace on thee; And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea* along with the other four verses of the hymn. Several months later, she sent her poem to a magazine for

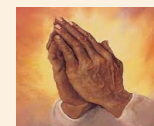
consideration. The Congregationalist magazine published her "America the Beautiful," in its July 4th 1895 edition. The poem generated hundreds of letters of response from readers. By 1900, about 75 tunes had been composed for the poem but the one chosen to best inspire the poem was that of Samuel Ward's hymn tune Materna."

Miss Bates lived long enough to see her poem become the best-loved patriotic hymn. Few people know, however, that she did not make a single claim for song royalties, nor did Samuel Ward for the use of his tune. They each felt the song was inspired by God and therefore a gift from God to America.

As we sing this patriotic hymn in worship on Sunday, July 2, please pay close attention to the text and the inspirational message in this wonderful hymn.

Grace and peace to you. *Tim*

*\*Portions of this article taken from "Hymn History" by Mark Beggs*



## Prayer Requests

**Church Family:** Tad Elliott, Jack Groff, Helen Johnson, Jo Poplin (*Vienna Village*), Skip Stanley, Sue Terry, Betty Tilley, Julie Tilley, Mary Timmons

### Others:

Jason Alexander: Friend of Jack and Mary Groff  
Barbara Bradley: Sister of Betty Barker  
Mike Booth: Friend of Pam Backi  
Mike Eldridge: Friend and Scout Leader  
Jan Everton: Sister of Jo Stanley  
Bill Flynt: Cousin of Robert Flynt  
Betty Haddock: Mother of Sharon Binkley  
Dean Johnson: Friend of Betty Barker  
Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of Rodney & Beth Stilwell  
Kathy Mason: Friend of Tim Shoaf  
Sue Miles: Friend of Jo Stanley  
Mike Mitchell: Son-n-law of Betty Barker  
Dene Pitts: Friend of Traci Canter  
Pamela Reynolds: Friend of Traci Canter  
Scott Richmond: Friend of Betty Barker  
Danny Safrir: Friend of Traci Canter  
Heather Stokes: Niece of Jill Robertson  
Joy Stokes: Sister of Jill Robertson  
Mike Stokes: Friend of Pam Backi  
Judy West: Cousin of Ann Fletcher  
Shay Whitehead: Daughter of Steve and Betty Clodfelter

***\*Please contact Traci in the church office when someone needs to be added or removed from our prayer list. This will assist us in keeping our prayer concerns updated for our bulletin and newsletter publications. Thank you.***