

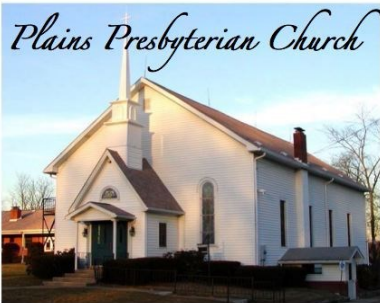
THE PLAIN TALK

November

2025

**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*

As our Pastor Nominating Committee is working to conduct the search for new leadership, I have shared with you some changes and challenges that all churches are facing. These are things that we need to be prepared to talk about with one another, with candidates and with a new pastor when the search concludes.

The last challenge that I would like to address is the challenge of navigating a world where distinctions between groups, whether they are political, theological, racial, ethnic, economic, or simply situational, far too often create adversarial relationships. Three factors have contributed to the fragmentation of our communities into polarized silos of likeminded individuals; The global outbreak of COVID19 virus, the influence of social media algorithms, and the shift in how we get information have pushed us into social bubbles. In these social bubbles we become isolated from those we do not understand and with whom we cannot identify. We our focus becomes characterized by determining who is “us” and who is “them.” It not only fragments our world but also leaves each perceived faction isolated vulnerable. It is easy in this kind of environment for anxiety, fear, and distrust to fester and be exploited. Leaders, even those with good intentions, will be tempted to play on our anxieties, our fears, and our distrust of others to create energy and to get people engaged in a particular effort.

The fact that church communities engage in conflicts and disabled by division is not new. But the current climate of divisive perspectives and worldviews outside the church creates a unique challenge. Though we it is tempting to stir up support or motivate people to join us by appealing to their anxieties and fears, it is not faithful response to the gospel call. Jesus did not fall prey to this temptation. Jesus clearly called out behavior that harms or exploits others and dishonors God. Jesus candidly proclaims that doing these things will only prolong the world’s suffering and delay ours. And he also honestly acknowledges that doing right thing will frequently lead to suffering. But he does not incite us to rise up and fight but to let go and embrace a life of honest, compassionate, and humble service.

We must resist the urge to engage in conflicts and remain focused on the gospel call to turn away from self-centered living and embrace a Christ-like life of humility, compassion, and service if we are to do meaningful ministry in our world today. And it is uniquely critical if our congregations are to successfully forge a partnership with one another and with a new Pastor. How can we strengthen our resistance to the viral nature of animosity? We can intentionally adopt a posture of curiosity when we encounter people who look different, think differently, and have different religious convictions. We can take note of but not react to messages that convey a sense of urgency and play upon our fears. We can refrain from making generalized criticisms or judgements about groups of people. We can clearly share what we believe and what is important to us without making absolute statements. Above all we can remember that Jesus did not ask us win arguments or persuade people to do what we believe they should do. Rather Jesus asked us to follow him, love God, love our neighbor, and to share with others a life of discipline, discipleship, that models Jesus’ teaching.

Pastor John Porter

Special Thanks!

I would like to thank the congregation and SWAM committee for the cake and fellowship time celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month.

Elder of the Month
Susan Delligatti
Deacon of the Month
Ann Lunney



November 2
All Saints Day
11:00 am Worship Service
SWAM Meeting

November 9
11:00 am Worship Service
Deacon Meeting

November 16
11:00 am Worship Service
Coffee Connection hosted by
Deacons

November 23
11:00 am Worship Service

November 30
1st Sunday of Advent
11:00 am Worship Service

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders

November 2 Frank Aloï
November 9 Ann Nutter
November 16 Susan Peirce
November 23 Tim Roscoe
November 30 Amy Roscoe



November 1 Carl Duerring
November 5 Larry Duncan
November 6 Ben Delligatti
November 7 Nina Finlay
November 8 Bev Magill
November 8 Leah Young
November 12 Erika Selling
November 20 Roberta Lemon
November 27 Steve Walter
November 28 Denise Kremmel
November 30 Frank Aloï



November 15 Bob & Julie Young
November 27 Dennis & Kathy Robinson

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 you convenience.

