

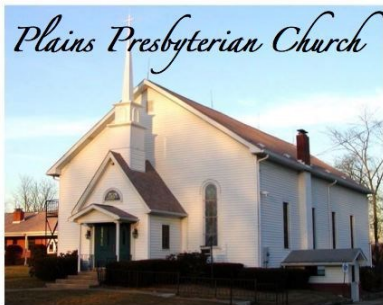
THE PLAIN TALK

FEBRUARY

2022

**Plains
Presbyterian
Church**

**Serving the
community
since 1806**



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

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING AT PLAINS CHURCH!

Discerning a path forward is never easy, although the process has been simplified with modern technology. If you know your destination but require exact turn-by-turn directions, all you must do is access this information from your cell phone.

As our process of discernment at Plains Church begins, we don't have an easy technological guide. However, **have we not seen the Spirit moving within our Church?** We continue to fill our pulpit on a weekly basis as we begin to search for an interim pastor, and we have heard many voices preach the Word of God in our Worship Services.

Further evidence of the Spirit moving within our Church can be found in the serendipity of what appeared to be disparate activities. In October, the chapter of a book I was reading spoke to me. This chapter, titled "If you build it, they won't come" is from a book "The Rise of the Nones" and was the topic at our January 9th Sunday School. You can find an article written by Nancy Duerring in this Plain Talk that provides a detailed treatise of our January 9th Sunday School conversation.

When Reverend Graham Standish preached at Plains Church on December 19th, he mentioned a C.S. Lewis book called "**The Great Divorce**". I bought the book after our Sunday Worship service that day. And then, while I was re-reading the chapter "If you build it, they won't come", there was a reference in that chapter to this same book!

While we were discussing our Sunday School conversation at the January 10th Session meeting, our moderator Reverend Peter de Vries was intrigued by our topic. He then noted that he had preached the day before on a similar topic of reaching out to the unchurched. His sermon was **based on Acts chapter 8** where Phillip meets the Ethiopian treasurer and interprets the Scripture for him. Here was another clue that the Spirit is moving at our Church!

Finally, Reverend Standish reached out to me and informed me that his new book is about to be published in May. He is an outstanding writer and has now authored 12 books. His latest book, "Preaching to those walking away", addresses the topic of **witnessing and preaching to those who call themselves "spiritual but not religious"**. This aligns closely with our recent experiences, and it appears that the Holy Spirit may be nudging our Church in this direction.

As we continue to discern our path forward at Plains Church, our next steps may not be crystal clear to us. However, **it is evident that the Spirit is moving within our Church!** We need to keep our eyes and hearts open to the Will of the Spirit, knowing that **we are being led to our destination as God's Church** in Cranberry Township!

Frank Aloï

Elder of the Month
Julie Raatz

Deacon of the Month
Cathy Stafford

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

February 6 Tim Rausch
February 13 Tiffany Aloï
February 20 Steve Raatz
February 27 Amy Roscoe

February 6

9:45am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

February 13

9:45am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

February 20

9:45am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

February 27

9:45am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service



February 2 Leslie Dambaugh
February 4 Kay Uthman
February 12 Luke Carter
February 15 Tiffany Aloï
February 22 Tony poleti
February 24 Chloe Kuntz
February 26 Jack Dixon
February 28 Chris Leisie



February 19 Ernie and Nancy Jones

Please Note: We strongly recommend that you wear a face mask in church for the protection of the body of Christ.

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.)

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
- Betty Love
- Sue Ray – Jeanne
- Barbara Gray– Jeanne Fornadley
- Michael Garicia – Nancy Duerring
- Bobby – Jeanne
- Wilan - Kay Uthaman
- Bob - Tiffany's father
- Judith Kihn-Jeanne Fornadley
- Joey-Jeanne Fornadley
- Joyce Reed-Jeanne Fornadley
- Jessica-Joann Bark

Our friends who are in assisted living:

Martha Malone, Betty Budney , Nancy Jones &
Eileen Kaufman

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

“IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WON’T COME”

Hello sisters and brothers in Christ!

This month we’d like to share a Sunday School discussion from January 9th based on the book titled Rise of the Nones (James Emery White, 2014). There were too many questions to answer in one 45-minute session and many good discussion points to consider.

What is a “None”? The term is meant to describe the **increasing number of people in our culture** (United States) who are **unaffiliated with a church**, not looking for a defined faith and do not see it as a need in their lives. On national surveys, they check the box “none” next to religion. Some are open to and interested in spiritual matters but do not tie their longing to a particular faith or church. Some are anti-church.

