



Highlights On The Plains

June 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.*

One of the most difficult ministry challenges of all is saying goodbye to a Church family you have loved and been loved by. Words seem utterly inadequate to express the feelings I hold for you. I pray the Holy Spirit who lives in each of us may somehow carry the depths of our love from our hearts to yours.

As I prepare to move to my new assignment, I will depart The Plains confident of several things:

First, you are an awesome Church and God has great plans for you. Your obedience to our Lord during these last three years has brought you to a place of fruitfulness. I believe your impact for His Kingdom can be even stronger in the days to come than in the days gone by.

Second, the path ahead is clear. Even though you must adjust to the change of new pastoral leadership, there is in no way a leadership void. Your staff and Leadership Team are prepared to pursue and fulfill the plans, which God has put in the heart of this congregation. You have a vision, ministry plans, financial plans and spiritual plans. Follow them in God's power and "watch and see" what He will yet accomplish!

Third, more than anything, I am confident of the love you have for our Lord and for one another. And I am even more confident of the love He has for you. My prayer is that, if there is any legacy from my tenure of service at The Plains UMC, it will be a deep and abiding awareness of the power of love to change our lives and to change the world.

While I am leaving you, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning, and will be with you for the rest of time. If through the power of the Holy Spirit you allow Jesus to guide you. TPUMC will always have a mission.

You will always remain in my heart and in my prayers. Now remain in Christ, knowing that He will remain in you.

BYE!



Grace & Peace

PASTOR Doug



- ◆ The office will be closed Memorial Day, May 29th.
- ◆ Pastor Doug will be out of the office at the Annual Conference from Monday, June 4 through Thursday, June 8.
- ◆ Anita will be out of the office from Friday, June 9 through Friday, June 16.
- ◆ The office will be open normal hours while they are gone.

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 Allen	Bob Cooley	Bill Doseck	Linda Lohse Smith	Robert Richey
Jack Anastas	Bill Coon	Bobbi Dunham	Paul Maccombs Family	June Sheridan
Keith Bashen Family	Susanne Covert Castle	Braden Duvall	Mary Lee Michael McBride	Butch Skidmore
Jenny Celaya	Gloria Devol	Daryl Gerardo	Barb Mingus	Harold Smith
Jenny Conway	Rosalee DeWeese	Uldine Lewis Family	Doug Mitchell	Brelynn Suerdick

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, Rosalee DeWeese

Homebound: Geraldine Stump

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, Todd McWilliams



We express our Christian love and sympathy to:

- The Family of Dottie Channell at her passing on 5/2/2017
- Cyndi & Glenn Hanson and Family at the passing Cyndi's mother, Uldine Lewis, on May 8, 2017
- Rheta Maccombs & Family at the passing of Paul on May 17, 2017



Card Shower for June: There are 2 Card Shower Requests for June:

- Bill Coon, 1149 Manitoba Trail, Wayland, MI 49348-1348. Bill would love to hear from his TPUMC Friends.
- Rheta Maccombs, 69 Ohio Avenue, The Plains, OH, 45780. Rheta lost her husband, Paul, on 5/17.

June Birthdays

1 Richie Dillinger	10 Robbie Flinn	27 Bess Relyea
3 Brian Dearing	11 Wayne Horsley	27 Marta K. Lyons
6 Kevin Fischer	17 Joan Burson	28 Becky Caesar
6 Zeva Sheets	17 Vickie Brinkley	28 Marsha Cluff
7 Jason Reed	19 Mary Lewis	29 Joel Harbarger
8 Becky Hunter	20 Kate Spencer	
8 Kimba Ridgway	20 Teri Fischer	
8 Wendy Harbarger	23 Brenda Adams	



June Anniversaries

2 Bob & Joyce Dailey	14 Garry & Becky Hunter
3 Greg & Angelina Sammons	17 Greg & Anne Oberlin
4 Jim & Jorae Smith	19 Jeff & Paula Linscott
4 Mark & Beth Shivers	20 Ray & Becky Spencer
6 Dave & Brenda Stricklin	24 Ryan & Stephanie Dupler
8 Darin & Kimba Ridgway	30 Jason & Jessica Reed



I want to tank every one for the nice and thoughtful cards I received in the months since my diagnosis. I have displayed everyone of them. I also enjoyed a nice visit with Norleen. Thank you, I love you all. ~Barbara Adams

On behalf of the Lyons and Grueser families, I want to thank you for your generous contribution to Pickering House in my mother, Patty Grueser's memory. It was so kind of you to think of us during this very sad time We were touched by your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Nicki (Grueser) Henson

Thanks to you, Anita & all the ladies that helped us make our Dental Day such a tremendous success! Thanks to TPUMC & CincySmiles, 50 community members got their smiles back! Thank You. ~Ted Linscott - United Appeal for Athens County.

