

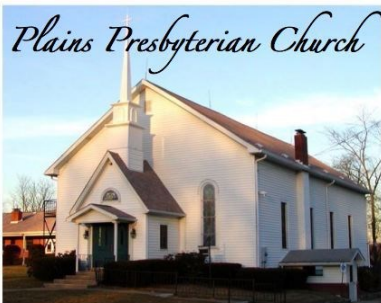
THE PLAIN TALK



2022

**Plains
Presbyterian
Church**

**Serving the
community
since 1806**



*Rev. Michael Burkley
Interim Pastor*

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

God Still Loves Plains Church

Dear Church Family,

Plains Presbyterian Church has been through a lot in the past half year or so. I remember it clearly when Pastor Derek sent an email to Session asking everyone to attend a Special Session meeting. One of the Elders asked the purpose of the meeting, and there was no response. Never a good sign.

And then the meeting happened. As you all know, Pastor Derek announced his departure, and we were a Session in shock. What will happen to Plains? What do we do now?

In the days and weeks ahead, our Presbytery leadership informed us that there was a shortage of Interim Pastors. Seems like we were not alone in needing someone. Luckily, we have three members who attended training and were able to fill the pulpit for worship many times. God had a plan in calling those people to be trained and to serve. God loves us and provides.

Then the strangest thing happened. Some new people started attending. You can argue that we weren't at our "best". We didn't have a full time Pastor, it seemed like we were fighting a fire and trying not to be consumed. As I write this, five people will be joining the church. I take that as a sign that God loves us and wants us to not just survive, but to thrive. I believe that God sent us some new people to show us that he isn't done with Plains. Far from it!

Then another "Miracle" happened. We were able to get an Interim Pastor. I believe God planted seeds many years ago and is harvesting them today at Plains. Pastor Michael isn't from around here. His children attended Grove City College. That's around 500 miles from where they lived in Upstate New York. There are lots of other Colleges within that 500 mile circle. I don't know how or why they picked Grove City, but I'd like to think that the Holy Spirit planted a thought in their minds to give Grove City a look. And the rest is history. The children came to the area and never left. Pastor Michael and his wife Susan moved here when he retired to be close to the children.

That happened about a year ago. I believe God put him in the right place at the right time to shepherd us through the process in the coming weeks and months. Many may feel that we are lucky to have Pastor Michael leading us, but I don't feel that it is luck, I think it's God's plan being revealed to us one piece at a time. Harvesting seeds that were planted many years ago.

I'm excited to know that God is working in some other person's life *Right Now* to put things in order for us to be able to call them as our Pastor. That person probably has no idea today that they will be coming to our corner of Butler County, but God knows. That seed is being nurtured and growing and will be harvested at the right time. Why? Because God Loves Plains Church.

In Christ's Service Together,

Tim Roscoe

Welcome

Rev. Michael Burkley~interim pastor

Michael R. Burkley

106 Touchstone Court

Harmony, PA 16037

518-481-3444

pastorburkley@gmail.com

I have been a pastor for thirty-four years. That doesn't seem possible, but I know that it's true. Those years have been years of joy and hope, and yes, sometimes pain and disappointment. But looking back on them I wouldn't have traded them for anything. Family is so important to me. I've moved to this area because my children, their spouses and our grandchildren live in Zelienople. In many ways I'm a pastor because family is so important to me. I grew up in a small church, and the people there loved me into the Kingdom. In serving Christ I wanted to be a part of a community that sought to share that same kind of love and care of Jesus Christ with others, both inside and outside the walls of a church building. No church (or pastoral ministry) is perfect, but God is gracious. Thank God!

In biblical times the good shepherd led the sheep rather than driving them, and the sheep followed because they had learned to trust the shepherd. I seek to be faithful to Christ in such a way so that those under my care follow me out of trust as I seek to follow the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.

I've served in four different churches as pastor. The first was in a small church in rural Illinois for a bit over three years. The second was at another small church near Niagara Falls for fifteen years. The third was at a larger church for only fourteen months. That was what I would call an unintentional interim position. Finally, I served another small church in the Adirondack Park of NY (50 miles north of Albany) for fourteen years. I retired from that service at the end of April, last year. Now, I get to serve at Plains Presbyterian Church! I'm excited!

