

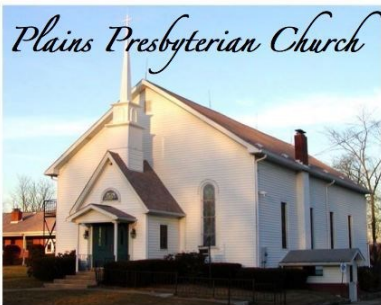
# THE PLAIN TALK

## July

### 2023

**Plains  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Serving the  
community  
since 1806**



*Rev. Dr. Jon Nelson*

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

## A Word from Rev. Dr. Jon Nelson:

Fourth of July is a time of celebration for our freedoms. Next year will be the thirty fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. This tragic event reminds us how blessed we are to live in the United States. We live in a great country which protects our freedom. It is tragic that many across the world don't possess the basic freedoms that we as Americans enjoy.

It is in our fundamental belief that "all men are created equal" that our country was founded upon. This belief was not first extolled by our Founding Fathers, but in the Christian faith in which they professed. For they knew the words that the Apostle Paul declared in his letter to the Galatians:

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus; (Galatians 3:26-28) and it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)*

Paul understood that whether it is the oppression forced upon a people by another nation or the oppression we place upon ourselves through our own sinfulness, that freedom requires a cost and it is not easily obtained. Paul knew that Jesus had paid the cost of our freedom upon the cross. Christ's act transformed everything for humankind. No longer were we under the yoke of sin, but we now live in the freedom of Christ.

And just as our freedom from sin required a sacrifice, so too did our individual liberties. Many who fought for our country's independence paid the price for our freedom with their sweat, tears, and lives. Having their freedom cast aside, these men and women understood the necessity of freedom for our nation and they were willing to pay the cost. Because of their sacrifice, we can enjoy and celebrate our liberty and freedom on the fourth of July.

As I look around the world and I see others under the yoke of oppression, I am saddened that humanity is a "stiff-necked" people. We tend not to learn from our mistakes. As I see Sunni's fighting Shiites or Israeli's against Palestinians, I think about all of our ancestors who came to America to flee religious persecution. America was a blank slate. It was a place where people could come to worship freely from persecution and imprisonment. As Presbyterians, we believe that God is the Lord of the conscience and that every person has been given the right to follow God as he or she sees fit. We might not agree with others' beliefs but we don't have the right to force that belief upon them. We certainly don't threaten them with injury, imprisonment, or death. God respects our beliefs and therefore we believe that we should respect others and their beliefs. At the least we should have mutual forbearance toward one another.

However, until Christ returns, the sad reality is that people will continue to impose their will upon one another. And until Christ returns, we will live in an imperfect world. Our country is not perfect; we have our problems and myopias, but it is still the best country in the world in which to live. I thank God for our country and I thank God for our freedom from oppression and our freedom in Christ.

My prayer is that you will have a wonderful Fourth of July celebration with family and friends, and that we each will remember those who have made our freedom possible. Let us not take our freedom for granted because there are many in the world who don't have the freedoms we have been given. And let us remember to be tolerant of others with differing views than our own. Let us each be clothed in the freedom and love of Christ. And may God bless America with faith, hope, and love.

Blessings,

Pastor Jon

Elder of the Month

Julie Raatz

Deacon of the Month

Cathy Stafford

## Helping with Worship This Month

### Worship Leaders

July 2 Tim Roscoe  
July 9 Susan Reed  
July 16 Frank Aloï  
July 23 Tiffany Aloï  
July 30 Steve Raatz

### REV. DR. JON NELSON

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday

After Hours: 724-213-8528

Pastor Nelson will be out of the office  
on Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Adult Sunday School will resume  
classes in September

### July 2

11:00 am Worship Service

### July 9

11:00 am Worship Service

### July 16

11:00 am Worship Service

### July 23

11:00 am Worship Service  
Coffee Connection - Christian Ed.