The book chapter we studied is called “If You Build It, They Won’t Come”. It refers to evangelical tools of the past few decades that worked with “baby boomers” and others who were raised in the church and had the memory and experiences to want to find a church, especially once families were started. For such folks, casual dress, coffee, contemporary music and messages can be effective in increasing church attendance. But what about the growing number of millennials not raised in a church?

The book chapter presents a scale of 1 to 10, where “1” has no relationship with Christ and 10 has saving faith in Christ. An “8” accepts basic Christian beliefs. The author suggests that the average person living in the United States in 1960 would have been on the upper end of the scale. Today there are many more at the lower end of the scale. The teenagers at Plains Church appear to be exceptions among their peers with regard to affiliation with a church.

A relevant Bible passage is I Corinthians 3 (NLT): Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you, I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature.

The challenge facing today’s churches is how to be **relevant to the “Nones”**. This is a timely topic, as Plains Church discerns its future—pastoral leadership and its place in the community. The book describes **six church environments toward “Nones”: Hostile, Indifferent, Hopeful, Sensitive, Targeted and “No Man’s Land” (ineffective for any group)**. The teenagers and older members in our discussion group described Plains Church as being in the middle or “None Sensitive”. This means we want to reach the Nones and are willing to change the environment, but still primarily cater to the already convinced.

Some of the **questions raised in our discussion**:

Who is our target audience? Can we be all things to all people?

If we get the word out to the unchurched in surrounding neighborhoods and housing plans, will they come? How do we get the word out?

What about the benefits of internet services? While online services offer convenience, how can viewers be convinced to try in-person church attendance? That fellowship with other believers is important?

What are evangelical “marketing” strategies that will work in today’s environment?

Plains Church needs to be a vibrant community for all ages. Jesus said “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14 NIV). All agreed children’s ministries are important in attracting and retaining families. What lessons can we learn from Cranberry Nursery School and Vacation Bible School?

If you have any thoughts to share, please feel free to share them with us. You can email our Church office with any comments at plains@zoominternet.net. This is the beginning of the discernment process unfolding at Plains Church.

Study led by Frank Aloï with notes written by Nancy Duerring

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

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

2022 PER CAPITA

The Per Capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year(s).

For 2022, the Plains Church Per Capita is broken out as follows:

Beaver Butler Presbytery \$31.52

Synod of the Trinity \$ 2.40

General Assembly of PCUSA \$ 8.98

TOTAL PER CAPITA: \$42.90

Normally we collect about 50% of our required Per Capita each year based on our membership. We have already paid our fully assessed per capita for 2022 of \$3,346. However, our current per capita receipts are less than \$600 as of January 22nd. Please prayerfully consider giving your full per capita this year. Thank you!

CNS NEWS

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has begun. Classes are filling up. If you know anyone who is looking for a faith-based preschool with low student/teacher ratios, please tell them about Cranberry Nursery School.

CNS continues to collect and earn Chick Fil A receipts. Please save your receipts and pass them along to the school. There is an envelope located on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

Blessings to all.

Angela Kushner
Director
Cranberry Nursery School
724-538-8785

GET INVOLVED!

GET INVOLVED PART 1!

Each month our Plain Talk newsletter leads off with an article typically written by the pastor. We are now in need of authors for the front-page letter and are asking that you consider getting involved!

If you have an interest in writing one of the monthly Plain Talk front page letters, please volunteer for a month in 2022! You can contact Ann at (724) 538-8785 or by email at plains@zoominternet.net.

Thank you!

Frank

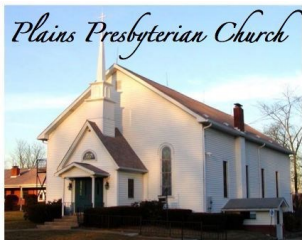
GET INVOLVED PART 2!

Our Cranberry Nursery School is asking that someone from Plains Church tell a short Bible story to their classes each month. Our former pastor would occasionally read them a story with pictures. I read each class the story of Zacchaeus this month and enjoyed the experience!

If you have an interest in participating in the spiritual growth of our young CNS disciples, please volunteer for a month in 2022! You can contact Angela Kushner at (724) 538-8785 or by email at cnsoplains@zoominternet.net.

Thank you!

Frank



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.”

