



# The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



P.O. Box 429 • 2070 Old Highway 27 • Trion, GA 30753 • 706.734.2722 • pleasantgrovecoc.org

## Facing the Storm

**Neal Pollard**

Springtime in the plains is a notorious time for storms. I was driving through northwest Texas near the time when three storm chasers were killed southwest of me on Tuesday afternoon. They died pursuing the storm, not directly because of it. They were there because conditions were ripe for tornadoes. 17 people were killed by tornadoes in 2016, but 24 have already died in them this year (this article was written in the spring of 2017). Hollywood has captured our awe and fascination with them since "The Wizard of Oz." We view storms as mysterious, ominous, powerful, and frightening. They come in so many forms - hurricanes, floods, blizzards, cyclones, and more. But "storms" are synonymous with fear and sorrow.

Wouldn't you classify some of the major, traumatic events of your life as storms. They build and threaten, they strike, then they leave aftermath. The storm may take but a moment, but recovery can take days, months, or even years. Not surprisingly, the Bible uses the storm metaphorically to describe such moments in our lives. David wrote, "I would hasten to my place of refuge from the stormy wind and tempest" (Psalm 55:8). The man we most associate with such figurative storms, Job, laments, "You lift up the wind and cause me to ride; And you dissolve me in a storm" (30:22). Most frequently, the Bible uses storms representatively to describe God's

judgment. But, as Job and David show, sometimes storms strike the innocent and undeserving.

What do we do when facing a storm? We heed precautions. We take shelter. We wait and endure. We ask for and trust God's protection.

The world is full of people riding out storms today. That includes Christians. These storms are assaulting their bodies, bank accounts, relationships, spiritual strength, and spirits. Some feel safely sheltered, while others feel as if they are barely holding on. How do we face our storms?

\* Seek help from others (Heb. 12:12-13; Ecc. 4:9-10).

\* Search for possible benefits from it (Psa. 66:10; Rev. 21:3-4; Js. 1:2-4; etc.).

\* See God's power to help in it (Psa. 18:19; Rom. 8:28-38; 2 Pet. 2:9a).

\* Shelter in the place of safety (Exo. 33:22; Psa. 91:1; Mat. 7:24-27).

God doesn't cause evil or sin, but He allows it. We will always struggle with the "why" of this, but we must not let it stifle our growth and dependence on our great, perfect God when we are being battered. He is faithful. He wants to help. Lean on Him through your storms!

**May 17, 2026**

Sunday Morning  
Opening Prayer Steve Fletcher  
Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Jerry Reaves

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer Tim York  
Closing Prayer Tim Hester

**Remember in prayer:**

John Todd (Tara's brother), Joan and Steve Henry, Amanda Fletcher, Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey, Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Don Duncan, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund, Sammy Wyers.

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd.

Our **Gospel Meeting with Greg Dismuke** begins today and continues through Thursday night. Please continue to pray for this effort to share the Gospel.

There will be a **VBS Meeting** this afternoon at 3:30. Everyone willing to help please attend.

Be sure to check the **VBS sign-up sheets** so we will know about how many to plan for.

For those going to **Polishing the Pulpit**, Pleasant Grove will reimburse you for the same discount as last year. **The deadline** for registering is tomorrow. Be sure to register by tomorrow to receive this discount.

Our **Fifth Sunday** surplus contribution this month will go to Childhaven Children's Home. Thank you for your support.

**Kids Sing** cancelled for this evening.

**Brothers Keepers Group Two** will meet following services tonight.

Record for the week of May 10, 2026  
10 am 11 am 5 pm Wed Contribution  
91 81 74 68 \$3790.00

**Undercover Fans  
Brett Petrillo**

There have been far too many occasions when fans of opposing teams have gotten into nasty fights. Some have clashed so severely that people have landed in the hospital. Several years ago, a San Francisco Giants fan went to a game at Dodger Stadium. He was beaten up so badly by Dodger fans that he suffered brain damage and didn't return home until months later.

In order to prevent situations like this from happening, the Seattle Seahawks came up with an ingenious plan. They are planting undercover police officers in the crowd. However, these officers will be wearing the opposing team's jersey. These "undercover fans" will be watching for verbal and physical harassment aimed at them simply for being a fan of the other team. To put it simply, these officers are going to hold people accountable at times when they think they won't in trouble.

This is such a phenomenal plan. Now if only there was a way to do this on a much larger scale for all of humanity! Oh wait, there already is. It is the Lord. He often appears "undercover," but let's not be fooled for even a second that anything escapes His notice (Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:7-10). God is watching everything we think, do, and say. Ecclesiastes 12:14 bluntly puts it, "For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

The Lord is always watching. Let's be all the more careful about our actions.

**Elders:**

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan