

July

2021

**Plains  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Serving the  
community  
since 1806**



326 Plains Church Road  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
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www.plainschurch.com

## ***A Word from Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta:***

Independence Day is upon us. This is a day filled with symbolism and memory.

Most recently it is the day that we hoped as a nation to cross the 70% vaccinated level. I am not going to comment on whether that is a worthy goal or not as I am not going to speak about how the administration has handled covid.

But long before the pandemic Independence Day celebrated our freedom as a country. We give thanks for the men and women whose tireless work, determination, and vision helped to carve out the nation that we now call home.

In recent memory patriotism is not as celebrated as it once was in this culture. Again, I am leaving that aside today, and focusing on the fact that we are free. . . Free to gather. . . Free to worship as we choose. . . Free to thank every single individual whose service to this great nation makes it possible for us to enjoy those communal freedoms together. Come what may in our undiscovered future, this truth, our freedom, and their work, cannot be denied or put aside.

As I think about July 4th, and what it represents, I remember a story that I read from the book *Grace Under Fire: Letters of Faith in Times of War*. In an letter written during World War II by a soldier who history has forgotten, I read these words:

*“Thoughts going through my mind those hours [while shipwrecked in the Atlantic] were sure something to note. Mostly my thoughts sought God. . . I kept trying to keep faith in God and remember that whatever was, was His will. It really helped me a lot.”*

Again we don't know the young soldier who wrote these words. His letter was passed down through a family who did not know him either. He and his crew suffered under a great storm in North Atlantic. The captain did all that he could to save the ship, but succumbed to the weather.

Days before the crew abandoned ship they gathered together in smaller and smaller spaces to ride out the storm. But their ship could not survive. For nearly 60 hours they floated in the Atlantic not knowing if their last SOS was heard anyone but the Germans.

While they had plenty of rations on their rafts and lifeboats, fear still stayed close by. Would they be rescued? Would they die at sea? No one knew. Yet this man, like many of his brothers-in-arms continued to pray and reach out to God.

I hope that you take a moment over the July 4th weekend and praise God for the sacrifice and service of these brave men and women.

Blessings  
Rev. Derek

Elder of the Month  
Steve Walter

### July 4

Outdoor Chapel  
Independence Day  
10:00 am Worship Service

### July 11

10:00 am Worship Service  
VBS -July 12th-July16th  
6:30pm-8:30pm

### July 18

10:00 am Worship Service

### July 25

10:00 am Worship Service

## Helping with Worship This Month

### Worship Leaders

July 4            Tiffany Aloï  
July 11           Steve Raatz  
July 18           Amy Roscoe  
July 25           Ron Carter



July 5            Sandi Taylor  
July 7            Dennis Robinson  
July 8            Hana Leisie  
July 10           Emersyn Selling  
July 14           Tim Rausch  
July 17           Linda Treese  
July 22           Amy Roscoe  
July 24           Edward Kremmel  
July 25           Traci Kuntz  
July 26           Reed Kuntz  
July 27           Jeanine Poleti  
July 27           Hanna Budney  
July 27           Grace Budney



Please follow current CDC recommendations.

Please Note: If you are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable not wearing a face mask during passing of the peace you may do so. Please move to the aisle or back of the sanctuary to pass the peace. Please respect others that may stay seated in their pew who don't want to participate.



July 2            Gene & Corina Taylor  
July 10           Jason & Melissa Holcomb  
July 15           Frank & Tiffany Aloï  
July 21           Jack & Cathy Dixon

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](http://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
- Yvette - Tiffany's sister
- Jenny Stafford
- Victims of the Coronavirus
- Caregivers & Families
- Ernie & Nancy - Kathy Carter
- Bill- Betty Lehman's brother
- Liz- Jennifer Marotta
- Family & Friends of Ron S.- Ron Carter
- Prayers for the people affected by the apartment collapse in Florida.
- Betty Love- Jay Carmichael
- Tony- Bonnie Carmichael

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.

# Strawberry Festival



The Strawberry Festival Luncheon was held Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad & Strawberry desserts were served by the Plains Deacons.

## 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.

Ann Lunney-724-432-3183

Julie Raatz-612-741-7636

Denise Kremmel- 724-538-8604

Julie Young 724-776-7288

Maryann Cardillo 724-866-9911

Amy Roscoe 412-874-2039

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

# Vacation Bible School

**July 12th-16th**

**POWER-UP!**

**6:30pm– 8:30pm**

**Free on-line registration open – ends June 30th**

**Registration at the door will be \$10.00 per child**

**[www.plainschurch.com](http://www.plainschurch.com)**

We are looking for volunteers to help with facilitating the Bible time Video and activity each night. We are also looking for people to provide dinner each night of VBS for the volunteers. Dinner is usually served around 5:15-5:30 for around 20-25 people. Sign-up in the narthex or email [Plainsvbs@gmail.com](mailto:Plainsvbs@gmail.com).

