

**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



Volume 4, Number 9

March, 2021

THE VISITOR



LENT: A Call to Spiritual Renewal

The season of Lent is a 40-day period which began on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and ends on April 3, the day before Easter. Sundays are excluded when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. The origin of the word Lent is from the Anglo-Saxon word “Lencten,” meaning “Springtime.” Christians celebrate Lent as a time for a renewing of the Spirit, a springtime of the soul, when nature itself mirrors the promise of Christ’s resurrection. Like the earth, long weary under the burden of winter, all that is within us seem to cry out for spring, to sense the burden of David as he pleads, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!”

Lent, then, is our invitation to spiritual renewal, or awakening. It is a time to discover and claim the blessings God has for us. It is a time to deepen our own prayer life— to renew our study of Scriptures — to share with someone who needs the expression of God’s love in human interaction.

In short, it’s not a time for “giving up” something, but for “growing up” into the Christian God wants us to be!

Through our personal meditation and reflection during this season may we experience the renewal of Christ’s presence in our lives as we anticipate and rejoice in His resurrection and promise of eternal life. *-Tim*

Holy Week/Easter Do-At-Home Workshop For Kids

In past years, we have had a Children’s Lenten/Easter Workshop at the church. This year, as we journey through the Lenten Season I have designed a Do-At-Home Holy Week/Easter Workshop. I am assembling a “Supply Bag” for each child that will include Biblical accounts, activity pages, scripture memorizations and several crafts to help them better understand the events of Jesus’ life from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and His glorious resurrection on Easter Morning.

Also, provided will be an Instruction Guide and materials so parents can assist each child with the various activities and crafts. These will be available for you to pick up or have delivered to you by Sunday, March 21.

Please pray for these children that they will experience a deeper understanding of Jesus’ great and everlasting love for them!

-Tim



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

As Way Leads On To Way

Dear Pfafftown Christian Church Family

I am writing to tenure my resignation as your pastor, effective March 22, 2021. So that the church will have time to configure worship in my absence, I will continue to preach through March 21.

I have been offered a position within Medi Home Health and Hospice in Boone, North Carolina. I will serve with their team as a hospice chaplain. Marlene and I will be moving to that area.

For four years, it has been my privilege to serve the Pfafftown congregation. I thank you for that opportunity. Please know Marlene and I will carry fond memories of those with whom we shared ministry and who gave me the honor of relating as your pastor. Also know we pray for this church as you map your ministry for the season ahead.

As I grow older, words by Tennyson increase in meaning:

We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Grace to you as you continue to strive and seek and find, together.

Gerald



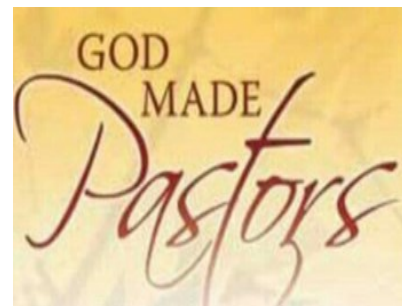
During this season, if you should have a need (such as someone to pick up medications or food and drop them at your door) or would simply like to talk during this time, do not hesitate to contact one of the persons listed below.

Tim Shoaf: 336-6925214
Traci Canter: 336-407-1277
Elders: See your Yearbook

Thank You Pastor



Thank you, Gerald and Marlene, for the ways you have administered to our church. You have been an example of living a life of faith that is combined with a daily walk with God. You have been a blessing to many lives in and outside our church and community. We truly wish you both the very best and know that you will always hold a place in our hearts.



