



**2021**

**Plains  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Serving the  
community  
since 1806**



326 Plains Church Road  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
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plains@zoominternet.net  
www.plainschurch.com

## ***A Word from Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta:***

Poet Diane Ackerman wrote the following poem entitled: *The Great Affair*. It is filled with images and an invitation to join in considering the mysteries that life presents to us. She wrote:

The great affair, the love affair with life,  
is to live as variously as possible,  
to groom one's curiosity like a high-spirited thoroughbred,  
climb aboard, and gallop over the thick, sun-struck hills every day.

Where there is no risk, the emotional terrain is flat and unyielding,  
and, despite all its dimensions, valleys, pinnacles, and detours,  
life will seem to have none of its magnificent geography, only a  
length.

It began in mystery, and it will end in mystery,  
but what a savage and beautiful country lies in between.

I appreciate what Diane is trying to say in these words. She is inviting us to engage our senses in the consideration of life. I like to attempt to control, at some level, most aspects of my life. Like you, I have created a rhythm to my day, and my week. This rhythm guides and directs how locate and complete tasks that are necessary—not only as a pastor, but as a father, husband, and individual.

But as such, I find that in the creation of these rhythms and processes, I leave little room to consider the mystery of life; the mystery of faith.

Throughout the school year the church is a buzz with children and teachers. We have parents coming and going. The phone rings and emails buzz in. I live at a different pace because I can hear the children across the hall—and I am blessed by their presence. Those factors makes it hard (but not impossible) to carve out room to lean into the mystery of life.

Yet over the summer, or on days when it is still in my world, do I find the space, as Diane speaks about, to lean into the mystery of life and notice ‘the beautiful country that lies in between?’ Do you?

Perhaps God has offered you a place or a moment where you can find that mystery. I wonder how you will engage it?

Blessings  
Rev. Derek

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<https://www.susangabriel.com/nurturing-creativity/diane-ackerman/>. Accessed on July 29, 2021.

Elder of the Month  
Tom Lunney

## Helping with Worship This Month

### Worship Leaders

September 5 Steve Raatz

September 12 Amy Roscoe

September 19 Ron Carter

September 26 Tim Roscoe

September 5

### OUTDOOR CHAPEL

10:00 am Worship Service

September 12

### RALLY DAY

11:00 am Worship Service

September 19

11:00 am Worship Service

Deacon Meeting

September 26

11:00 am Worship Service



September 1 Julie Raatz  
September 3 Bill Stafford Jr.  
September 3 Robert Young  
September 4 Nancy Jones  
September 5 Ella Lunney  
September 9 Addison Clay  
September 10 Emma Marotta  
September 18 Janet Duncan  
September 18 Richard Magill  
September 18 Susie Roscoe  
September 25 Martha Malone  
September 30 Betty Budney



Please follow current CDC recommendations.

Please Note: If you are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable not wearing a face mask during passing of the peace you may do so. Please move to the aisle or back of the sanctuary to pass the peace. Please respect others that may stay seated in their pew who don't want to participate.



September 3 Burt & Nancy Duerring  
September 15 Erika & Jon Selling

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

Updating Volunteer List:

Please contact Norah Collins or Janet Duncan to add your name to a call list to assist for bereavement meals.

Assistance is needed towards food donations, cooking, setting-up, serving, and cleaning.

Your time is greatly appreciated.



Plains Book Club:

The Book Club just loves to get together to share our readings with each other. So we invite you to join us. Even if you find that you cannot read all or any of the book, come for the insightful discussions.

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

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
- Yvette - Tiffany's sister
- Jenny Stafford
- Victims of the Coronavirus
- Caregivers & Families
- Ernie & Nancy - Kathy Carter
- Bill- Betty Lehman's brother
- Kelly Lutz
- Wilan- Kay Uthman
- Dependra

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.