Log on and check it out www.plainschurch.com

Scan the QR code:



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS:

November 2, 2025



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
- Elaine- Ann Nutter
- Yvette - Tiffany's sister
- Tim - CNS parent
- Rosalind - Tiffany Aloï
- Betty Lehman
- Judy McDonald
- Bev. Magill

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 - Nov. 6th

Book Club Leader:

Sue McKinley

sue.w.mckinley@gmail.com



Session Meeting

November 17th

Deacon Meeting

November 9th

SWAM Meeting

November 2nd

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2nd - All Saints Day Sunday

November 8th - Plains Church Holiday Craft Fair

November 9th - Deacons Meeting after worship

November 16th - Coffee Connection hosted by Deacons

November 17th - Session Meeting - 6:00pm

November 29th - Decorate the Church for the Advent & Christmas season - 9:30am

November 30th - 1st day of Advent

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

The Stewardship, Worship and Music (SWAM) Committee is providing 2026 Stewardship Pledge Cards in the back of the church. Please pick up a pledge card and prayerfully consider what God is calling you to return to Him, for all that Christ has done for you.

We ask that you return your pledge cards by Sunday, November 23rd.

You can either place your completed card in the offering plate before Church or deliver to the Church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Aloï at 724-452-4223 or via email at frankaloi@msn.com



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

TIME: 9:00am - 2:00pm

**WHERE: 326 Plains Church Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066**

(Fellowship Hall - located downstairs in basement)

Basket Raffles

Food & Refreshments

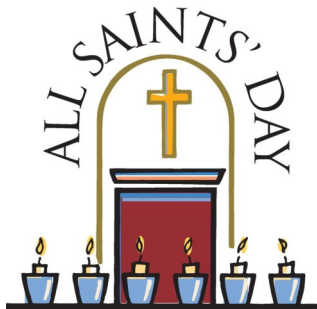
START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 2, 2025

All Saints' Day has been celebrated by Christians for hundreds of years. In modern Reformed tradition as Presbyterians, we use it as an opportunity to celebrate and remember members of our families and community who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven. We invite you to give glory to God for the ordinary lives of believers in this and every age. If you have a loved one that you would like their name to be listed that has passed within the year please contact the church office so they can be honored in our worship service as we celebrate All Saints' Day.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Saturday, November 29th

Time: 9:30am

Volunteers are needed to decorate the church sanctuary for Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP

THIS MONTH: JESUS TAUGHT US TO MAKE A SACRIFICE

The pinnacle of Jesus' stewardship is found in his sacrificial death on the cross. In Mark 10:45, Jesus states, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many". This profound statement encapsulates the sacrificial nature of Jesus' mission on Earth.

The cross represents the ultimate act of being a good steward, as Jesus willingly offers himself for the redemption of humanity. Believers are called to reflect on this sacrificial love, recognizing the responsibility to steward their lives in a manner that aligns with the transformative power of the cross, and **share the life-saving message of the gospel.**

Stewardship isn't always easy. Sometimes, it calls for sacrifice—putting others before ourselves and giving generously, just as Jesus gave his life for us.

DEACON NEWS



It's time for Operation Christmas Child.

We invite you to fill your box and place it in
the Narthex by November 12th.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Young

Shoeboxes can be found in the narthex

A list of suggested item for Girls and Boys can be found in the narthex.

DEACON FOOD DRIVE

Collection Dates: November 9th - December 5th

The deacons will be sponsoring a Food Drive for Evans City Food Bank.

Paper products and non-perishable food items needed.

Please leave your donations in the narthex.





