

PLAIN GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

“SINCE 1799...A PLACE TO BELIEVE, BELONG AND BECOME!!!”

724-530-2144

February 2023

LENT IS AROUND THE CORNER

Consider this your final warning...if you are a procrastinator, or you simply love Christmas too much to let it go, I'm sorry to tell you that it's time to take down the tree and put away the decorations because it's almost time to prepare for our next Christian holiday: Easter. I know it seems like Easter is far off, but our preparation for Easter begins with the season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

Traditionally, Lent is the 40 days before Easter, and it is one of the oldest Christian traditions, even though it's not mentioned in the Bible. It began in the early days of the Christian church as a time to prepare our hearts for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross, and the sacrifice He made for us on that cross.

As we journey through the Lenten season, I am going to offer an opportunity on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for personal reflection and worship. We will spend the 40 days of Lent journeying with Jesus toward the cross; toward the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. We will spend our time each week practicing a spiritual discipline that may be new to you. As we journey with Jesus from His birth through His ministry and ultimately to His crucifixion, we will learn the discipline known as Visio Divina, which means "Divine Seeing." We will worship and meditate on scripture using art.

This time of reflective worship will be held in the social hall and will include contemporary Christian music. Here is the schedule, including topic and scripture of the day:

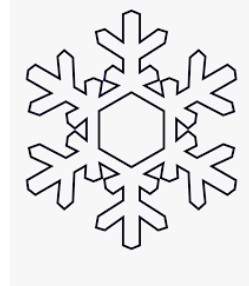
February 22, 2023	"Devotion" (We will share communion at this service)	Luke 2:4-7
March 1, 2023	"Come"	Matthew 14:22-33
March 8, 2023	"Joy"	Matthew 19:13-14
March 15, 2023	"Security"	Matthew 11:28-29
March 22, 2023	"Home"	Matthew 25:14-23
March 29, 2023	"Guardian"	Matthew 21:1-11
April 5, 2023	"King"	Matthew 27:27-31

Please consider joining me on this Lenten journey; I am certain you will be blessed!

Rev. Tina

February Worship Opportunities At Plain Grove Church

February 5 Worship at 11:00 AM
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20
Sermon: "Salt and Light"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



February 12 Worship at 11:00 AM
Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Sermon: "Choices, Choices"

February 19 Worship at 11:00 AM
Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9
Sermon: "The Transfiguration"



Wednesday, February 22 Lenten Worship
Worship at 7:00 PM
Scripture: Luke 2:4-7
Topic: "Devotion"

February 26 The First Sunday in Lent
Worship at 11:00 AM
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11
Sermon: "The Devil Made Me Do It!"

The Session will be meeting on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 PM

We are in need of Ushers, Greeters and Door Monitors for several months throughout the year. If you feel called to serve in this manner, please sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex. Thank you!

Plain Grove Presbyterian Church

"Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee" ...Job 22:27

Prayer List for February 2023

We pray for family and friends...

Charlie Campbell

Suzanne Fields

Todd Laughrey

Samantha Blair Dorr

Mary Richardson

Evelyn Reed

We pray for our country.

We pray for those in our Armed Forces,

President Biden and our leaders.

*We pray for the First Responders, Nurses, Doctors,
and all Healthcare Workers.*



Please notify the church secretary when a name needs to be added or removed from the list.

Session Highlights from January 2023

- Soup suppers are scheduled for February 15th and March 15th
- Deacons will be reaching out by calling members – please let them know if you have any needs
- Updated Church Directory is available – a list is still available on the table for any new contact information or any changes
- We will be planning another visit to worship at The Narrative most likely in Feb – watch for info
- Mary Campbell has been hired as our new General Church Treasurer
- Church Roller Skating Party will take place at Ellhurst Roller Rink on March 4th from 4:30 -6:30
- VBS dates were approved for all children for all five nights July 10-14
- There will be a luncheon after the Annual Congregational meeting on January 29th – the meat and drinks will be provided and the congregation will be asked for sides and desserts
- A coffee hour is being planned for before church on February 26th
- The next City Rescue Mission dinner is being planned for February 5th
- We served 99 for Christmas Eve communion
- Please make sure if you are part of any group using the church that it is indicated on the large desk calendar located on the table in the church office

OREO BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped	¾ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup butter, unsalted	½ cup cocoa powder, Dutch process
1 cup granulated sugar	½ teaspoon salt
3 large eggs	14-16 oreo cookies, roughly chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 9-inch square baking pan and line it with parchment paper so that it hangs over two sides to make it easy to lift the brownies out of the pan when baked.

