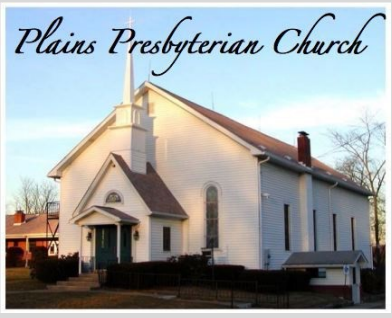
THE PLAIN TALK

2017

Plains Presbyterian Church

Serving the community since1806



326 Plains Church Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-538--8785
plains@zoominternet.net
www.plaimschurch.com

A Word from Rev. Derek:

As the Marotta family prepares for Thanksgiving, I wanted to say a word about the role of "pace" in our lives. Without a proper awareness of the role "pace" plays with us, it is possible for the church to lose track of what is happening around them. As we lose track of the "pacing" in our lives, we lose track of God's presence with us that is present to assist us in the challenges we deal with.

In reflection, the All Saints Day service continues to bless me—and I know many others as well. Each of those candles that were lit on the table speak to us now, even as the service is complete, we remember and we give thanks. Taking a moment to remember our Veterans on the 12th was not only a blessing, but of crucial importance in our life. Their sacrifice cannot, and should not, be minimized. Joining the Clay family in celebrating the baptism of Addison on the 19th was a wonderful moment of God's love lived out as a church. From my vantage point on the platform in worship, I could see an emotional response in many of your eyes as we baptized this young lady.

The following week was Christ the King which is a reminder of the power of Christ with us. That message is especially poignant when we think of Thanksgiving, which we just completed, and advent, which begins in December.

Not to mention the fact, on a personal level, that Jennifer had a small procedure to remove a suspicious mass. Emma had a lesion on her brain that was healed through prayer, and I am still recovering from my heart procedure. If reading all of this does not make you aware of the "pace," or should I say "busy-aspects," of life we have dealt with, I would be surprised. But we are not the only ones in this church who have felt this way or are feeling this way. As such, can we take a moment as advent begins and rest?

It is appropriate and necessary to thank God for the blessings we have experienced as a church and as families. It is necessary to begin, even now, to bless God for the willingness he displays in sending his Son to earth on our behalf.

But the pacing of life that I live with each day, a pace I cannot escape, means I do not often dwell on these moments as I should, but instead, I push headlong into the next moment. Free, unscheduled time in my day does not exist. With no free time in my life to be with God, I begin to find myself "drying out" spiritually.

There is no place for me to take a moment and reflect on how blessed I am by God for all that he has done for me—not only in the Thanksgiving season but throughout the remainder of the year. My life has become too busy to stop and see the little places God has blessed me that help me move from one moment to another. I feel frantic. But God asks us to take a moment, pull back from that pace, and realize the places in our lives where we are truly blessed and care for by God because God loves us.

I hope you can find time this week, and as we begin advent, to reflect on how busy you are and how much you need a close connection with God. I pray that you find space, today, to once again be still before God and let God change you.

Blessings
Rev. Derek

Elder of the Month

Tony Poleti

Deacon of the Month

Jennifer Marotta

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders	Greeters	Nursery Workers
03 Frank Aloi	03 Arch & Maggie S.	03 Denise Kremmel
10 Tiffany Aloi	10 Frank & Tiffany Aloi	10 Cathy Stafford
17 Tim Rausch	17 Norah C. & Cathy S.	17 Julie Young
24 Tim Roscoe	24 Tim & Amy Roscoe	24 Erica Stafford
31 Tony Poleti	31 Jennifer M. & Tony P.	31 Denise Kremmel

Worship Schedule

December 3

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Congregation Meeting Part I

Youth Group Spaghetti Luncheon

December 10

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Breakfast
Coffee Connections

December 17

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Mission Sunday

December 24

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

December 31

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Frank Aloi leading service

01 Rev. Derek
08 MaryJo Harris
09 Mary Walter
13 Wanda Rice
29 Bailey Leisie
30 Raymond Walter

01 Bruce and Denise Kremmel

Coffee Connections

Sunday, December 10th

Hosted by the Property Committee

The Congregational Meeting Part I will be held on Sunday, December 3rd immediately after the Worship Service.

Wanted:

Youth of the church to share their musical talents, December 24th before the Christmas Eve Service.

Contact Kathy Robinson if interested: 724-591-8544

Remembering our Loved Ones:

All Saint's Day Celebration

Please keep our Elders & Deacons in your prayers as they lead Plains into the future.