Decide if you will pack a box for a boy or girl for an age range listed below



2-4

5-9



10-14

Recommended items – Everything must fit in the shoebox

- **Toys** – dolls, stuffed animals, cars/trucks, balls, musical instruments, binoculars
- **Jewelry, Sunglasses**
- **Socks, T-shirts**
- **Flashlights w/batteries**
- **Pens, Markers, Crayons, Pencils, Pencil Sharpener**
- **Paper / Notebooks, Glue stick, Stickers, Playdoh**
- **Washcloths, Colorful Bandages**
- **Individually packaged toothbrushes**
- **Hairbrush/Comb**

No SOAP, LIQUID, LOTION, FOOD, GUM, TOOTHPASTE

Boxes will be available by November 3

Return filled boxes by November 12

Shipping Cost is \$10 per box

- **Please consider a donation to cover shipping**

For more information about Operation Christmas Child

<https://samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box>



2025 Christmas WISHLIST

Please ensure that all donations are received by Friday, December 12th

Most of the children we serve are pre-teens and teens (ages 11–18).
We especially welcome gifts that reflect the interests and needs of this age group!

Games & Other Fun

- LEGO Sets (all varieties)
- Squishies & Squishmallows
- Craft & Jewelry-Making Kits
- Paint Sets
- Origami Books & Paper
- STEM & Discovery Science Kits
- Sticker Packs for Water Bottles (Anime, Aesthetic, etc.)
- Stress Balls, Fidgets, Push Pop Toys
- Pokémon and Magic: The Gathering Cards
- Family Board Games & Card Games (Jenga, Uno, Skip-Bo, Sorry)
- Kinetic Sand, Play-Doh & Thinking Putty
- Nerf Toys
- Sketchbooks, Journals & Colored Pens
- Candy, Chocolates & Holiday Treats

Electronics & Sports

- Bluetooth Noise-Cancelling Headphones & Earbuds
- Portable Bluetooth Speakers
- Portable Power Banks
- LED Light Strips
- Footballs, Basketballs & Soccer Balls
- Skateboards & Scooters
- Batteries (AA & AAA)
- Xbox & PlayStation Games

Personal Care Needs

- New, Reusable Water Bottles
- Fragrance Sets – Body Sprays, Perfume/Cologne, Deodorant
- Hair Care – Brushes & Multicultural Products
- Self-Care Kits – Skincare, Bath Sets, Nail Care, Pamper Packs
- Weighted Blankets
- Large Bath Towels
- Full & Queen-Size Sheets
- New Athletic Shoes – Older Children's, Men's & Women's Sizes
- New Hoodies – Youth & Adult Sizes (Up to 3XL)
- New Winter Coats
- Large Reusable Shopping Bags (from TJ Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods)

PLEASE include your name and address with each gift/Amazon order so every donation is tracked and thanked properly.

HIGH PRIORITY NEEDS
Walmart, Giant Eagle, Target, Costco, and Sam's Club gift cards.

Holiday Giving Options

- 🎁 Bring joy with an in-kind gift
- 💰 Share cheer with a gift card
- 🏦 Give hope with a monetary gift (by check to MHY Family Services, 521 Route 228, Mars, PA 16046, or scan QR code)
- 🛒 Spread holiday spirit - shop our Amazon Wish List (scan QR code)



Scan to give a monetary gift that helps youth and families access personal care, therapeutic support, and vital resources.



Scan to shop our Amazon Wish List.

Thank You

for wrapping our children in kindness and making them feel truly special this holiday season!

Questions - Contact Jill Ceasar at 724.625.3141 x 233 or jceasar@mhyfamilyservices.org

Please take a few moments and see how you can show God's love and care for our community at Mars Home for Youth. Let the students at MHY know that we care! Please review the attached Christmas Wishlist for the many ways to donate a gift this holiday season.

A collection box will be at Plains Church until Wednesday, Dec 10th.

Please share with Friends and Family! Thank you for your consideration and taking care of our community. Info or questions to Bob Young @ young16066@hotmail.com.

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Where: Plains Church Cemetery

Time: 12:00 Noon



Remember Our Fallen U.S. Veterans

Wreaths Across America's Mission

Remember, Honor, Teach

The mission is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states.