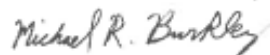
Wherever I've been as a pastor I've served as an active member of presbytery. I've been a Synod and General Assembly delegate and served on the Synod of the Northeast Permanent Judicial Commission. I think our participation in the larger church is critical to the health of all the church. Not only do we get to bless and watch over the larger church, it also provides the same service to us.

I love worshipping with God's people, through preaching, singing, giving, prayer and more. The sacraments of Communion and Baptism fill me with joy as I remember the faithfulness of God shining forth through them. I believe that God has spoken to us through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments so that we might live effectively in this world. That understanding has led me to love leading Bible studies and small group programs that help people to deal with the problems and joys of their lives in relation to God and neighbor. It might seem strange, but I love caring for families as they grieve from the death of someone they love or the illness of the same. People are open to the loving care of Christ at times like that, when they often aren't in other situations. I get to share that care through my presence, my silence, and my words.

Along with that, I love a good argument, but hate winning by trashing my opponent (so I don't). I love kids and youth and can often (though not always) remember being one without cringing! I'm not the most organized person in the world, but I can almost always find the stuff I need in ... that pile over there. Baking, reading, hiking and playing with computers are hobbies I love. And finally, I love Christ's Church, the variety of people and views within it; its welcoming and demands; its brokenness and sanctuary of healing, and its joy of hope and life. God is at work, and it is a joy to be at work with the Lord!

If I can be of service to you, I would be happy to do so.

Your brother in Christ,



Michael R. Burkley

Elder of the Month
Ron Carter

Deacon of the Month
Cathy Stafford

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

May 1	Ron Carter
May 8	Tim Roscoe
May 15	Susan Reed
May 22	Frank Aloï
May 29	Tim Rausch

May 1

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

May 8

10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Happy Mother's Day

May 15

10:00am Adult Sunday School
10:00am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Coffee Connection
Deacon Meeting

May 22

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

May 29

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



May 3	Joann Bark
May 12	Cathy Stafford
May 13	Jeff Kuntz
May 23	Ruth Rausch
May 24	Jacob Carter
May 25	Jay Carmichael
May 31	Kalen Bailey



May 2	Jim & Roberta Lemon
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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 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 :

- Corina Taylor
- Jenny Stafford
- Victims of the Coronavirus
- Caregivers & Families
- Ernie & Nancy– Kathy Carter
- Barbara Gray– Jeanne Fornadley
- Wilan - Kay Uthaman
- Amy-Kathy Carter
- Betty Love
- Christina - Jeanne
- Dave-Jeanne
- People of the Ukraine
- Joshua
- Cody

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.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am



PER CAPITA

As of the end of April, we have received approximately one half of our Presbytery assessed Per Capita contributions. We pay our fully assessed Per Capita to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly every January, prior to collecting Per Capita from our members. This year the Plains Church Per Capita payment was over \$3,300.

If you are a member of Plains Church and have yet to pay your Per Capita, please prayerfully consider doing so at your earliest convenience. You can also pay Per Capita online through our web site. The assessed amount is \$42.90 per person. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Aloï (frankaloi@msn.com or 412-720-2156).

Thank you!

PLAINS BOOK CLUB

It has been over two years since the last Book Club meeting. We are announcing the restart of the Book Club with our first get together on the first Thursday of the month starting in May on 5/5/2022 at 10:00am. Please come and share your favorite book you have read. We will meet in the lower-level Sunday School room. We hope you will consider joining us. If you have any questions, please contact

Bonnie Carmichael at 724-538-9576.



Session Meeting

May 9, 2022

Deacon Meeting

May 15, 2022

COFFEE CONNECTION

May 15th - Session/Elders

June 19th - Deacons

July 24th - Christian Ed/VBS Committee

August 21st - Inreach/Outreach

September 18th - Property Committee

October 16th - Worship Committee

November 20th - Deacons

December 18th - Session/ Elders

January 15th - Inreach/Outreach

Happy Mother's Day

The Deacons of Plains Presbyterian Church have made a donation to the *Church World Services Blanket Program* in honor of all the women of our church.