Pastor Doug & everyone that has supported Mom and I on this journey...You were all there when I needed you and for that I and grateful. Thank you to the Women's group who put on the dinner after Mom's funeral service. Everyone was impressed and overwhelmed. ~Blessings - Ginger Baringer & Family

What's Happening

June Calendar	July Calendar
<p>6/4 - Music Sunday - Traditional Service 6//4-8 - Annual Conference 6/6 - Carnival Team Mtg - 6 pm 6/8 - LSS Food Pantry - 12-2 pm 6/10 - Souper Saturday - 11:30 pm 6/11 - Farewell to Pastor Doug Potluck - 6 pm Family Game Night following potluck Emmaus Gathering - 3 pm 6/15 - Food Pantry - 6pm 6/18 - Pastor Doug's last Sunday / Communion One service at 10:30 am Father's Day 6/19 - Kid's Club & Community Lunch starts 6/21 - UMW - 7 pm 6/22 - Food Pantry 1- 1:30 am 6/25 - Pastor Dan's 1st Sunday 6/25 - One service at 10:30 am All Church Picnic - The Plains Park @ 12 noon 6/26 - Blood Drive</p>	<p>7/4 - Independence /day - Office Closed 7/6 - Community Lunch at The Lindley Inn 7/9 - Family Game Night - 6 pm 7/13 - LSS Food Pantry - 12-1 pm 7/15 - Ice Cream Social - 4-7 pm 7/7 - Leadership Team Meeting - 7 pm 7/19 - UMW - 7 pm 7/20 - Food Pantry - 6 pm 7/23 - Emmaus Gathering - 3 pm 7/27 - Food Pantry - 11:30 am 7/29 - Community Carnival</p>



REFIT® & Yoga:

- REFIT® with Tammy is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 pm and is free.
- The last Yoga class with Rebecca Wood is Tuesday at 6 pm. The next session is scheduled for September 12 through November 21.

United Methodist Women - UMW will meet Wednesday, June 21, at 7 pm. All ladies are welcome to join us for the evening.

- Devotions: Barb Mingus
- Refreshments:



- Thanks to everyone who had donated time or food to our various events for the month of May. This was a very busy UMW month with outside organizations we serve. In addition to the rummage sale we have also had three funeral luncheons.
- Thank you for donating to our Helping Hands Food Pantry.
- A big applause to Rob Dearing for building a new pantry area and for reworking the pantries in the Youth Room.

Souper Saturday: On Saturday, June 10 @ 11 am - 1 pm, the Leadership Team will hold another community meal, called Souper Saturday. This event was birthed during our Leadership team meetings, as we felt that it was time to offer a meal and fellowship for the people of The Plains. Our goal was to reconnect with the people of The Plains, and invite them to be a part of the fellowship of the church. We hope that each of you might be willing to offer your time and gifts to be a part of this new outreach ministry of your church.



Vacation Bible School: At the recent VBS meeting, we were praying for God to do a new thing. After prayer and discernment, we felt God leading us in a new direction. So, instead of a doing a regular VBS this year, we decided to do a one day family carnival instead. We feel that an event like this would be a more effective tool to reach out into our community and reach families with the love of Jesus! There will still be some aspects of VBS — such as videos and and “Imagination Station,” but we will also have other fun stuff such as Kona Ice, a bouncy House, games and food. We are excited about the opportunity to connect with our community in a significant way. As I was praying this morning, god reminded me that this carnival could be as significant as the time in the aftermath of the tornado 8 years ago. It is an opportunity to show love and care to people who need it most.



The carnival will be Saturday, July 29, 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon. We will need people to help man the carnival games and to just come and have fun and mingle with the community.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!! Meet Our New Pastor & All Church Picnic:

Mark your calendars now for the All Church Picnic on Sunday, June 25th. We will have one worship service that day at 10:30 a.m. followed by a picnic at The Plains Park on Connett Road across from The Plains Elementary School. The picnic will begin at 12 noon. We will be cooking out and everyone is asked to bring side dishes. Meat, buns, condiments, drinks and paper products will be provided by the church. This will be a time of sharing our lives together. There will be games and a good time of fellowship! We hope to see everyone there!



Farewell to Pastor Doug: On Sunday, June 11th, at 6:00 pm we will be hosting a farewell potluck for Pastor Doug in the Family Life Center. The Church will provide chicken, sloppy joes, dinnerware, and drinks. We ask that you bring your favorite casserole, side dish, or dessert to share. Family game night will take place after the meal - we encourage everyone to stick around and enjoy that time together as well!



