

**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

Nonprofit Org  
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 Pfafftown NC  
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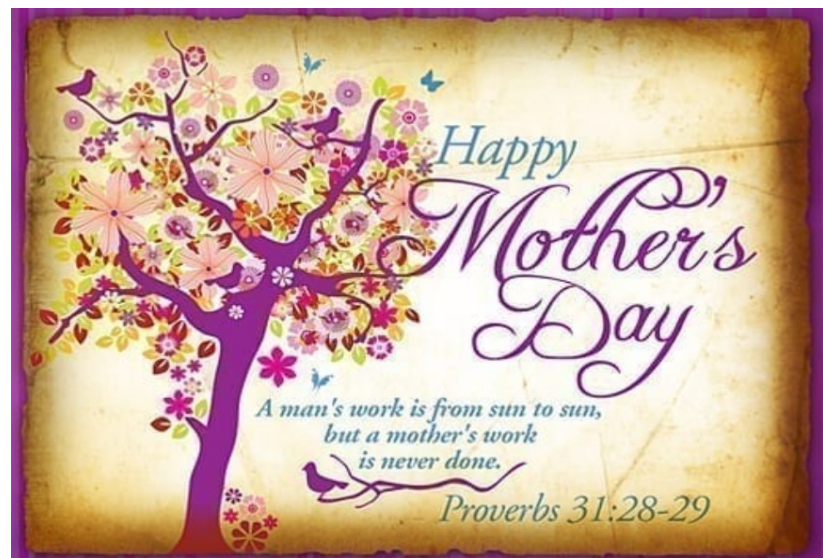


*Mothers are a beautiful  
 example of God's love.*

May, 2023

THE VISITOR

*We have some wonderful things happening at  
 Pfafftown Christian Church!*



*We would love to have you visit and worship with us!*



As I write these lines, it's hard to believe that we are in May already. My service from the pulpit with Pfafftown Christian Church over the last 6 months has blessed me in so many ways. I love seeing and sharing with you. Also, it's been a learning experience for me to create a routine to read, study and write a sermon week after week. It's been many decades since I found Bible study and sermon preparation so rewarding and fun. I love learning with God and his stories from the Bible. Even so it's hard for me to realize that I have preached at PCC each week since November. No absences from an illness, traveling or rest. This stretch is by far a personal record.

As you may know, in addition to Bible study, hiking is also a strong passion of mine. It keeps me learning and moving. This month I am accompanying a friend to hike the "Salvador" and "Primitivo" Caminos in the mountains of Spain. Covering 275 miles over several mountain ranges, both will be challenging and adventurous.

While away from our pulpit these 3 Sundays, I hope to reach some mountain tops, rest from preaching, recharge and return. I will miss sharing with you on Sundays. Even more I'll miss visiting with you in the pews before Tim starts the Prelude. See you on June 11! Buen Camino! **Rodney**

**Pfafftown Christian Church  
 YARD SALE  
 MAY 12 & 13  
 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
 Come and join us for some good deals! Donations are always accepted and appreciated. If you need your donations picked up, please call Kitty Hunt at 336-775-8965. Thanks!



Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word 'pentecoste,' which means '50th day' and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a dove.

In the Old Testament, Pentecost started off as a Jewish celebration. The Jews didn't call it Pentecost—it was known as the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. The day celebrated the beginning of the early weeks of the wheat harvest and it was celebrated during the middle of the month of May or in early June.

In today's time, Pentecost commemorates the moment in history when Christ ascended to Heaven. On this day, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other disciples following the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.


We are a Church, a People, born of the wind and fire of God. The image of winds says that we are the people of God in action, moving things. The fire (red flame) of Pentecost says that the Church has the power, heat and light of God. The Church of Jesus is empowered by the Holy Spirit to be God's witnesses to the world! We are the Body of Christ in and for the world. Please take the time in the coming weeks to read Acts 2 and come and celebrate Pentecost Sunday with us on **Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**



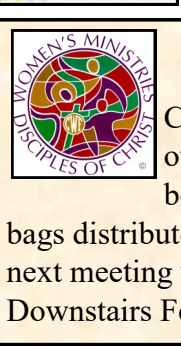


If you would like to receive Rev. Rodney Stilwell’s weekly devotional, please call the church office at 336-924-9925 or just let Rodney, Tim or Traci know and you will be added to the distribution list!

**MAY ELDER LEADERS**  
*Betty Simpson, Leader*  
*Lynda Bryant, Back-up*  
**COMMUNION STEWARDS**  
*Worship Committee*



The Crisis Control gift for the month of May is **Applesauce** (no glass jars) Thank you for your love and support of others.



