



January

2021

**Plains
Presbyterian
Church**

**Serving the
community
since 1806**



326 Plains Church Road
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A Word from Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta:

The beginning of a new year marks the opportunity to 'turn the page,' or 'start fresh.' But what if that fresh start, or beginning that we seek, is just beyond touching distance; out of reach? What then? We seek it, we reach for it, we might even confess with tears being held back that we desperately crave this fresh start. It might just feel vital to our very next step in the day. But what if we can't get there? Then what?

I want to tell you about an encounter that I had back before Christmas when 2020 was still with us and the magical-hope of 2021 stood before our lives. . .

I was working in the den in our home. Actually, I was trying to work, but it wasn't going well. The headache and soreness from my concussion were back —they had been gone for weeks and I was rejoicing. But now the pain was nagging at my mind and things were not going well.

As usual when I am in the den my shoes were off. I rocked back and forth in our oversized-red-plaid chair. So much to do. So much hope to convey at Christmas, and yet I had no words. The house was quiet. Emma was in her room doing homework. JonMark was at Starbucks making coffee for customers. Jennifer caring for young families with children at her work. Here I sit rocking back and forth trying to think of what to say.

Suddenly, Luna went ballistic barking and ran down the steps. Bianca started barking herself and threw her head back in alert (I don't know where Bella was but probably sleeping on Emma's bed would be my guess). I never heard the knock on the door, and I can't even be sure it happened. It didn't matter, the girls let me know that someone was here.

I headed to the door to investigate. I slid by Bianca on the steps, pushed Luna with my knee away from the door while I tried to put on dad's Crocs. The barking continued. . . One shoe on as I open the door. Now to find the other, I thought. But Luna is pressing past me to look out the screen door which will only excite her more and make her bark longer. So, I decide that find the missing shoe is not worth the effort. I will meet the person on the step with one shoe on only. I thought, 'well if this isn't a metaphor for 2020 then I don't know what is.' God had other plans that supporting my cynicism.

It's funny to me how applicable that moment that I just described is in our lives. . . one shoe one and one just out of reach. I felt unbalanced as I closed the door so that Luna would hush a bit and stop barking. My one foot barefoot stepped into some melting snow while the other was safely warm in the shoe. This was moment was not going according to my plans. But sometimes God has a better plan in mind for those willing to step out with one shoe on and one shoe off.

The encounter that took place was just what I needed to hear. It blessed my soul to stand in the coolness of the day, with the wind blowing, and care for another person as they cared for me. Their words, which they could not have known, were what I needed to hear. It was a direct word from God to remind me that I don't have to have the perfect words, or perfect image, or perfect gift this season, all that I need to do is care.

Show up. Open the door. Even in my imperfect-shoeless-state God found a way to use me in the life of another person.

As I headed back inside and removed my wet sock, I wondered, what would happen to my faith if I lived this practice out more consistently? Not only wear one shoe, but be willing to meet people when my imperfect state is visible to them? What if God could use that to further His kingdom and share His glory?

Blessings Rev. Derek

Elder of the Month
Tim Rausch
Deacon of the Month
Julie Raatz

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

January 3	Frank Aloï
January 10	Tim Rausch
January 17	Tiffany Aloï
January 24	Steve Raatz
January 31	Amy Roscoe



January 3

11:00 am Worship Service
Undecorating the Church

January 10

**Baptism of the Lord
Installation & Ordination**

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

January 17

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

January 24

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

January 31

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

January 5	Bob Rectenwald
January 6	Burt Duerring
January 6	Lana Holcomb
January 7	Kathy Carter
January 12	Rachel Kremmel
January 12	Kathy Robinson
January 14	Sue Rectenwald
January 14	Tom Lunney
January 15	Steve Raatz
January 27	Michaela Leisie
January 29	JonMark Marotta



January 26	Dan & Katie Greggs
January 30	Tom & Ann Lunney

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

Updating Volunteer List:

Please contact Norah Collins or Janet Duncan to add your name to a call list to assist for bereavement meals.

Assistance is needed towards food donations, cooking, setting-up, serving, and cleaning.

Your time is greatly appreciated.



Plains Book Club:

The Book Club just loves to get together to share our readings with each other. So we invite you to join us. Even if you find that you cannot read all or any of the book, come for the insightful discussions.

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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
- Karl Koebler
- Yvette - Tiffany's sister
- Jenny Stafford
- Victims of the Coronavirus
- Liz- Jennifer Marotta
- Jim & Betty Lehman
- Amy- Kathy
- Victoria
- Caregivers & Families
- Frank- Sue
- Kay Uthman

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3rd

Undecorating the Church

January 10th

Installation and Ordination

Communion

Sunday School Resumes

Book Study– Better Together– 9:45am

January 17th

Deacons Meeting after service

January 18th

Session Meeting at 7:00pm

January 30th

Wreath Retirement

PLAINS CHURCH CEMETERY HISTORICAL RECORD

If you have any information on those buried in the Plains Church Cemetery and would like to share pictures or a short biography please submit that to the Plains Church Office or Tom Lunney.

tglunney@gmail.com

Thank you to the following people for the beautiful Poinsettias in our sanctuary for this Christmas season.