Family Game Time: The next family game night will be Sunday, June 11th following the Farewell to Pastor Doug Potluck. Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.



Come join the fun!!!!

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.

	4/30/17	5/7/17	5/14/17	5/21/17
Offerings given for General Fund	\$2,645.25	\$4,197.75	\$5,252.75	\$5,252.75
Offerings given for Building Fund	\$700.00	\$996.50	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Attending in Worship	128	160	134	108



Graduation Recognition Sunday:

On Sunday May 21st, we honored the high school and college graduates in our church. We wish them the best of luck and may God bless them in their future endeavors.



***Congratulations
Graduates!!***

High School

Kyle Johansson - Athens
Mallory Spencer - Trimble
Lilly Michigan - Athens



Scholarship Opportunity



Scholarship

Charles B. McVey (1914-2007) was a member of The Plains UMC and the Men's Brotherhood for many years. He served in many other capacities including adult S.S. teacher and Lay Leader before and after the E.U.B./Methodist merger. He also taught English and Journalism at Athens H.S. and advised the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Charles was an Army WWII veteran and he and our mother, Zelma, taught us to be devoted to Jesus Christ. Our dad's other passions were education, gardening (especially roses), and his alma mater, OSU where he ushered at football games for 49 years. (He only stopped ushering after he broke his hip while hunting. He could no longer walk up to C-deck for the games!)
Written by daughter, Linda McVey Geise.

My brother, Gary McVey, and I have created **Charles and Zelma McVey Memorial Scholarship** to honor our dad, his faith, and his love of education. Applications are available At the Welcome Center. The DEADLINE for this year is June 26, 2017. Return your completed forms and attachments to the Church office.

University/College

Bachelor's Degree

Dana Bauman - Kent State University

Master's Degree

Martha Yates - University of Cincinnati



Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

As you know, since the beginning of the year, Pastor Doug has been calling The Plains Church to prayer. He began the year with a 4 week sermon series on the need for prayer, reminding us that if the Spirit of God is going to move in a powerful way, we must be intentional in prayer. Then in January and March, and May, Pastor called the church together to pray for our world, community, church and selves in a concert of prayer. Finally, Pastor invited a group of 4 people to a West Ohio Conference workshop called the Breakthrough Prayer Lab.



This event opened our eyes to the need and power of a praying congregation. As our prayer group met on Monday morning, we talked about what we learned and some of the ideas that were shared. As a result, we decided, with the support of Pastor Doug, to start our own Breakthrough Prayer Initiative. We are calling it our 431 Prayer.

With the pastoral change coming, we feel a deep desire for God to do a new thing in us and in our congregation. Isaiah 43:19 says, “See, I am doing a new thing!” We want all of you to pray, each day at 4:31, “Lord, by your Spirit, open our eyes to see the Path and new possibilities you have in store for our church. Fill our hearts with the faith to follow you and to trust that you will lead us to your living waters. Amen.”

To help us in this prayer endeavor, we had some cards printed up – on the front is Isaiah 43:19 (“See, I am doing a new thing”) and on the back is the prayer. If you did not receive a card at church, they are available in the church office or on the bulletin board outside Pastor’s office. Will you take one and put it in your wallet or purse – and every day at 4:31 take it out and pray the 431 prayer? As we move forward in God’s will, we need prayer – we need you to pray!

C.T. Studd, a missionary of ages past, wrote a poem, “Only One Life.” One of the stanzas reads:

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e’er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last

I was introduced to this poem in a book by David Green entitled, *Giving It All Away, and Getting It Back Again*. In the book he writes this:

“I believe God has put us on this earth to work, to earn and to care for those he has entrusted to us. Yet I also believe we are put on this earth to give, to devote ourselves to a radical brand of generosity that changes lives and leaves a legacy. To paraphrase God’s word to the patriarch Abraham, we are blessed so that we can be a blessing.

But what do we mean when we talk about being blessed? In our culture this might be interpreted as financial blessing. I believe, however, that the blessing God talks about encompasses so much more: family, friends, talents, freedom...I could go on and on.

When I consider the blessing I’ve been given, it’s hard for me not to pause and give thanks to my Lord and God. His heart is generous. His blessings are wide and rich.”

Please join us as we say "Thank You" an "Farewell" To Pastor Doug Flinn

Sunday, 6/11 at 6 pm - Family Life Center

On Sunday, June 11th, at 6:00 pm we will be hosting a farewell potluck for Pastor Doug in the Family Life Center. The Church will provide chicken, sloppy joes, dinnerware, and drinks. We ask that you bring your favorite casserole, side dish, or dessert to share. Family game night will take place after the meal - we encourage everyone to stick around and enjoy that time together as well!



The Many Faces of Doug Flinn

