

**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

Nationally:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html

Internationally:

www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public



Volume 3, Number 11

May 2020

THE VISITOR

Stewardship Campaign Postponed

As you are probably aware, the annual PCC Stewardship campaign usually begins in mid-late April and concludes in early June. BUT WE ARE POSTPONING THE CAMPAIGN to a future date. We will wait until a time when the pandemic has subsided, economic conditions have improved, social distancing restrictions are lessened, and the church family each has a better feel for their ability to commit their financial and talent resources to the church and its programs.

In the meantime, we ask you to continue your financial support as you planned to do last June on through September of 2020. If you can do that, we think we can continue to follow the current budgeted operations. We expect to proceed with this plan through July, August and September of 2020. Hopefully, we will then be in a position to proceed with our stewardship program ending June 30, 2021, and be able to submit a budget for the remainder of that fiscal year.

Your Stewardship Team (Bill Simpson, Betty Kiger, Jackie Romanello and Betty Simpson) proposed this change to Steve Clodfelter, Board Chairman and Pastor Gerald who gave their approval to proceed with the change in plans.

This is the first time we can recall postponing a stewardship campaign, and we hope that it meets with your approval. In these difficult times, let's all remember the Biblical phrase in Psalm 46:1-2 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble". We are definitely in a time of much trouble, and we must turn to God for help. Even though we have been connected primarily by You Tube presentations by Tim and Gerald, phone calls between members, and the Newsletter, we must stay united and willing to fight through our uncertainty and prevail individually and as a church. ~ You Stewardship Team



The older I get, the more I understand how much my mother did while we were growing up. She went to a public job, prepared meals, kept us and our clothes clean, made a house a home but more than *anything*, she taught us that Jesus loved us so much that he died for all of mankind and if we accept Him as our Savior, we would have eternal life.

The Bible contains many verses about just how special mothers really are but here are a few favorites -

* Proverbs 31:25- "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

* Proverbs 31:30- Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

A Mother Comforts/Loves Her Children:

*I Corinthians 13:4-7- Love is patient, kind, does not envy, is not boastful, not conceited, does not act improperly, not selfish, not provoked, and does not keep record of wrong doing. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

I Peter 3:4- You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

A Mother's Wisdom and Teaching

*Proverbs 22:6- Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

*Proverbs 31:26-27- She opens her mouth with wisdom and loving instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. *"Happy Mother's Day to ALL women who nurture, support and love others. Today we thank you for making our world a better place."*

As Way Leads On To Way

We are still living through these days, and yet already one can find on social media and in news commentaries conclusions about the ultimate meaning. Some declare previous generations have left us unprepared for these times because of selfishness and greed. All that is past is painted in ugly colors. Others declare that nothing should ever be the same again. Nothing.

I humbly offer another view of these times. I hope there will be some things *unchanged*. Indeed, some things have no good reason to change, but healthy reason to remain. I find that view well expressed by Chuck Poole, Senior Pastor of Northminister Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. In this season of COVID-19, he offers, “From generation to generation...we have been practicing for this all of our lives.” He goes on to say,

“...already, always being careful to hurt with one another, to walk with one another. Already, always being careful that what we said about the pain of life would ring as true as they rang on the saddest ears in the room as they rang on the happiest ears in the room. We had already uncluttered our theological lives in an effort to live lives centered on what mattered most. Loving God with all that is within us. And loving others as we love ourselves.

“We were already striving to have that uncluttered kind of spiritual life where our God is love, our creed is kindness, and our default position is empathy. We were already people who, by the good work of the Holy Spirit, loved God as unconditionally as God loves us. And if our prayers for this were not answered, we were already moving to pray for the next best thing and the next best thing and the next best thing because we are now what we already were: people of incurable hope.

“In that sense, though we did not know it, we have been practicing for this all our lives. From generation to generation, sorrow to sorrow, crisis to crisis, we have held in our hearts the hope...”