IN MEMORY OF:

**Bryan Henry (brother) &
Annabelle Aloi (mother)**
From: Frank & Tiffany Aloi

Loved Ones Gone
From: Joann Bark

Our Parents
From: David & Maryann Cardillo

**Mr. & Mrs. Edgar McMillen
Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Carmichael
Mrs. Barbara I. Ginsbach**
From: Jay & Bonnie Carmichael

Those Who Have Gone Before Us
From: The Carter Family

Our Parents and Uncle Charlie
From: Burt & Nancy Duerring

**Chuck McDonald, Edward Kremmel,
& Eunice Guenther**
From: Bruce, Denise, Eddie & Rachel Kremmel

Our Families
From: Jim & Roberta Lemon

Neal & Barbara McCluskey
From: Steve & Julie Raatz

Our Son Gary & Loved Ones
From: Eugene & Corina Taylor

IN HONOR OF:

Our Children
From: David & Maryann Cardillo

Brent Family and Kelli Family
From: Jim & Roberta Lemon

Our Family
From: Tom & Ann Lunney

Christmas Poinsettias

Remember if you purchased a Poinsettia you may take it home.



Remember Our Fallen U.S. Veterans
Wreaths Across America's Mission
Remember, Honor, Teach

Thank you for your generous support!
All veterans in the Plains Church Cemetery received a wreath on their grave.
On January 30th wreaths will be retired.



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
DECEMBER 19, 2020 at 12:00pm

Thank you to all who gathered and volunteered their time to lay wreaths for the veterans in the Plains Church Cemetery. The event was the first for Plains Church and it was well received by the community and the church. We are looking towards next year and your support.





JR ROTC Seneca Valley High School— Honor Guard
Speaker: Thomas Lunney



Bugler—Played Taps
Laura Hanlon



Plains Presbyterian Cemetery
Wreaths Across America Ceremony



Wreaths for Veterans Graves



Volunteers
Royal International Miss Pennsylvania Group

CNS NEWS

Planning for the 2021-2022 school year and registration has been set up with the following schedule:

January 7 - current students

January 14 - former families and siblings

January 21 - open registration

Please tell your friends about our special school. A reminder that students must be immunized and currently are required to wear masks.

The staff of CNS wishes the members of Plains Presbyterian Church a healthy and blessed holiday season.

Thanks,
Angela

Angela Kushner
Director
Cranberry Nursery School
724-538-8785

OUR STAFF

Half~Pints Teacher - Komal Dietz; Aide - Diana Beaudoin

Nursery Teacher - Erin Meredith; Aide - Jen Murnock

Pre-K Teacher - Amy Zugell; Aide - Lisa Bender

Director - Angela Kushner

Plains Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights
Monday, November 16, 2020

Session met on Monday, November 16, 2020. Below are some of the highlights of that meeting.

Things are going well at CNS. The card fundraiser has gone well. People are being cautious, and everyone is healthy.

Finances are in fairly good shape. We usually receive some annual gifts in November and December that helps our situation. We are anticipating a Grant from Butler County in the near future.

Approved the collection of the Christmas Joy Offering.

A total of \$410 was collected for Operation Christmas Child and will be sent to Samaritan's Purse.

A total of 17 pledge cards have been returned to date.

In approximately a week we will have an Advent Devotional available written by members of the Worship Committee.

The church will be decorated the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Undecorating will be January 3, 2021. Communion dates will be discussed for 2021.

Craft Fair is going to be this Saturday, November 21. Everything is in place. We will also have a basket raffle with items donated by vendors.

Nominating Committee reported the slate of officers that will be presented at the Congregational Meeting Part I.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe
Clerk of Session

PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Slate of Officers to be elected

ELDER

Class of 2023

David Cardillo

Ron Carter

Bob Young

DEACON

Class of 2022

Julie Young

Class of 2023

Maryann Cardillo

Amy Roscoe

AUDITOR

Class of 2023

Kathy Carter

NOMINATING COMMITTEE for 2021

Tiffany Aloï

Kathy Carter

Leslie Dambaugh

Steve Raatz

Cathy Stafford

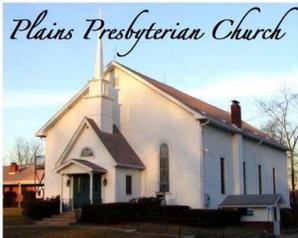
Tim Roscoe (Elder)

Erin McKinley (Elder)

To be named (Deacon)

Respectfully submitted by the 2020 Nominating Committee, Frank Aloï, Sammi Carter,
Emma Marotta, Julie Raatz, Kathy Robinson, Tim Roscoe,
Bob Young, and Erin McKinley, chairman

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Worship - 11:00am No Sunday School Undecorating the church	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:45am Worship - 11:00am Communion Installation & Ordination	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11:00am Deacon Meeting after service	18 Session Meeting 7:00pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Wreath Retirement 10:00am
31 School 9:45am Worship 11:00am						



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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.”