We also ask for prayers for the following :

We also ask for prayers for the following people:

- Corina Taylor
- Karl & Evelyn Koebler
- Charlie Robuck
- Randy R.
- Sue's friend, Frank
- Michelle •Shirley Smith
- Dick Urban •Renee
- Richard Harris
- Edward Thompson
- Sue's sister
- Diane Smith
- Betty L.
- Dana Bears
- Adam •Tom M.
- Maggie's sister-in-law
- Greg Hill •Bill
- Tim R. •Kelly L.
- Sally Hoffman •Jeff S.
- Glenn B.
- Randy M. •Richard B
- Art Pollaci
- Autumn's grandmother, Millie
- Bob Gottuso •Ruth & Carl
- Judy Yater •Pat Jackson
- Whiteside family
-
- Our friends who are in assisted living: Martha Malone, Helen Sproat & Betty Budney

CNS News & Highlights

It is hard to believe how quickly the school year is going. The children of Cranberry Nursery School have settled into their routines and are enjoying their friends at school. The students celebrated a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and are now preparing for Christmas with Decking the Halls, decorating the tree and Santa's Workshop. Lots of surprises are in store.

Planning for the net school year has already begun and registration has been scheduled. Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin on January 5th for current students and church members. Former families and siblings will begin on January 10th and open registration will begin on January 19th. Please tell your friends about our special school.

We wish all of the members of Plains Presbyterian Church a blessed and healthy holiday season.

Congratulations CNS
on celebrating
35 years
of building up families and
Growing God's children

CNS Fundraiser:

CNS is once again selling the KidStuff coupon books for $25 each. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Angela: 724-538-8785 or cnsofplains@zoominternet.net

Per Capita for 2018

will be $39.47

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

October 2017

Session met on Monday, October 16, 2017. Below are some of the results of that meeting.

Communion was served to 51 people on October 1, 2017.

Session reviewed the current financial status of the church.

Frank Aloi reviewed the current investments. Session received the report by consensus.

Session reviewed the Pastor's Terms of Call for the 2018 year. Session accepts the terms as developed by Frank Aloi. The Terms of Call will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Deacons are meeting this week. Distributed their quarterly mission money.

The CNS board recently held a meeting and all is well.

Approved the baptism of Addison Clay, daughter of Melissa and Bob Clay on November 19, 2017.

Men's group meeting on Wednesday. Possible Chili cook-off in the near future.

After more than 10 years, Tony Poleti will be leaving as custodian as soon as possible. Rev. Derek offered a sincere "Thank You" to Tony on behalf of the Session.

Stained glass windows painting complete.

Six fluorescent lights have been purchased and installation has begun.

Work on swing / gym set completed. Mulch and signage added to playground area.

Special "Thank You" to Jennifer Marotta for painting the main entry doors to the educational building.

Pledge cards are going out this week.

November 5 – All Saints Day

November 19 – Baptism of Addison Clay

December 2 – Decorate the Church for Christmas

December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent Communion

Approved a piano recital on December 2nd.

Scheduled December 3, 2017 for the Congregational Meeting Part I.

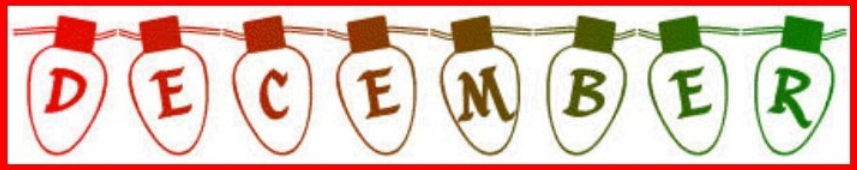
Tim Rausch is offering to do a dinner around Easter for the congregation and the public.

Rev. Derek closed with prayer at 8:10 p.m. Next Regular Session Meeting – November 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe
Clerk of Session