# DEACON NEWS

Hands-On Mission Opportunity sponsored by Plains Deacons

Church World Service (CWS) is an independent mission organization that has been around since 1946. They began by making a commitment after WW II to help feed the hungry of the world. Today it is much larger organization with many more mission opportunities. The Plains Deacons are planning a CWS Hands-On mission event for Sunday, September 26 in our fellowship hall right after church. We will be packing hygiene kits to send to CWS to aid in places like Cuba, Haiti and Afganistan where millions for people are suffering from natural disasters or the aftermath of wars.

The Deacons will provide all the items needed for the hygiene kits. All you need to go is show up and help us put the kits together. The Deacons will deliver the kits to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Zelig, for shipping to CWS.

If you aren't able to join us, but would like to help out financially, financial donations are also accepted to help with the cost of shipping the kits all over the world.

This will be a fun time to be with each other in a united goal to help hurting people all around God's Earth. We hope to see you there!

Plains Deacons

## A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS:

The Deacons are the caring heart of Plains Presbyterian Church. We are here to care for members, friends, neighbors, and strangers. At this time we will be respectful and not conduct home or hospital visits. If you find yourself needing assistance please call your assigned shepherd and we will be there to do what we can.

Examples: meals, grocery shopping, errands etc.

Ann Lunney-724-432-3183

Julie Raatz-612-741-7636

Denise Kremmel- 724-538-8604

Julie Young 724-776-7288

Maryann Cardillo 724-866-9911

Amy Roscoe 412-874-2039

## Plains Presbyterian Church August 2021 Financial Update

Our financial situation in 2021 has been much more challenging than last year. We have seen higher expenses in a variety of areas here at Plains Church:

- Higher natural gas prices, such that we are already 20% over our 2021 annual budgeted amount.
- Higher insurance costs
- Higher building maintenance costs, in particular lawn care costs

Higher Board of Pensions expenses (last year, we received a 3-month waiver of Pension dues because of the pandemic).

Our General Fund giving has declined over the past three months, with current giving approximately \$5,400 below our budgeted amount. Coupled with higher expenses, our net income through July is in a deficit of \$11,355. We have also just paid our real estate taxes of nearly \$3,000 here in August.

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Aloï at [FrankAloi@MSN.com](mailto:FrankAloi@MSN.com).

TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$67,642

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$78,997

NET INCOME: (\$11,355)

# Outdoor Prayer Chapel



Plains Church will be worshipping outdoors

(weather permitting)

Worship Schedule

September 5, 2021

October 3, 2021

You are welcome to bring your lawn chair

## UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Session Meeting is  
Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:00pm

The Deacons next meeting will be  
Sunday, September 19, 2021

## Worship in the Park

Plains Church , Crestview Church & Old Union had their  
annual Worship in the Park . This year Old Union  
Presbyterian Church hosted the event on August 22, 2021.

There was fellowship and a potluck luncheon.

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Calling all writers!

The Worship committee would like to create our own Plains church Advent devotionals again this year and we're looking for writers who would like to share their thoughts. Rev. Dr. Derek will be working on a theme and will have details ready by mid-September. The committee requests your prayerful consideration to write one, two or more daily devotional messages. If the Spirit is calling you to participate, please contact Steve Raatz or Rev. Dr. Derek. Thank you! We will all be blessed by your contribution.

## REMINDER:

Starting September 12, 2021 we will be returning to  
Worship at 11:00am

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

If you should have any announcements for the bulletin or Plain Talk  
please submit information by Wednesday afternoon.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9am –1pm.

# Eagle Scout Project Photos



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - RAYMOND WALTER

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS!

# CNS NEWS

Cranberry Nursery School will begin another unusual school year on Wednesday, September 8th. We learned a lot last year and will continue to do our best to keep the children and staff safe while providing a fun learning environment. This year will bring many new faces (with masks on) as well as familiar faces that we are excited to see. The first week of classes are abbreviated to allow the staff to get to know the students. We also welcome a new teacher in the Nursery Class. Our team is as follows:

Half~Pints: Teacher - Komal Dietz; Aide - Diana Beaudoin

Nursery: Teacher - Janelle Wood; Aide - Jen Murnock

Pre-K: Teacher - Amy Zugell; Aide - Lisa Bender

Director: Angela Kushner

In an effort to update our library, we are in need of gently used/new children's books and coloring books appropriate for two to five year-olds. Your help is appreciated.

