



Highlights On The Plains

January 2017

The Plains United Methodist Church

Rev. Douglas Flinn, Pastor
P.O. Box 205, 3 N. Plains Road,
The Plains, Ohio 45780
Office Hours: M-F. 9am-1pm
740-797-4163
tpumc45780@gmail.com
www.theplainsumc.com

*Helping people, both outside and within the walls of the church,
become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*

As many of you know, the United Methodist Church is in crisis. Attendance across the denomination has steadily been declining over the last 45 years; while the UMC is the second largest Protestant denomination in the country, we are losing members at the rate of 50,00-70,000 members per year. Added to this is the struggle the church has seen, over the same period of time, over the issue of human sexuality. As the threat of schism hangs over us, the Council of Bishops has announced a special session of General Conference (only the second special session in our church's history) in the winter or spring of 2019 to address this issue of human sexuality. In fact, many who are leaving the church are leaving over this one issue.

As a Pastor in our beloved UMC for 25 years, I am convinced that our church and our congregation are desperate for a fresh outpouring of God's power! We need a wake up call! Our solution to these problems is not new programming or membership campaigns (however important these are) but rather a return to our Wesleyan heritage of tenacious prayer and evangelism. I am calling for 2017 to be a year of prayer for The Plains UMC.

We can sit around and wring our hands at the thought of how few children there are in church on Sunday morning, or say how the younger generations need to take leadership roles in the church, but this will do nothing to expand the Kingdom of God. What we need is a concerted effort and commitment to real, heart-wrenching prayer. Any solution that excludes a renewed commitment to prayer is like shifting the deck chairs on the Titanic. We may change the appearance but the ship is still going to sink. Through this kind of praying, we will experience a vital awakening we so desperately need, not to save the institutions we have built, but to save the lost.

I think most, if not all, believe in the power of prayer, and that prayer can truly change things. God has chosen prayer as the means of interaction between Him and His people. Through the power of prayer, God is able to bless His people and their mission. So on January 29, 6:30, we will start off this year with a concert of prayer. We will pray for our community, our denomination, our nation, our world and ourselves. Will you join me as we seek God's way of reaching our community for Jesus Christ?

Grace & Peace

PASTOR Douglas Flinn

Concert of Prayer

This is a year of concentrated prayer for The Plains UMC. It is my strong belief that without prayer, God cannot and will not pour out his reviving Spirit upon our community and us unless and until we seek God out in prayer. To this end, we will hold a Concert of Prayer on Sunday, January 29, 6:30pm here at the church. During this time we will confess our sins, pray for our church, community, denomination and world, seeking God's revival in our lives. I encourage you to join us as we seek God together.





I would like to thank all of you for your gifts and good wishes during the Christmas season. My family and I truly appreciate it your expressions of love and peace. I am humbled to be serving as your pastor, and I am looking forward to many more years of service here on The Plains. Thank you all so much, and may you all have a blessed New Year! ~ Pastor Doug

Dear Members of The Plains UMC - Chuck and I would like to extend our deepest appreciation for being remembered with the delicious tray of cookies, candies and fruit. And for Neil Fowler delivering the goodies to our door. God’s Blessings to All ~ Nancy Vandeman

My roommate and myself wishing you a safe and joyous holidays and special New Year. Thank you SO much for the Food Pantry and its sources!! God Bless. ~ Clay VanVranken & Margaret McWilliams

I want to thank you for the delicious plate of cookies and other goodies that was delivered to me at Lindley Inn. Whoever baked the cookies are excellent bakers! ~ Greg Yates

Helping Hands Food Pantry Thank you to everyone who donated food or cash to fill 30 Thanksgiving & 30 Christmas food boxes.



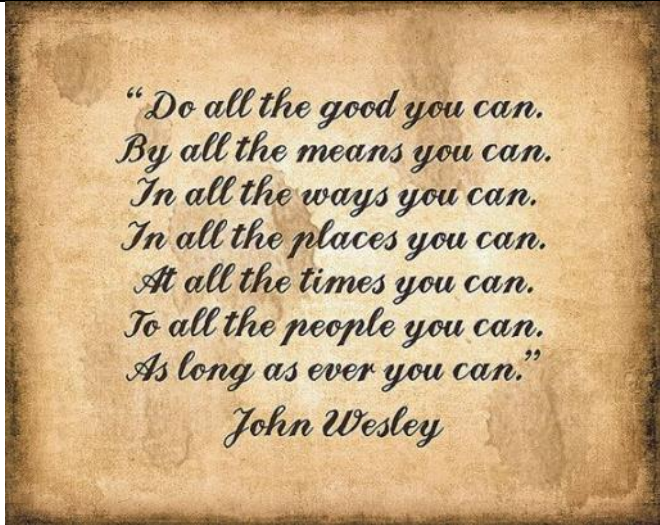
Thank you for still helping fill the church food pantry.

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.