### July 30

11:00 am Worship Service



July 5 Sandi Taylor  
July 7 Dennis Robinson  
July 8 Hanna 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



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

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
- Jenny Stafford
- Nancy– Kathy Carter
- Betty Lehman
- Rosa Dickson - Sandi
- Family & Friends of Pat Jackson - Cathy Stafford
- Ethan - Tiffany Aloï
- Jessica - Joann Bark
- Family & Friends of Kevin M.
- Emily - Amy Roscoe
- Kay Uthman - Nina Finlay

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.

Please Note:

(prayer concerns are being streamed on-line)

## **PLAINS BOOK CLUB**

**10:00am - First Thursday of the month**

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

Book Club will resume meetings starting September 7th.

(No book club meetings for July & Aug.)



## **Session Meeting**

Wednesday, August 16th

## **Deacon Meeting**

No Meetings until Sept. 10th

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



**July 4th-Independent Day**

**July 17th-21st- Vacation Bible School**

**July 23rd - Coffee Connection hosted by Christian Education/VBS**

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**August 13, 2023**

**Worship in the Park - Lions Pavilion - Cranberry Township**

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## **New Member Classes/Orientation:**

If you are interested in becoming a new member please contact Tim Roscoe, Frank Aloï or Julie Raatz.

**\* Please note that Deacons will not meet July and August. Next meeting Sept. 10th**

**\*Book Club will not meet July and August. Next meeting Sept. 7th**

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**Time: 9:45am**

**RSVP: Burt & Nancy Duerring**

**[eacinc@zoominternet.net](mailto:eacinc@zoominternet.net)**

**Adult Sunday School has completed its study of Twelve Ordinary Men.**

**Class will resume in September. If you have suggestions for study topics, please contact Nancy or Burt Duerring at (724) 538-3848 or [eacinc@zoominternet.net](mailto:eacinc@zoominternet.net)**





We're making plans for this summer's Vacation Bible School program at Plains Presbyterian Church, and we'd love to have your children join us! To be held **July 17th-July21st** this summer's VBS is "Stellar"

At Stellar VBS, kids go on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world.

If your children (age 3 through grade 6) would like to join us for this fun-filled week, visit our website at [www.plainschurch.com](http://www.plainschurch.com), scroll down the page and you'll find the VBS online registration form.

Online registration closes July 1st.

There is an option to purchase a shirt for \$7.50 if registering before

June 15th.

Registration is **online only**.

**We hope to see you there!**

Feel free to contact the church office at 724-538-8785 or email us directly at [plainsvbs@gmail.com](mailto:plainsvbs@gmail.com) with any questions.

Blessings,

Erika Selling and Janelle Wood

VBS Directors

# CNS NEWS

Although it is the summer, we are preparing for a new school year at Cranberry Nursery School. We are excited to get the classrooms painted to provide a fresh start to the school year. Although we offer programs for 2 1/2 - 4-5 year old, we currently have one space available in both our M/W and T/TH Half~Pints (2 1/2) class and two spots available in our AM Pre-K class. If you know anyone who is looking for a faith-based pre-school program, 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. Feel free to leave your receipts in the church office. The school uses the rewards for events during the school year. This helps to offset our costs.

Wishing everyone a continued safe and healthy summer!





# Strawberry Festival



The Strawberry Festival Luncheon was held Sunday, June 11, 2023.

Hot Dogs, Meatballs, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad & Strawberry desserts and Ice Cream were served by the Plains Deacons.



## Mission Statement

The mission of Matsiko World Orphan Choir is to use the unifying power of music to uplift every child, bring joy to all who listen, and to inspire generosity that provides a complete education for vulnerable children.

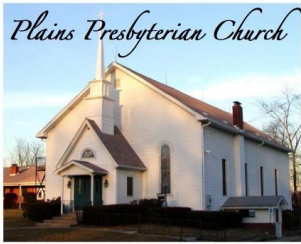
The Matsiko World Orphan Choir performed at Plains Church on June 11th.

The children that performed were from Nigeria.

If you would like to sponsor a child you can find information in the narthex.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<i>July</i>	<b>2023</b>		<sup>1</sup>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Independence Day	Pastor Jon - out of the office	No Book Club		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship - 11:00am						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 11:00am	Stellar - VBS 7/17 - 7/21					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 11:00am Coffee Connection hosted by Christian Ed						
30	31					
Worship 11:00am						



## 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.”

