

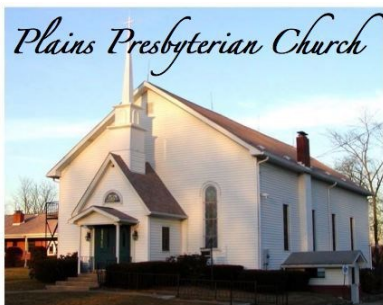
THE PLAIN TALK



2022

**Plains
Presbyterian
Church**

**Serving the
community
since 1806**



*Rev. Michael Burkley
Interim Pastor*

*326 Plains Church Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-538--8785*

Lately I've been in a bit of a dither, between this place and that, experiencing the condition of that proverbial donkey caught between two bales of hay. Some people have their future all planned out; they know (or think they do) what they're going to be doing in the future near and far. It's not been all so long since I joined you, but you probably know by now that I'm not that kind of person. I have plans, but I won't be all so surprised if God laughs and ends up showing me a better way. Do you think that we're in similar situations?

I'm going and Pastor Jon is coming, and you folks are embarking on a journey—by staying right at Plains Presbyterian Church. Day by day you'll be going on that journey together, generally by choosing one good instead of another, but sometimes by turning away from a bad to God's good. Those are hard decisions, and, if you're at all like me, you might find them very hard to make. It might seem like you're that proverbial donkey in danger of starving because it can't choose one bale of hay over the other, though of course it never realizes that starvation might be the outcome of not choosing!

What to do when it seems so much easier to not choose, to stay the way you have always been (even though you haven't always been that way)? Listen to your leaders: the Session and Pastor Jon, of course, but also work hard at realizing what God has done for you and what you can do for God. For me, lately I've been thinking about a way that has helped me in the past to move from where I am to where I can find out where God is calling me to next. I've been thinking about the meaning and message of Christmas, and that has helped me in finding an invigorating outlook on my future.

What is the meaning of Christmas? A lot of people think Christmas is all about hope, the hope that comes as we focus on giving of ourselves to others. That is part of the meaning of Christmas, but I think that there is an even more powerful message, the message about what life was like before Christmas, both chronologically and personally. Christmas drives home the reality of our helplessness and our hopelessness apart from what God has done in Jesus. God loves us so very much that he sent his Son to be our Savior, to give up the glories of heaven and become fully human, from birth to death to resurrection and ascension, all for our salvation. If there were any other way; if we could be saved by any other means other than how Jesus saved us, then God would certainly have done it. But we were "without hope and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12), so God gave us hope through Jesus Christ, despite the cost. That's love.

God in Christ saving us lets me remember that Christmas is more than a beautiful story of the birth of a baby. It is the *contrast* of Christmas that gives me hope in my life today. Christmas is the story of our helplessness and hopelessness confronted and overcome by the grace of Jesus, and as I remember that, I experience a bounce, a bounce from helplessness to a sure and certain hope in Jesus. Christmas reminds me that I could never save myself, so drastic measures were needed if I was to be saved. God undertook those measures through Jesus, and so I can freely face an uncertain tomorrow, because it's only uncertain to me, but not to God.

So, in this time of changing ministry, while we might feel like that donkey, uncertain which way to turn, we can know that there is help and hope for us who celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior. We can know that we are created new in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:12). If God has prepared them for us to do, then certainly God will provide us with a way to do them. I think that means that we can choose, one way or the other and be assured of finding God there, calling us forward to the upward way of Christ Jesus our Lord. I can *and so will you*, and so will we all, though not together, find those good things God has prepared for us to do.

I will be praying for you. Please keep me in your prayers.

--Michael

p.s.: It's at times like this that I treasure the wisdom and comfort of the Scriptures. Here are a few of the passages I have been thinking about lately.

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can people do to me?' (Hebrews 13:5f).

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age" --Jesus (Matthew 28:20).

"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me" (Psalm 139:1, really, the whole Psalm).

Elder of the Month

Erin McKinley

Deacon of the Month

Julie Young

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

December 4 Amy Roscoe

December 11 Ron Carter

December 18 Tim Roscoe

December 25 Susan Reed

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:45 am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Worship Service

Congregational I Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL I MEETING

December 4, 2022

Meeting after Worship

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:45 am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Worship Service

Deacon Meeting



December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

9:45am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Worship Service

Communion

Farewell Luncheon for

Rev. Michael Burkley after Worship

December 9 Mary Walter

December 13 Wanda Rice

December 29 Bailey Leisie

December 30 Raymond Walter

December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00pm Candlelight Service



December 25

Christmas Day

11:00 am Worship Service

Hymn/ Christmas Carol Sing

December 1 Bruce & Denise Kremmel

December 11 David & Maryann Cardillo

We rejoice in the ability we have as Christians to lift up our prayers and petitions, our joys and our concerns to God together.

(Please submit a new prayer card or contact the church office with any updates or to keep a name on the list.)

DEACONS ANNOUNCEMENT

From time to time the Deacons get a request for help mostly for a ride to a doctor's appointment or perhaps to a church event. If you are a person who would like to sign-up to be a "driver-on-call", please let one of our deacons know of your availability.



Announcements for the Bulletin or Newsletter?

Please submit your announcements in advance to the church office. Weekly announcements need to be submitted before Wednesday afternoon.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and
Thursday 9am-1pm

Chairperson Needed for Bereavement Meals

If you are interested in volunteering to take over the committee to serve bereavement meals please contact the church office.

Online Giving is now available for you convenience.

Log on and check it out
www.plainschurch.com

Scan the QR code:



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

We also ask for prayers for the following :

- Corina Taylor
- Jenny Stafford
- Victims of the Coronavirus
- Caregivers & Families
- Ernie & Nancy– Kathy Carter
- Pam– Julie Raatz
- Amy-Kathy Carter
- Anthony - Tim Roscoe
- Yvette– Tiffany Aloï
- Betty Leonberg - Joann Bark
- Betty Lehman
- Magdalena Lovejoy

Our friends who are in assisted living:

Nancy Jones & Eileen Kaufman

Please submit a new prayer card or contact the church office with any updates.

PLAINS BOOK CLUB

December 1st - 10:00am

Book Club Leader: Sue McKinley
sue.w.mckinley@gmail.com



Session Meeting

December 19th

Deacon Meeting

December 11th

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All Committee chairs please submit your annual reports.

STEWARDSHIP CARDS

Please turn in your Stewardship Cards by December 4th

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1st	Book Club 10:00am
December 4th	2nd Sunday of Advent & Congregational I Meeting
December 11th	3rd Sunday of Advent & Deacons Meeting
December 17th	Wreaths Across America 12:00 noon & Deacon Breakfast
December 18th	Communion & Farewell Luncheon for Rev. Michael Burkley
December 19th	Session Meeting - 7:00pm
December 24th	Christmas Eve - 7:00pm
December 25th	Christmas Day - Hymn Sing/Christmas Sing

NEW YEARS EVE GAME NIGHT

More to be announced

Come and celebrate the New Year!

Game Night in the Fellowship Hall

December 31, 2022 Time: 7:00pm

Sign - Up Sheet in the Narthex

DEACON NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

Christmas Joy

Collecting for Christmas Joy - Special Offerings look for flyers in your Sunday's bulletin.

Deacons Breakfast

When: December 17, 2021-Saturday

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 9:30am-11:30am— before Wreaths Across America at noon

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS:

The Deacons are the caring heart of Plains Presbyterian Church. We are here to care for members, friends, neighbors, and strangers. At this time we will be respectful and not conduct home or hospital visits. If you find yourself needing assistance please call your assigned shepherd and we will be there to do what we can.

Examples: meals, grocery shopping, errands etc.

Beverly Magill 724-538-4681

Cathy Stafford 724-452-1164

Denise Kremmel- 724-538-8604

Julie Young 724-776-7288

Maryann Cardillo 724-866-9911

Amy Roscoe 412-874-2039

DEACON NEWS

Tim & Amy Roscoe dropped off 126 Operation Christmas Child boxes!

Here are a couple of pictures of Santa's sled and some of the elves helping.

Lots of kids will be happy. Thank You for the support!

Tim



FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR REV. MICHAEL BURKLEY

December 18, 2022

Potluck

Sign –up sheet in the Narthex

Luncheon will be after worship in the Fellowship Hall



PLAINS CHURCH CRAFT FAIR



The craft fair was quite successful this year!

Over 15 vendors participated!

