



Highlights On The Plains

March 2017

The Plains United Methodist Church

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

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matt. 6:16-18)

The season of Lent is that period leading up to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting for 40 days, not including Sundays. It is a time of introspection, self-reflection, and repentance. Sometimes, many people fast during Lent. Some fast a meal or a day each week, while other fast by, “giving something up.” Almost every year, my mother gives up sweets and deserts for lent, which reminds her of Christ’s sacrifice for us, and how she can devote herself more fully to God and His purposes in the world.

Macrina Wiederkehr, in her book, A Tree Full of Angels, writes: “Fasting makes me vulnerable and reminds me of my frailty. It reminds me to remember that if I am not fed I will die ... Standing before God hungry, I suddenly know who I am. I am one who is poor, called to be rich in a way that the world does not understand. I am one who is empty, called to be filled with the fullness of God. I am one who is hungry, called to taste all the goodness that can be mine in Christ.”

During this Lenten season, I am committing to fast every Friday during the lunch meal, that standing before God hungry, I will know who I am. Would you like to join me? Would you like to commit to praying and fasting one meal each week – now through Easter – to be filled with the fullness of God?

Grace & Peace



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.

Our Country	John Bellville	Linda Lohse Smith	Gladene Ryan
Homeless in The Plains	Vickie Brinkley	Jan Lovett	Mary Scott
TPUMC Congregation	Bill Coon	Juanita McLead	Nancy Smith
Barb Adams	Douglas Family	Marsha Mitchell	Chris Stover & Family
Alan Arthur	Bobbie Dunham	Pam Perkins	Kevin Trivisonno
Sharon Kay Barke	Tylor Gillette	Samantha Riley	Ron Vandermoore Family
Soc Rettos Family	Sue Wallace		



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

Hickory Creek: Nancy "Tickie" Fuller, John White

Kimes: Suzanne Wallace

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 Shirley James Wilson who passed away on February 18th.



Card Shower for March: John White, Hickory Creek Nursing Center, 51 E. 4th Street, The Plains, OH 45780

March Birthdays			
Nellie Milstead-01	Connie Dexter-10	Ryan Dupler-15	Martha Yates-23
David Smith-01	Don Brown-11	Lia Schwirian-17	Bobbie Dunham-24
Leon Hoshower-03	Julia Reeves-11	Patsy Dearing-19	Darrell Brown-25
Alessi Horsley-05	Jason Riggs-11	Jan Lovett-19	Shirley Whitlatch-26
Jim Evans-06	Barb Withem-11	Pat Funk-21	Linda Roach-27
Judy Kelly-06	Ruth Al-Esaili-13	Cyndi Hanson -21	Nancy Daft-28
Rheta Maccombs-08	Linda Fowler-13	Rob Dearing-22	
Audrey Schwirian-08	Jason Reeves-14	Brenda Holtzman-22	

March Anniversaries
Paul and Rheta Maccombs-21
Neal and Jill Krumme-25
Jeff and Teri Fischer-31



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.



Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at the church from 1:00-7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24th.

Baked goods for the canteen are always appreciated. Here are the dates for 2017:

- April 24
- June 26
- August 28
- October 23
- December 18



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.

	1/29/17	2/5/17	2/12/17	2/19/17	2/26/17
Offerings given for General Fund	\$2,334.40	\$5,784.75	\$4,136.00	\$2,762.50	\$3,378.25
Offerings given for Building Fund	\$600.00	\$1,435.00	\$215.00	\$350.00	\$230.00
Attending in Worship	122	123	123	123	117



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

March Calendar

3/2/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn
 3/5/17 - Communion
 3/9/17 - LSS Food Bank @ 10-2 pm
 3/12/17 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
 - Family Game Night @ 3-5 pm
 3/15/17 - UMW @ 7 pm
 3/16/17 - Helping Hands Food Pantry @ 6 pm
 3/20/17 - Leadership Team @ 7 pm
 3/23/17 - Helping Hands Food Pantry @ 11:30 pm
 3/23-26/17- Men's Emmaus Walk

April Calendar

Looking Ahead...

4/2/17 - Emmaus Gathering @ 3pm
 - Concert of Prayer @ 6:30 pm
 4/6/17 - Community Lunch at Lindley Inn
 4/9/17 - Palm Sunday
 - Choir Cantata @ 9:15 Service
 - Family Games @ 3-5 pm
 4/13/17 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm
 4/14/17 - Good Friday
 - Church will be open 6-8 pm for meditation & prayer
 4/16/17 - Easter Sunday
 - SonRise Service @ 7 am
 - Breakfast @ 8 am
 - Traditional Worship @ 9:15 am
 - Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 am
 - Worship Café @ 11:15 am
 4/17/17 - Office Closed (Easter Holiday)
 - Leadership Team Mtg @ 7 pm
 4/19/17 - UMW @ 7 pm
 4/24/17 - Red Cross Blood Mobile @ 1 pm
 4/26/17 - Administrative Professional's Day



United Methodist Women - UMW will meet Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm. All ladies are welcome to join us for the evening.
 Thank you to everyone who has donated or volunteered for our church events this past month.