Blessings,

Janelle Wood and Erika Selling

Donations are needed and snack slips can be found in the narthex.

Please drop-off snacks in the basement kitchen area by July 11th.



# CNS NEWS

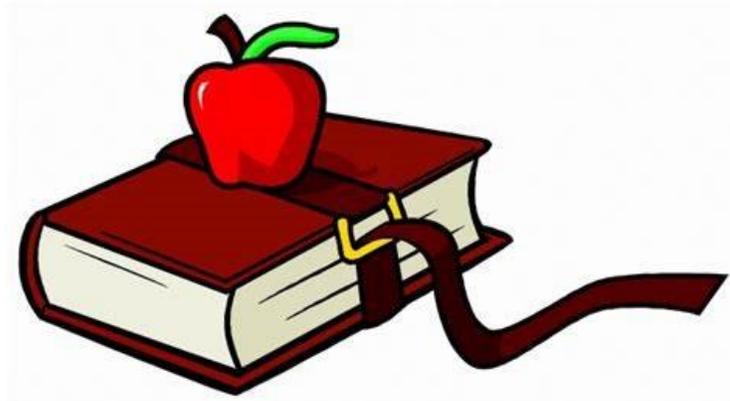


Cranberry Nursery School offers classes for 2 1/2 (Half~Pints), 3 (Nursery) and 4-5 year old (Pre-K) children. Each section has a few spots in one class. We also have a waiting list. If you know of anyone looking for a faith-based pre-school, please have them email Angela Kushner at [cnsoplains@zoominternet.net](mailto:cnsoplains@zoominternet.net).

CNS continues to collect Chick Fil A receipts. We earn 20% in product rewards for the total collected. An envelope is located on the bulletin board in the CNS hallway where you can deposit your receipts. Your support is appreciated.

Cranberry Nursery School has had a great school year. We are thankful to our families for all of the support they provided. We faced unprecedented times and tried to make the safest and best decisions for our students, families and staff. We are grateful we were able to remain open and greet our students each day. We consider ourselves lucky. Wishing the members of Plains Presbyterian Church a safe and healthy summer!

Angela Kushner  
Director  
Cranberry Nursery School  
724-538-8785



# EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Dear Church Family,

It is with sincere appreciation that I come to you with thanks for all of the support you gave me at the

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser for my Eagle Scout Project!

I can't thank you enough for showing up and for all of the financial contributions that were so thoughtfully given.

I am happy to announce that with your generous donations I have raised \$1,830! With your financial support, I am able to prepare for the work days to rehabilitate the Prayer Trail.

Many of you have asked about the work days. Below are the dates and times. I have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in participating in any of the work days. Signing up will allow me to prepare with tools and refreshments.

July 31<sup>st</sup> 8 am – Noon

Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> 1:00-5:00

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 8 am – Noon

Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 8 am – Noon

Again, thank you for your support!

Y.I.S. (Yours In Scouting)

Ray Walter



# Plains Presbyterian Church

## Session Highlights

Monday, May 2021

Session met on Monday, May 17, 2021. Below are some highlights of that meeting.

After a short meditation on Hebrews 6 1-12 and discussion on where do you find God in this scripture, Rev. Dr. Derek opened with prayer at 7:15 p.m.

Frank Aloï reviewed the one-page summary and the detailed financial report.

Expenses have been high. The Gas Utility bill has been high. Giving has been strong.

Our Charles Schwab Account has been approved. We will be moving approximately \$94,000 to this new account soon.

The Treasurer's report was received with consensus with our thanks.

Deacons met recently and they will be collecting the Pentecost Offering. Money will be donated to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Recommending Graduation Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>. Dining for Dollars may be happening in the future. Strawberry Festival will be on Father's Day.

Discussion about starting greeters, passing the peace, social distancing, masks, etc.

Approved allowing people to do what they want to do is best for themselves as far as masks are concerned.

Approved Passing of the Peace using the center of the aisle for those wishing to participate.

A video presentation by Ray Walter was shown for his Eagle Scout project to update the Prayer Trail, clean up some downed trees, update signs and fix the bridge. Goal is to be complete in September. Approved holding a fundraiser on June 6<sup>th</sup> (an ice-cream social).

VBS work has begun. Registration is available online.

Worship committee will be discussing outdoor worship soon.

Session by consensus approve the cleanup offered by the Brownie Troop.

Next Regular Session Meeting will be on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Rev. Dr. Derek closed with prayer at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe  
Clerk of Session

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		<b>July 2021</b>					
				1	2	3	
4 Independence Day Outdoor Chapel Worship 10:00am	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11 Worship 10:00am	12 Vacation Bible School 6:30pm-8:30pm	13 Vacation Bible School 6:30pm-8:30pm	14 Vacation Bible School 6:30pm-8:30pm	15 Vacation Bible School 6:30pm-8:30pm	16 Vacation Bible School 6:30pm-8:30pm	17	
18 Worship 10:00am	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25 Worship 10:00am	26	27	28	29	30	31	



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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.”

