



September 2012
Volume 23, Issue 7

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The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek

550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239
secretary@plumcreekchurch.com
www.plumcreekchurch.com

The Caller

September 2012 Worship Schedule

September 2, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Labor Day

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23; James 1:17-27

"Love's Labor Is Lost"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

September 9, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Teacher/New Staff Commissioning

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9, 22-23; Mark 7:24-37; James 2:1-10

"Old Turtles"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

September 16, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

"Flint-faced"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

September 23, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Blood Drive

Greg Steible, Student Minister, preaching

September 30, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Baptism

James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50; Psalm 19:7-14

"Not Necessarily in that Order"

Rev. Brenda Barnes



The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek publishes *The Caller* monthly (with the exception of July and August). If you have an item to contribute, please email it to **secretary@plumcreekchurch.com** or place it in *The Caller* mailbox in the church office. To submit a newspaper or magazine article to be reprinted in *The Caller*, include the name and date of the newspaper or magazine where the article was originally published. The deadline for all articles is the **15th of the month. Please provide submissions in computer-ready (WORD 2002 or text) format when possible.** Thanks!

Church Address:	Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek 550 Center-New Texas Road Pittsburgh, PA 15239
Office Phone Number:	(412) 793 - 4525
E-mail Address:	secretary@plumcreekchurch.com
Office Hours:	Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Minister	Reverend Brenda Barnes
Student Minister	Greg Steible
Director of Educational and Congregational Ministries	Patrick VanHorn
Director of Youth Ministries	Tori Campbell
Director of Music Ministries	Michelle Horsley
Worship Services	Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes	Sundays 8:45 a.m.

September, 2012

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

7 seconds of terror!

This is what NASA called the landing of the Curiosity on the planet Mars after it traveled eight-and-a-half months and 352 million miles. The “terror” experienced by the NASA personnel was a result of a loss of contact for the timeframe the ship was attempting its “tricky celestial gymnastics routine” as it entered the atmosphere of the planet at a speed of 13,000 miles per hour then landing on the surface. As most of us celebrated the emotional highs and lows of the Olympic games, or experienced the elation of the Pirates’ winning season and the start of preseason football, others were biting their nails as they prayed hard that years of hard study in the laws of physics, months of dedication, training and billions of dollars would yield a favorable result in reaching the face of the red planet and enhancing humanity’s understanding of another part of God’s creation in this cosmos.

Yes, I was a space nerd – I watched the landing on the internet. I watched, and in a small way, experienced, the seven seconds of terror and the jubilation of the perfect result. One NASA engineer fully admitted that it was a “miracle” even after all of the human preparation.

As I reflect on the “seven seconds of terror,” I can’t help but think that this is similar to the emotion that the High Priests would have experienced as they entered the Holy of Holies on behalf of the people of God. In their quest to reach the face of God and to enhance the people’s understanding of the grace of God, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once each year on the Day of Atonement.

To prepare for this activity, the High Priest would have had years of hard study in the Law of God, dedication to the work of the priesthood, training to complete the work as diligently for the people as possible, and success in obtaining the perfect sacrifice for payment. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would have to prepare himself physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The High Priest must complete each step perfectly: physically by bathing appropriately and wearing all the proper attire; emotionally by being preparing for death if something hasn’t been done to God’s perfect standards (like using a perfect animal); and spiritually – he had to be “right” with God before he could present the atoning sacrifice for the collective sin of all of God’s people. As the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant and its mercy seat were located – where God’s presence resided – other priests would tie bells on his prayer shawl and a rope around his waist. These priests would hold the rope and if they did not hear the sound of the bells (indicating movement of the High Priest in his activity), they would know God had struck the High Priest dead and they would drag him out by the rope.

Then, *seven seconds of terror* as they all waited, holding their breath – the High Priest, the temple priests, and the people – to see if God found the whole activity acceptable; to see if a “miracle” happened.