**CWF News**  
CWF continued to show the love of Jesus for others when they recently purchased shampoo bottles that were used for the Easter hygiene bags distributed at the Forsyth Prison & Jail Ministry. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 pm in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall. *All ladies are welcome!!*

*Thank You*  
*Pfafftown Crew,*  
*On behalf of the men at the Cherry St. Prison, thank you so much for the labors of love in filling Easter hygiene bags. We are grateful to partner with you all in doing God's Work. With Love, The Staff at FJPM*



Come and join us on **Tuesday, May 9th** for our **Taste and See Bible Study Luncheon from 11:30am - 12:30pm.**  
You will be *so* glad you did!  
We Promise!!! ❤️

May Worship Schedule			
Sunday, May 7	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell	
Sunday, May 14	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell	
Sunday, May 21	~	Rev. Tejado Hanchell	
Sunday, May 28	~	Rev. Tejado Hanchell	



***Please join us in this prayer for our country.***

We come with fervent hearts to praise You Lord. You are The Word, the Way, Truth and Life. The Alpha and Omega, Lion of Judah, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come. You clothed Yourself in flesh and dwelt among us, to remove our sin and clothe us in Your righteousness that we might dwell with You forever and ever.

With broken, humbled hearts we repent of our sins. Confessing to You our faithlessness, prayerlessness, and disobedience. Forgive us for our doubt, our prideful and quarrelsome words that reveal our unclean hearts. Cleanse us and renew a right and steadfast spirit within us we pray.

With grateful hearts we thank You fervently for the blessings in our life and throughout America; they are more than we are able to count. We will remember Your grace and testify to Your goodness in all generations. Help us to refrain from complaining, but instead be prompted to pray faithfully in every circumstance. Teach us to have a content heart knowing You are always enough for our every need.

As the Church we commit to pray and love our neighbor and nation as You loved us, that our reputation in this world would be rooted in Your love. Holy Spirit work and overflow through us in every prayer, thought, word, and deed. May our character and conduct reflect the righteousness in which You clothed us and command us to live.

With an obedient heart we put on the full armor of God; Your breastplate of righteousness guards our heart from which flows the springs of life. We pray fervently for our communities and country; the people who are in the Church, Family, Education, Business and Workplace, Military, and Government. Every person is Your workmanship, fearfully and wonderfully created and loved. With hopeful hearts we pray that all would choose to receive Your love and follow You. We pray that America would confess, “Jesus is Lord” and reflect Your righteousness in every sphere of influence, and every aspect of our lives. We ask that heavenly hope would flood our hearts, and that You will heal our land.

Believing You; all You are, all You said, and all You have promised, we pray fervently in righteousness and avail much. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

Kathy Branzell, President, NDOP Task Force

## Notes from Tim

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God’s mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel’s wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

The Chancel Choir sometimes begins our Service of Worship by singing as the Choral Call to Worship -- the text of this beautiful hymn. I would like to share the inspiration and story behind its composition.

Lanny Wolfe (born 1942) is an American Christian music songwriter and music publisher. Wolfe served for a number of years as the Dean of the School of Music at Jackson Bible School, Jackson College of Ministries in Jackson, Mississippi.

Wolfe’s songs are included in a number of hymnals. “*Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place*” is included in our *Chalice Hymnal*, and is based on Jesus’ promise, where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst” (Matthew 18:20). It emphasizes the senses—feeling, hearing, touching, and seeing. We can feel the presence of the Lord—and hear the brush of the angel’s wings—and see glory on each face.


Wolfe was inspired to write this song in 1977 when a friend invited The Lanny Wolfe Trio to sing at a dedication service for a new building. “Surely the Presence” is the song that the Trio sang for that occasion.

This song is especially important, because it helps us to get the emphasis right. We often talk about “the church on the corner,” by which we mean a particular building. However, the building is not the church. The people are the church. The building is just the place where the church meets.

“Surely the presence” captures that nicely. The only reference to the building is the phrase “this place.” The song shifts the focus to people, as in “each face” and “His children” and “two or three.” It’s a good reminder to all of us of the real meaning of “church.”

See you this Sunday in worship and may God be with each of you. *Tim*

\*Some information taken from “Behind the Song” - Diana Matthews



**Church Family:** Tommy Timmons, Garland Terry (Home Hospice Care), Tad Elliot, Jack Groff, Jo Poplin (Vienna Village), Helen Johnson, Pat Millsaps, 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 Carmichael: Friend of Jack and Lynda Brant  
Jan Everton: Sister of Jo Stanley  
Bill Flynt: Cousin of Robert  
Betty Haddock: Mother of Sharon Binkley  
Austin Harris: Nephew of Anne Safrit  
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  
Danny Safrit: 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  
Shay Whitehead: Daughter of Steve and Betty Clodfelter

*Why God Created Mothers*

*When God created Mothers, He made two loving arms  
To cradle us and shelter us from the worldly harm.  
When God created Mothers, He made a pair of hands  
To care for us and guide us through our choices and our plans.  
When God created Mothers, He made the warmest heart  
To understand and give our lives a happy, loving start.  
Why God created Mothers, is not a mystery. . .  
He meant to share His love with us and did it perfectly.*