

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

**December
2023**

THE VISITOR

An Evening of Christmas Music

Sunday, December 10

5:30 p.m.

Morning Star - Cantata

presented by

The Chancel Choir

and

Handbell Ensemble

Accompanied by Orchestra

Strings, Harp, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Trumpet, Timpani,
Percussion, and Organ.

Jill Gardner, *Soprano Soloist*

Rev. Tim Shoaf

Minister of Music and Organist

Choral, Solo, and Orchestral Advent/Christmas
works by Mozart, Handel, Rutter, and Martin

*A reception will follow in the
Upstairs Fellowship Hall*

**If anyone should need transportation to this
service, please call Tim Shoaf at 336-692-5214
or the church office.*

December Worship Schedule

December 3	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
December 10	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
December 17	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
December 24	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell
December 31	~	Rev. Rodney Stilwell



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is one of the most recognized symbols of the Advent Season. The circle of the wreath which, has no beginning and no end, reminds Christians of God; God's eternity, and endless mercy and love. The evergreen of the wreath speaks of the hope Christians have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, and eternal life. Advent leads us through a journey that reveals its true fulfillment on Christmas Day. The four purple candles represent this period of waiting as a candle is lit each Sunday during Advent to help us focus on this special journey. The white candle the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas Eve to signify the birth of Jesus our Savior the true light of the world. Be with us each Sunday during Advent as various persons and families in our church light the Advent candles in worship. ~Tim



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

... and see the wonderful things happening at

Pfafftown Christian Church



Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

*Please join us as we gather in the
Sanctuary to sing carols of praise and
thanksgiving as we celebrate the birth of
our Savior. We will hear the wondrous
Christmas story in God's Holy Word and
celebrate the Lord's Supper. This heart-
warming service will close by lighting
candles as we open our hearts to God's
loving grace and prepare ourselves to go
out into this broken world to be
His light to others.*



TASTE & SEE that the Lord is Good. Psalms 34:8

Come and join us for our next Taste & See Bible Study Luncheon on **Wednesday, December 13th** in the **Downstairs Fellowship Hall from 11:30A - 12:30P.** Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office by **December 6th.**



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an order form located on the table in the Narthex. or you may also call the church office. Forms are due by **Wednesday, December 6th at 12 noon** and the cost is **\$15 each.** Thank you for

Christmas Cantata Reception

Volunteers will be needed to assist with the reception following the Cantata on Sunday, December 10th. Betty Kiger is coordinating this event and will be the contact for those who would like to provide food items to serve. Additionally, money donations will be much appreciated. Betty may be reached at 336-480-1432.



Morning Worship on Christmas Eve

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the Narthex before the 11:00 worship service. Mark your calendars now!



CHRISTMAS TREE OF HOPE

We will be sharing the love, joy and hope with families and children at Old Richmond Elementary School again this year. We will be collecting gifts cards from Target and Walmart. You may also make a monetary donation and we can purchase the gift cards for you.

Deadline is December 10th.

Should you have any questions, please contact Tim Shoaf at 336-692-5214. Thank you.

December Elder Leaders

Tony Bryant, Leader

Ken Davis, Back-up

Communion Stewards

Gerald Fletcher

Thank you to everyone that helps with this vital part of our weekly worship service.

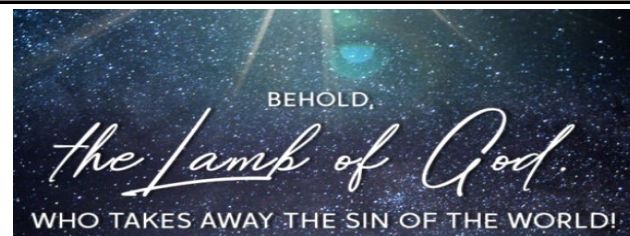


CWF NEWS

Many thanks to all who helped with our Chicken Pie/Baked/ Frozen Foods and Holiday Shop. To date we have collected \$7,646 including \$1,500 in donations. After workshop expenses, remaining funds will be used to fund our Outreach budget.

Our Christmas Meeting will be a potluck luncheon on December 19 at 12:30 pm in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall. Please bring a \$20 gift if you would like to participate in a Secret Santa gift exchange.

In the planning stage: Visiting a nursing home and bringing needed items to the residents.



Notes from Tim

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the **everlasting Light**;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" is one of my most favorite carols. We hear this carol and many others played all during the season, we hear carolers singing them on door-steps, etc. --- we realize that we have heard and sang them all of our lives, yet sometimes we need to take a moment to stop and ponder the message relayed in each carol to really capture the true meaning and the wonderful affirmation of our Christian faith found in each of them ---why they were written, the heartfelt inspiration and emotion expressed as they were then penned by each composer. As we together sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" in worship in the coming weeks I thought it would be meaningful to reveal some insight into the story behind this carol.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written in 1868 by one of America's greatest preachers, Phillip Brooks. In his day he was referred to as "The Prince of the Pulpit." The carol was written several years after he returned from a trip to the Holy Land. The experience of spending Christmas Eve in Bethlehem and worshipping in the Church of the Nativity made an unforgettable impression upon the young preacher. Three years later, while pastor at the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, Brooks decided to compose a Christmas text to use at a children's Christmas program.

He wrote about his Holy Land experience:

On Christmas Eve, as I was walking down the streets of Jerusalem, I felt the need to get away from the masses of people who crowded the village streets. I borrowed a horse and spent time wandering, lost in thought. Just as the sun was setting, I rode into the tiny little town of Bethlehem and the clear sky became full of stars. Awed by the wonder of the scene and how our Savior came from such humble beginnings, my faith was truly inspired!

It was this lasting memory of his Holy Land visit that inspired Brooks to write this carol. Brooks, along with the organist at the church, composed a simple and pretty melody that children could sing. This carol was an immediate favorite with children and adults around the world. It was first published in 1874 and has been one of the most cherished carols of all time. Brooks died unexpectedly in 1893. A child, when told by her mother that Bishop Brooks had gone to heaven, exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be!" (Continued next column)

*O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

May the joy, the love, and the blessings of Christ's holy birth renew each of our hearts and minds!

Grace and peace, **Tim**



Church Family: Mel Blakley, 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
Glenda Disher: Mother of Traci Canter
Rose Everton: Daughter of Will & Sydney Everton
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
Jan Ritchie: Sister of Jo Stanley
Jenny Safrut: Daughter-in-law of Anne & Sam Safrut
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

2024 Communion Servers

Please sign up in the Narthex to help serve Communion from January - June, 2024.
Thank you!

