



# Highlights On The Plains

May 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.*

God does not change—man does. Not only is change a part of everyone's life, it is a necessary part. God never allowed any believer in the Bible to remain in one place for long. He kept each one moving for a great spiritual reason.

After Elijah declared there would be no rain, God told him to move from the presence of King Ahab to the brook Cherith where he would be fed by ravens. When the brook dried up, he was told by God to go to Zerephath to be fed by a widow. When Elijah wanted to camp at the cave at Horeb, God asked twice "what are you doing here?" Each place was to be a temporary stop on the way to God's fulfillment for Elijah's life and ministry: Change, change, change.

Israel followed the cloud of God during the day and remained under the fire each night. The nation was told quite often to change direction because they had camped in one place too long (see Deuteronomy 1:6, 2:2). If we try to settle in one place in our Christian walk, we become stagnant. Change is an important and necessary part of our life.

We are surrounded by ever increasing changes in technology, music and education. Yet, in the Christian life, and in the church, we fight change. God's plan not only includes change, it is change.

*But we all, with open face looking as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18).*

Just as we are to change and advance in our heart, we are to also accept natural changes in our life, at church and with our relationship with other Christians.

Solomon told us in Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 about the shortness of seasons in our natural and spiritual life. Just as spring leads to summer and summer into fall and winter, so are the seasons of life. Even time is divided into decades, years, months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. Some changes come over a long period of time and others seem to change by the minute. Nothing remains the same forever, except God. So, make up your mind now, change is inevitable. As Johnny Rivers sang, "the only thing that's permanent is change."

Here at The Plains Church, we are in a season of change. I am moving and Pastor Dan is coming. Like me, he has been called and equipped to the vocation of pastor. Will he be like me? No – he will have different ideas, different personality and a different style of preaching. But we must trust that God has called Dan to The Plains, and me to Walnut Grove for a season and time such as this.

God has great things in store for all of us – let us trust Him and work with Him to bring about His kingdom goals.

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.

# Welcome the Fuchs Family to The Plains UMC!!



Hello from Cincinnati!

My name is Dan Fuchs and I am pleased to introduce myself as your next pastor. I have been praying for TPUMC for a while now and am very excited about what God has in store for us in the coming months and years. Stories are important, and I can't wait to hear yours! Let me tell you a bit about me:

I grew up in Watertown, SD where I was very active in the youth ministry. When I graduated from high school I attended South Dakota State University where I studied Sociology and American Indian Studies. I returned to Watertown every summer and served as a pastoral intern for 4 years, helping lead the youth group, preaching, leading small groups and Bible studies, and leading and directing mission trips. After graduating SDSU I attended Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY where I earned a Master of Divinity degree as well as a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. I have a passion for discipleship, which expresses itself through worship, small groups, and striving to simply be the church in our world today.

While at seminary, I met my wife, Lauren. She grew up in Bryan, OH and will be appointed to serve Athens Central as the Associate Pastor. She is a very gifted preacher and relates well to so many different people; Central is lucky to be receiving her in appointment. On April 12 we welcomed our son, Gideon, into the world after 27 hours of labor and surgery. He is a growing little guy with some of the biggest eyes, as well as a face that looks like it belongs more on a 70 year old man than on a 12 day old boy, but that's only when he expresses his disapproval of us.

When I'm not at work I enjoy reading, working outside, exercising, and being with friends. Since moving to Cincinnati I haven't been able to hunt and fish as much as I did in South Dakota and Kentucky, so I am extremely excited to be moving to The Plains and take advantage of outdoor opportunities there. I can't express just how thrilled I am to be coming to you and joining you all and Christ in the mission He's set before us in our little corner of Ohio.

God Bless you!

Dan Fuchs

[dfuchs@me.com](mailto:dfuchs@me.com)

## **MARKS YOUR CALENDARS!!!! Meet Our New Pastor & All Church Picnic:**

Mark your calendars now for the All Church Picnic on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have one worship service that day at 10:00 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!