In our human attempt to reach the face of God, we search God’s cosmos. That is admirable because we should not be satisfied with what we already know about God in the here

and now - there is always more to discern and understand. We should endeavor to reach the face of God as long as we understand that it is God who permits us to understand and see more clearly – our endeavors do not yield the result of revelation. We must prepare thoroughly just like the High Priest, but the results that are yielded are indeed a miracle because it is God who reveals God. As we continue to explore Creation, we are constantly surprised by God as we receive revelation. Some people think that the more we explore and “discover,” the more we don’t need God. However, as more is revealed to us, we realize that God’s Creation is ever bigger than we can imagine. This is the proof that God reveals as we search.

Friends, we know that Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest. He is the perfect sacrifice and the revelation of God’s grace. His activity is perfect. We no longer need to experience seven seconds of terror in our quest for redemption. We are never out of contact with God because Christ’s Spirit dwells in us; our landing will be eternal through Christ. Let’s celebrate our human endeavors and achievements to find God, and rejoice in jubilation for His grace as revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Amen



BIRTHDAY

Maronee Delo **September 4**

If you know anyone who is 70 or older, please let the church office know.
We don’t want to miss anyone.

BAPTISM

Giovanni DeCubellis **August 12, 2012**

WEDDING

Jamie Abraham and Vadim Gazarov **July 14, 2012**

DEATHS

Blaine Scherf **May 29, 2012**
Corine Pivik **July 18, 2012**
Carolyn Nonnenberg **July 25, 2012**

MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Carolyn Nonnenberg
Mr. and Mrs. George Manzuk
The Shaneyfelt Family

For Blaine Scherf

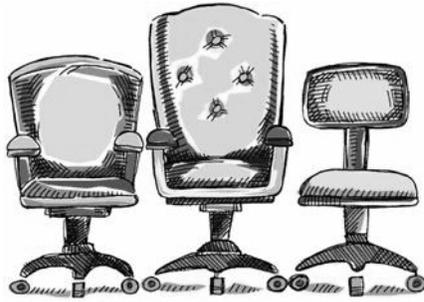
Mr. Robert Davis
Mr. and Mrs. George Manzuk
Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson
Mrs. Lois Holmes
Arthur and Helen Scherf
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shaneyfelt
Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles Stover
Mr. Howard Edwards

For Larry Wolfe

Mr. Robert Davis

For Hazel Berringer

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. George Manzuk
Charles and Mary Lou Lynch
Norma W. Berringer
A Joseph and Laura Falcsik
Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson
George and Carlotta Thatcher
Una Dell and Steve Terifay
Leroy and Kathleen Stotler



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

Director of Music Ministries - Michelle Horsley

Michelle Horsley is from Saint Petersburg, Florida and is currently a graduate student at Duquesne University, where she is pursuing a Master's in Music. Michelle comes from a family of church musicians and has been very blessed to serve in churches ever since she was a child. She holds a Bachelor's in Organ Performance from Stetson University where she enjoyed collaborating in a variety of musical ensembles from accompanying operas as the harpsichordist for the Stetson University Chamber Orchestra to premiering new music compositions on toy pianos and amplified bicycle wheels. She also has a strong interest in jazz and has been the keyboardist for several small jazz/rock bands since high school. Michelle feels extremely lucky that she can use what she loves most to glorify God! She hopes to grow the music program at Plum Creek and looks forward to many upcoming church moments in which we can make music together as people of Christ!

Student Minister - Greg Steible

Greg grew up in Dallas, TX, where he became involved in High School with Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. He went to a Jesuit high school, where he was first introduced to Christian Theology. Upon entering college at the University of Tulsa, in Tulsa, OK, he began taking classes in the subject because he missed it. Throughout the next few years he continued to take many classes in Christian Theology and also found an interest in Archaeology. In the end, he graduated majoring in both Religion and Anthropology. While living in Tulsa, he was active in both the Presbyterian Leaders and Scholars ministry at the "TU" and the college age ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa. Currently, he is pursuing his M. Div. at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has played the trumpet for many years, marching both in high school and college and additionally plays the guitar and on occasion the banjo. He also is an avid reader. His current favorite novel is William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

Director of Educational & Congregational Ministries - Patrick VanHorn

Patrick VanHorn begins on September 1st as the first fulltime Director of Educational and Congregational Ministries. He received his Ministry Training Diploma from Rhama Bible College in Broken Arrow, OK and has years of ministry experience, particularly in children's ministry, small group coordination, multi-media coordination and worship leadership. Patrick is extremely excited to begin work here at PCPC and is looking forward to working with anyone who has ideas and wants to participate in ministry that will transform our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.