	12/4/16	12/11	12/18/16	12/25/16	1/1/17
Offerings given for General Fund	\$5650.75	\$3497.25	\$4799.91	\$6405.12	\$3852.00
Offerings given for Building Fund	\$1075.00	\$600.00	\$645.00	\$100.00	\$1285.00
Attending in Worship	143	134	123	63	102



Prayer is where the action is.



-John Wesley

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.

Barb Adams	Betty Enlow	Jan Lovett	Ken Riebel Family
Scott Baker	Bill Irvin Family	Judy McKenzie	Homeless in The Plains
Steve & Marilyn Brown	Jeffrey Krivak	Mike Miller	
TPUMC Congregation	Linda Lohse Smith	Jeannie Nottingham	
Our County	Eleanor Loos	Robert Richey	

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:

- The Family of Bill Irvin. Bill Passed away January 3rd.
- The Lois Ellis Family. Her son, F. Samuel Ellis passed on November 5th.
- Jack & Mary Russell Family. Their son-in-law, Thomas Clawson, passed on January 2.



Card Shower for January: Mrs. Pat Funk, 10 Dorr Lane, Athens OH 45701

January Birthdays			
Jean Michael Sebring	4	Sandy Michael	13
Paul Maccombs	5	Carla Ryan Hirst	19
Alice Elliott	7	David Roach	23
Cindy Dillinger	7	Gerald Beckley	23
Doris Whiteside	8	Suella Meek	23
Lowell Galloway	9	Elaina Seyfang	27
Zachary Shivers	9	Mike Dailey	29
Kristin Eberts Mackler	11	Molly Mingus	30
Jeremy Biddinger	12	Ryan Bentley	31
Victor Maxson	12		



January Anniversaries

Jon and Sandy Michael-02
Janet and Tad Grover-03
Bill and Ginger Barringer-11
Rich and Betty Eberts-11

What's Happening

January Calendar

1/1/17 - Combined New Year's Day Worship Celebration @ 10:30 am
 1/2/17 - Office Closed
 1/5/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn @11:30am
 1/8/17 - Family Games Time @ 3-5 pm
 1/8/17 - Taking down the Greens @ 5 pm
 1/12/17 - LSS Food Bank @ 10-2pm
 1/15/17 - CORE Course: Stewardship/Personal Finance @ 6:30 - Richland UMC - Rev. Paul Risler
 1/17/17 - Lifeline Screening -all day
 1/19/17 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 6 pm
 1/22/17 - CORE Course: Stewardship/Personal Finance @ 6:30 - Richland UMC - Rev. Paul Risler
 1/26/17 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 11:30 pm
 1/29/17 - Red Cross Towel Sunday
 1/29/17 - Emmaus Gathering @ 2 pm
 1/29/17 - Concert of Prayer @ 6:30 PM
 1/29/17 - CORE Course: Stewardship/Personal Finance @ 6:30 - Richland UMC - Rev. Paul Risler

February Calendar

2/2/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn
 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 - 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
 2/26/17 - CORE Course: Introduction to the Bible @ 6:30 pm - Athens First UMC. - Joe Graves, Teacher
 2/27/17 - Red Cross Blood Drive @ 1 p

REFIT® & Yoga:

- The REFIT® classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. There will be no class on January 16th.
- The yoga class with Rebecca Wood is on break until further notice.

Taking Down the Greens: On Sunday, January 8th at 5 pm we will be un-decorating the church. It isn't quite as much fun as decorating, but it must be done. The more help we have the quicker it goes. Won't you plan to help?



Red Cross Towel Drive: January 29th will be Towel Sunday (yes towels, not blankets) when we dedicate the towels for the Red Cross. Washcloth, hand and bath towel donations can be left in the red barrel in the lobby throughout the month of January or you can bring one on the 29th. This mission effort will provide towels to the local chapter of the American Red Cross and will be used for residents in Athens County who are experiencing a crisis.



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.

United Methodist Women

UMW will not meet until March 15.

We will be serving a Shriners Dinner January 26. Help and desserts will be appreciated.



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.



Family Game Time: The next family game night will be Sunday, January 8th from 3-5 pm. Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.



Come join the fun!!!!

The Pregnancy Resource Center, a locally organized & funded, faith-based, life-affirming, non-profit organization, will hold its annual Baby Bottle Campaign on **Sunday, January 15th**. **This year's focus surrounds the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, a day to celebrate the intrinsic value of all human life.** This important day also provides an opportunity for pregnancy centers to share about the work they do **bringing life-affirming resources to their communities and empowering women and men to choose life for their unborn children.** Supporters may designate an honorarium card to be distributed to the person of their choice, telling them of the *gift of life* they have made in their honor.



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.

Sign up!

CORE CLASSES: The Athens Area UM churches are offering 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.



Youth Information



January Newsletter - TPUMC Youth

We hope your Christmas was full of rest and great time spent with loved ones.

We have decided to push pause on youth group. As we move into next semester, we will continue to do so until we have more interest. I would still be happy to meet you and your family outside of a weekly gathering. Please let me know if you would like to do this!

Contact Alex Shaver at alex.shaver@centralavenue.net for more information or questions. We would love to tell you more and get to know you.

Alex Shaver

