

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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Volume 4, Number 10

April, 2021

THE VISITOR

*Please come and join us and see what's happening new at
Pfafftown Christian Church!!*



A Joyous Resurrection!

Spring has a way lifting our inner spirits! In the last few weeks, the jonquils, forsythia, camellias, and the flowering trees around our church sanctuary have been in full bloom! Every plant, tree or flower will soon begin to explode into life and beauty. Every year this time, my mind goes back to these words written in the year 1517 by the great German Protestant reformer Martin Luther:

*“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone,
but in every leaf in springtime.”*

The resurrection is, indeed, the pivotal point of our faith. Without it, the life of Jesus is only the story of a good man who died without reason. He lived, He suffered, He died. But the most significant truth is that He rose from the dead! The grave simply could not hold Him and by His having risen again, He knocked the ends off all the dead-end experiences of our lives. He lives and because He lives, there is hope. The cruel forces of hate and evil had done their worst on Good Friday, but Sunday came and the cross became a giant “plus”. God has defeated the worst that the world has to offer and has shown us that life has meaning beyond our greatest failures or our deepest sorrows. Hallelujah! The Easter resurrection brings much hope and renews life to our inner faith and brings to us a *springtime* affirmation.

One of my favorite Easter hymns speaks to each of Christ's disciples and our faithful church family as we celebrate this holy season.

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

Looking forward to seeing each of you in worship this Easter Sunday, as we celebrate the redeeming hope found in our Savior's loving and joyous resurrection! *Tim*

Calendar of Upcoming Worship Services

Easter Sunday, April 4, 11:00 am – Rev. Rodney Stilwell
Sunday, April 11, 11:00 am – Rev. Rodney Stilwell
Sunday, April 18, 11:00 am – Rev. Ralph Botte
Sunday, April 25, 11:00 am – Rev. Ralph Botte



The legend of the Dogwood Tree comes from a poem, author unknown, about the relationship between the tree and the cross on which Jesus was crucified:

*In Jesus' time, the dogwood grew
To a stately size and a lovely hue.
'Twas strong and firm, its branches interwoven.
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen.
Seeing the distress at this use of their wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
"Never again shall the dogwood grow
Large enough to be used so.
Slender and twisted, it shall be
With blossoms like the cross for all to see.
As blood stains the petals marked in brown,
The blossom's center wears a thorny crown.
All who see it will remember Me
Crucified on a cross from the dogwood tree.
Cherished and protected, this tree shall be
A reminder to all of My agony."*

In the Chancel on Easter Sunday, we will use a Dogwood tree draped in white cloth, with Easter flowers to signify Christ's crucifixion, death, and His glorious resurrection! - *Tim*

At-Home Maundy Thursday Service

April 1, 2021

I have designed a Service for Maundy Thursday evening you may use in your home by yourself or with your family or a friend. As you know, the Last Supper has a central and significant place in our worship each Sunday in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On this night, I invite you to take a time to meditate as you visualize in a reverent spirit Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples in the upper room. -Tim

Gather in Silence

Light a candle in your worship space as a reminder of God's presence with you.

Call to Meditation (read in unison)

Lord, as we prepare to enter the mystery of these three most holy days, we ask you to illumine our minds and hearts with the hope and promise of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Give us eyes to see Him in the breaking of the bread and hearts that reach out to Him in service to one another. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (may be sung or read)

Let us bread together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.



The Reading of Scripture

"When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were sitting around the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?" "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." -Mark 14:17-21

Pause for a moment of silent meditation

"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." -Luke 22:19-20

Following this reading, you may partake of the elements of bread and the cup or you can just spend a few moments as you visualize the setting of the upper room and focus on the candle flame that signifies Christ's Light on this holy evening.

A Benediction

Let us go forth in the name of Christ...
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord...
Let us bless the Lord... Amen.
(Extinguish the candle)

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="background-color: #4a4a4a; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; text-align: left;">EASTER</div> <p>4 11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>5 Office closed for Easter Observance</p> <p>12 Elders' Meeting 6:30 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>9 good friday</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

Happy Birthday

17 - Beth Katsilis
19 - Bob Faircloth
Fred Muetzel
23 - Jack Groff
27 - Kevin Cline
28 - John Romanello

Happy Anniversary

2 - Jordan Myers
4 - Beth Petree
8 - Brad Fletcher
9 - Eric Smith
11 - Ann Fletcher
13 - Harry Nifong

Ben and Gennie Sinclair
9 - Brad and Anne Fletcher
13 - Paul and Jeanette Shropshire
20 - Kevin and Leigh Bell

Memory Verse of the Month

John

11:25-26 (niv)

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'