DEACONS' BLOOD DRIVE

Plum Creek Presbyterian Church

550 Center New Texas Road

Plum Borough

Sunday, September 23, 2012

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please call Wilma for an appointment, (412) 793-7246. We will also be making appointments in the Narthex on Sunday Aug. 26, before and after church and will continue making appointment through September 16th.

Someone, somewhere, needs your blood. Come join us to make our blood drive a success. Thank You



Are You Able?

WORK DAY AT MANSE September 15 - 9:00 a.m.

We need YOUR help.

The manse needs some tender loving care, both inside and out. So, on September 15 at 9:00 a.m. a group of us are going to get together and take care of some of the needs. Please come and help - even if only for a short time. Park at the church and walk over. Come dressed to work. If the weather is good, we will be doing some outside work. There is also inside work to be done. Call Al Tresco (412-795-2323) if you have questions.



Starting on September 9th at 6:00 PM and continuing for 9 weeks, this class will teach you God's way of managing all your financial concerns - from being debt free, to understanding insurance and investment needs, to saving money for retirement or college for your children. If you're interested in living God's will for your life in pragmatic ways, please contact the church office at 412-793-4525 for more information or to register. You can get information and register online at www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home. Refreshments and childcare will be provided.



Sunday School Starts September 9th

Sunday School is 8:45am to 9:45am
All are welcome! There are classes for all ages!

Youth Group Update

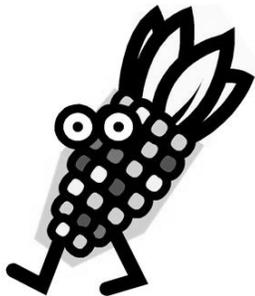


Zoo Day! (August 16) - Zoo Day was a HUGE success. We had 14 youth enjoy the day looking at elephants, giraffes, penguins, lions, tigers, fish, seals, and bears. We were blessed with a wonderful day to experience God's creations. You can see pictures on the Youth bulletin board.

Youth Group Kickoff is September 9th

6:00 P.M.

We will begin "It's You" curriculum. We will discuss how to deal with difficult issues such as rumors, stress, friendships, and mixing faith into the whole scheme.



Corn Maze - October 28th

We will meet at Mallisee's Farm at 6:30pm.
There will be races through the corn maze, a bonfire, s'mores, and snacks. Feel free to bring friends.

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ!

It is an honor for me to serve the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek as the new Director of Music Ministries. Since starting, I have been overwhelmed by an incredible outpouring of kindness and enthusiasm about our music program. If we haven't already met, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself! I hope to get to know the church family as well as I can. As we slowly but surely approach the busy liturgical seasons, there is much to plan and look forward to! I encourage everyone who is interested to get involved. Below are some music opportunities in which all are welcome to participate!



Worship Team

- This is a small group of vocalists and instrumentalists who lead Sunday services. This group rehearses regularly every Thursday from 6-7pm in the sanctuary.

Soloists

- There are frequent opportunities during Sunday services for vocal or instrumental solos. No weekly commitment is necessary in order to participate in special music!

Handbell Choir

- Under the direction of Gloria Mayo, this group will soon resume weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings to play for worship services. Rehearsal time will be determined soon.

Choristers

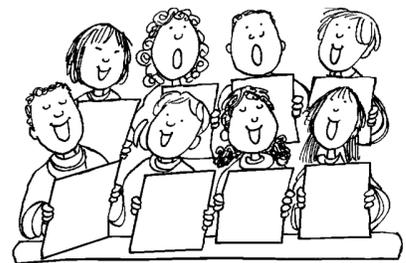
- For special occasions, those who are interested in choral music are invited to collaborate voices! This group holds independently-scheduled rehearsals to prepare for select Sunday worship services.