Since its founding, the organization has expanded to include nearly 3,000 local fundraising groups in all 50 states, representing more than 2,150 participating locations, in addition to Arlington National Cemetery.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December 13th as

National Wreaths Across America Day. This year, it will be held on

Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Plains Church Cemetery, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Christian Education Fundraiser

This year you can buy your wreath through the

Plains Church Christian Education

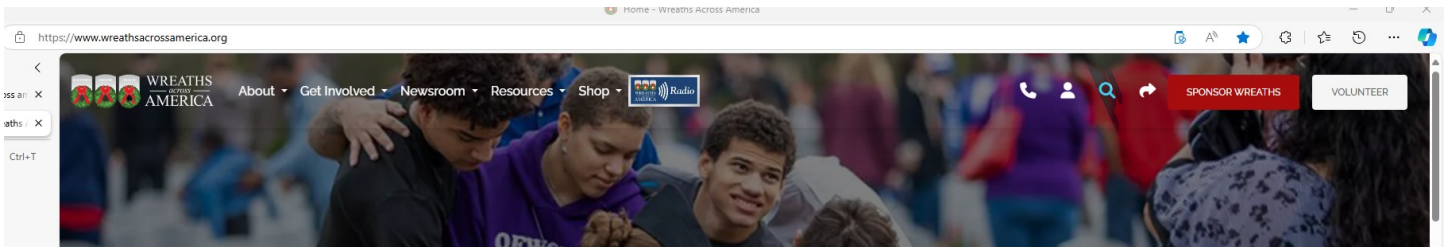
For each wreath sold \$5.00 will be raised.

