



January 2013
Volume 24, Issue 1

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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

January 2013 Worship Schedule

January 6, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
**Officer Installation
Epiphany**

January 13, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord

January 20, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 27, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday after Epiphany



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 – Thursday,
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Minister Reverend Brenda Barnes

Student Minister Greg Steible

Director of Music Ministries Michelle Horsley

Worship Services Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

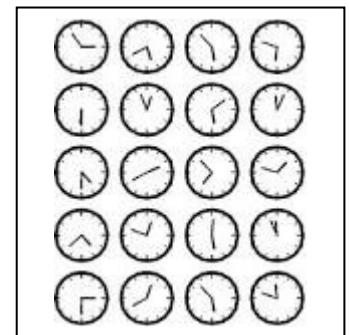
Sunday School Classes Sundays 8:45 a.m.



It's that time of year! Did you make your New Year's resolutions yet? The ancient Greeks spent a great deal of "time" studying and thinking about time. In our English, we have just the one word, but the Greeks had two different words and both are used in the Bible. The first Greek term is *chronos* – time that indicates the future is passing through the present so becoming the past. Chronos time is quantitative; it can be measured; it is dimensional; it can be "accounted for." We watch chronos tick away. In our fast-paced world we are very familiar with *chronos*. We often "run out of time." Chronos gives way to such phrases as "time of day" or "time of life." It is important to measure chronos in order to understand where we spend our "time" that we might have rational control over it (get enough sleep, spend enough time with family, spend enough time with the Lord), because when we don't, chronos gets wild and destructive. The Greeks actually believed that chronos ate its children. Don't we feel that way sometimes? That time is eating us up?

The second Greek term is *kairos*. Kairos time is something different. It is that ethereal time which passes without notice. It is sacred time, or "the right time." Kairos is best defined as God's Perfect Time.

Jesus explains the difference when he tells his disciples. "The right time (kairos) for me has not yet come; for you any time (chronos) is right," (John 7.6). In fact, there are constant references throughout the gospel of John to his kairos time, as when Mary tries to hurry Jesus into action in the marriage of Cana, and he restrains her, "My time has not come."



Kairos time is difficult to see. It has a more strategic sense. Rather than the actual ticks of the clock, it refers more to timely opportunities that arise. *Kairos* could be translated as "appropriate season."

At the pool in Bethsaida, Christ knew the lame man had been sick a long time (chronos). But some bibles actually omit verse 4 of this story:

From time to time an angel of the Lord went down to the pool and stirred up the water; the first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he had.

(John 5:4)

What is interesting here is that the water itself did not bring healing to the lame man. The water had no special healing powers but it brought healing only when it was connected to kairos (God's perfect timing).



The same is true for us. When we learn to discern kairos, the Lord uses us to be fruitful in this world. When we learn to discern kairos, the Lord works through us and in us, especially when there is “stirring of the water.”

So...the trick is, not to be slaves to *chronos* so that we can be open to *kairos*. I am convinced there is benefit in pausing at the beginning of every year to reflect upon the direction our lives, our jobs, and our relationships are taking. It is also important to reflect on our ministries. Do we spend *kairos* and let ourselves be used for Christ’s glory? Or, do we use *chronos* and fill our time doing God-things thinking that kind of time is fruitful. Time is limited and the demands upon our schedules can often be difficult to balance.

Are you willing to drop what you are doing if you suddenly see the water stirring this year? What if God wants to do something for which you did not schedule time? I pray that we will all be wide-open to special opportunities the Lord may place before us this year. What could those things be? Maybe it will be a fresh season of prayer or an increased illumination in God’s word. It could be an opportunity in your ministry that is God-sent and could propel your faith journey. It could be God moving you to be more generous with your resources (starting with your time!). It could be a new approach to your parenting that could profoundly bless your family.

Let us pray and ask God to lead us...and then be ready to not only recognize the stirring of the waters, but to adjust our *chronos* to embrace it! Don’t let your slavery to *chronos* strangle your view of the stirring water and what the Lord might be doing...

Kairos. *Chronos*. I have many ideas, many things I want to do in this New Year. I can’t do all of them right now because there is not enough *chronos*. So, I am learning to wait for *Kairos*, the right time, God’s time.

~Pastor Brenda

BIRTHDAYS

January 15 Helen Morrow

If you know of anyone who is 70 or older please let the church office know. We do not want to miss anyone.

BAPTISMS

December 9 Aiden Joseph Mascaro
December 9 Jennifer Mascaro

Oasis will be back: Wednesday evenings January 9th to February 6th

Oasis will be offered for an abbreviated time period so that we can take Wednesday evenings to worship with our fellow Christians for the Lenten services starting on Ash Wednesday, February 13th.

Joy Smith will lead a class on world religions held in fellowship hall. Pastor Brenda will finish the book of Romans on January 9th and Student Pastor Greg Steible will pick up on January 16th with an exploration of the most important works by Martin Luther, the first great Protestant reformer. We will be reading excerpts from "The Freedom of a Christian" and "The Bondage of the Will," and discussing how his words from nearly 500 years ago still affect us today. This class will be fun and easy, serving as an introduction into one of the most influential theologians of all time!

Men Only

Men, an exciting new study will start in January.

Come and enjoy fellowship and learn what God did for us. The book is "He Chose the Nails" (what God did to win your heart). The book is a thought-provoking study of the last days of Christ written by Max Lucado. His easy to read, short chapters and study guide make it a fun read. From the book it says: "Linger on the hill of Calvary. Rub a finger on the timber and press the NAIL into your hand. Taste the Tinge of cheap wine and feel the scrape of a THORN on your brow. Touch the velvet dirt, moist with the blood of God. Allow the tools of TORTURE to tell their story. Listen as they tell you what God did to win your HEART." Come at 7:30 AM, Saturday, JANUARY 12, 2013 to the kitchen for fellowship and have a cup of coffee and maybe a donut. The book is provided by the church for the study. We end promptly at 9:00 AM. Please come or see Ed Smith or Ed Ray for any questions or information.



ADULT RETREAT - The Adult Retreat for 2013 is scheduled for February 15, 16 and 17, 2013 at Camp Crestfield. Rooms have been reserved in Scott Lodge for the retreat and we will also have the conference room and Harold's Room (fireplace) at our disposal.

John Welch from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will be our speaker this year. John has been at Plum Creek several times and is excited to be with us for our retreat. More details on the cost, etc. will be coming in the normal morning announcements. If there are any questions please contact Larry Wood 412-795-4933 or email at woodlarrye@aol.com

Look forward to seeing you there.

Larry Wood

2013 Church Board/Committee Members

Session (Elders - E)

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

Deacons (D)

Linda Bartley (a)
Pat Croyle (a)
Keith Donnell (a)
Jeremy Ewing (a)
Sheri Gibson (a)
Doris Hedeem (a)
Susan Horner (a)
Nancy Mayo (a)
Lucy Ofstun (a)
Dave Plance (a)
Nathan Polacek (a)
Nancy Slater (a)
Emily Szitas (a)
Sharon VanLemmeren (a)
Open

Financial Review Committee

Jenny Caliendo
David Nesbit
Mary Ann Racki

Building, Grounds and Finance Committee

Don Campbell
Jim Delo
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
Carolyne Ressler
Sam Shaneyfelt (chair) (E)
Janet Wood

Evangelism

Bonnie Caliendo
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
Laura Campbell (E)
Sandy Cole
Gaye Mallisee
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

Dave Forest (E)
Bill Gibson (E)
Ed Ray
Ed Smith (E)

Worship and Music

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