There were basket raffles and many bargains.

See you next year!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Remember if you purchased a Poinsettia you may take it home after the Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2022

7:00pm

Wreaths Across America

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Saturday, December 17, 2022

Where: Plains Church Cemetery

Time: 12:00 Noon



Remember Our Fallen U.S. Veterans

Wreaths Across America's Mission

Remember, Honor, Teach

The mission is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states.

Since its founding, the organization has expanded to include nearly 3,000 local fundraising groups in all 50 states, representing more than 2,150 participating locations, in addition to Arlington National Cemetery.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as

National Wreaths Across America Day. This year, it will be held on

Saturday, December 17, 2022.

CNS NEWS

We have had a very busy fall at Cranberry Nursery School. The students wore a variety of costumes for their Halloween parties. The Nursery and Pre-K classes celebrated a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving with a small feast, movie and other activities. We are now gearing up for the Christmas holiday with Deck The Halls, decorating the tree, Santa's Workshop and fun holiday parties. Lot's of surprises are in store.

We have been looking ahead to the 2023-2024 school year and will begin registration in January. Please tell your friends about our special school. A reminder we require all students are up to date on their immunizations.

The staff of CNS wishes all of the members of Plains Presbyterian church a happy, healthy and blessed holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Angela Kushner
Director
Cranberry Nursery School
724-538-8785

Pavilion Update



All posts have be placed in concrete and beam header attached.

This completes all the planned work for this year.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents.

2022 Session Members

Class of 2022

Tom Lunney
Steve Walter
Janelle Wood

Class of 2023

David Cardillo
Ron Carter
Bob Young

Class of 2024

Tiffany Aloï
Erin McKinley
Julie Raatz

2022 Deacon Members

Class of 2022

Denise Kremmel
Julie Young

Class of 2023

Maryann Cardillo
Amy Roscoe

Class of 2024

Beverly Magill
Cathy Stafford

Committee Assignments 2022

Christian Education

Janelle Wood, Steve Walter

Inreach/Outreach

Bob Young, Ron Carter, Julie Raatz

Personnel

Bob Young, David Cardillo, Tiffany Aloï

Property

Erin McKinley, Tom Lunney, David Cardillo

Nominating

Erin McKinley, Bob Young

Stewardship

David Cardillo, Julie Raatz

Worship

Ron Carter, Steve Raatz

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

October 2022

Session met on Monday, October 10, 2022. Below are some of the “Highlights” of that meeting.

Communion was served to 25 people on October 2, 2022.

The Food Truck event for CNS parents was very successful. Field trips and open houses are planned.

Session reviewed the financial reports of the church. Our church financials are in good shape, our investments are not doing well this year, and the market in general is doing poorly this year.

Session received the Treasurer’s report by consensus.

Saturday, November 5, the Deacons will be packing shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse, potluck, and a game night.

Pastor Michael attended the cemetery symposium along with some other church members. Always a concern about having enough funds available for future cemetery needs.

Julie Raatz is looking to start a new Bible Study at her house.

Playground has been mulched. Concrete has been put in some holes for the new pavilion.


David Cardillo reports that pledge envelopes will be mailed soon.

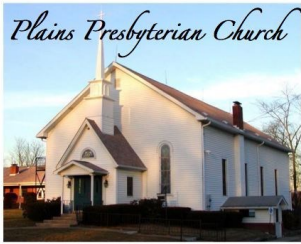
Advent Devotionals will be distributed. Christmas morning will be a hymn sing.

Next Regular Session Meeting will be on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm with Rev. Michael Burkley moderating.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe
Clerk of Session

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			 2022			
				1	2	3
				Book Club - 10:00am		
4 2nd Sunday of Advent Adult Bible Study 9:45am Worship - 11:00am Congregational I Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Choir Practice 7:00pm			
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Adult Bible Study 9:45am Worship 11:00am Deacon Meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Choir Practice 7:00pm			Wreaths Across America 12:00 Deacon Breakfast
18 4th Sunday of Advent Adult Bible Study 9:45am Worship 11:00am Communion	19 Session Meeting-7:00pm	20	21	22	23	24
			Choir Practice 7:00pm			Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm
25 Christmas Day Adult Bible Study 9:45am Worship 11:00am	26	27	28	29	30	31



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.”

