



January 2018
Volume 29, Issue 1

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**The Presbyterian Church
of Plum Creek**

550 Center New Texas Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15239-1502

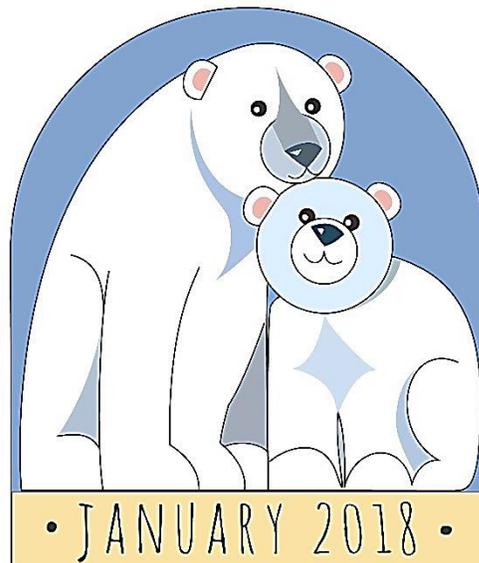
Secretary@PlumCreekChurch.com
www.PlumCreekChurch.com

The Caller



UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Bible Study	Saturdays at 7:30 am
Living Roots	Sundays at 10:30 am
Wed. Afternoon Bible Study	Wednesdays at 1 pm
Congregational Meeting	January 14 - 2:30 pm
February Caller Articles Due	January 20
Soup Sale	February 11



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 **20th of the month**. **Please provide submissions in computer-ready (MS Word or text) format when possible.** Thanks!

Church Address: The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek
550 Center New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-1502

Office Phone Number: (412) 793-4525

E-mail Address: Secretary@PlumCreekChurch.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Allan Drake

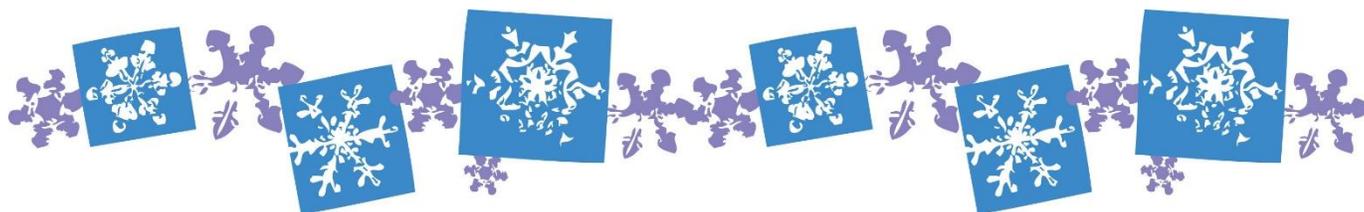
**Director of Youth and
Educational Ministries** Justin Pearl

Director of Music Ministries Gloria Mayo

Business Administrator Kathy Kirk

Worship Services Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes Sundays 8:45 a.m.





*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12*

The Living Nativity was a smashing success again this year! We had hundreds of people from our surrounding community attend to experience the intimate story of the Birth of Jesus Christ at our Church! I recall so many families telling me that “We make the Living Nativity a priority of our family routines at Christmastime!” One young couple that came last year was sharing with me their anxiety on Sunday night as they wondered if they would make it in time for the Living Nativity because they were moving to a new house! They realized that our program goes from 6 until 9 pm each night!

One of the most intimate moments of the night came towards the end of the evening as you were all tired, cold, and ready to call the 2017 program to an end! One of the last families came to the welcome tent where me, Elaine and Bonnie were set up to give people the face of our church family and to extend some of our hospitality to strangers! The family was sitting down by the fire. A little girl was nestled close to her mom and I asked the little girl what she loved most about the experience. She said, “I love seeing Mary and Jesus.” “By the way” she said. “My grandma is with Jesus tonight.” With those tender words from this darling little girl, her mother broke into tears and said, “Yes that’s right darling. Grandma is with Jesus.” I commended the little girl’s mother for training her daughter in our Christian Faith and the Hope of the Resurrection. We finished with a quiet, comforting hug.

Shortly after 9 pm the Living Nativity came to a conclusion as we all walked around to the different stations to hear the story for ourselves! Dylan gave us a lively story telling experience as we made our way to the cold, secluded, manger where Jesus was born. The flutist was playing a beautiful rendition of “What Child is this?” even though her fingers must have been very cold. Meredith invited us to feed the animals as the others had done! Then we were instructed to pick up the milk jugs, hundreds of them, and take them to the pavilion for storing.

What a wonderful weekend opportunity for us to share the Gospel Story with our community! Of course, the optimal word is US! The Sunday after the Living Nativity Weekend, I asked volunteers to come forward and stand at the altar representing a category of involvement in the popular Christmas program! It took so many different people doing so many different things to make our program a success! The Bible reminds us that we are a unique body of many different parts working together just like the human body! Perhaps people who do not know the congregation of Plum Creek fail to realize the cooperative spirit of this Christian Family! I’ve seen it in action first hand at our Living Nativity which was an amazing success!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Love Pastor Allan

BIRTHDAYS

No Birthdays in January

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

MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Charlotte Votquenne
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hosaflook and Hunter

From Louise A. Scott

THANKS YOUs from CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Gingerbread House Party Update

What do you get when you put together strawberry frosting,
cinnamon balls, gummy bears, and graham crackers?
A kid-favorite-flavored holiday craft party!

