



2026

**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*

Generosity Isn't For the Weak

Proverbial wisdom is often memorable and can inspire us in the moment. However, it may also create unrealistic expectations of glory and gain. True wisdom is about making choices that add value to life—not just our own, but the life we share with all of creation. Wise decisions do not always result in personal enrichment or recognition; in fact, they may require sacrifice with no guarantee of reward. The value lies in how these choices benefit others and contribute to a greater good.

A well-known saying found in Proverbs encourages generosity.

“Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back.”

Proverbs 11:1

While this verse is frequently cited to promote generous living, its meaning is complex and rooted in tradition. According to Hebrew tradition, King Solomon authored this proverb. The story tells of Solomon’s efforts to acquire a rare material for the temple. Solomon sent messengers asking to the king to “name his price,” he refused to sell any to Solomon. Solomon gathered his guard, gold, and things of great value from his treasury and paid a formal state visit to the little kingdom. Despite persistent negotiations, Solomon’s attempts to purchase the material were unsuccessful. Just before Solomon departed the king gave him the material without payment, explaining that his son—recently returned from war—had survived thanks to a bundle of food found floating at an oasis. The blanket wrapping the food was embroidered with the star of David, indicating that someone from Solomon’s house had the provisions that sustained the king’s son in his time of need.

Traditionally, people would leave packages of food at oases for passing travelers. If someone found the package, they took what they needed or added their own provisions for the next person. “Casting your bread on the water” refers to the discipline of living generously, which is grounded in humility. This practice involves keeping only what we need and freely giving the rest to benefit people we may never meet, without waiting to be asked. Generosity is a bold discipline—not for the weak. It requires the courage to accept what God provides with humility and grace. May we find strength to practice generosity in these challenging times.

“5 Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother’s womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything. 6 In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”

Pastor John Porter

Elder of the Month

Bob Young

Deacon of the Month

Susan Peirce

March 1

11:00 am Worship Service

March 4

7:00pm Lenten Service
Crestview

March 8

11:00 am Worship Service

March 11

7:00pm Lenten Service
Plains Church

March 15

11:00 am Worship Service

March 18

7:00 pm Lenten Service
Crestview

March 22

11:00 am Worship Service
Deacons Meeting w/Session

March 25

7:00pm Lenten Service
Old Union

March 29

11:00 am Worship Service

April 2

7:30pm Maundy Thursday
Old Union

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders:

March 1 - Ann Nutter

March 8 - Deb Schoch

March 15 - Susan Peirce

March 22 - Susan Reed

March 29 – Frank Aloï



March 2 - Nancy Duerring

March 9 - Bruce Kremmel

March 10 - Susan Peirce

March 13 - Anthony Poleti

March 14 - Ronald Rice

March 16 - Jon Selling

March 19 - Bonnie Carmichael

March 20 - Lily Young

March 27 - Janelle Wood

March 31- Jason Holcomb



March 19 Ron & Kathy Carter



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 8am-Noon

Online Giving is now available for your 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:

- Jenny Stafford
- Lisa Bender
- Linda - Ron Rice's sister
- Baby Hadlee
- Trudy – Ron Rice
- Linda McLean
- Diane – Burt Duerring
- Family & Friends of Roberta Lemon's sister

Our friends who are in assisted living:
Kay Uthman

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



PLAINS BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting – March 5th
When: 10:00am
Book Club Leader:
Sue McKinley
sue.w.mckinley@gmail.com



Session Meeting
March 23, 2026

Deacon Meeting
March 22, 2026

SWAM Meeting
TBA

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

March 8, 2026



PER CAPITA FOR 2026

\$46.66 per member

2026 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 2026, the Plains Church Per Capita is **\$46.66**. Each member is included in the calculation of our Church's total Per Capita payment, which for 2026 is **\$2,613**. We paid our fully assessed per capita for 2026 in January.

Typically, we only receive approximately half of our Church assessed Per Capita contributions each year. However, at this point in the year our current per capita contributions are only approximately 40% of our required payment.

As a member of Plains Church, please prayerfully consider giving your full Per Capita this year. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Aloï (Frankaloi@msn.com) or the Church office.

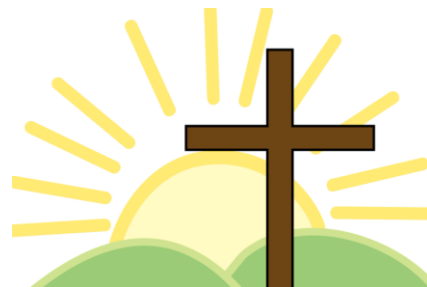
Thank you!

2026 BRIEF FINANCIAL UPDATE

With the bad weather to begin 2026, Plains Church has seen lighter attendance at our Worship Services. Concurrently, our General Fund giving has already fallen short of our budgeted amount by thousands of dollars.

Fortunately, our Church has other income sources (rent and investment income) that is helping our financial situation.

We hope that the winter will be ending soon and more of our Church family can join us on Sunday mornings for Worship. If you need a ride to Church on Sunday mornings, please contact our Church office and we will arrange transportation so that you can join us!