**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	Scott Allen	Braden Duvall	Manning Family
Our Country	Keith Bashen Family	Shirley Fulk	Mary Mills Family
Homeless in The Plains	Jenny Celaya	Kerr Family	Robert Richey
Pastor Doug	Doris Dillinger	Kittle Family	Doug Mitchell
Pastor Dan Fuchs & Family	Bobbi Dunham	Paul Maccombs	
Bob Schwartzenburg			

**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:** 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:

- Ethel Pierce at the passing of her nephew, Kevin Trivisonno on March 15th .
- Marta Kay Lyons and family at the passing of her sister, Patty Gruesser on April 2nd.



**Card Shower for May:** Mary Graham, 7979 Lemay St, Waynesville, OH 45068. May 4th will be Mary's 91st birthday.

**May Birthdays**

1 Cassie Goodwin	9 Tim Howman	14 Sophia Schwarzenberg	29 Judy Graffius
1 Dee Beckley	10 Joan Frost	14 Tim Seyfang	30 Tom Tedrow
1 Joshua Skinner	10 Madelon Armstrong	15 James Mansfield	31 Brittany Maxson
2 Traci Lawrence	11 Matthew Shields	17 Lesley Michigan	31 Ruth Bateman
4 Ava Dupler	11 Scarlett Tudor	18 Mallory Spencer	31 Sherrie Bossart
4 Mary Graham	11 Shirley Fulk	21 Amy Bentley	
5 Conner Sheets	12 Bill Coon	23 Jon Michael	
5 Kyle Berry	12 Mason Michigan	23 Ted Reed	
6 Laura Crabtree	12 Ruth Staten	24 Beth Shrivvers	
7 Deborah Nisley	13 Linda Cvetan	26 Darin Ridgway	
7 Tatum Schultz	14 Sandie Leasure	28 Laura Mansfield	

**May Anniversaries**

Bill and Patty Coon-10
Paul and Vickie Brinkley-12
Tim and Janice Howman-16
Neil and Linda Fowler-17
Tim and Debbie Seyfang-18
Tim and Kelly Waugh-26



# What's Happening

## May Calendar

### Looking Ahead....

- 5/4 - Community Lunch @ Lindley Inn
- 5/6 - Rummage Sale @ 9am to 2 pm
- 5/7 - Emmaus Gathering @ 3 pm
- 5/7 - Family Game Night @ 6-8 pm
- 5/11 - LSS Food Bank @ 12-2 pm
- 5/14 - Mothers' Day
- 5/15 - Leadership Team Mtg @ 7 pm
- 5/17 - UMW Mtg @ 7pm
- 5/18 - Helping Hands Food Pantry @ 6-7:30 pm
- 5/21 - Graduation Sunday
- 5/21 - Concert of Prayer @ 6:30 pm
- 5/25 - Helping Hand Food Pantry @ 11:30-1pm
- 5/29 - Memorial Day (Office Closed)



## June Calendar

- 6/4 - Music Sunday - Traditional Service
- 6//4-8 - Annual Conference
- 6/8 - LSS Food Pantry 12-2 pm
- 6/11 - Emmaus Gathering 3 pm
- 6/18 - Pastor Doug's last Sunday
- 6/18 - Father's Day
- 6/25 - Pastor Dan's 1st Sunday
- 6/25 - One service at 10 am
- 6/25 - All Church Picnic - The Plains Park @ 12 noon

**Choir Director Resigns:** To my loving choir and congregation, after a lot of thought and prayer, I have decided to relinquish my position as choir director, effective September 2017.

I am most happy when working with this dedicated group of people and have been blessed over and over by their enthusiasm and love shown to one another and to me. Please pray for us, as we enter into a new phase of our lives. Lovingly, Mary Lee



### **REFIT® & Yoga:**

- REFIT® with Tammy is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 pm and is free.
- Yoga class with Rebecca Wood is Tuesdays at 6 pm and the cost is \$5 per session

**Family Game Time:** The next family game night will be Sunday, May 7th from 6-8 pm. Bring your favorite games, puzzle, etc. Please bring drinks or snacks. Coffee is provided.

*Come join the fun!!!!*



**Souper Saturday:** On Saturday, April 29, the Leadership Team sponsored a community outreach lunch to reconnect with some folks in the community. As of the writing of this article, the event had not yet taken place, but the church members who were involved anticipated God doing something great!

