



Highlights On The Plains

January 2017

**The Plains United
Methodist Church**

Rev. Dan Fuchs, 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 the new year comes along, we so often look towards doing new things. People make New Year's Resolutions, families make new plans for different vacations, and organizations look to what they are going to do differently to achieve new and better results in the coming year.

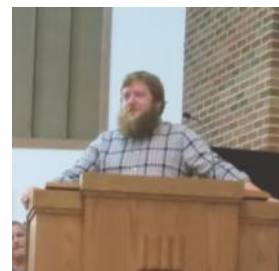
Church life, however, is a little different. We are not necessarily tasked with doing a "new thing." Rather, we are tasked with being faithful in what God has given us and being intentional in our efforts to reach the world around us for the sake of Jesus Christ and the expansion of the Kingdom of God. From that perspective, churches never really do new things, they may simply do things differently.

It's kind of like the difference between driving to work in a Chevy Suburban vs. riding your bike. You make it to work in both scenarios, the goal and finish line is the same, but the path taken to get there is different. Or it's like the difference between making tacos at home for Taco Tuesday or celebrating with friends at Casa Nueva: you still have the opportunity to eat tacos, they're just a little different.

Things have already begun to shift a bit in our church: we're working on RE-starting a children's ministry that has been inactive since Brenda left the staff, we've begun a pattern of celebrating communion every Sunday to place ourselves strategically in a position of obedience to instruction from Jesus to remember Him often in this sacrament, but more than most everything else, we're working on doing all that we have been doing for so many years better. We're exploring what it may look like to serve more people or be more intentional with the people that we serve in the food bank, we're looking at how to expand our health ministries, and we're looking to expand our education and discipleship options in the next year.

From one perspective, it may look like a lot of things are happening new in 2018 at The Plains UMC. From a Kingdom Perspective, however, we're just doing what we've been called to do, what we used to do so well, and continuing to do what we have been doing well. 2018 is going to be an exciting year!

Blessings,
Dan



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.	TPUMC Congregation	John Belville	Joe Pidcock	Beth Shrivvers
	Our Country	Jiggs Brown	Paula Pope	Sue Wallace
	Homeless in The Plains	Carolyn Cade	Eleanor Rhinehart	Judy Young
	Athens City Schools	Bobbie Dunham	JD Schriener	Eberts/Yates Family
	Janice Allen	Tom Hirst	Chuck Sheets	
	Those dealing with Cancer			

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

Hickory Creek: Nancy "Tickie" Fuller, John White

Lindley Inn: Mary Scott, Jane White, Greg Yates

Laurels: Bess Relyea

Homebound: Geraldine Stump, Alice Elliott

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



We express our Christian love and sympathy to:

- The Pat Funk Family. Pat passed away December 15th.



Card Shower for January: Tom Hirst, 76 Ohio Avenue, The Plains OH 45780



- The goody tray was a big hit with my mom. Her words upon seeing it were "Oh good". I want to thank you as well for remembering her, what a thoughtful ministry! Thanks to the UMW and to Judy Reed for her delivery service. ~ Sue & Virginia Douglas
- Thanks for the Christmas cookie tray. I appreciate you thinking of me. ~Greg Yates
- The TPUMC staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts.

January Birthdays

Jean Michael Sebring	4	Sandy Michael	13
Alice Elliott	7	Carla Ryan Hirst	19
Cindy Dillinger	7	David Roach	23
Doris Whiteside	8	Gerald Beckley	23
Lowell Galloway	9	Suella Meek	23
Zachary Shrivvers	9	Elaina Seyfang	27
Jeremy Biddinger	12	Mike Dailey	29
Victor Maxson	12	Ryan Bentley	31

January Anniversaries

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



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 \$4,216. Our Average weekly need for our Building Fund is \$880 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.