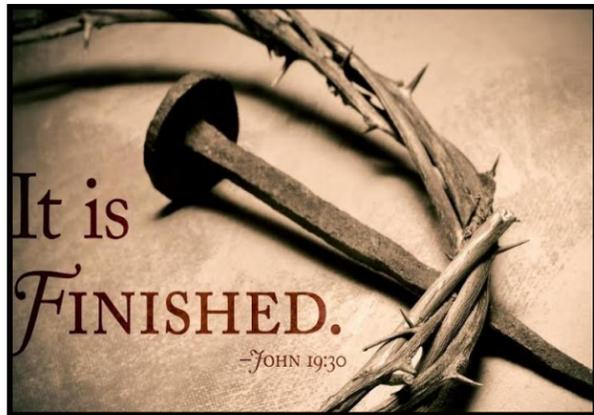
Happy Easter

03/26/21

Pfafftown Christian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2020 through January 2021

	<u>Jul '20 - Jan 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Contributions Income	85,187.41	103,943.00	-18,755.59
Loose Offering	160.00	840.00	-680.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	588.00	-588.00
Building Rental	400.00	287.00	113.00
Investment Earnings	2,322.44	4,207.00	-1,884.56
R G Flynt Endowment	1,258.14	1,792.00	-533.86
Yard Sale	2,460.00	3,038.00	-578.00
Memorial Income	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Total Income	<u>94,787.99</u>	<u>114,695.00</u>	<u>-19,907.01</u>
Expense			
Administrative Expense	79,800.25	85,939.00	-6,138.75
Christian Education	193.10	812.00	-618.90
Building and Capital Improv F	0.00	1,162.00	-1,162.00
Evangelism	0.00	63.00	-63.00
Membership	223.75	238.00	-14.25
Fellowship	0.00	588.00	-588.00
Childcare	0.00	112.00	-112.00
Property	16,066.15	22,428.00	-6,361.85
Worship	247.21	1,925.00	-1,677.79
Total Expense	<u>96,530.46</u>	<u>113,267.00</u>	<u>-16,736.54</u>
Income over Expenses	<u>-1,742.47</u>	<u>1,428.00</u>	<u>-3,170.47</u>

Pfafftown Christian has received a bequest that has been added to the Capital Improvement Fund.



We are all broken and that's all right. The message of a dying Messiah on a cross communicates suffering, and brokenness is an intrinsic component of life. In the ache of our broken hearts and the company of unrelenting grief, we may also experience that life is full of expectation and joy.

There is a liberating truth when our hearts are broken open; we may replace the brokenness with love, compassion, and hope and not fill it with self-pity and bitterness. In our brokenness and pain, we have a choice to either embrace life or become victims forever. In trying to answer the question about whether there is a loving God that appears to allow untold suffering, we may discover a hope within us to live without regret.

The cross of history represents everything wrong and evil in the world. It shoulders the pain of suffering, hatred, and anger toward God. It constitutes the injustice and crime perpetrated on innocent humanity. It represents the death of our dreams, hopes, and aspirations for our lives. It symbolizes the darkness where there is no light. It enlightens the unanswerable question of why did this happen to me. It is the location that pure love took our place on a cross to die, so there is hope in a hopeless world. *The message of the cross proclaims there is hope beyond all our suffering and pain. On the cross, love without need is revealed to humanity, and Christ claims suffering and death do not win.*

Choose to believe that on a wooden cross of shame, a grace-filled servant King died identifying with our suffering and pain to lead us into communion with Him. Trust the love of God conquers all pain, suffering, and eventually death.

Our brokenness makes us either bitter or grateful. We are a broken people who lives with other broken people. That brokenness creates either more pain or provides an opportunity to grow and experience life with profound gratitude.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (excerpts taken from mindfulchristianitytoday.com)

* Evelyn Nifong

At-Home Good Friday Service

April 2, 2021

Gather in Silence

Light a candle in your worship space as a reminder of God's presence with you.

Hymn (may be sung or read)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?



The Reading of Scripture -- Mark 15:33-34, 37-39

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" With a loud cry Jesus died. The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said.

A Reflection

It is dark in the middle of the day. It seems that the heavens and the earth are grieving, telling us that something is horribly wrong. Jesus, I hear you cry out in lament from the Psalms and know that it is the cry of human pain and desolation. Everyone has forsaken you, but there is one who still hears your prayer- the one you address as *my* God. The earth shakes. The curtain in the temple is torn right down the middle. The Holy of Holies is exposed for all to see. What does it mean? Who are you? There is even a Roman who thinks that you are the son of God. But you are dead. It's too late. What have we done? Is there any hope? Yet you never stopped loving us even in death. You died because of human sin, because of us. Sin is never the final word. God can redeem the worst that human beings can do. But this? What can come of this? What can God do with such a final ending? We hope, and wait... He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross! (Philippians. 2:8b)

(Extinguish the candle)

A Benediction

Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever; for on the holy cross thou hast the world from sin redeemed. Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Cancer Treatments: Patsy Terry (Garland and Sue's daughter-in-law)

Baptist Hospital: Merle McAllister (Debbie Fletcher's friend)

Recuperating: Robert Flynt, Graham McAllister (Debbie Fletcher's friend), Pat Millsaps, Betty Tilley, Jan Everton, Sue Terry, Skip Stanley, Tommy Timmons

Homebound

Brighton Gardens: Edna Williamson

Rose Tara: Vallie Cline

Willowbrook Rehabilitation: Bud Barker

Church Family:

Frank & Pat Barber, Craig Bracken, Betty Clodfelter, John Grice, Jodi Saunders, Garland Terry, Julie Tilley, Richard Yarbrough

Others:

Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groff's friend

Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend

Tommy Disher: Traci Canter's Uncle

Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel's g-daughter

Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher's aunt

Jan Everton: Jo Stanley's sister

Bill Flynt: Robert Flynt's cousin

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

Sue Miles: Jo Stanley's friend

Plemmons' Family: Alan & Debbie Fletchers friend

Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher's sister

Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson's niece

Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson's sister

Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin

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

Pfafftown Christian Church,

Thank you for the kind card and gift that goes with Marlene and me as we move to another part of God's world to use our lives. As you use your gifts, may you know God's peace and joy while serving the lives of others. Grace to you, Gerald Thomas



Easter Offering April 4

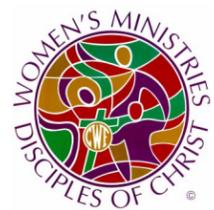


Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the Disciples Mission Easter Offering. This Offering helps to develop Disciples form new faith communities, connect with ministry partners around the world and serve all of God's needy people. Should you wish to make a contribution to this fund, please designate on your check DMF Easter. Thank you!

Crisis Control Food Box

During the month of April, we will be collecting instant oatmeal. As always, thank you for the generosity of your hearts to help others.

~PCC Outreach

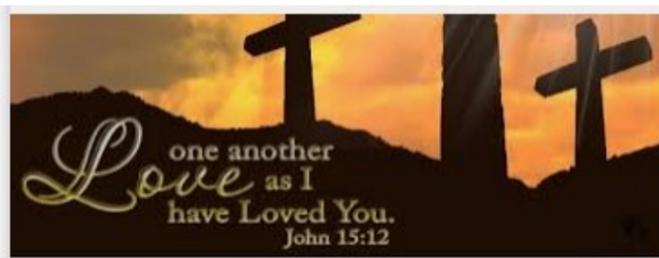


WCF News

WCF plans to resume our monthly meetings in May. Please look for more details in the May Newsletter! We are looking so forward to seeing everyone!



In March, PCC donated 81 large jars of peanut butter to the New Communion Mobile Food Pantry. Thank you to Pam Backi for sponsoring this month's donations. April's donations will be funded by money left over from our New Communion Christmas offering. Thank you again!



Can you guess who this beautiful baby is? This sweet bundle of joy is a blessing to everyone they come in contact with! (Answer can be found hidden somewhere throughout this newsletter... please look for an * and their name.)



Please start saving and collecting items for our Annual PCC Yard Sale! Items can be dropped off early in front of the yard sale room or they can be dropped off at the Pavilion at a later date to be announced. If anyone has items that need to be picked up, you can call Kitty Hunt at 336-775-8966 and she will arrange a pick-up date and time with you. Thank you in advance for your support to this always fun event!

Notes from Tim History of the "Hallelujah Chorus"

During the Easter and Christmas seasons we can almost assuredly expect to hear exuberant voices join in the singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*!

Being a deeply religious man, Handel chose to compose much of his music using text and themes from Scripture. He composed his entire work *Messiah* in a total of 24 days without getting much sleep or even eating much food. When his assistants brought him his meals, they were often left uneaten. His servants would often find him in tears as he composed. When he completed *Hallelujah Chorus*, he reportedly told his servant, "I think I did see all Heaven before me, and my great God Himself seated on His throne, with His company of Angels."

The first performance in Dublin on April 13, 1742, was a huge success! *Messiah* wasn't performed in London until 1749. At its London premiere, King George was so moved by the *Hallelujah Chorus* that he spontaneously rose from his seat. The entire audience followed his example and, for the past 250+ years, audiences and church congregations have continued to do the same.

In another reversal of fortunes, London's Foundling Hospital held a fundraising concert, where Handel performed a mix of new music as well as older pieces including the *Hallelujah Chorus*. At the time, *Messiah* was still somewhat unknown to London audiences, but the concert was so well received that Handel was invited back the next year, where he performed the entire *Messiah* oratorio. Performances of *Messiah* became an Eastertime tradition at the Foundling Hospital until the 1770s. Earnings from many early performances of the oratorio were used to help the poor, needy, orphaned, widowed, and sick.

Text for *Hallelujah Chorus* comes from the book of Revelation in the New Testament. Revelation 19:6: "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Revelation 19:16: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." Revelation 11:15 reads, "And he shall reign for ever and ever."

Even after Handel's eyesight failed, he continued to perform until, at age 74, he collapsed while conducting a performance of *Messiah*. He was put to bed saying, "I should like to die on Good Friday." Instead, he died on Holy Saturday, April 14, 1759. Handel's grave, at Westminster Abbey, is marked by a statue of him with a score of *Messiah* opened on the table. The page that is visible is, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."

The *Hallelujah Chorus* is a work that retains the power to move us. Like King George, our hearts still rise at that great triumphal chorus!

This Easter, let us sing with our hearts and entire being "Hallelujah" to the King who will reign forever and ever! Amen and Amen! --Tim

