

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Minister

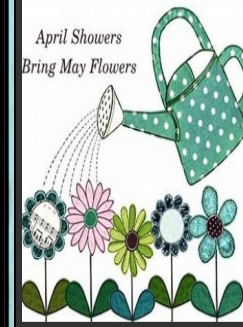
Rev. Tim Shoaf

Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter

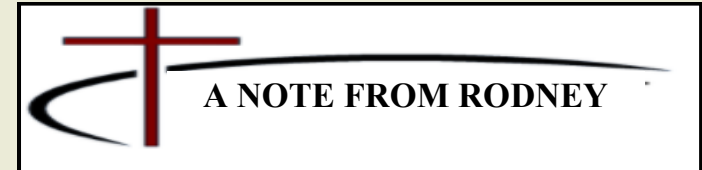
Office Administrator

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**April
2024**

THE VISITOR



There are various theories about the origin of April Fool's Day. Most go back hundreds of years to Europe and involve various types of pranks. One thread all the theories have in common is that some folks, out of ignorance, stubbornness, or beliefs were made the butt of jokes on account of their foolishness. Over time the tradition spread throughout Europe and other parts of the world.

In America, our tradition is to recognize April Fool's Day on the 1st – this year it's the same day we observe as Easter Monday. Interesting that this year a day known for foolishness is also be known for faith.

Maybe fools and faith aren't so far apart.

Christians following Jesus are going to be mocked and ridiculed by others. The Apostle Paul wrote the Corinthian Church, "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ!" He knew that we should not seek the wisdom of the world, but fully embrace the foolishness of Jesus – like loving God first, forgiving those who despise us, seeking justice for all, and serving others as ourselves. If we are faithful followers of Jesus, the world will probably think of us as foolish. So be it. Fools for Christ sounds pretty good to me. Thanks be to God. ~ Rodney



COME WORSHIP WITH US!
*... and see the wonderful things happening at
Pfafftown Christian Church*



The PCC Spring Yard Sale will be held May 3rd & 4th, Friday & Saturday from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Donations can be dropped off at the Pavilion or left in the hallway in front of the Yard Sale Room (Room #108). If you need help with a pick up, please call Cliff or Kitty Hunt at 336-775-8966 or 336-986-5106.



Taste and See Bible Study Luncheon
Wednesday, April 10th
11:30A -12:30P
Downstairs Fellowship Hall.
Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office by Friday, April 5th.



CWF NEWS

Tuesday March 19th CWF ladies met to prepare gift bags for Brookdale Assisted Living visit.

On Friday March 22nd the gift bags were delivered along with music presented by Tim, Paul and Jason along with a brief Easter mediation from Rodney. A reception followed the program.



We will meet on Tuesday April 23rd in the Lower Fellowship Hall at 3:00 PM. Please bring ideas for local outreach projects.



CMF Breakfast

The next Christian Men's Breakfast will be held **Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 am** at Mama Zoe's at 2859 Reynolda Road,

Winston Salem. All men are encouraged to come out and join us as we enjoy a delicious breakfast and enjoy the wonderful blessing of fellowship together. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex or you may call Tim Shoaf at 336-692-5214.

On Friday, March 15th, members of PCC gathered together to make palm tree crosses. The crosses were then placed in goody bags along with delicious Easter candy and were then distributed to a nearby assisted living facility. Our congregation also received a handmade cross on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Thank you to everyone that participated in this outreach project exemplifying Christ's love during this holy season.



Showers of Blessings

What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "Showers of blessings?" Do you picture a gentle rain or even a good soaking of provision, prosperity and answered prayers?



Think for a moment about the times when you have grown closer to God. What are the most life-changing lessons you have learned, what "blessing" was going on in your life at that time? When have you felt and recognized God's presence in your life the most? Was it really in times of great prosperity or was it in the "storms" of your life?

The saying, "April showers, brings May flowers" is not an agricultural lesson, it is a life lesson. In the ongoing, sometimes even violent storms that we encounter during the month of April, this adage is used to encourage us to endure the soggy days with the promise of beauty on the other side.

