



Highlights On The Plains

February 2017
**The Plains United
Methodist Church**
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*Helping people, both outside and within the walls of the church,
become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*

As we embark on a year long focus on prayer, I wish encourage you to heed the words of Saint Paul: ... "pray without ceasing. As we begin our journey of prayer together, I would like to share with you a passage from Timothy Keller's book, *Prayer*:

The seventeenth century theologian, John Owen, wrote a warning to popular and successful ministers: "*A minister may fill his pews, his communion rolls, the mouths of the public, but what the minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more.*"

To discover the real you, look at what you spend time thinking about when no one is looking, when nothing is forcing you to think about anything in particular. At such moments, do your thoughts go toward God? You may want to be seen as a humble, unassuming person, but do you take the initiative to confess your sins before God? You wish to be perceived as a positive, cheerful person, but do you habitually thank God for everything you have and praise Him for who he is? You speak a great deal about what a "blessing" your faith is and how you "just really love the Lord," but you are prayerless – is that really true? If you aren't joyful, humble and faithful in private before God, then what you want to appear to be on the outside won't match what you truly are.

Just prior to giving his disciples the Lord's Prayer, Jesus offered some preliminary ideas, including this one "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others... But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret..." The infallible test of your spiritual integrity, Jesus says, is your private prayer life." (Timothy Keller, *Prayer*, 2014)

Prayer is vital if we, as a church and as individuals, are to grow in spiritual power and strength. Will you commit with me to pray daily for your families, your church and pastor, a whole community of people who do not know Christ, and for our world?

Grace & Peace

PASTOR Doug

Sunday Morning Prayer

On Sunday mornings, Pastor Doug would like to gather with men and women from the church to pray for our church worship services. As a part of our emphasis on prayer, we will be gathering to pray for Pastor Doug and our worship service, that those who are in attendance will be blessed by our worship. We will also pray for God's blessing as he leads new families to our worship services We will meet at 9:00 and 11:00 for prayer.



Known Prayer Concerns

Prayer List: Please review our current prayer list and notify the church office if a name needs to be removed. We appreciate your help.

Steve Brown Family	Rita Herrold King	Melissa Manny Knabe	J.D. Shriner
Buck/Bailey Family	Vickie Kliaber	Mark Miller	Homeless in The Plains
TPUMC Congregation	Linda Lohse Smith	Joe Picoock	Kevin Trivisonno
Our Country	Jan Lovett	Beverly Schumacher	Charles York
Louise Eads	Paul & Rheta MacCombs	Sonya Scott Family	



Pray for those in the nursing homes and who are homebound:

Hickory Creek: Nancy "Tickie" Fuller, John White

Lindley Inn: Mary Scott, Betty Wiseman, Jane White, Greg Yates

Carlin House: Norma Rypma

Laurels: Bess Relyea

Homebound: Altha Snyder, Dottie Channell

Prayer for our Nation, our leaders, and our service men and women: Ethan Lambert, Caylon Sammons, Brandon Sammons, Denver Sammons, Todd Hart, Mitchell Daughtery, Jacob Redman



We express our Christian love and sympathy to:

- Marilyn Brown and her family at the passing of her husband Steve on January 19th.



Card Shower for February: Greg Yates, 9000 Hocking Hills Drive, Apt. 111 Lindley Inn, The Plains OH 45780 (His birthday is 2/27)

February Birthdays

01-Lucy McDonald	08-Larry Nichols	13-Kathy Biddinger	21-Harold Smith
04-Jan Allen	10-Tom Armstrong	14-Anne Oberlin	22-Anna Smith
04-Jessica Reed	11-Mark Shrivvers	16-Chris Roach	27-Greg Yates
	12-Karen Morgan	20-Chuck Vandeman	27-Paul Brinkley

February Anniversaries

07-Ralph and Dorothy Zimmerman
14-Bill and Monda DeWeese
14-Tom and Sherry Talbert



Red Cross Towel Drive: Thanks to everyone who donated towels and washcloths to the Red Cross.



Finance Report

We give back God's gifts through the work of our church!

Our congregation participates in weekly worship with our attendance and offerings as our way of praising God and giving back to Him a portion of the blessings He has given to us. The information about our participation over the past month that is provided below is a testament to our discipleship! Our ministries and operations are funded primarily by your offerings. Our average weekly need for our General Fund is \$4,208. Our Average weekly need for our Building Fund is \$692 to reduce the debt on our facilities. Your gifts of time and financial resources enable our church to continue ministry to our congregation and community.

	1/8/17	1/15/17	1/22/17
Offerings given for General Fund	\$3286.25	\$3985.27	\$6139.01
Offerings given for Building Fund	\$305.00	\$345.00	\$480.00
Attending in Worship	118	127	115

Stewardship

When you think of stewardship, what comes to mind? Maybe fundraising or a capital campaign. Possibly taking care of the environment. Or maybe you think it's just a stale old word you've seen in history books. Maybe, if you're being honest, you're not really sure what it means.



The reality is that many people today, including lots of Christians, don't understand the true meaning of stewardship. And that's a tragedy. Why? Because stewardship is our ultimate calling as Christ followers.

It's the first assignment God gave the human race in Genesis 1:28. That's when God told Adam and Eve to "have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (NKJV).

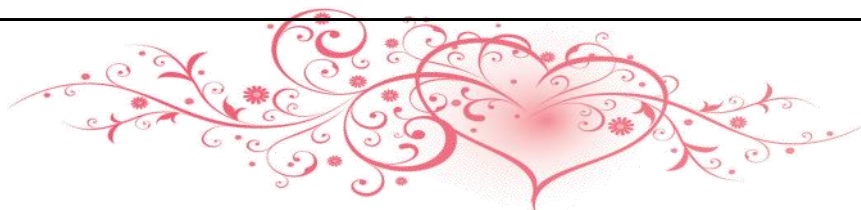
Stewardship is managing God's blessings God's ways for God's glory. See, the Bible tells us in Psalm 24:1 that He owns it all: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (KJV).

And if He's the owner, that means we're not. Instead, we're His stewards—His managers. God commands us to be stewards over everything He blesses us with. Everything. That means our time, talents, treasure, relationships, jobs and, yes, stuff. It's all God's, and He trusts us with it.

Did you catch that? We get to manage all of the Creator's stuff. How awesome is that? It's both an honor and a serious responsibility! When we get that in our spirit, well, it changes things. It changes our perspective on our family budgets, our daily decisions, even our purpose in life. When we understand true, biblical stewardship, the trajectories of our lives change with every decision we make.

We begin to build a legacy of stewardship in our families. We treat our spouses and kids differently. We approach our work with a new sense of purpose. We become grateful for everything we have. We live within our means. We have more money to give. And we have hope for the future.

I'm here to tell you that I want to reclaim the word stewardship in the church today. But it's up to all of us to make sure every believer understands God's role as owner and our role as stewards. When we get to heaven and have to give an account of how we managed God's resources (1 Corinthians 4:2), I hope God will reply to all of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Dave Ramsey, *Financial Peace University*)



What's Happening

February Calendar

2/2/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn
 2/5/17 - Communion
 2/5/17 - CORE Course: Stewardship/Personal Finance @ 6:30 - Richland UMC - Rev. Paul Risler
 2/9/17 - LSS Food Bank @ 10-2 pm
 2/12/17 - Valentine Desserts @ 3-5 pm
 - Family Game Night @ 5-7 pm
 - CORE Course: Introduction to the Bible @ 6:30 pm - Athens First UMC. - Joe Graves, Teacher
 2/16/17 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 6 pm
 2/17/17 - TPUMC Cooking GoodWorks Dinner
 2/19/17 - CORE Course: Introduction to the Bible @ 6:30 pm - Athens First UMC. - Joe Graves, Teacher
 2/20/17 - Leadership Team Meeting @ 7 pm
 2/21/17 - Nurture Team @ 6:30 pm
 2/23/17 - Helping Hands Food Pantry @ 11:30-1pm
 2/26/17 - CORE Course: Introduction to the Bible @ 6:30 pm - Athens First UMC. - Joe Graves, Teacher
 2/27/17 - Red Cross Blood Drive @ 1 pm