The idea of this community meal, called Souper Saturday, 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 plan on another Souper Saturday in May or June...so watch the bulletin announcements for more details. 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.

**United Methodist Women** - UMW will meet Wednesday, May 17 at 7 pm. All ladies are welcome to join us for the evening.

- Devotions: Barb Mingus
- Refreshments: Berdie Linscott and Ruth Bateman



Thank you to everyone who has donated or volunteered for our church events this past month.

**Rummage Sale** – The annual Church-Wide rummage sale on Saturday, May 6th. As you do your spring cleaning please save your unwanted “treasures” and bring them to the church the week May 1st.



**Generous Living:** Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God. *Outpouring* is a terrific description, since the priceless treasure of the gospel (and all the gifts of covenant, relationship, and life that go with it) comes from God and is meant to be poured out, through our living, upon others. Paul states this directly in 2 Corinthians 4:5-7, when he says, "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."



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Whether for fancy purposes or everyday usage, the "unadorned pots of our daily lives" (as *The Message* puts it) highlight the fact that **all of who we are and what we have comes from God** and is to be used for God's purposes. God can use our uniqueness, even our limitations, weaknesses and eccentricities, to communicate God's powerful presence and love.

Generous living is not just about giving money, or even just about giving. It has to do with **the whole of who we are and how we care for our neighbors** (see Mark 12:28-31). Each of us brings our heart, mind, soul, and strength. The Old Testament word for "heart" is literally the leaning or thrust of our lives. We might call it our lifestyle or nonverbal witness. In other words, it is how we steward 100 percent of our lives, not just the "religious" sector or the percentage we give away.

**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.

	4/2/17	4/9/17	4/16/17	4/23/17
<b>Offerings given for General Fund</b>	\$5607.50	\$4636.64	\$3225.75	\$2448.91
<b>Offerings given for Building Fund</b>	\$985.00	\$1085.00	\$580.00	\$460.00
<b>Attending in Worship</b>	120	162	273	147
			Easter	
			\$912.07	

## REFIT® at The Plains UMC – Tammy Bauman

What exactly is REFIT®? REFIT® is a life-changing group fitness experience that rocks your body, heart, and soul with powerful moves and positive music, to inspire you from the inside out. Powered by human connections, we turn boring, “have to” workouts into a “can't miss” community fitness experience! REFIT® classes propel students to their best selves through dance, toning, balance, and flexibility. Our easy to follow formula is perfect for both beginners and fitness enthusiasts, with workouts designed for everybody and for every *body* – regardless of age, shape, size or ability. In our classes here at TPUMC, we have created a community with an atmosphere of authenticity where everyone is accepted as they are – we do not expect perfection, only participation. Our classes are a place of support, encouragement, acceptance, caring, concern, laughing, fun, and love.

Over 150 different people have come to REFIT®, both male and female, in a very wide range of ages. We currently average 22 people per class. As a “family”, we have collected food for the food pantry with special focus on the holiday food boxes. Our REFIT® family also pitches in to take care of space set up in the Family Life Center as needed each week.

The benefits our REFIT® family has seen are wide ranging and include more than just weight loss; they are true improvements in daily quality of life and emotional well-being. Friendships have formed and continue to strengthen, and we all leave each class feeling loved! I am certain any participant would share his or her experience if you were to ask.

Our classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 6:00 pm, and they last approximately an hour. We begin with a full playlist of positive music and dance cardio fitness, followed by a devotion / personal connection time, and end with prayer. We are quickly approaching our 2-year REFIT® anniversary and will be celebrating with a special morning class on Saturday, July 22, 2017. If you have never experienced a REFIT® class, I would encourage you to give it a try! Classes are free; you only need to bring yourself!

## Scholarship Opportunity

**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.

## Graduation Recognition Sunday – May 21:

Graduation Sunday will be May 21st. We will be honoring these scholars at each of our Worship Services (depending on who attends which service!) and providing them with a small gift as a token of our love for them. Please let the Church Office know of your graduate (High School or College) by Sunday, May 14th so that we can include their name in the Bulletin!