	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24
Offerings given for General Fund	\$5459.53	\$3240.00	\$2983.51	\$3587.48
Offerings given for Building Fund	\$1210.00	\$375.00	\$501.50	3050.00
Attending in Worship	115	128	118	96

Giving: We know that in this day and age, many people do not carry cash or checks. We now are able to accept giving through text messages. If you have a smartphone, text your donation amount (i.e. \$18) to the number 84321. You will be sent a link to a secure portal to input your giving information and from there can set up either recurring or one-time donations. Thank you for your continued support of TPUMC.



What's Happening @ TPUMC

January Calendar	February Calendar
<p><i>Prayer Group @ Monday 10-11 am</i> <i>Refit® @ Monday & Wednesday 6-7 pm</i> <i>Friday Night Life @ Friday 4:30 pm</i> 1/2 - LifeLine Screening @ 8-5 pm 1/4 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn @ 11:30 am 1/7 - Taking Down the Greens @ 5 pm 1/11 - LSS Food Pantry @ 12-2 pm 1/12 - TPUMC Cooking Meal for FNL @4pm 1/14 - Family Game Night @ 3:30 pm 1/15 - Leadership Team Meeting @ 7 pm 1/18 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 6-7 pm 1/21 - Emmaus Gathering @ 3 pm 1/25 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 11:30-12:30 1/27 - New Member Class @ 11:30-4 pm</p>	<p><i>Looking Ahead....</i> <i>Prayer Group @ Monday 10-11 am</i> <i>Refit® @ Monday & Wednesday 6-7 pm</i> <i>Friday Night Life @ Friday 4:30 pm</i> 2/1 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn @ 11:30 am 2/8 - LSS Food Bank @ 10-2 pm 2/11 - Family Games Night @ 3:30 2/15 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @6 pm 2/15 - Leadership Team Meeting @7 pm 2/26 - Red Cross Blood Drive @ 1 p</p>

Friday Night Life Dinner: We will be reaching out to our neighbors and friends on Friday, January 12th, 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 ther church office or sign up on the clipboard on the Welcome Center!

Deadline for February Newsletter articles in Monday, 1/22/18.
 email to tpmc45780@gmail.com

United Methodist Women

The UMW next monthly meeting will be March 21, 2018. All ladies are invited to the UMW meetings.



Family Game Time: The next family game night will be Sunday, 1/14 - 3:30-5:30 pm. (Note time change for the winter months.) Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.



Come join the fun!!!!

Scripture Readers: There is a new sign-up sheet at the welcome center for 2018.



Altar Flowers: The 2018 altar flower sign-up sheet is available at the welcome center.

Taking Down the Greens: On Sunday, January 7th 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?



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 21st. 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.



They are asking that you "Spare some Change to help Spare a Life"- simply fill each bottle with coin, cash, or check and return in two weeks. Christians from various denominations in the community have bonded together to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. The PRC is a locally organized and funded ministry, which offers life-affirming education to women and families. The resources from the local church and community are used to alleviate some of the problems facing these women who have found themselves in a crisis pregnancy situation. The goal this year is to distribute 2,000 bottles, raising approximately \$32,000, but they need YOUR help to accomplish this goal! Bottles (and instructions) will be available for pick up, in the Narthex, after today's service and will need to be returned to the same location Sunday, February 4th.

Blood Mobile: The Blood Mobile 2018 dates are February 26, April 23, and June 25 at 1 pm. Baked goods for the canteen are always appreciated.



REFIT®: REFIT® with Tammy is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 pm – there is no fee. If you have any questions please contact Tammy Bauman.



FAMILY ministry

As 2017 concludes, The Plains United Methodist Church is focused on serving families and children.

This past month, our church has offered Sunday School for preschool through middle school aged children. Children spent December learning about the different characters of the nativity through playing games, making tree ornaments, and doing puzzles. In January, children will be learning about Jesus as a the greatest prophet.

The new and improved nursery is now open and available for families to use during the 11:15 service.

As we move forward with these new initiatives, we strive to make our church a place where the littlest can learn to love God and love others. If you are interested in volunteering with the children's ministry in any capacity, please contact Stephanie Smith at sjls.smith@gmail.com

Winter policy

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.

