

Senior Pastor's 2023 Annual Report  
Jeff Hokenson  
2/4/24

Greetings! There is so much we have to be thankful for here at PCF. Recently Jodi and I listened to a presentation called, "Seven Things You Should Always Keep Private." In the presentation, it stated that one of the things to never keep private is being thankful. Above and beyond all the many things to be thankful for is the evidence of God's presence in our midst. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And in return, Moses replied, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." The Hebrew word for Presence here is the word PENAḤ. It is used over 2100 times in the Hebrew Bible. Beyond being translated "presence," it also gets rendered "face" most often, but also surface, front, before, and countenance. We see this word get used in the very first verse of the Bible. In Genesis 1:1-2 we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface [the face: penah] of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface [the face: penah] of the waters." We know what happened: God's presence/face brought light and life to the darkness. That's what God's presence does - it brings life and light. I am so very thankful for God's Presence in our midst. We should never be presumptuous about his Presence, nor should we ever want to venture out without his Presence.

Looking back over this past year, there is an abundance of evidence that the Lord's presence is in this place. Almost weekly we see people from unchurched backgrounds coming to this place. They come because they have heard you can find God's presence here. I and others regularly pray for people who are being touched by God. We see salvations, baptisms, Spirit fillings, and people stepping into what God is calling them to. These are all evidences of God's presence. These are the things that matter most - and they are all happening because God is in this place.

As we, as a leadership team, continue to move forward, we are desperate for God's presence to go before us. We are seeking his direction for the days to come and are confident that he will lead us forward as we seek his presence.

To all the members here at PCF, thank you for standing with us. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in being a place known for the presence of God. Only one thing I would encourage each of us to do, seek God's presence in our own lives. Is it any wonder that the Hebrew scripture is littered with this refrain: "Lord cause your face (presence) to shine upon us!" And this is our prayer for you: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face (presence) shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face (presence) toward you and give you peace." We love you all!

You're the Best!  
Jeff and Jodi Hokenson