Melt the chocolate with butter in a medium heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Make sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water, or you will burn the chocolate. Whisk until melted and smooth. Remove from heat and let it cool down for a few minutes.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the eggs and sugar. Beat with a hand mixer on medium speed for 3-4 minutes. This will ensure that the brownies have a classic crinkly top. Stir in vanilla.

Gradually, pour the chocolate mixture into the egg mixture, and continuously whisk together until combined.

Whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, and salt in another mixing bowl. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and fold together using a large silicone spatula until just combined. Fold in half of the oreos – do not over mix.

Transfer the thick batter into the prepared baking pan, smoothing out the top. Press the remaining oreos on top.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted comes out clean with moist a few moist crumbs attached. Bake for 25 minutes for a super fudgy brownie, bake for 30 minutes for a more cakey texture.

DEACON HIGHLIGHTS

Lois Hogue, Moderator

Connie Dickey, Vice-Moderator

Bev Blair, Secretary

Heidi Stewart, Bob Graham, Nancy Veder

- ❖ Congregation Outreach - Each Deacon will be reaching out to you by sending cards, calling and checking to see if our flock (church family) has any needs. Each Deacon has been assigned a Flock. Connection Cards are also available for you to let the Board know of any need.
- ❖ Emergency Medical Forms project has been introduced - see additional information in the newsletter.
- ❖ A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for individuals that are willing to assist with any funeral dinners.
- ❖ Detailed instructions of how to connect to the live streaming of our church service will be found in the narthex early in February. Check the bulletin for the date available. Instructions can be helpful for those unable to attend due to disability, sickness or vacation. Pick up one for when you might be in need or to share with a friend, neighbor or coworker.
- ❖ A Soup Supper is planned for Wednesday, February 15, 4-7pm in the church social room. Congregational volunteers to assist with food or serving are welcome. Please speak with a deacon if you can help this month. February soups will be
- ❖ Chili, beef vegetable, white bean chicken chili and potato.
- ❖ A special thanks to everyone that helped with the Leora Heckathorn funeral dinner. The family appreciated our outreach and the time they had to fellowship here with friends and family. We served 50 guests and were able to help with food for the 15 guests staying over at Leora's.
- ❖ The deacons reached out to care for 5 different families during the month of January.
- ❖ Deacons will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm.

Fellowship Committee – Moderator Diane Powell

The Fellowship Committee met on January 10. The following are current members: Diane Powell, Jess McCurdy, Pearl Studebaker, Mary Campbell, Dottie Kulton, and Brian Slamecka. The Fellowship Committee and the Deacons will be working together to reorganize the church kitchen. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a luncheon after the Congregational Meeting on January 29. Meat and drinks will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring either a side dish or dessert. On February 26 we will be hosting a coffee hour starting at 10:00 am. Drinks, donuts, and fruit will be provided. The Fellowship Committee will begin meeting on the first Thursday of the month starting in February. If anyone would like to help with our fellowship activities, please join us at our next meeting or see one of the members.

Christian Education – Moderator Diane Powell

The Christian Education Committee met on January 3. The following are current members: Diane Powell (Elder/Sunday School Teacher), Jess McCurdy (Elder/Sunday School Teacher), Brian Slamecka (Elder), Pam McConnell (Sunday School Superintendent), Adam Hammerschmidt (Sunday School Teacher), Debbie Reed (Sunday School Teacher), and John McConnell (Sunday School Teacher).

With the approval of Session, Pam McConnell will be this year's Sunday School Superintendent and the VBS Director. VBS will be on July 10-14 in the evening.

We will be purchasing the spring edition of Faith Weaver Now curriculum by Group for all Sunday School classes.

We will be having a skating party at Elhurst Roller Rink in New Castle on March 4 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Upcoming events also include a picture paint night for adults and children and the purchasing of church logo T-shirts. More information about these events will be announced at a later date.

Next meeting will be held on February 8 at 6:30. Anyone from the congregation is invited to attend the meeting or volunteer to help with our activities.

