

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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US Postage
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Pfafftown NC
Permit #2



**September
2023**

THE VISITOR



A NOTE FROM RODNEY

God Bless You!

Last week visiting a family I was asked to bless the food before sharing the meal. This happens often because I am seen as the “professional,” who knows how to make it work. It is as if the blessing is not said correctly, we’ll all suffer indigestion.

Blessings really aren’t so hard. They occur all the time in church for babies, communion, and weddings. And they happen all around us each day. Some even go by unnoticed. A family member finds your lost set of keys – “God Bless You for helping me!” Sneeze while waiting in line at Food Lion and strangers say - “Bless You!” Or a friend calls to cheer you up on a lonely day and you respond - “Bless You for thinking of me!”

A blessing is just seeing and saying that something is there, is good, and is a gift from God. The ordinary moments of life are not so ordinary after all – they are extra-ordinary. They connect us to God. So, recognizing God in them and blessing them can be easy for all of us. And the more we bless, the more we will see. Try it sometime today. Stop to see, really look at, a tree, a pet or a waitress. Then ask God to bless them. Once you start blessing family at the table and strangers at the gas pump, you will see them differently. This world needs us to recognize God’s goodness and holiness in it. We don’t need a title or a certificate of ordination to bless. God has blessed us, all of us – and wants us to bless every other creature we meet. -Rodney

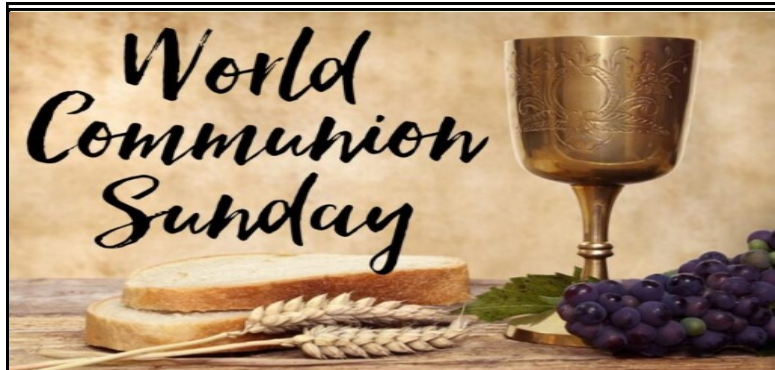
VBS- Monumental 2023

What an exciting time as we learned of God’s Greatness and that God is with us everywhere we go! We memorized Bible verses, constructed many crafts, made pottery crosses to give to others, participated in several fun activities, and enjoyed an awesome water slide event! We were so blessed to have 18 children attend! -Tim



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

*... and see the wonderful things happening
at Pfafftown Christian Church*



On Sunday morning, October 1, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday at the 11:00 worship service.

The World Communion Sunday tradition was begun by Hugh Thomson Kerr, a Presbyterian minister, in 1930, whose goal was to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity in which each congregation could experience a sense of interconnection one with another.

In 1940, the National Council of Churches, led by Rev. Jesse Moren Bader, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Disciples of Christ churches worldwide and to other denominations.

World Communion Sunday offers individual worshippers and congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper) in the context of the global community of faith. That special day has become a time when Christians in every culture can together break the bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the head of the church.

Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper in as many ways as there are congregations, whether sacramental or non-sacramental, liturgical or non-liturgical, confessional or non-confessional in faith and practice. But, the word "eucharist" still carries the same universal definition – "thanksgiving!" Thankfully, World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about the wider community of faith.

Plan to be with us on Sunday October 1, as we together observe this very meaningful Sunday in the life of Christ's holy church.

September Elder Leaders

Ken Davis, Leader

Tony Bryant, Back-up

Communion Stewards

Tim & Beverly Brown

Thank you to everyone who assists with these vital roles of our weekly Worship Service.



CWF News

At our August meeting we approved a \$1,000 donation to Samaritan Purse for the Hawaii Fire Response.

September CWF Meeting will be dinner at Betty Kiger's office on September 19 to benefit Senior Services Meals on Wheels. Time 6:00 p.m. — Sign-up in Narthex and please bring a donation to support this very important local ministry.

**** Chicken Pie Workshop – September 29-30.**
Set-up on Thursday September 28.

**** A Sign-up sheet will be in Narthex to help with workshop along with Sign-up sheet to order the pies.**

Looking ahead:

**** October 15, 2023—Crop Hunger Walk---**
Check-in starts at Corpening Plaza and the walk begins at 2:30p.m..

In the planning phase:

Visiting a nursing home and bringing needed items to the residents.

Taste And See



Join us for our next
Taste & See Bible Study
Luncheon on
Wednesday, September 13,
from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
in the Downstairs
Fellowship Hall.
You will be so blessed!

Notes from Tim



On Sunday, morning August 20, at the 11:00 service we presented School Supplies, Backpacks, etc. to the teachers and students of Old Richmond Elementary School for the beginning of a new school year. Many from the school worshipped with us as we dedicated these items and asked God's blessing on each and every student and educator. I thought it might be meaningful to share our dedication liturgy with you as we remember these leaders and students not only now, but throughout this entire school year and would ask that you keep this liturgy close by so that you may pray for them often:

Gracious and Loving God. Thank You for the beautiful gift of children. We pray that every school will be a lively center for learning; a place for discovery of new ideas and a place to make new friends. We ask Your blessing on the students, the teachers, the staff and the administrators as they begin a new school year. May the year be full of promise for the students and teachers as they experience life together.

We pray for the students. Provide for them the food and clothing they need. Give them peace when they feel anxious, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, at home, and may they feel Your loving care in all they do... and above all, please keep them safe.

We pray for the parents, teachers, staff and administrators. Grant them energy, passion, discipline, and endurance for their daily tasks. Bless each one beyond measure for their willingness to pour in the next generation through education. Infuse the classrooms with an atmosphere of care and mutual respect, that all interactions will be bathed in patience and understanding. Help the teacher's lessons grow pupils in knowledge and character. May they find ways to make learning fun for the students and for them. And may they feel Your loving care in all they do...and above all, please keep them safe.

O Lord, give us all teachable spirits that we may learn from one another. This is our prayer offered in the name of Jesus Christ and who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen. --Tim



Prayer Requests

Church Family: Evelyn Nifong, Tad Elliott, Jack Groff, Jason Hawkins, Helen Johnson, Jo Poplin, Skip Stanley, Sue Terry, Betty Tilley, Julie Tilley, Mary Timmons

Others:

Ken Barker: Friend of Rodney & Beth Stilwell
Barbara Bradley: Sister of Betty Barker
Ray Boore: Friend of our church family
Mike Booth: Friend of Pam Backi
Joe Casares: Brother of Manny Casares
Jan Everton: Sister of Jo Stanley
Bill Flynt: Cousin of Robert Flynt
Dean Johnson: Friend of Betty Barker
Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of
Rodney & Beth Stilwell

Sue Miles: Friend of Jo Stanley
Dene Pitts: Friend of Traci Canter
Pamela Reynolds: Friend of Traci Canter
Scott Richmond: Friend of Betty Barker
Danny Safrut: 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.

In Memoriam

Randal Clay Blankenship

December 4, 1950 ~ August 21, 2023

September Worship Schedule

September 3 ~ Rev. Rodney Stilwell
September 10 ~ Rev. Rodney Stilwell
September 17 ~ Rev. Rodney Stilwell
September 24 ~ Rev. Rodney Stilwell