As always, prayers are welcome as we embark on another unusual school year.

Angela Kushner  
Director  
Cranberry Nursery School  
724-538-8785

# FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CRAFT FAIR

When: November 20, 2021

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Mark your calendars!



# ATTENTION VENDORS & CRAFTERS!

## Plains Church Craft Fair Registration Form

We invite all craft vendors to participate at our craft fair. Please no food vendors.

Date: Saturday, November 20, 2021

Where: Plains Presbyterian Church, 326 Plains Church Rd.

Cranberry Twp., PA 16006

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Set Up: 7:30am-8:30am

Space: 8'x6'

Cost per space:

- 1) Inside \$15.00 - Must bring own table.
- 2) If you would like to participate in the basket drawing with donating an item please let us know prior to set-up.

Registration: Deadline for registration November 5, 2021

- 1) Fill out and mail this registration form or Call the church office at 724-538-8785
- 2) Payment:

A. Mail check payable to Plains Presbyterian Church

B. Or pay on line at [www.plainschurch.com](http://www.plainschurch.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Craft description: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of spaces: \_\_\_\_\_ Inside \_\_\_\_\_ electric: yes/no Outside \_\_\_\_\_ (Electricity not available)

Other requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Online: yes/no

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Table assigned: Inside \_\_\_\_\_ Outside \_\_\_\_\_ Fee paid\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Plains Presbyterian Church

## Session Highlights

June 2021

Session met on Monday, June 21, 2021. Below are some of the highlights of that meeting.

On May 23, 2021 communion was served to 28 people.

A CNS Teacher has resigned from CNS and they are now looking for a replacement. Session concurs with the CNS Board that CNS will use their existing three doors for access to the school and are not permitted to use the sanctuary for entry / exit.

Frank Aloï reviewed the one-page summary and the detailed financial report.

Expenses have been high. The Gas Utility bill has been high. Giving has been strong.

Lumber prices seem to be coming down and we may be in better shape for our pavilion project soon.

Investments have been made in the Charles Schwab Account based upon a strategy developed by Frank.

Deacons Strawberry Festival was successful and approximately \$248 was raised. Deacons made a \$500 donation to a local church that had a fire.

Rev. Dr. Derek has had discussions with Crestview / Old Union to hold a joint service, with the location to be determined.

Motion by Ron Carter to allow the Cruny Family to hold a wedding at our church if they desire, with a \$200 non-refundable deposit to reserve the church for the wedding and \$400 if the church is used. Seconded by Sue Reed. Motion passed.

Rev. Dr. Derek has been invited to lead worship at Sherwood Oaks.

We will not require masks for VBS as long as the Commonwealth does not require them. If children wish to wear masks, they can. We currently have 43 kids registered.

Sue Reed has resumed cleaning the church and has polished all the pews.

Rev. Dr. Derek will remind people how the Passing of the Peace works. Visitor cards will be placed back in the pews. When VBS is complete, we will remove the social distancing branches in the pews.

Approved allowing Girl Scout Troup #38026 to meet on the dates they provided.

Rev. Dr. Derek noted that we will be subscribing to Zoom for a year to save some money.

Next Regular Session Meeting will be on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Rev. Dr. Derek closed with prayer at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Roscoe  
Clerk of Session

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	3SATURDAY
			 <b>SEPTEMBER</b> <b>2021</b>			
			1	2	3	4
5 Outdoor Chapel Worship 10:00am	6 Labor Day	7	8 CNS First Day of School	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rally Day Worship 11:00am						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 11:00am Deacons Meeting	Session Meeting 7:00pm					
26 Worship 11:00am Worship Meeting	27	28	29	30		



**Plains  
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**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.”