Every good and perfect gift
is sent from above.

James 1:17

Birthdays

February 1 ~ Shelley Orlowski

February 2 ~ Brian Hetzer

~ Sonya Hammerschmidt

~ Wyatt Shidemantle

February 5 ~ Parker McCrumb

February 6 ~ Beverly Graham Blair

February 8 ~ Carolyn Burns

~ Camryn Weller

February 10 ~ Lenny Stewart

February 12 ~ LeeAnn Bartlett

February 14 ~ Gary Gargas

~ Linda Wilson

February 16 ~ Rich Sotter

February 17 ~ Deb Fuhr

February 19 ~ Austin Martin

~ Dan Kazmierczak

~ Richard Orlowski

February 21 ~ Clayton Deems

February 29 ~ Dottie Kultan



Anniversaries

February 1 ~ Charlie & Mary Campbell

February 14 ~ Chris & Jen Fleeger

Upcoming Events

February 1 ~ Deacon's Meeting 1:00PM

~ Worship Committee Meeting 6:00PM

February 2 ~ Fellowship Committee Meeting
6:30PM

February 5 ~ Winter Communion

~ City Rescue Mission Dinner

February 8 ~ Christian Ed Meeting

February 9 ~ Session Meeting 7:00 PM

February 15 ~ Soup Supper 4-7:00 PM

February 17 ~ "Cross in the Garden" painting
class 6:00PM

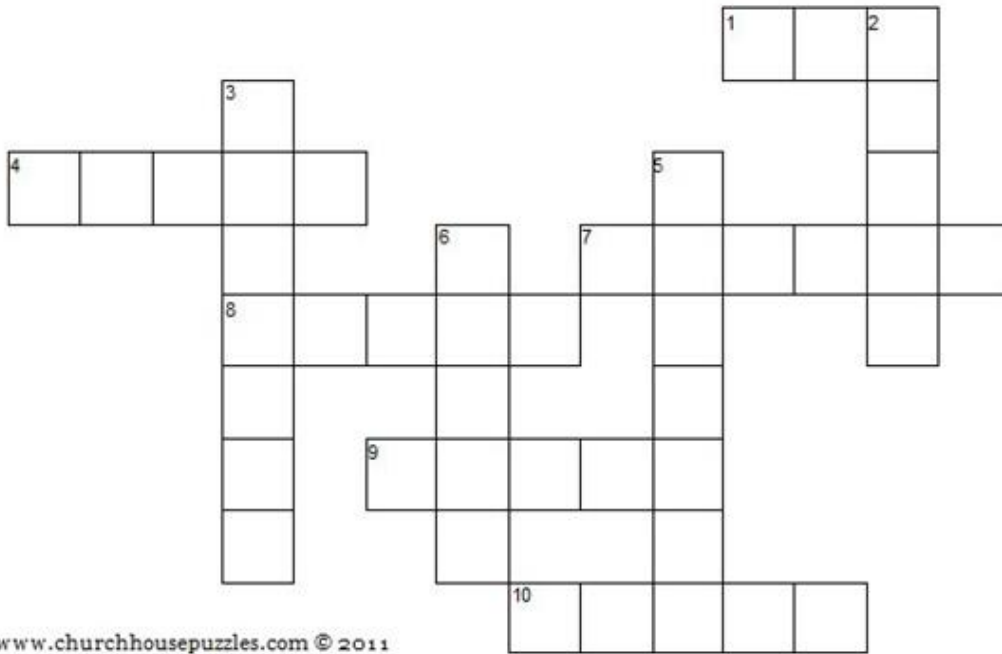
February 21 ~ History Committee Meeting 6:00PM

February 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

~ Lenten Worship and communion 7:00 PM

February 26 ~ Coffee Hour 10:00 AM

Abraham



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Be Still
and
Know
that I AM
GOD

PSALM 46:10

ACROSS

- 1 Nephew of Abraham
- 4 Before he was called Abraham, his name was _____
- 7 God gave Abraham the land of _____
- 8 Abraham was 100 years old when _____ was born
- 9 Wife of Abraham
- 10 Abraham asked God not to destroy this city for the sake of ten.

DOWN

- 2 Father of Abraham
- 3 Abraham means father of many _____
- 5 Sarah _____ when she heard she would have a son.
- 6 Sarah's handmaid