*You have taught us from the Bible
Words of love and so much more.
Your dedication to God's word
Is something we are grateful for.*

*You have shown us Christ is surely the answer,
And that He'll strengthen us each day,
You never seem to get weary
Helping others along God's way.*

*Full of wisdom, guidance and loving
concern - all has meant so much
We've been blessed as having you for our Pastor
and the lives you've truly touched.*

Love,
Pfafftown Christian Church

March 2021							Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
								1	2	3	4	5	6
							7 Youtube 11:00 AM Worship **Board Mtg 2:00 PM	8	9	10	11	12	13
							15 Youtube 11:00 AM Worship	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18	19	20 Hello Spring	27 Passover
							21 Youtube 11:00 AM Worship	22	23	24	25	26	
							28 Youtube 11:00 AM Worship	29	30	31			

01 - Dinah Myers
03 - Tom Ingram
06 - Mary Timmons
07 - Jo Stanley
07 - Pam Backi
08 - Mindy Mock
14 - Garland Terry

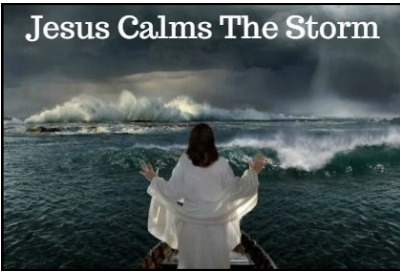
18 - Andrew Edwards
19 - Sue Flynt
19 - Susan Showers
23 - Rick Johnson
23 - Erika & Erin McAllister
30 - Dawn Cline

20 - Van & Betty Kiger

March Bible Verse

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.
Mark 4:39

Pfafftown Christian Church			
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual			
July through December 2020			
	Jul - Dec 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Rhein Annuity	4,234.72	0.00	4,234.72
Contributions Income	68,761.02	89,094.00	-20,332.98
Loose Offering	160.00	720.00	-560.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	504.00	-504.00
Building Rental	400.00	246.00	154.00
Investment Earnings	1,499.18	3,606.00	-2,106.82
R G Flynt Endowment	753.97	1,536.00	-782.03
Yard Sale	2,460.00	2,604.00	-144.00
Memorial Income	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Total Income	81,268.89	98,310.00	-17,041.11
Expense			
Administrative Expense	67,964.09	73,662.00	-5,697.91
Christian Eduation	193.10	696.00	-502.90
Building and Capital Improv F	0.00	996.00	-996.00
Evangelism	0.00	54.00	-54.00
Membership	223.75	204.00	19.75
Fellowship	0.00	504.00	-504.00
Childcare	0.00	96.00	-96.00
Property	13,667.72	19,224.00	-5,556.28
Worship	247.21	1,650.00	-1,402.79
Total Expense	82,295.87	97,086.00	-14,790.13
Income over Expenses	-1,026.98	1,224.00	-2,250.98



Jesus Calms The Storm

“Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid? Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” Matthew 8:24-27.

If you have ever stood on the ocean’s shoreline or waded through the ocean’s waves, you have no doubt marveled at the sheer power and energy of waves. They slam and crash and pull back with power unmatched. The pent up power in the ocean is amazing. The force that water can exhibit and the sheer destruction that it can wreak is mind blowing. The ocean, to man, is seemingly limitless, untamable, vast, relentless, and sometimes fear-some. Despite the ocean’s dauntless and reckless power, the Lord, Creator of all heaven and earth, has the ability to bridle the vast blue expanses. With only His voice, God gathered the great expanses of the waters together in specific bodies and placed land where it should go.

While Jesus was traveling with His disciples on a boat the waters began to swell and rage. The disciples, who were weathered fishermen, trembled with fear as the sea threatened to swallow them. Their boat surely would have been heaving and tipping, shuddering and hinting at capsizing but with His gentle, sure, and powerful voice, Jesus calmed the raging sea. They were astonished at His heavenly power and control.

Our God has the power to create the world, the seas, the land, space and us! We all have storms in our lives at one time or another and that very same God who calmed the seas for the disciples can calm any storm that rages in our lives. He loves us with an everlasting and unconditional love.

