

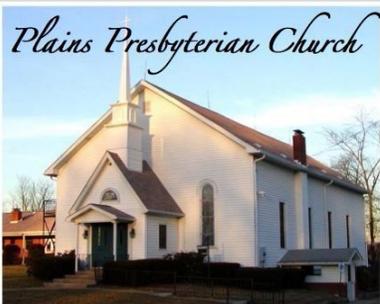
THE
PLAIN
TALK



2017

**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. Derek:

In my office, on my silver desk organizer, is tacked a small little note that I read almost every day. On the surface, it is nothing special— if you saw it you would smile but it would not transform, encourage, or challenge you in any way. For all intents and purposes, it is a meaningless scribble on a 3x3 note card. But to me it is the source of countless inspiration and blessing. In black pen is written the following message:

Hi Dad,

Just wishing you have a great day and do lots of work—Em

That's it. No more and no less. Just a simple note from Emma to me a few months ago that I found stuck in the book I was reading. Her deliberate act has blessed me, and by extension her, many times over. When I found it, and praised her for it at home later that day, she smiled and I saw the pride beam in her eyes knowing she was God's hand in my life for that moment on a hot August day. But that note made me wonder about the role of encouragement in the life of this church and how it is that we can emulate that practice individually for the glory of God?

20th century author and philosopher Alfred Montapert's words should echo in our ear when we think about encouragement and its helpful role in the church. "A smile of encouragement at the right moment may act like sunlight on a closed-up flower; it may be the turning point for a struggling life."

On Sunday morning I often speak about, whether in the sermon or in the time when we share our stories as a church family, that no matter how you slice it, life is difficult. The struggles of our daily lives are numerous and multifaceted. So, to be willing to engage something as simple as encouragement, in a regular fashion, can help revitalize the individual in ways we do not think of when we smile at them across the room. The image of the 'close-up flower' coming to life is so appropriate and applicable for us.

I have sat at my desk many times unable to write, unable to pray, unable to think, burdened by the health issues either Jennifer or I have faced this year. But that note, with its simple message from God, offers me a chance to take a deep cleansing breath in the Spirit. When I read the note, I know someone is thinking of me. Someone is encouraging me, and that this is done by the will of God for God's purposes.

But Emma did not do anything spectacular of time consuming. She simply went into a space that I occupy on a regular basis, found something that was simple and not overstated, and then acted. I have thanked her for the note, but she did not write it for any form of affirmation. It was just something she did, in the moment, that took little energy and was from God.

Can you find, this week, those same moments? Can you go into the space of another person, find something of value to them, and offer them a word, a phrase, a look of encouragement that shows how deeply God's love lives in you? I hope so. Because if you do, you will find that "closed-up flower" opening yet again to God's will and God's ways.

Blessings
Rev. Derek

Elder of the Month

Steve Solman

Deacon of the Month

Kathy Robinson

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

05 Jennifer Marotta
12 Sandi Taylor
19 Ron Carter
26 Susan Reed

Greeters

05 Jennifer M. & Tony P.
12 Joann B. & Roberta L.
19 Jay & Bonnie Carmichael
26 Eunice G. & Denise K.

Nursery Workers

05 Julie Young
12 Ron & Kathy Carter
19 Norah Collins
26 Melissa Holcomb



Worship Schedule

November 5

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Worship Committee meeting

November 12

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Packing Party after Service

November 19

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

*Mission Sunday
Baptism
Coffee Connections*

November 26

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service



November 01 Carl Duerring, John Finlay,
Ethan Leisie

November 04 Jennifer Mignanelli

November 05 Larry Duncan

November 07 Nina Finlay

November 08 Bev Magill and Leah Young

November 11 Michelle Rodgers

November 12 Erika Stafford

November 20 Kathy Merriman

November 27 Steve Walter

November 28 Meredith Cox, Cathy Dixon
Denise Kremmel and Amy Solman

November 30 Frank Aloï

November 03 Arch & Maggie Simpson

November 15 Bob & Julie Young

November 23 Tim & Ruth Rausch

November 27 Dennis & Kathy Robinson



Coffee Connections



Sunday, November 19

Hosted by Christian Education

All Saint's Day Celebration:

This will be held during the Worship Service on Sunday, November 5th.