Group ID: PA0623P Location ID: PAPCCB

Cost of Wreath is: \$17.00

If you should have any questions please contact: Tom Lunney 724-432-3183

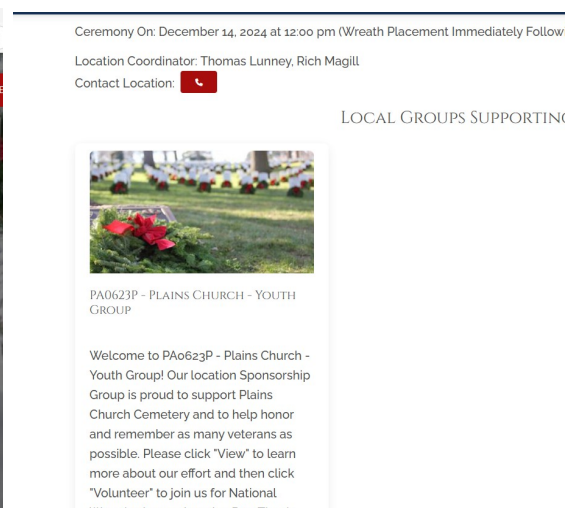
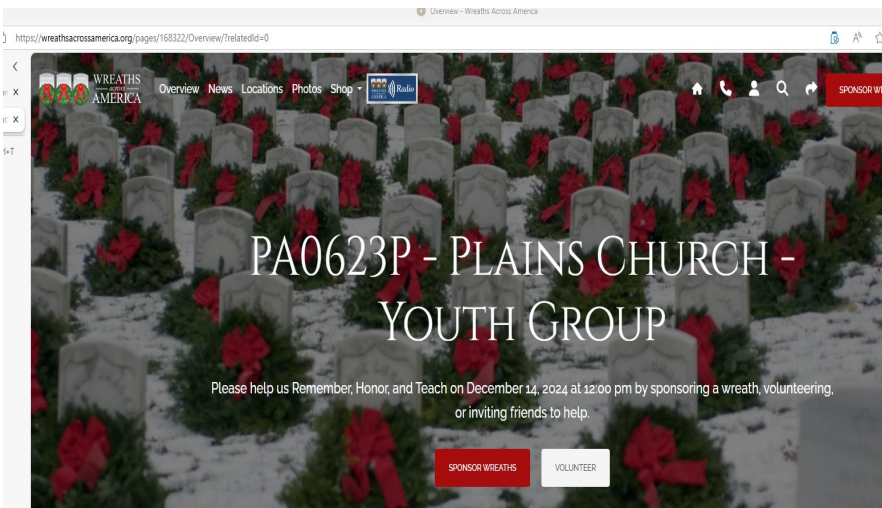
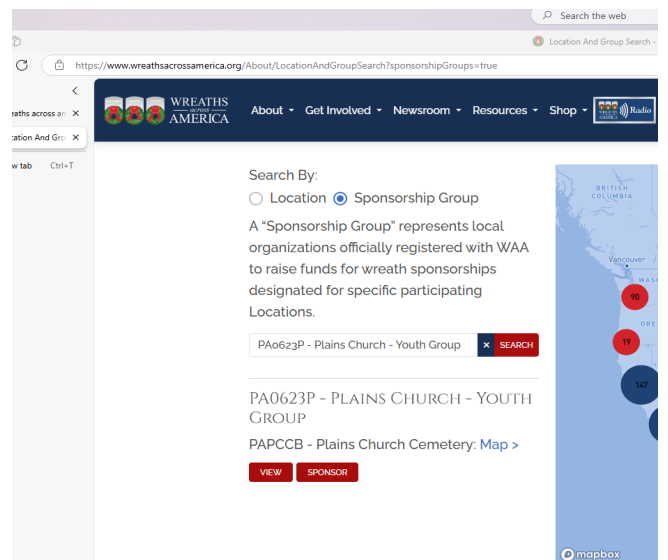
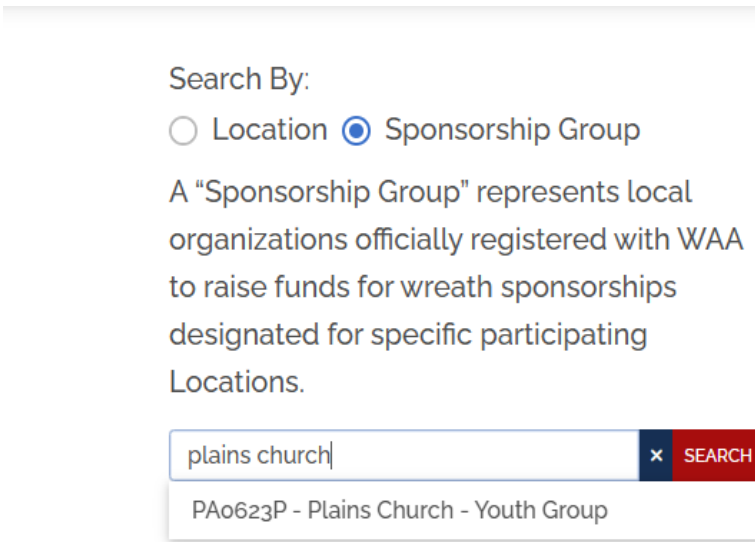
INSTRUCTIONS ON ORDERING A WREATH FOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Select the search highlighted in blue above. This brings up




Select search sponsorship groups. In the box type Plains Church this brings up



Ceremony On: December 14, 2024 at 12:00 pm (Wreath Placement Immediately Follow)

Location Coordinator: Thomas Lunney, Rich Magill

Contact Location: 

LOCAL GROUPS SUPPORTING



PA0623P - PLAINS CHURCH - YOUTH GROUP

Welcome to PA0623P - Plains Church - Youth Group! Our location Sponsorship Group is proud to support Plains Church Cemetery and to help honor and remember as many veterans as possible. Please click "View" to learn more about our effort and then click "Volunteer" to join us for National Wreaths Across America Day. Thank

1. Wreaths to Sponsor: 5 Wreaths * \$17.00. At this level, you will be providing 5 veterans' wreaths and support for volunteers to honor the legacy of 5 American heroes.

\$85.00

2. Sponsorship Group to Support: Your sponsorships will credit PA0623P - Plains Church - Youth Group sponsorship group.

3. Location to Place Your Wreaths: Your sponsorships will be placed at PANCAB - National Cemetery of the Alleghenies .

4. Choose Customizations (Optional): No customizations selected.

Total

\$85.00

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Wreaths Across America

If you should have any questions or need assistance contact Tom Lunney 724-683-6631 or tglunney@gmail.com

Christmas Poinsettias:



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the church sanctuary throughout the Christmas and Advent season, 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 30th. The flowers will be 7 1/2 in. with two stem poinsettia at a cost of \$ 15.75 each payable to Plains Church and marked for Poinsettia Fund.