The next Session meeting is Monday, December 18th at 7:00 pm



2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9:30am Decorating party Rental 12:30-4:30pm
3 **9:45am Sunday School** **11:00am Worship Service** *Communion* *Congregational Meeting Part I* *Spaghetti Luncheon*	4	5 7pm Healthy Women	6 7pm Choir practice	7	8	9
10 **9:45am Sunday School** **11:00am Worship Service** *Breakfast* *Coffee Connections*	11	12 7pm Women's Discipleship Group	13 9:15am Women's Discipleship Group 7pm Choir practice	14	15	16
17 **9:45am Sunday School** **11:00am Worship Service** *Mission Sunday*	18 7pm Session meeting	19	20 7pm Choir practice 7pm Men's Group	21	22	23
24 **9:45am Sunday School** **11:00am Worship Service** *Communion* **7pm Candlelight Service**	25 Office is closed	26	27 9:15am Women's Discipleship Group 7pm Choir practice	28	29	30
31 **9:45am Sunday School** **11:00am Worship Service** **New Year's Eve**				**Please note:** **Rev. Derek will be out of the office from December 25th to January 1st**		

The next Men's Group meeting will be held on December 20th at 7:00 pm at NPL, Cranberry

The next Healthy Women's Group meeting will be held on December 5th at 7:00pm in the church basement.

The next Women's Discipleship Group meetings will be:

December 12 at 7:00 pm

or

December 13 & 27 at 9:15pm

Get your appetites ready!!! It's almost time for the Youth Group's annual Spaghetti Luncheon! Immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 3rd, join us in the Fellowship Hall for mountains of spaghetti, crockpots of homemade sauce, bowls of crisp salad and trays of buttery garlic bread. Yum yum! Your donations will go directly to a worthy cause-our fabulous Youth Group. We have so many great events planned this year-your generous donations will help us in the pursuit of FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!!

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for your support in the way of gifts and money for Operation Christmas Child. We were able to send off 72 boxes for our donation. Thanks again for your generosity.

Blessings,

The Deacons of Plains

Dear members of Plains Church,

I just wanted to let you all know that I have thoroughly enjoyed working here the past 5 1/2 years and am going to miss being here and seeing all the wonderful people that I have worked with and met over the years. The people of Plains Church will always have a special place in my heart.

I also want to thank all of you for the many prayers over the years for my family and the flexibility that I have had. It has truly meant a lot to me.

I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year for 2018!

Blessings,

Jodell

Please note:

Rev. Derek will be out of the office from December 25th to January 1st.

Plains Presbyterian Church

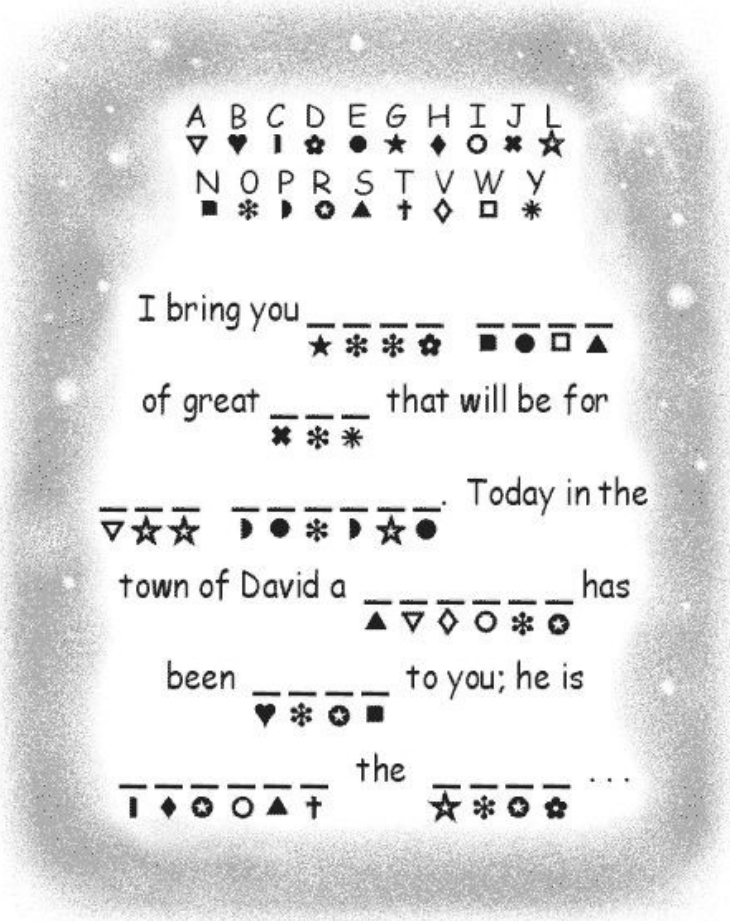
326 Plains Church Road

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Phone: 724-538-8785

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"As disciples of Christ, we share the gospel with one another and the community.

We are committed to growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through worship, study, teaching, and fellowship."

is the reason for the season!