## **Military BibleStick Project:**

**Introducing Hope for Our Heroes Around the world the men and women of the U.S. military are defending our freedom and helping to fight the war on terror.**

Many of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines live in cramped quarters with other personnel, in very uncomfortable and challenging circumstances, working hard and putting in long hours every day - too tired to read a Bible, even if they have one.

The Military BibleStick reaches these service men and women, deployed in some of the most dangerous areas of the world, with God's Word in audio - It can go with them and sustain them in even the most difficult circumstances.

It contains the entire Audio Drama New Testament and selected Psalms chosen specifically for "warriors," yet it's only about the size of a pack of chewing gum.

Designed to military specifications for safe and discreet use in low-light conditions, it features a matte black finish and red-light-only operation - and runs on a single AAA battery!

Just \$25 provides a Military BibleStick (the Audio Drama New Testament and selected Psalms) for one of the Troops who protect our nation and preserve our freedoms.

Each service member who receives a Military BibleStick also has the option to request a free Audio New Testament or Kids Bible for family back home - although they may be separated from loved ones, they know they are listening through the Word together. Airmen, and Marines live in cramped quarters with other personnel, in very uncomfortable and challenging circumstances, working hard and putting in long hours every day - too tired to read a Bible, even if they have one.

Military BibleSticks provide real hope for our heroes!

Military BibleSticks were originally developed by the ministry Faith Comes By Hearing, which specializes in recording and providing God's Word in audio for unreached people groups who cannot read or access a printed Bible in their language ...

Over the years, Military chaplains alerted us that our service men and women could also be considered "unreached" by God's Word - not from a lack of Bibles or literacy, but because the conditions made it extremely difficult to read and concentrate ... at just the time when the comfort and encouragement of God's promises was most desperately needed.

In response we developed the Military BibleStick with the Audio New Testament and selected Psalms loaded on a small digital player, specifically designed for military use.

It was instantly in demand far greater than we could keep up with - and as of this moment, chaplains have delivered the Military BibleStick to more than half a million U.S. Troops worldwide.

But demand still far outstrips supply with chaplains and Troops in every branch of the Military pleading with us for more Military BibleSticks.

Military service is dangerous - not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually. Many servicemen and women come home with "mental shrapnel."

- 400,000 have been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 22 commit suicide every day

We must help them before the battlefield takes its awful toll. God's Word offers peace, comfort, strength, balance - real help and real hope. This is why we're dedicated to providing Military BibleSticks, real hope for our heroes.



# Let's have some fun.....

## How Much Do You Know About United Methodist History?

**1. What is the birthplace of John Wesley?**

*Epworth / London / London*

**2. What is the birthdate of John Wesley on current calendars?**

*May 24 / June 17 / June 28 / July 5*

**3. What do we call the day John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed?"**

*Burning Heart Sunday / Warm Wesley Day / Strange Sunday / Aldersgate Day*

**4. How many hymns and poems did Charles Wesley write?**

*400 / 900 / 4,000 / 9,000*

**5. What new holiday was recognized at General Conference in 1912?**

*Mother's Day / Father's Day / Memorial Day / Labor Day*

**6. Which is NOT a tip for good health from John Wesley?**

*Take cold baths / Go to bed at 9 p.m. and rise at 4 or 5 a.m. / Stand while reading and writing / Exercise to the point of weariness*

**7. Where does "united" come from in the denomination's name?**

*It refers to the church's roots in the United Kingdom / It is meant to encourage church members to stay together / It references the Evangelical United Brethren Church*

**8. The Christmas Conference took place in which city?**

*New York / Baltimore / Philadelphia*

**9. At what public university did the first Wesley Foundation appear in 1913?**

*University of Virginia / Michigan State University / University of Illinois / University of North Carolina*

**10. Name two of Francis Asbury's horses.**

*Peter and John / Seabiscuit and Hard Tack / Little Jane and Little Fox*

Answers  
1. Epworth  
2. June 28  
3. Aldersgate Day

4. 9,000  
5. Mother's Day  
6. Exercise to the point of weariness  
7. It references the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

8. Baltimore  
9. University of Illinois  
10. Little Jane and Little Fox