Rain has many contributing factors such as temperature, pollution, and environment. Along the Eastern Seaboard, where pollution builds up during the week, there is actually a 22% higher chance of rain on Saturday than on Mondays. The same can be true for the storms of our lives. God may choose to send a storm, as He did with Jonah, to persuade us back under the umbrella of the safety of His covering. However, as in the case of the storm of the sea with the disciples when Jesus calmed the storm or when He walked on the water, some storms are just meant to bring God glory and to draw us closer to Him in our relationship. As we learn to trust Him through the experiences of our storms, we learn to focus more on His power than the strength of the storm. Still other storms are a result of living in an imperfect world with imperfect people. This is not Heaven and Scripture even tells us that each day has enough troubles of its own. (Matthew 6:34) We know He can use even the storms of evil, which are meant to harm us, for our good as a blessing if we trust and follow Him.

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing by Daniel Whittle

"There shall be showers of blessing:" This is the promise of love; There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above.

CHORUS: *Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need; Mercy drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead.*

(excerpts from Daily Devotionals Feb., 2017)

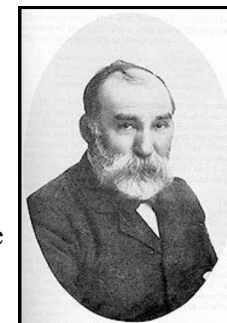
Notes from Tim

There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

The beautiful hymn, *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*, was written by Major Daniel Webster Whittle. Daniel Whittle was as born in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts on November 22, 1840.

After moving to Chicago in 1857, he began to attend a Congregational church and joined a Bible class. In 1862, he married Abbie Hanson.

He wrote of his conversion during the Civil War in the book *Twice Born Men*:



When the Civil War broke out, I left my home in New England and came to Virginia as lieutenant of a company in a Massachusetts regiment. My dear mother was a devout Christian, and parted from me with many a tear, and followed me with many a prayer. She had placed a New Testament in a pocket of the haversack that she arranged for me.

We had many engagements, and I saw many sad sights, and in one of the battles I was knocked out, and that night my arm was amputated above the elbow. As I grew better, having a desire for something to read, I felt in my haversack, which I had been allowed to keep, and found the little Testament my mother had placed there.

I read right through the book – Matthew, Mark, Luke, to Revelation. Every part was interesting to me; and I found to my surprise that I could understand it in a way that I never had before. When I had finished Revelation, I began at Matthew, and read it through again. And so for days I continued reading, and with continued interest; and still with no thought of becoming a Christian, I saw clearly from what I read the way of salvation through Christ.

While lying in the hospital, a young man begged a nurse to pray for him, but she refused. He then begged Daniel who said "I can't pray. I never prayed in my life. I am just as wicked as you are."

The young man begged Daniel to pray for him. He felt God speaking to him, so he knelt at the boys bedside confessing first his sins and then praying for the young man. By the time he finished, the young man had peacefully passed from this life.

Major Whittle wrote "I dropped on my knees and held the boy's hand in mine. In a few broken words I confessed

my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed earnestly for the boy. He became quiet and pressed my hand as I prayed and pleaded God's promises. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to the Savior, used me to lead him to trust Christ's precious blood and find pardon. I hope to meet him in heaven."

He was given the rank of Major by the end of the Civil War. He was thereafter known as Major Whittle. Following the work he went to work for the Elgin Watch Company. He went to work for Dwight L. Moody and his association. He served as an evangelist and hymn writer. In addition to *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*, he also wrote, *I Know Whom I Have Believed*.

Major Whittle's daughter, Mary, married the son of Dwight L. Moody. Mr. Moody once said of Whittle and his hymns: "I think Major Whittle has written some of the best hymns of the century."

Daniel Whittle died on March 4, 1901. (D Matthews - 2019)

PRAYER Request

Church Family: *Sarah Ingram, Ann Thomson, Sue Flynt, Sam Safrit, Anne Safrit, Mel Blakley, 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

Mike Booth: Friend of Pam Backi

*Rita Bennett: friend of PCC

Jerrie Connelly: Sister-in-law of Betty Barker

Glenda Disher: Mother of Traci Canter

Bill Flynt: Cousin of Robert Flynt

*Isaiah Johnson: Great-Grandson of Helen Johnson

Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of Rodney & Beth Stilwell

Rick Long: Friend of Traci Canter

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 Safrit: Daughter-in-law of Anne & Sam Safrit

Wes Snuffer: Son of Ed Snuffer

Scott Stanley: Son of Skip & Jo Stanley

Heather Stokes: Niece of Jill Robertson

Joy Stokes: Sister of Jill Robertson

Mike Stokes: Friend of Pam Backi

Shay Whitehead: Daughter of Steve and Betty

Clodfelter

* Depicts new prayer request