Children and Youth Choirs

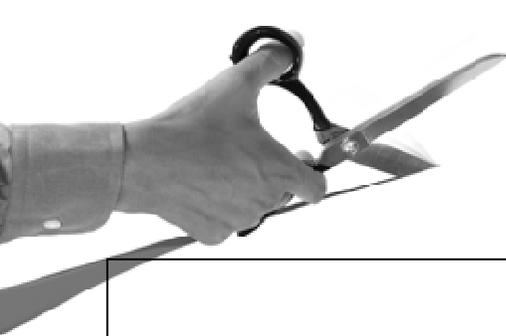
- The church would love to have music ensembles just for kids! For young singers, there is a wonderful library of available Christian music which we would love to use here at Plum Creek. If interested, please let us know! Your involvement will determine how quickly we can start working toward this goal!

As we approach the Advent season, there will be many more exciting opportunities to praise God through music! We hope you will join us.

If interested, please contact:



Michelle Horsley
Director of Music Ministries, Plum
Creek Presbyterian Church
Office: (412) 793-4525 ext.????/ Cell: (727) 776-2465
Email: MichelleJHorsley@Gmail.com



June 2012 Session Snip-Its

- **Daisy Scout inquiry** – Mandy Kmonk has requested use of the fellowship hall for the first and third Fridays of every month for the 2012-13 school year. The Daisies (kindergarten age) will meet from 4:30-6 p.m. As of now, there are no schedule conflicts. If there is someone needing the fellowship hall one of those nights, the scouts could be moved to another room for that night. MSP – Mrs. Kmonk's request be granted.
- **Christian Education** – Search committee for CE/Congregational Ministries director has advertised at Geneva College, Grove City College, Westminster College, Presbytery, and Pittsburgh Seminary.
- **Mission** - Allow up to \$500 to help children from Arnold with items they may need for camp this summer. This is in addition to admission fees.
 - Send \$1745.00 from Mission Trip Account to REACH Work Camp for our youth
 - Send \$150 quarterly to the Plum Food Bank
- **Stewardship** – We need to strictly follow the original policy made by the church: 10 percent of envelope giving ONLY goes to mission committee. (This does not include loose giving or fundraising giving.) Any future changes need to be made clear in the session minutes and to the congregation.
- **Officer training** – November 3 at Beulah Presbv. and will include several area Presbv. churches.



"Romans" Bible Study

Pastor Brenda is resuming this study with Chapter 8 (Boyce Room) Even if you didn't come for the first half, come to the second half of this Study of the Book of Romans.

Dinner and Bible Study
Wed. at 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 12 through Nov. 28

ATTENTION MEN CALLING ALL MEN

The Men's Group is starting another great study. Come on Saturday morning at 7:30 for coffee—occasionally a donut—and a great new study. We are going to begin studying "*A Love Worth Giving*" by Max Lucado, a study of 1 Corinthians Chapter 13. Come and learn from a man's perspective. The study ends promptly at 9. Just show up or let Ed Smith or Ed Ray know if you are interested.

Dear Lynn and Mission Committee,

We are so grateful to the Lord for the generosity of your church and your hard work! Thank you so much.

We appreciate the support and when you are in New Smyrna, please drop in to our Home Office, I would love to meet you.

Please express our appreciation to the Mission Committee and continue to pray for us. The harvest is plentiful in our ten countries in Africa and the workers are few. God could use us to reach millions of children with the gospel and better education. So, we are asking God to bring us more long term missionaries to man the Village – so I would appreciate your Missions Committee’s prayer for the more workers for the harvest.



Thank you again and I do hope I get to meet you.