Everything change? Please, no! Some great things have been inherited. Some healthy things have been growing. Some things will remain the same. Love, kindness, empathy, and hope. And the people who bear them.

Thanks be to God.
- GT



Mary Ferguson ~ April 2, 2020
Helmut “Steve” Backi ~ April 21, 2020
Howard Wooten ~ April 21, 2020

With a Grateful Heart

Thank you for reaching out to our family following the death of my father, Emory Thomas. When one receives the prayers, phone calls, and messages from those who follow after Jesus, it is easy to understand why my father lived so much of his life close to the Body of Christ in various churches. Here was his hope. Here is ours. Thank you. - GT

Gerald, Tim & Traci,

Thank you so very much for your prayers and concerns for my family. I hope all is well with everyone. If I can be of help in any way, please call me I will do whatever is needed. I am praying for our church and community during these difficult times.

God Bless,
Pam Backi

OFF THE SHELF



Is Life Fair?: Good Words for Hard Times
Smyth and Helwys Publishing, 2018
By Chuck Poole

When life is complex, hearts are broken, and dreams go unfulfilled, we do not need words that are misty-eyed with shallow sentimentality, starry-eyed with naïve optimism, or dry-eyed with cold logic. Rather, we need words that are clear-eyed with realism and wide-eyed with hope.

These are the kinds of words that fill the pages of Charles E. Poole's bestselling title *Is Life Fair? Good Words for Hard Times*. They are not perfect words or final words. Rather they are hopeful, good words for the weary ones who must stumble around on the

2 rugged terrain of hard times.



1 - Reese Fletcher

2 - David Lane

Nikki Mock

4 - Bill Kibler

Kim Luper

9 - Sharon Binkley

Shirley Hauser

11 - Jill Robertson

14 - Matthew Edwards

17 - Cory Luper

19 - Christine Faircloth

Caroline Smitherman


21 - Mary Groff



5 - Dean & Beth Katsilis

14 - Gerald & Ann Fletcher



27 - Barry & Caroline Smitherman



Our Annual May Yard Sale has been temporarily cancelled until the Stay At Home Order has been lifted due to the Coronavirus. This is a great time to be cleaning out your closets and buildings and basements! Please save your donations for a later time hopefully soon to come!

Thank you! ~ Yard Sale Committee

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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9:45 AM Connect 11:00 AM Worship	4	5	6 The Gathering 6:00 PM DFH	7 National Day of Prayer 	8	9
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17 9:45 AM Connect 11:00 AM Worship	18	19  CWF Mtg. 6:30 PM DFH	20	21 Pastor's Relations 7:00 PM Pastor's Study	22	23
24 9:45 AM Connect 11:00 AM Worship	25 	26	27	28	29	30
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Crisis Control: Please see article in May Newsletter. All help is greatly appreciated as the need is very great at this time. Thank you for your continued hearts of helping and giving.