Family Game Time: The next family game night will be Sunday, March 12th from 3-5 pm. Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.

Come join the fun!!!!



REFIT® & Yoga:

- REFIT® with Tammy is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 pm and is free.
- Yoga class with Rebecca Wood will start again on March 14. Classes are Tuesdays at 6 pm and the cost is \$5 per session

Lay Member at Large to West Ohio Annual Conference

Every year each District has a number of openings for the election of additional lay members to the Annual Conference. These additional lay members come from the heart of our United Methodist congregations. We invite you, the laity in our churches to consider offering your name to represent our District at Annual Conference. Our goal is to have a diverse group of individuals to represent our district. This means that we will do our best to be diverse in respect to ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact Sherri at the district office for more information or to be placed on the list for consideration. If you have previously served in this capacity, please contact us to register your continued interest in serving. We currently have 6 openings for adults and 3 openings for youth.

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



Leadership Training Day

The Foothills District Leadership Training day will be held on Saturday, March 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lay and clergy leaders of the Foothills District will have a chance to receive impactful insights and valuable resources to rekindle their vision for ministry.

The featured speaker for event will be the Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of Connectional and Missional Church Initiatives for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her topic will be: "Unleashing Bold Spiritual Leaders"

In addition, several relevant workshops will be offered. Clergy and laity are welcome to attend one workshop during each breakout session that is of interest to them. Workshops being offered include:

Ministry with Your Imprisoned: Navigating Incarceration and Reentry with those You Know - Wendy Tarr

Stewardship 101 Growing Generous Givers - Rev. Stan Ling

New Ideas for Youth Ministry - Matt McKee

Creative Worship Planning - Rev. Paul Risler

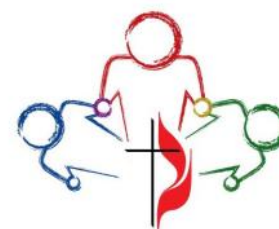
Emergency Response Teams: Serving Communities during Times of Disaster Rev. Nancy Amos & Roger Thatcher

Hospitality: Embrace the opportunity to establish and build upon hospitality in your local church with simple and thoughtful approaches - Rev. Charlene Mitchell & Katy Kudlapur

This event will be held at First United Methodist Church in Athens, Ohio (2 South College Street). Parking will be in the Athens City parking garage.

Cost for the day is \$10 which includes lunch.

To register, go to <http://www.foothillsdistrict.org/district/foothills/event/leadership-training-day-0>



Easter Lilies: It's time to order your Easter Lilies in memory/honor of friends and/or relatives. The price is to \$7 per lily. Call the church office to order. Deadline is April 2.



Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations: We are collecting individually wrapped Easter candy which is small enough to fit inside the plastic eggs. Please leave your donation in the basket in the church office. We have plenty of plastic eggs.



Easter Breakfast: The breakfast will begin at 8 am after the SonRise Service on Easter Sunday (4/16/17). The nurture committee is asking for donations of the following items:

- Hot Breakfast Casserole to feed 10 to 15 people.
- Coffee cake, muffins, donuts, bagels or other baked goods- 12 to 24 servings
- Fresh fruit or a fruit salad
- Individual yogurts – 8 to 12 servings



If you have any questions please contact Sue Wilkes, Barb Mingus, Barb Adams, Teri Fischer, Linda Fowler, or Tammy Bauman.

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.

I know
that my Redeemer
lives!
Happy Easter

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.
Matthew 28:6

www.TheChristianGift.com



Lenten Events

Palm Sunday Services - Sunday, April 9

9:15 - Easter Cantata - TPUMC Choir

11:15 am - Contemporary Worship

Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday, April 13 @ 7pm

Good Friday - Friday, April 14

Church open for Prayer & Meditation from 6-8 pm

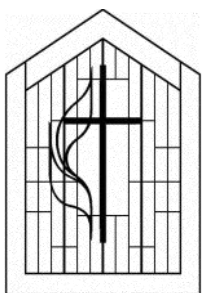
Sunday, April 16 – EASTER!

Easter SONRise Service – 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast – 8:00 am

EASTER WORSHIP! – 9:15 am & 11:15 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 am



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