LENTEN SCHEDULE

Crestview Church

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 7:00pm

Plains Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 7:00pm

Crestview Church

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 7:00pm

Old Union Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 7:00pm

Old Union Presbyterian Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026 – 7:30pm



**Thank you so much for the beautiful rug for our entryway!
It fits perfectly and has made our sanctuary feel much warmer and more welcoming
and reminding us that we belong.**

This donation is from Frank & Tiffany Aloi



SAVE THE DATES EVENTS

MARCH 15, 2026

**Pastoral Care and Visitation Training
during the Annual Leadership Event**

Speaker - Rev. John Porter

All are welcome to attend – Contact Frank Alois

MARCH 13, 2026

The Lighthouse Foundation

BINGO NIGHT- Highfield Community Center

APRIL 11, 2026

Cranfest Cultural Festival 2026

Municipal Center

11:00am -3:00pm

JUNE 5, 2026

The Lighthouse Legacy Golf Outing

Friday, June 5, 2026 – Cranberry Highlands

ecioffi@thelighthousepa.org – more information on events

LOCAL CHURCH EVENTS

PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 5th – Easter Sunday Worship – 9:00am – 10:00am

Knitting & Crocheting Club – Tuesdays from Noon – 2:00pm

Men's Morning Daybreak – Wednesday at 6:30am

OLD UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 21st - Trivia Night

March 25th – Lenten Service - 7:00pm

April 2nd – Maundy Thursday Services/Communion - 7:30pm

April 5th – Easter Sunrise Service / Breakfast - 7:30am

April 9th – Blood Drive 12:30-6:00pm

April 18th – Spaghetti Dinner - 4:00-7:00pm

May 16th – Car Show – 10:00am - 2:00pm

CRESTVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 4th – Lenten Service – 7:00pm

March 18th – Lenten Service – 7:00pm

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2026

If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter with lilies, please complete the form below and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

ORDERS ARE DUE BY March 22nd

Easter Lilies will be 8 1/2" double stem for \$21.00 each.

Order form from (your name):

Ordering how many: Double Stem _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Or as a gift to the church: _____

Please place your check and order form into the church offering plate or mail to the church office. Make checks out to Plains Presbyterian Church and note Easter Lily Flower Fund.

LILIES CAN BE TAKEN HOME AFTER CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY

CNS NEWS

February has been a busy month for the students at Cranberry Nursery School. All of the classes had fun Valentine's Day parties. The Nursery and Pre-K classes will attend a Dad's Day event at the Cranberry Township Fire House. Lots of good fire safety lessons will be learned. The students are working on fun art work to be displayed for the CNS Open House which takes place February 25th and 27th. The Nursery and Pre-K classes will have a cooking class and the Half~Pints will have a Donuts with Dad event at the end of February.

March is packed with lots of activities. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, have a Dinosaur Day and a visit from the dentist. We will also have a food drive for the Evans City Food Bank. We invite members of Plains Presbyterian Church to participate. The students will begin preparations for the Easter holiday with bible stories, lessons and art projects. We will have a Nothing Bundt Cake fundraiser sometime in March, just in time for Easter. Families can order cakes or gift certificates to purchase a cake at your convenience. The certificates make a great birthday or hostess gift. Please feel free to place an order. We appreciate the support from Plains Presbyterian Church.

As always, we continue to accept registration on a first-come-first-served basis. Three out of seven classes are full, and we will maintain a wait list. We also continue to collect Chick Fil A receipts.

If you have any questions about the school or would like more information about any of our activities, please feel free to reach out to the Director, Angela Kushner.



PLAINS CHURCH

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 2026

Session met on Monday, February 9th, 2026. Below are some of the highlights of that meeting.

We still require Elder representatives for the September and November 2026 Presbytery meetings.

We are constructing a "Manual of Operations" per Presbytery guidelines. Session will conduct Boundary Training once the policies are in place, as required every 3 years by the PCUSA.

We received a request from a member to be removed from the official membership rolls and moved to the "Friends and Family" Roll.

Session is coordinating with our Deacons to hold a meeting, per Presbytery/PCUSA policy to meet once per year as a combined unit.

CNS is reviewing and revising their By-Laws with Session coordination.

Financially, our first month of 2026 was positive for net income. However, a major \$1,200+ gas bill in February will hurt our financials. We paid our full per capita to the Presbytery, invested excess cash in the markets and updated our signatory cards.

John will lead a Pastoral Care and Visitation training at our annual leadership event on Sunday, March 15th. All are welcome to attend, see Frank Aloï for details.

SWAM and John are working on the Ash Wednesday February 18th service at Plains. Old Union, Crestview and Park Churches were invited.

Deacons' meeting minutes were reviewed and appreciated.

Several members of Plains attended the Isaiah House dinner on February 6th. Plans to do outreach to Mars Home for Youth with several other churches was discussed. The Roscoe Family celebration of ministry was planned for February 15th.

A PNC update was provided by members of that team.

Adjournment: Next Session meeting will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis J. Aloï

Frank Aloï, Clerk of Session

March

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 11am	2	3	4 Lenten Service - 7pm Crestview	5 Book Club 10am	6	7
8 Worship 11am	9	10	11 Lenten Service - 7pm Plains Church	12	13	14
15 Worship 11am Pastoral Training & Visitation	16	17	18 Lenten Service - 7pm Crestview	19	20	21
22 Worship 11am Deacon Meeting 10:15am	23 Session Meeting 6pm	24	25 Lenten Service - 7pm Old Union	26	27	28
29 Worship 11am	30	31				



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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.”