Finding God During A Crisis

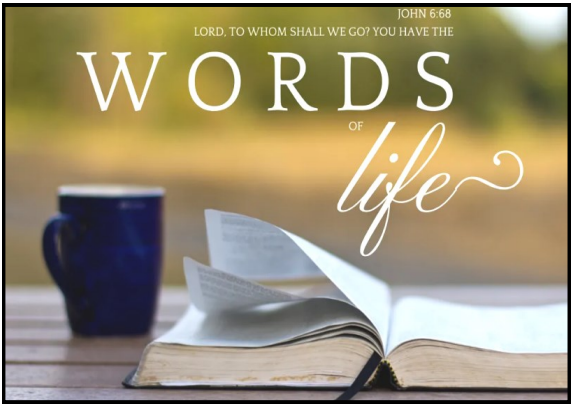
Times have been hard ... very hard. We have felt isolated and worried about our health, finances and our future. This can be a time of an invitation to seek God and His presence. Below are suggestions in seeking Christ during this pandemic or during *any* crisis you may have ever in your life. **1. *Be on the lookout for the unexpected ways God might be working.*** Fear and anxiety arises from reactive thinking. We need not be afraid because God does not desire our suffering but rather is constantly working to turn our suffering to joy. (Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV) The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Romans 5:3- More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance.) **2. *Welcome this moment as a time of rest.*** The coronavirus has disrupted our entire world and has forced us all to step outside of our normal routines. After creating human beings, God rested and commanded us to rest as well. With our past presumed omnipotence, we might welcome the opportunity to rest and to live more humanly. (Genesis 2:3 (ESV)- So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had one in Creation) **3. *Refocus on what is important.*** Many of us have been living like Jesus’ friend Martha, who was overwhelmed by all the work to be done. We have been so consumed with our “to-do lists” that possibly, we have lost sight of what is most important. Jesus’ words to Martha was, “you are worried and distracted by many things. There is need of only ONE thing.” Luke 10:27- “He answered, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.” Our priorities, decisions and habits may need to be evaluated and in line with what *truly* matters the most. **4. *Spend time in prayer.*** What if we embrace this time of silence and seek Him and His voice more than we have ever in our lives? We can find peace, joy, and gratitude in these different yet difficult days by simply seeking Him in prayer and reading His word. **5. *Connect deeply with your loved ones-*** The greatest human desire is to be loved. This pandemic has disrupted so many aspects of our lives, but it has not and cannot prevent us from communicating love to one another. It may actually provide the opportunity and motivation to let love abound all the more. What is certain above all else in this time when so much is uncertain is that “nothing.... NOTHING... can separate us from God’s love. (Romans 8:38) (some excerpts taken from Five Tips for Finding God Amidst the Coronavirus Crisis, Patrick Manning 4.2.20)

Pfafftown Christian Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2019 through February 2020			
	Jul '19 - Feb 20	Budget	\$ Over Budge
Income			
Projected W/D from CIF	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carryover from Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions Income	97,361.08	118,787.00	-21,425.92
Loose Offering	592.00	960.00	-368.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	668.00	-668.00
Building Rental	126.00	332.00	-206.00
Investment Earnings	4,419.49	4,812.00	-392.51
R G Flynt Endowment	1,778.68	2,052.00	-273.32
Yard Sale	3,050.00	3,468.00	-418.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	107,327.25	131,079.00	-23,751.75
Expense			
Administrative Expense	93,181.79	98,214.00	-5,032.21
Christian Eduation	615.69	932.00	-316.31
Building and Capital Improv Fd	0.00	1,332.00	-1,332.00
Evangelism	0.00	68.00	-68.00
Membership	300.00	268.00	32.00
Fellowship	229.70	668.00	-438.30
Childcare	0.00	132.00	-132.00
Property	22,563.42	25,633.00	-3,069.58
Worship	2,394.42	2,200.00	194.42
Total Expense	119,285.02	129,447.00	-10,161.98
Income over Expenses	-11,957.77	1,632.00	-13,589.77

Please remember to continue your giving during this time when we cannot meet for regular worship.

Notes from Tim

Hymn: Wonderful Words of Life



On one occasion, Christian publisher Fleming H. Revell living in New York City, was about to launch a new Sunday School paper. He wanted a song that would capture the overall focus on the publication, which was to emphasize the vital importance of studying the Word of God. The name of the paper was to be “Words of Life.” So Mr. Revell asked Philip Bliss, a hymn composer and close friend, if he could come up with a song to fit, suggesting that he use the text, John 6:65-68 and the passage, “many who have followed Christ were turning away” (vs. 66). The Lord turned to His disciples and asked, “Do you also want to go away?” And Peter made this reply on behalf of the other men: “Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 5:24) Words of eternal life... words of life. This an apt description of the whole Bible. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4) And as Hebrews declares, “The word of God is living and powerful” (Hebrews 4:12; cf. I Thessalonians 2:13). “Thy word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.” Mr. Bliss duly produced a song, as requested, calling it Wonderful Words of Life.

Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all
Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list' to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life;
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven.