This program gives people throughout the world a chance to see and feel God's love in their lives.



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 18th-22nd from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, this summer's VBS is
"Monumental!"

At Monumental VBS, kids go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sun-baked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

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, scroll down the page and you'll find the VBS online registration form. Registration is **online only**. Please register on or before June 30th to avoid paying a late fee.

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 with any questions.

Blessings,

Erika Selling and Janelle Wood

VBS Directors

CNS NEWS

It is hard to believe Cranberry Nursery School is wrapping up another school year. Although COVID dictated many of our procedures, the students and staff made the best of it. The year was packed with many activities and lots of learning. We enjoyed field trips, Bible Time, Fire and Police Safety visits, Dad's Day and Mom's Day, Cooking and Science to name a few. The staff worked really hard to provide a fun, safe, nurturing environment for the students to learn and develop a love of school. We are thankful for our families who supported our efforts and entrusted their children with the staff.

The CNS team is already planning the 2022-2023 school year. Some of our classes are full, but we have a minimal spots in the others. Please tell your friends and families about our school. We are proud of all we do at Cranberry Nursery School.

Wishing the members of Plains Presbyterian Church a safe and healthy summer!

Angela Kushner
Director
Cranberry Nursery School
724-538-8785

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
Julie Raatz

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

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

March 2022

Session met on Monday, March 7, 2022. Below are some of the “Highlights” of that meeting:

CNS School year is moving along. No issues at CNS.

Session reviewed the financial reports of the church. Frank Aloï explained where we are this year as compared to last year.

The Matsiko Children’s Choir will be touring in September. Deacons are making hygiene kits to give to the children.

Rev. Dr. Peter does a devotion three times a week and the link can be found on Old Union Presbyterian Church’s web site.

Friday, March 18, 2022 will be a church lock-in for the youth of the church and their friends.

“Paying it Forward” idea was “launched” yesterday at church. A supply of the cards is available in the Narthex and it tells a little about Plains Church and has links to our website.

On Feb 16, 2022 the Interim Pastor Task Force met with Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon and discussed what is being called “The Two Tiered” Model. It is difficult to find an Interim Pastor at the moment, but if we break the position into two parts, it may be easier to find people for the positions. One position would be a “Transitional Coach” who would do the Mission Study and all of the formal steps in finding a Pastor. The other position would be the person who would be our “Sheparding / Preaching Pastor”, and may not actually preach every Sunday, but hopefully most of them.

Approved the “Two-Tiered Interim Model”.

Approved If the way be clear, hiring Rev. Bob Goossen to be our Transitional Coach and meeting Rev. Michael Burkley at a special Session meeting to see if we wish to hire him as our Sheparding / Preaching Pastor.

Tom Lunney reported that if there are any issues to let Ann, Rich Magill, or Denny Robinson know. Tom will be out of town until August. Short discussion about approval of pavilion by Cranberry Township. The Township is stating that we must conform to all current building codes and practices. Could make things difficult to build a pavilion.

Rev. Sue Currey will be leading us in worship and serving communion on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm.

New members will be received on April 24, 2022.

Julie Raatz discussed the application for a Grant for a new Security system.

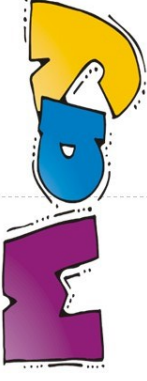
The first “Welcoming Orientation Class” will be held after worship on Sunday March 20, 2022. The goal is to make the new members feel welcome and a part of the church.

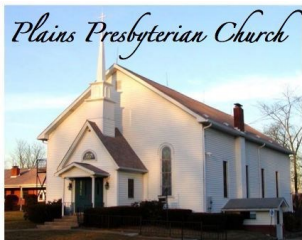
Next Regular Session Meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm with Rev. Dr. Peter de Vries Moderating.

Rev. Dr. Peter de Vries closed with prayer at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe
Clerk of Session

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
1 Sunday School 10 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship - 11:00am	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 10 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship - 11:00am Mother's Day	9 Session Meeting-7pm	10	11	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 10 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Connection Deacon Meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 10am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 10am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship 11:00am	30 Memorial Day	31				



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.”