March Calendar

3/2/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn
 3/5/17 - Communion
 - CORE Course: Introduction to the Bible @ 6:30 pm - Athens First UMC. - Joe Graves, Teacher
 3/9/17 - LSS Food Bank @ 10-2 pm
 3/12/17 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
 - Family Game Night @ 6-8 pm
 - CORE Course: Means of Grace @ 6:30 pm - Central Avenue UMC. - Doug Flinn, Teacher
 3/15/17 - UMW @ 7 pm
 3/16/17 - Helping Hands Food Pantry @ 6 pm
 3/19/17 - CORE Course: Means of Grace @ 6:30 pm - Central Avenue UMC. - Doug Flinn, Teacher
 3/20/17 - Leadership Team @ 7 pm
 3/23-26/17 - Men's Emmaus Walk
 3/26/17 - CORE Course: Means of Grace @ 6:30 pm - Central Avenue UMC. - Doug Flinn, Teacher



REFIT® & Yoga:

- The REFIT® classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm.
- The yoga class with Rebecca Wood is on break until further notice.

United Methodist Women - UMW will not meet until March 15.

Thank you to everyone who has donated or volunteered for recent church events.



Blood Mobile: There will be a Red Cross bloodmobile at the church on Monday, February 27th, 1-7pm. Baked goods for the canteen are always appreciated.



...And the Greatest of these is love: On Sunday, February 12, 3-5 pm, the Nurture Team will host a Valentine Dessert in the FLC. Valentine's Day is a day in which we celebrate love - our love for one another, our love for God and God's love for us. We would like to invite you and your loved ones to a Dessert here at the church. Bring your children, your spouse, your parents and share in a special time together. To add to the celebration, we invite you to bring a picture that describes what love is for you. We look forward to seeing you!



Family Game Time: The next family game night will be Sunday, February 12th from 5-7 pm (following the Valentine Dessert). Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.
Come join the fun!!!!



CORE CLASSES: The Athens Area UM churches CORE classes will resume January 15th. These classes address the CORE beliefs of our Christian faith from our distinctively Wesleyan perspective.

“Core” consists of 6 courses (4 remain) hosted by local United Methodist churches, and our pastors and leaders will be our guides. Each course will take place on Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30, and the cost for each course will be \$10.00, which includes book and materials. The courses include Christianity 101, Intro to the Bible, Stewardship/Personal Finance, Intro to United Methodist History & Theology, Means of Grace (Spiritual Disciplines), and Spiritual Gifts. Registration forms are available in the church lobby. The remaining CORE dates are:

Stewardship and Personal Finances – January 15-February 5
Richland UMC. Paul Risler, teacher

Introduction to the Bible – February 12-March 5
Athens First UMC. Joe Graves, Teacher

The Means of Grace and Spiritual Disciplines – March 12-April 2
Central UMC’s The Avenue. Doug Flinn, Teacher

Spiritual Gifts – April 22-May 2
The Plains UMC. Rick Seiter, teacher.



Women’s Retreat:

All women of our church are invited to an overnight retreat on March 31 and April 1 at the Sacred Heart Retreat House near Coolville. (This is a retreat run by the St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Little Hocking.)

The house is available to use from 9 a.m. Friday until 9 p.m. Saturday. They do not provide food, so we would have to take our own as potluck, or however we wish to do it. There is a full kitchen in which to prepare food. There is an indoor swimming pool available, also. The cost is \$45 per person payable in advance of the weekend.

This is an opportunity for the women of the church to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere. We will have a few informal bible studies, games, crafts and plenty of time to spend on your own relaxing.

If you have an interest in joining us that weekend, please let us know soon.

Thanks for your consideration.

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest". Mark 6:31

In Christ,
Linda Fowler and Linda Lohse-Smith



Scripture Readers: There is a new sign-up sheet at the welcome center for 2017.

Altar Flowers: The 2017 altar flower sign-up sheet is available at the welcome center.



Friday Night Life Dinner: We will be reaching out to our neighbors and friends on Friday, February 17, when we fix dinner for some 120 people at Friday Night Life in our own Family Life Center. We need a couple dozen people to commit to be a part of that mealtime to prepare and then share a table at dinner. If you want to be a part of this great outreach of love, please contact Pastor Doug or sign up on the clipboard on the Welcome Center!