Sweetly echo the Gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify us forever.

After the first issue of the publication, it was all but forgotten. But Mr. Revell passed on a copy of the Sunday School paper to another hymn writer, George Stebbins. Mr. Stebbins began using Philip Bliss’s song in evangelistic meetings. It caught on, after that, and became very popular. Simple though it is, it reminds us that we have a precious treasure in the Scriptures--- words of life! Grace to you,

~ Tim



Memorial Day is popularly seen as the unofficial start of the summer holiday season but yet, it's always meant to be a somber reminder that freedom costs many men and women their lives who serve in the armed forces. It is another perfect time to open the Bible and see what God wants to tell us about how freedom and love.

In the same way that soldiers have laid down their lives in the name of freedom, these soldiers have also made the ultimate sacrifice not just for their country but for their family and friends. Such is the weight of a life given up in sacrifice that John 15:13 called a love that surpasses all others - "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

In the same peerless love shown by Jesus when he died in suffering to save mankind from sin, and the faithful Christian are called upon to follow him as soldiers as remarked in Timothy 2:3-4- "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

For those who have fought so that others can go on living and enjoying freedom, their service and self-sacrifice are to always be remembered. Psalm 27:3-4 states, "though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war rise against me, even in this I am confident. John 14:27 assures the faithful, there is no need to be afraid even in the face of war and death. There's a peace that can only be found in God, one that nations should always aspire to. "Peace I leave with you; my (perfect) peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let not your hearts be troubled, nor let it be afraid."

This Memorial Day, thank you to the brave men and women who died serving this country. We remember and will be forever thankful for your service. We pray for our continued freedom and enduring peace.

(some excerpts taken from Christian Post.com)



Join Us Online
On Sunday mornings, you are invited to enter into a time of worship and meditation through music, scripture reading, and sermon. Join with us on YouTube, the PCC Facebook site, or the PCC webpage.



SERVERS for MAY, 2020
If you are unable to serve, please, contact someone to switch with you or call:
Lynda Bryant: 336-924-1695 or
Jo Stanley: 336-813-2522

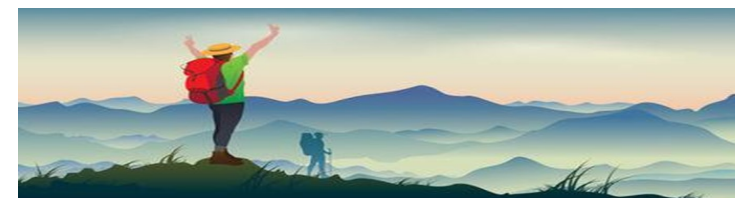
ELDERS: Tony Bryant, Ruth Saalweachter
DEACONS: Jack Bryant, Emma Robertson,
Jill Robertson, Gene Saalweachter
COMMUNION: Gene & Ruth Saalweachter
Jack & Lynda Bryant
CLOSING: Tim Shoaf



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

- GT

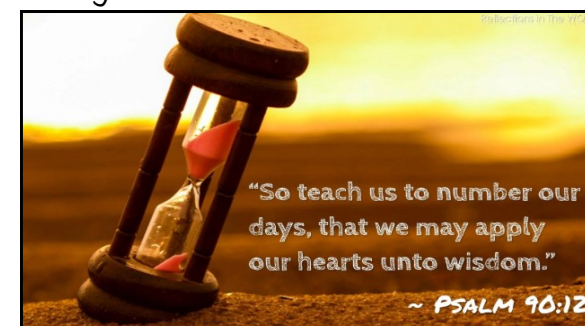


Lenten Study: Supplies for the Journey, The Basics We Carry With Us

Our Connect Group has covered two of the six lessons. Please keep your lesson guides in a safe place, as we will return to begin again with Lesson 3 (The Bible).