If God holds the oceans in the cup of His hand and calms the wind and seas with His words, how mighty and how enormous is He! Pondering our minuteness and His infiniteness, we are profoundly faced with the truth - He has everything under control. We have a Creator who sees us in the midst of life’s storm and He holds us together. When the hardships come crashing on your ship like ravaging waves, remember that there was a time when God split the sea for His children to escape captivity. He divided drop from drop and held it apart until a caravan of millions safely crossed the ocean on the dry seabed. He is that same almighty and all-powerful God and nothing is too hard for Him. “*Allow Him to calm the storms in your life.*” ~ *Philippians 4:6: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*



Spring is just a few days away and everyone knows what a wonderful time of the year it is! The temperature begins to warm and the world begins to take on a fresh, new look. Baseball begins, trees put on new leaves, and the beautiful flowers begin to bloom. Yet, another sign that spring is here is when many people will start their “spring cleaning” at their house.

Did you realize that there was a time when Jesus did some spring cleaning? It was time for the annual Passover celebration so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When He arrived, He went to the temple and He couldn’t believe His eyes! He saw people selling cattle, sheep and doves for the people to use as sacrifices in the temple. There were table set up for money changers so that people could change their money to pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a carnival than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what He saw. He became so angry that He made a whip from some rope and drove the cattle and sheep and those who were selling away from the temple. He turned over the tables of the money changers and scattered coins over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves, He said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market.” Yes, it could be said that Jesus DID some spring cleaning in the temple that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we should also think about some other cleaning that needs to be done. We are in the season called Lent. At first the word Lent meant ’the season of spring’. But it has now become much more than that. It is a time to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be changed. Are there some areas of your life where Jesus needs to do some ’spring cleaning’?



Cancer Treatments: Patsy Terry (Garland and Sue’s daughter-in-law)
Bereavement: Family of Sudie Britt (Jim Britt’s Mother)

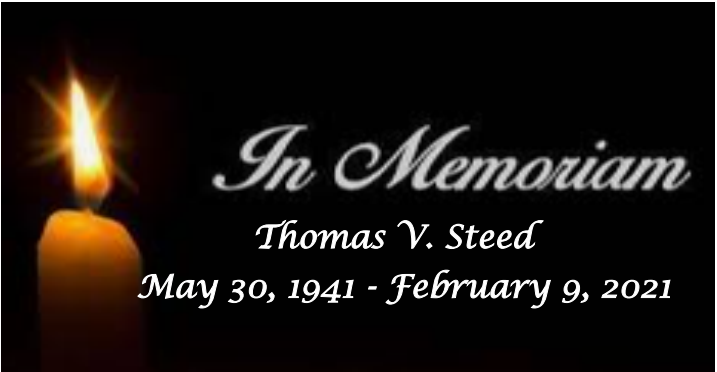
Family of Tom Steed
Universal Healthcare (King, NC): Merle McAllister (Debbie Fletcher’s friend)

Recuperating: Graham McAllister (Debbie Fletcher’s friend), Pat Millsaps, Betty Tilley, Jan Everton, Sue Terry, Skip Stanley, Tommy Timmons

Homebound
Brighton Gardens: Edna Williamson
Rose Tara: Vallie Cline
Willowbrook Rehabilitation: Bud Barker
Church Family: Frank & Pat Barber, Craig Bracken, Betty Clodfelter, John Grice, Jodi Saunders, Garland Terry, Julie Tilley, Richard Yarbrough

Others:
Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groffs’ friend
Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley’s 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
Bill Flynt: Robert Flynt’s cousin
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-n-law
Sue Miles: Jo Stanley’s friend
Plemmons’ Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher’s friend

Pam Reynolds: Traci Canter’s friend
Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher’s sister
Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson’s niece
Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson’s sister
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



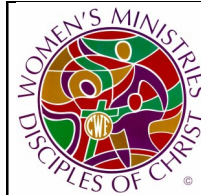
Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Week of Compassion Offering for
February
\$1,200.00
Thank you, PCC, for your compassion and caring.