Poinsettia order form:

From:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Or as a Gift to the Church: _____

(Place your check and order form into the church offering plate or mail to the church office.)

CNS NEWS

Cranberry Nursery School has had a busy couple of months. In October, the Nursery and Pre-K students went on a field trip to Cheeseman Farm where they got to go on a hayride and pick a pumpkin, hear a story in a teepee, and play on hay bales and pet animals. We were blessed with a beautiful fall day with no mud. We had a visit from Officer Bill who spoke to the Nursery and Pre-K students about safety and showed them a police vehicle. All of the classes received a goodie bag. We also had Picture Day where all of the students had their picture taken with a fall background. Mr. Bill does such a nice job. The Nursery and Pre-K also participated in Science class where they graphed their favorite choices for the class jack-o-lantern. All of the classes had Halloween parties where the children dressed in their costumes. Our teachers and aides are wonderful with the students. We are blessed.

We had our first fundraiser of the year. Once again we partnered with Zroni Roll and sold pepperoni rolls. The students were very successful selling 339 pepperoni rolls earning nearly \$1,700. The proceeds will be used for a variety of activities including the Mother's Day Brunch, Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom and the Pre-K field trip. We appreciate those members of Plains who supported our efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

In November, Parent/Teacher conferences will take place so teachers can provide parents an update on their child's progress. The Nursery and Pre-K classes will prepare for a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. We will "Feed The Turkey" (a food collection for the Evans City Food Bank) which will run through November 18th. Please feel free to join us in our collection.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season with all of our students and families. Blessings to the members of Plains Presbyterian Church during this busy season!



Plains Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights
September 2025

Session met on Monday, September 15, 2025. Below are some of the highlights of that meeting.

Pastor Porter opened with a reading and discussion from John Chapter 19. Jesus providing for his mother at his crucifixion. Making sure that people are loved and cared for.

Pastor Porter opened with prayer at 6:13 pm.

Approved the minutes from August 11, 2025, and the Special Session Meeting on September 7, 2025.

School year has started and all is going well. A new aid has started for the pre-K. Pastor Porter has scheduled time to read to the students.

Frank reviewed our financial performance for the year. September is looking to be a good month as far as giving goes.

Minutes from the August 17, 2025 Deacon's meeting were reviewed and received gratefully.

The communion schedule for 2026 was presented: January 4th, April 5th, May 24th, October 4th, November 29th. Dates approved by Session.

Pastor Porter presented some of the ideas for Advent this year.

Frank Aloï commented on the outdoor worship on Sunday the 28th. Pre-Worship Service starting at 10:45 in the outdoor chapel and then adjourn to church.

Maybe some changes to coffee hour next year, reducing the number of coffee fellowships to just five (every other month starting in February).

More gravel will be added to the parking lot. Mulch is good for the pre-school.

Bob will be working on the Ring security cameras.

PNC update. First meeting will be September 30th for training.

Approved Deb Schoch's history proposal.

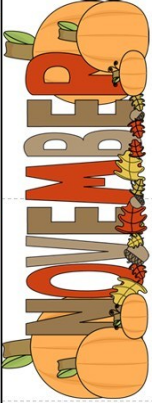
Next Session meeting will be October 13th at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Tiffany Aloï, seconded by Tom Lunney. Motion passed. Pastor Porter closed with a prayer at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tim Roscoe
Clerk of Session

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
				2025		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Saints Day Worship 11:00am SWAM Meeting				Book Club 10:00am		Holiday Craft Fair 9am-2:00pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 11:00am Deacon Meeting						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 11:00am Coffee Connections hosted by Deacons	Session Meeting - 6:00pm					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 11:00am Coffee Connection hosted by Deacons				Thanksgiving		Decorate Church for Christmas 9:30am
30						
1st Sunday of Advent 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.”