Blessings,
Karen

Karen Elliott
Chief Executive Officer
The Rafiki Foundation

Strawberry Festival Thank You

The Board of the Day Camp at Plum Creek would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to all those who helped with the Strawberry Festival. It was a tremendous success! As usual, over 50 members of the congregation came together to pitch right in by putting up posters, making phone calls, baking cakes, making fudge, making chocolate covered strawberries, cleaning strawberries, putting up the tent and tables with decorations, greeting the guests as they arrived, cooking and serving approximately 176 hot dogs and 224 BBQs. We also had chips, nachos and cheese, all those wonderful cakes, fudge, and of course the strawberries and ice cream. Everyone who came enjoyed the opportunity to have fellowship with almost 300 neighbors and friends. When it was over, everyone joined together to clean up the kitchen and fellowship hall and put the tent away so that everything was ready for church on Sunday. Marty Holmes even scrubbed the fellowship hall and kitchen after everyone left. Slightly over \$1,258 was given in the free will offering. After we cleared expenses of \$786.37 and donated 49.86 to the General Fund, \$448.77 was given to the Day Camp at Plum Creek. It is definitely a pleasure to work with the members of our congregation who given of their time and talents to make this community event so successful.

Carol Holmes, Carolyne Ressler, & Joy Smith, Co-chairs

Church Board/Committee Members

Session (Elders - E)

Dave Anderson (a)
Bonnie Caliendo (a)
Don Campbell (a)
Laura Campbell (b)
Jim Delo (a)
Karen Delo (b)
Dave Forrest (b)
Bill Gibson (a)
Rodney Horner (a)
Beth Kist (a)
Gloria Mayo (a)
Jeff Mueller (a)
Sam Shaneyfelt (a)
Ed Smith (a)
Al Tresco (a)
Larry Wood (clerk)

Deacons (D)

Linda Bartley (a)
Laura Burnett (b), Treasurer
Pat Croyle (a)
Keith Donnell (a)
Rebecca Durante (a)
Wilma Elicker (b)
Jeremy Ewing (a)
Barbara Grossi (a)
Doris Hedeem (a)
Lois Holmes (b)
Susan Horner (a)
Mary Jo Nesbit (c), Secretary
Donna Pellegrino(b), Moderator
Dave Plance (a)
Nancy Slater (a)
Larry Sturchio(b), Vice Moderator
Emily Szitas (a)
Sharon VanLemmeren (a)

Financial Review Committee

Jenny Caliendo
David Nesbit
Mary Ann Racki

Building, Grounds and Finance Committee

Tim Arnold
Don Campbell (E)
Jim Delo (E)
Keith Donnell (D)
John Hedeem
Marty Holmes
Al Tresco (chair) (E)

Christian Education

Linda Bartley (D)
Rodney Horner (E)
Gloria Mayo (E)
Lucy Ofstun
Alexis Peifer
Carolyn Ressler
Sam Shaneyfelt(chair) (E)
Janet Wood

Evangelism

Dave Anderson (E)
Bonnie Caliendo(chair) (E)
Joe Delo
Jeremy Ewing (D)
Ed Smith (E)
Larry Sturchio
Marilyn Sturchio

Memorial

Dave Plance (D)
Al Tresco (chair) (E)
Elaine Tresco

Mission

Bonnie Caliendo(co-chair)(E)
Laura Campbell(co-chair) (E)
Sandy Cole
Sheri Gibson
Gaye Mallisee
Donna Pellegrino (D)

Ed Ray
Linda Stotler
Lynn Wolfe

Nominating Committee

Karen Delo (E)
Gaye Mallisee
Tim Mayo
Shelley Shaneyfelt
Joy Smith

Personnel

Beth Kist (chair) (E)
Gloria Mayo (E)
John Thompson
Al Tresco (E)
Ron Wolfe

Stewardship

Laura Burnett (D)
Dave Forest (E)
Bill Gibson (E)
Ed Ray
Ed Smith (E)

Worship and Music

Laura Burnett (D)
Deb Caruso
Karen Delo (E)
Dave Forrest (chair) (E)
Beth Kist (E)
Joy Smith

Pastor Nominating Committee

Laura Campbell
Jamie Donnell
Dave Plance
Tim Mayo
Ed Smith (chair)
Larry Sturchio
Emily Szitas
Larry Wood