**Easter Offering
March 28 and April 4**



A special offering of Disciples Mission Fund, the Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ to develop Disciples, form new faith communities, connect with ministry partners around the world and to serve all of God's needy people. Please use the envelope provided in this newsletter should you wish to make a contribution. Thank you!



CWF News

CWF Meetings will resume when it is warm enough to meet at the Picnic Shelter. We are excited to begin meeting again! Please stay tuned for any updates!



Starting this month, we will post a picture of one of our beautiful (or handsome) members for everyone to guess who it is. The answer will be hidden somewhere throughout the newsletter...please look for an asterisk* and their name. Can you guess who our first beautiful baby is?



New Communion Mobile Food Pantry
In January, PCC delivered 209 cans of spaghetti sauce to the New Communion Food Pantry. Thank you to Susan Smith for sponsoring our effort.

March's Sponsor:

Pam Backi

(and other funds given during the Christmas Drive)

Crisis Control Food Box

During the month of February, our church collected instant potatoes and cans of food. **In March, we are collecting grits.** As we continue toward Spring, please bring your contributions by the church. For the safety of our neighbors, we have cancelled in-person worship, but what abides is the work of the church in our world. Your contributions make a difference for others. ~ GT

Notes from Tim

Hymn Story for Lent

*Jesus, keep me near the Cross,
there a precious fountain,
free to all a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the Cross, in the Cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.*

Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) was the author of over 8,500 gospel songs. Though blind at 6 weeks of age, Crosby began composing texts at age 6. She later became a teacher at the New York School for the Blind, where she was a student. A friend of several presidents, Crosby became one of the most important advocates for the cause of the blind in the United States.

Carlton R. Young notes: "It is one of many texts by Crosby that combine vivid imagery (she was blinded in her childhood) and powerful biblical and evangelical metaphors: the Cross, a fountain of healing streams, free grace, the daily walk of faith, God's pursuing love and mercy, Jesus, the Lamb of God, beyond the river of death—heaven with its golden streets—and rest for the post-raptured souls."

The glory of the Cross, a theme of the refrain, is a common metaphor of Romantic-era hymnody. The Cross, a place where the pain of earth and the joy of heaven come together, is a kind of spiritual altar to which we might draw near for refuge and solace. From it flows a "precious fountain"—an image perhaps borrowed from the 18th-century poet William Cowper and his hymn "There is a fountain filled with blood."

Though an instrument of cruel punishment and torture, the Cross is a source of a "healing stream" (*stanza one*) and a place where "the bright and morning star sheds its beams" on us (*stanza two*).

Stanza three invites us to meditate upon the Cross—"bring its scenes before me." The "shadow" of the Cross falls on my daily path.

Dwight L. Moody was said to have asked Crosby the following question toward the end of her life: "If you could have just one wish granted, what would it be?"

Moody expected her to ask for sight. Sensing this she is said to have replied, "If I could have one wish, I'd wish that I might continue blind the rest of my life." Moody was taken back and asked, "How can you say that?" Crosby was said to have responded, "Because, after being blind for all these years, the first face I want to see now is the face of Jesus."

Her words are spoken as a true disciple and one with an enduring love and faith in her Savior and Lord!

May we too, experience that same wonderful love for Christ during this Holy Lenten season. - *Tim*

*(Portions of this article taken from "Hymn Stories" by J. Hahn)

**Pfafftown Christian Church
Community Garden**

If you or a friend are interested in tending a garden spot in the PCC Community Garden, call the Church Office at 336-924-9925 on M-W-F from 9am-1pm. After office hours, leave your name and phone number. You may also sign-up by calling Jack Bryant @336-924-4223. Once we receive your name and number we will add you to our e-mail and PhoneTree roster so that you may receive information and updates during the gardening season. Thank you ~ Jack Bryant



BOARD MEETING

The next PCC Board Meeting will be held **Sunday, March 7 at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary.** All church members are welcome to attend. Please wear your mask and practice social distancing at all times. We look forward to seeing everyone!



**Don't forget Daylight Savings
Time begins
Sunday, March 14th!**