

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Rev. Rodney Stilwell

Minister

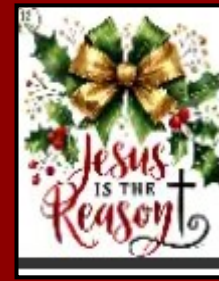
Rev. Tim Shoaf

Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter

Office Administrator

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Permit #2



December

THE VISITOR

2025



Please come and worship with us every Sunday at 11:00 A.M!

We would love to have you!



Pfafftown Christian Church

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

presented on

Sunday, December 7

5:00 pm

accompanied by Strings, Harp, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Trumpets, Timpani & Percussion.

Jill Gardner, soprano soloist

A Reception will follow in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall

Please invite your family and friends!

A Nursery will be provided for all children.



Please join us at **5:00 pm** 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 heartwarming 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.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out an order form in the Narthex or call the church office by noon on December 3rd. Cost is \$15 each. Thank you!



ALL Because of LOVE ...Jesus went from the Manger to the Cross.

A NOTE FROM RODNEY

Let me say THANK YOU to each and every friend at the church who encouraged me and prayed for my family in recent months. I am often tired but getting stronger, little by little. According to the doctor, I am now halfway through my recovery. During the last months I felt your prayers and was moved by your care. My recovery is again proof of what we all know – that prayer makes a difference!

And it's not just us - A study published in the *American Heart Journal* describes research involving patients having serious heart problems. Patients who were prayed for during their procedure had far fewer complications, reports lead author Mitchell W. Krucoff, MD, Director of the Ischemia Monitoring Laboratory at Duke University Medical Center. 'Those in the "prayed for" group had fewer complications than any of the patients, including those receiving other complementary therapies,' he writes.

Your prayer made a difference in my life. As we enter the wonderful Christmas season, filled with joy, hope, peace and love, let's ALL continue to pray for one another and friends on our weekly prayer list. The Apostle Paul said it best, "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9

Thanks be to God!
Rodney



Men, come on out and join us for breakfast, faith and fellowship at Mama Zoe's Restaurant located at 2859 Reynolda Road on Tuesday, December 16th. You will be so blessed!

Please note: There will be NO TASTE AND SEE in December!



Angel Tree 2025

The PCC Outreach Committee will be collecting monetary gifts for a family at Old Richmond Elementary School. If you would like to make the holidays a little brighter for this family, you may purchase gift cards to Target, Walmart, or Food Lion. Also, you may make a check donation payable to Pfafftown Christian Church and make a notation on the memo line that it is for the Angel Tree. All monies are due by Sunday, December 14. Thank you in advance to everyone that opens their hearts to donate.

CWF News

Many thanks to all who helped with our Chicken Pie/Baked Sale and Holiday Shop. To date we have collected \$7,803 including \$1,600 in monetary donations. After workshop expenses, remaining funds will be used to fund our Outreach Budget.



Our Christmas Meeting will be a Potluck Luncheon on **December 16 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.** All ladies of the church are welcome and encouraged to come!

Outreach Projects:

Meals on Wheels collection in September - \$1,485
October Crop Walk for Hunger Collection - \$500

In November we donated the blankets we made in March to Cover the City Project to be distributed through local ministries. Many thanks to Judy Gillispie for heading up this project.

Thank You!

Thank you to *everyone* that donated, helped and purchased items at our Fall Yard Sale. We were blessed this year to collect **\$2600** which will assist in covering church expenses. Thank you!

Notes from Tim

Hymn: Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. *-Excerpts from John's Gospel*

The lilting French carol, *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*, describes these two young girls, with decidedly non-Jewish names, as having stumbled upon the stable in which Jesus was born.

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling.*

As the story goes, Jeannette and Isabella are milkmaids who have gone to the stable to milk the cows. Overjoyed at their discovery of the newborn Jesus sleeping in the hay, the girls run back to their village to share the news and encourage the townsfolk to come see the baby. They are instructed to bring a torch, appropriate for the one who was born to be the light of the world.

*Softly to the little stable.
Softly for a moment come;
Look and see how charming is Jesus,*

"*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*" originates from the Provence region of France in the 16th-17th centuries. The melody is a ritournelle, a lively court dance for French nobility. The lyrics and story likely take their inspiration from a 1640s painting by French painter Georges de La Tour, "The Newborn Child," depicting two young French girls quietly cradling the holy infant. Still today on Christmas Eve, French children in the Provence region dress as farmhands and carry candles while singing the carol as they process to midnight.

A beautiful orchestral arrangement of this French Carol will be played by the orchestra at our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

The special joy of Christ is reborn across our world today, incarnate in the hearts and homes of those who love and follow him.

May the joy and love of the Christ Child be with you!

Tim



Prayer Requests

Bereavement: The Family of Gene Hauser Rose Everton, Daughter of Will and Sydney Everton and Grand-daughter of Rev. Tom Everton, a former pastor of PCC.

Church Family: Bobby Joe "BJ" Carmichael, Jack Groff, Mary Groff, Helen Johnson, Evelyn Nifong, Jo Poplin, Doug Ramsey, Sue Terry, Betty Tilley, Julie Tilley

Others:

Jason Brown: Son of Tim & Beverly Brown
Ken Barker: Friend of Rodney &

Beth Stilwell

Faye Fincher: Jill Robertson's Aunt
Isaiah Johnson: Great-Grandson of

Helen Johnson

Cayden Kingsbury: Grandson of Rodney & Beth Stilwell

Sue Miles: Friend of Jo Stanley
Ryan Platz: Friend of Cliff & Kitty Hunt

Jan Ritchie: Sister of Jo Stanley
Wes Snuffer: Son of Ed Snuffer

Annette Steed: Friend of PCC
Darlene Stewart: Sister of Ann Fletcher

Heather Stokes: Niece of Jill Robertson
Joy Stokes: Sister of Jill Robertson

Mike Stokes: Friend of Pam Backi

Jeanette Titov: Susan Smith's mother
Shay Whitehead: Daughter of Steve &

Betty Clodfelter



DECEMBER Worship Leaders

Elders: Pam Backi, Leader
Judy Gillespie, Back-up

Communion: Gerald & Ann Fletcher
Greeters: Gerald & Ann Fletcher



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Rodney, Tim & Traci