Please e-mail or call the church office if you have a loved one who passed away this year that you would like to be included on the list of names that will be read during the Worship Service.

The next Men's Group is on Wednesday, November 15th at 8:00 pm at NPL

Feel free to bring a friend.



The office will be closed November 23rd



Please keep our Elders & Deacons in your prayers as they lead Plains into the future.

We also ask for prayers for the following :

- John Finley
- Corina Taylor
- Karl & Evelyn Koebler
- Jay Carmichael
- Tim's friend, Debbie
- Charlie Robuck •Bonnie
- Sue's friend, Frank
- Michelle
- Kay's sister, Ruth
- Shirley Smith
- Dick Urban
-
- Linda's friend, Karen
- Edward Thompson
- Sue's sister
- John's father, Jack
- Steve's mom, Linda
- Diane Smith •Greg Hill
- Nancy •Bill
- Dana Bears •Jen M.
- Adam •Sandi
- Maggie's sister-in-law
- Tom
- Sally Hoffman
- Jolinda Bark
- Missionary, Will Perez
- For the victims of the recent natural disasters
- Our friends who are in assisted living: Martha Malone & Betty Budney

Healthy Women's Group will be meeting again on Tuesday, November 7th, in the Adult Sunday school classroom. Bring a friend.



Are you looking to connect with others in regards to being a healthier person? Have you have been trying to eat more nutritious meals, exercise more, lose weight or make other healthy choices? If so, this is the group for you. This group will hopefully be the Christ-centered support that you would enjoy.

So, come join us and bring a friend!

Women's Discipleship Group

"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."

That is the Mission Statement here at Plains Church. If you would like to grow together in the knowledge of what it means: "Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven", please join us.

Morning or evenings sessions available:

The second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm

November 14th

Every second & fourth Wednesday morning at 9:15am

November 8th & November 22nd

Let's "Walk the Talk"

Any questions, contact Maggie Simpson

Operation Christmas Child



The Deacons are again organizing an Operation Christmas Child donation. Samaritan's Purse will deliver the special packages along with the message of God's love to children everywhere. Donation suggestions: bars of soap, toothbrushes, plastic soap & toothbrush holders, lip balm, hair accessories, brushes, combs, washcloths, TOYS (trucks, balls, Barbie dolls, small dolls, small musical toys - harmonica, maracas, etc.), socks, plain t-shirts (size 2-14), small flashlights with batteries, notebooks/tablets (composition or smaller), crayons, markers, or cash donations to be used to cover the cost of shipping. All donations have to be items that will fit in a shoebox. **NO liquids, toothpaste, or candy can be included.**

Shoeboxes are available in the back of the church.

The "packing party" to get the boxes ready for shipment will be after Service on November 12th. Pizza and drinks will be served.

Plains Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

September 2017

Session met on Monday, September 18, 2017. Below are some items from that meeting.

Communion was served to 60 people on Sept 10, 2017.

Session reviewed the current financial status of the church. Giving is in line with last year, but expenses have increased. Projecting \$2,000- \$3,000 in the red.

Acolyte recognition on Sept 17, 2017

D. Min research is about to begin. Rev. Derek asks to keep the 6-people involved in this process in our prayers.

Rally Day – was Sunday, September 10th. Teachers installed First Day of Sunday School - Sunday, September 17th

Spaghetti dinner in November, date to be decided.

Beaver-Butler Presbytery - 2017 Pittsburgh Scavenger Hunt - Sunday, October 1st from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Discussion ensued on how to improve turn out for the Matsiko Choir next year. Suggestions included sending brochure to HOA committees, Placing bigger advertisement in Cranberry Eagle 1 week earlier, Sending members of Plains to churches and announce the event, and finally perhaps Saturday night instead of Sunday night.

Lights in Christian Education classrooms going bad. Lights cost \$50 each. Installation \$48/hr. Session approved replacing 8 lights.

Approved scraping and painting seven stained glass church windows.

About six of the head stones in the cemetery need up righted. Bid for \$200-\$300 per stone received. Session approved Rich Magill deciding which stones need attention with a capital expense of \$4,000.