May's memory verse is:



Crisis Control Ministry's (CCM)

Winston-Salem and Kernersville offices have new operating hours. Since utility cut-offs have been suspended during this time of pandemic, they will primarily be assisting with food and pharmacy medications. (see their website for more details)

Because of these uncertain times, it is unsure on a daily basis what the greatest needs are so at this time, it is recommended for financial donations be made (no amount is too small). Checks can be mailed to the church and made out to the Crisis Control Ministry and then the church will mail to CCM collectively. You may also visit www.crisiscontrol.org and donate on-line. Additionally, food donations will continue to be accepted at PCC or any community food bank.

Thank you to our PCC church family for always having generous and loving hearts and being the hands and feet of Jesus to our community.

Remembering in Prayer



Bereavement:

Family of Mary Ferguson, Family of Emory Thomas, Family of Howard Wooten

Rose Tara: Vallie Cline

Willowbrook Rehabilitation: Bud Barker

Church Family: Pat & Frank Barber, Jack Bryant, 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 friend

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

Ella Thomas: Gerald Thomas' mom

Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin

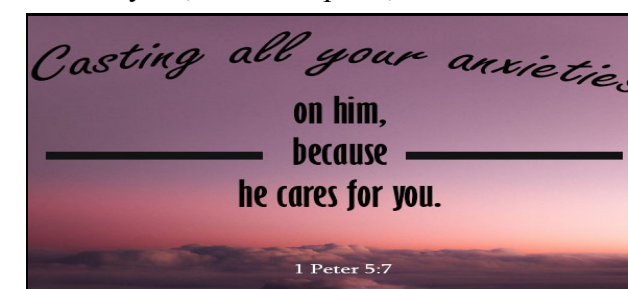
Brandon Whitley: friend of the Fletcher family

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





Lenten Study:

Supplies for the Journey,

The Basics We Carry With Us

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Loose Offering	402.00	840.00	-438.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	585.00	-585.00
Building Rental	126.00	290.00	-164.00
Investment Earnings	4,141.42	4,210.00	-68.58
R G Flynt Endowment	1,778.68	1,795.00	-16.32
Yard Sale	3,050.00	3,035.00	15.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	96,202.51	114,694.00	-18,491.49
Expense			
Administrative Expense	81,674.02	85,937.00	-4,262.98
Christian Education	375.68	815.00	-439.32
Building and Capital Imprc	0.00	1,165.00	-1,165.00
Evangelism	0.00	60.00	-60.00
Membership	300.00	235.00	65.00
Fellowship	229.70	585.00	-355.30
Childcare	0.00	115.00	-115.00
Property	19,715.03	22,429.00	-2,713.97
Worship	2,184.22	1,925.00	259.22
Total Expense	104,478.65	113,266.00	-8,787.35
Income over Expenses	-8,276.14	1,428.00	-9,704.14



Stewardship Season Is Fast Approaching

It is that time of year again...spring weather, spring flowers, season of Lent, Easter services, revival of our faith, the season of repentance of our shortcomings, and the commitment we should make to our roles as members of the Christian family of Pfafftown Christian Church.

First, let's take a quick reading of who we are as a congregation and where we might be going?

We are small in size compared to who we once were. We continue to perform an impressive array of neighborhood and national Christian endeavors. We have impressive contributions in our community to music, Memorial Day service, Crisis Control and elementary school programs and the church Bazaar. We have continued these programs even as we have declined in average worship attendance and active members.

We have aged, and we have not been joined (yet) by younger families with children. Yet we have a new, experienced and energetic Pastor and a Minister of Music and Programs with unequalled skills.

We can't stop innovating. We must learn to be creative and find more ways to expand our Christian family and convince others how to love as Jesus has taught us. You can't love others outside of PCC without first loving yourself and then loving every member of our church family!

Let's have a new beginning this Stewardship season by making a renewed commitment to each other and to our programs (so you have given to the church, give some more...sign up to participate in a role you are interested in and don't reject a role because you have never tried it.... stretch your giving to the General Fund by making sure you pay up the amount you estimated last year ASAP and stretch that amount for the upcoming year. ~ Your Stewardship Team

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