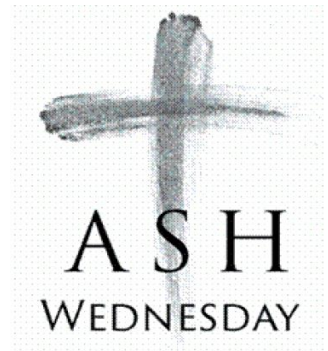
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks first day of the 40 days of Lent, a roughly six-week period (not including Sundays) dedicated to reflection, prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. It ends on Holy Thursday, the fifth day of Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter) that marks the Last Supper. In addition to certain rules about foods and fasting, many Christians (and even non-Christians) abstain from additional foods, luxury or material goods or certain activities and habits.

On Ash Wednesday, many people attend a worship service, and ashes are applied to the forehead or the hand in the sign of the cross. The ashes are traditionally obtained from the burning of the palms of the previous Palm Sunday, which occurs on the Sunday before Easter, and applied during services. Palm Sunday marks Jesus' return to Jerusalem, when people waved palm branches to celebrate his arrival. The ashes are typically mixed with Holy Water or oil.

The ashes, applied in the shape of a cross, are a symbol of penance, mourning and mortality. Centuries ago, participants used to sprinkle themselves with ashes and repent much more publicly, but the practice fell away sometime between the 8th-10th century before evolving into what it is today. There aren't any particular rules about how long the ashes should be worn, but most people wear them throughout the day as a public expression of their faith and penance.

We will be observing Ash Wednesday on March 1, 7:00pm, in the church sanctuary. We invite and urge you to attend this service as we prepare for the Lenten season.



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE BLUE JACKETS

The Columbus Blue Jackets would like to invite you and your church to attend Faith & Family Night at Nationwide Arena! Tickets start at \$29 and includes the opportunity to attend an exclusive post-game concert featuring Sidewalk Prophets! Each ticket includes a \$5 food and beverage credit that is redeemable at any concession stand.



SIDEWALK
PROPHETS

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS VS. NASHVILLE PREDATORS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2017
PUCK DROP AT 6:00 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM)

To order tickets, please visit: BlueJackets.com/faith17

For more information, please contact Matt Menard at (614) 246-3972 or mmenard@BlueJackets.com

All sales are final. No exchanges or refunds. All persons 2 years and older require their own ticket.
For more information on parking, please visit: www.nationwidearena.com/directions/parking

#CBJ



BlueJackets.com

MARCH WITH US

Here is our updated winter closing plan (please note Level 2):

Winter is here and so is the possibility for inclement weather which could possibly affect the Sunday Morning worship schedule at The Plains UMC. Should a weather event occur late Saturday evening or early Sunday morning please tune to 970 WATH (Athens) or 770 WAIS (Nelsonville) radio stations concerning information about the church services. The following policy will be observed:



- * *Level 1* - all services will take place as scheduled, however, **please use extreme caution.**
- * *Level 2* - all services will be cancelled, please stay home and be safe.
- * *Level 3* - **Emergency**-necessitates that vehicles stay off the roads. No services will be held.

If the WIND CHILL is 15 degrees below zero or colder there will be no services.

30 Day Prayer Challenge

1	Pray for your family and for your home
2	Pray for your neighbors nearest to you by name
3	Pray for anyone you know who is sick or struggling
4	Pray for your community schools, principals, and teachers
5	Pray for churches in your community
6	Pray for your mayor and your community
7	Pray for those without and needing employment
8	Pray for the local law enforcement, first responders, etc.
9	Pray for those in your community that don't know Christ
10	Pray for the homeless and poor in your community
11	Pray today without asking for anything
12	Pray for your church, pastor, church staff, and key leaders
13	Pray for those influential in your spiritual walk
14	Pray for our governor, state legislators and key issues in culture
15	Pray for children in the foster care system
16	Pray for those in prison and their families
17	Pray for the marriages of people you know
18	Pray for those trapped in human trafficking
19	Pray for your friends going through hard times
20	Pray that the people across our nation will know Christ
21	Pray for our nation, president, and all branches of military
22	Pray for our House, Senate, and Supreme Court
23	Pray for a "hot issue" relevant to our country
24	Pray for people around the world that are hungry
25	Pray for churches, Christian leaders around the world
26	Pray for college leaders and students in your community
27	Pray for millions of orphaned children and widows
28	Pray for those immersed in the drug culture in your community
29	Pray for those in modern-day slavery around the world
30	Pray for the name of Jesus to be made know globally