Fall Fellowship Dinner November 11th, 6:00 pm.

Sunday morning Breakfast second Sunday of each month starting Oct 8, 2017 until summer worship begins.

Rev. Derek closed with prayer at 8:41 p.m. Next Regular Session Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Rausch
Elder

Worship Committee Meeting:	Sunday, November 5th after Service
Deacons Meeting:	Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 pm
Session Meeting:	Monday, November 20th at 7:00 pm
Congregational Meeting Part I	Sunday, December 3rd after Service

Please note:

The fall dinner that was scheduled for Saturday, November 11th had to be cancelled.

Breakfast on November 12th is also cancelled.

Chef Tim has been called out of town during that time period.



CNS News

Cranberry Nursery School has had a busy fall. The students have been making new friends, participating in cooking and science classes, attending field trips, learning songs for their parties and enjoying the playground. In November, the children will prepare for a Thanksgiving feast. At the end of the month, the students will prepare for the Christmas season with Santa's Workshop and Deck the Halls. In January, we will begin registration for the 2018-2019 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, please let them know about CNS. We offer a variety of classes in both the morning and afternoon.



Christmas Poinsettias will fill our sanctuary on December 10, 17, and 24. If you would like to purchase one, please complete the order form below and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. Orders need to be received by Sunday, November 26. The flowers will be two stem red poinsettias at a cost of \$15.00 -- payable to Plains Church and marked for Poinsettia Fund.

Poinsettia order form:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

As a Gift to the Church: _____

From: _____

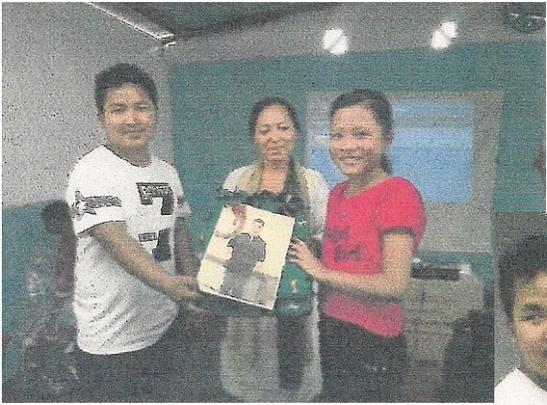


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Get your appetites ready!!! It's almost time for the Youth Group's annual Spaghetti Luncheon! Immediately following the Worship Service and the Congregational Meeting Part 1 on Sunday, December 3, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for mountains of spaghetti, crockpots full of homemade sauce, bowls of crisp salad and trays of buttery garlic bread. Yum! Yum! Your donations will go directly to a worthy cause—our fabulous Youth Group. We have so many great events planned this year—your generous donations will help us in the pursuit of FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">November</h1> 						2 0 1 7
			1 7:00 pm Choir	2	3	4
5 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service <i>Worship committee mtg.</i>	6 7 pm Special Session mtg	7 7 pm Healthy Women	8 <i>Women's Discipleship Group at 9:15 am</i> 7:00 pm Choir	9	10	11
12 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service <i>Packing party</i>	13	14 7pm Deacons mtg. 7pm Women's Discipleship Group	15 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Men's Group	16	17	18
19 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service <i>Mission Sunday Baptism Coffee Connections</i>	20 7:00pm Session mtg.	21	22 <i>Women's Discipleship Group at 9:15 am</i> No Choir	23  Office is closed	24	25
26 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	27 CNS Santa Workshop set-up	28 CNS Santa Workshop 	29 CNS Santa Workshop  7:00 pm Choir	30		



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“As disciples of Christ, we share the gospel with one another and the community.
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Name: _____ LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12

JESUS said: _____

Matt 5:13-16

You are the _____ of the _____.
GLITH OWRDL

A _____ on a _____ cannot be hidden.
TCYI ILLH

Neither do people light a _____
AMLPL

and put it under a _____. Instead they
LOBW

put it on a _____, and it gives light
SANTD
VEREYNOE
to _____ in the house.

In the same way, let your light _____
HSNIE

before _____, that they may see your
ENM
DOOG EEDS
_____ and

Unscramble the letters in the circles and see what he said this would do for God.

_____ your Father in heaven.