We had a wonderful party on December 2nd!

Almost 40 children were present! With help from parents and
friends, they made creative, festive, and, in some cases, move-in
condition gingerbread houses to take home.

Thank you to everyone who donated decorating supplies, graham
crackers, and candy.



The Christian Education Committee would like to extend a
“Thank You” to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree
project.

A total of 45 gifts were distributed to two local families.
Thanks to these generous “Angels”, the children of those
two families woke Christmas Morning to an extra special
day!

Dear family and friends,

The Hills are eager to let you know about a major change for us in 2018. We will be moving to western Kenya at the beginning of February, and living and working there for the following 15 months. We have been praying, planning, and working toward this for years, and we are confident in the Lord, as He leads us to serve Him this way.

Katherine first traveled to Kenya in 2012 when she was in medical school. It was there that God called her to be a surgeon, and showed her the immense medical and spiritual needs of Kenya's underserved people. She has returned to Kenya, and Africa, multiple times during her residency in General Surgery, as God continues to confirm His calling for her in this work.

Chris sensed a calling to ministry early in his life. He spent a year with Youth With A Mission in Israel, prior to his undergraduate studies at Moody Bible Institute. Since that time, God has given Chris a desire to train and equip the global church, yet also convicted him of the importance of the local church—ultimately calling him to serve as a pastor. In June, Chris graduated from Trinity School for Ministry, and will be ordained as an Anglican priest this January.

Before we met, Katherine had already identified Tenwek Hospital as an ideal place to serve and exercise her gifts. Tenwek is a mission hospital in the Bomet District of western Kenya. It has been serving the region both medically and spiritually since 1937, and the message inscribed across Tenwek's main entrance speaks to its essential mission: "We treat, Jesus heals." As our relationship and marriage has grown, God has given us a shared vision for Kenya.

While at Tenwek, Katherine will be working full-time as a surgical resident, as well as a researcher and educator among the surgeons and surgical trainees at the hospital. She is excited for a time of growth and learning, while she uses her gifts to care for the patients and surgeons at Tenwek. She anticipates that this experience will prepare her for a lifetime of engaging in surgical missions and training surgeons for areas of the world in need.

Similarly, Chris will be working within the local Anglican church, and he is excited to learn alongside Kenyan pastors. He knows that this experience will teach him new skills and provide unique insights, which will enrich his future ministry. Chris has spent the last several months serving as a Deacon at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Gibsonia, PA as well as volunteering with a local chaplain at a senior care facility. At Tenwek, he'll also be working within the ministries of the hospital's broader community outreach, particularly in the chaplaincy school.

We are so grateful for the support of our family and friends in this endeavor. During the next few months leading up to February, as well as our 15 months in Kenya, we will absolutely need your prayers.

For now, we ask your prayers specifically for:

- Preparation of many details: paperwork, permits, visas, moving and travel arrangements
- Preparation of our hearts for the approaching changes and work God has set out for us
- Our faith and marriage—for both to be strengthened in every phase
- The patients and families, physicians, staff, missionaries, and clergy of Tenwek Hospital

We are blessed that God has provided for us financially, as Katherine will be able to maintain her status as a surgical resident during our time away. However, if you would like to give toward our ministry while in Kenya, see this website, www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/wmm-doctors/, where you can search for us by name (Hill).

To find out more about Tenwek Hospital, see: www.tenwekhospital.org, or

www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya.

And, to keep up with the Hills during this adventure follow us at: BibleAndScalpel.wordpress.com.

With thanks for your love and support,
Chris and Katherine Hill



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day	2 6:00p-Evangelism Committee 7:00p-Mission	3 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study	4 6:30p-Worship Team Practice 7:00p-Girl Scout Troop 55150	5 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 52353	6 7:30a-Men's Bible Study
7 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship 10:30a-Living Roots 6:00p-Youth Group	8 6:30p-Cub Scouts 6:30p-T.O.P.S. 7:00p-Building and Grounds Meeting 7:30p-Boy Scouts	9 7:00p-Worship and Music 7:00p-Deacons	10 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 6:30p-Stewardship Meeting	11 6:30p-Worship Team Practice 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 53052	12 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop	13 7:30a-Men's Bible Study
14 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship 10:30a-Living Roots 2:30p-Congregational Meeting 6:00p-Youth Group	15 MLK Jr. B-day 6:30p-Cub Scouts 6:30p-T.O.P.S. 7:30p-Boy Scouts	16 7:00p-Session Meeting	17 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study	18 6:30p-Worship Team Practice 7:00p-Girl Scout Troop 55150	19 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 52353	20 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 9:00a-Angelo Party 11:45p-Caller Articles Due
21 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship 10:30a-Living Roots 6:00p-Youth Group	22 6:30p-Cub Scouts 6:30p-T.O.P.S. 7:30p-Boy Scouts	23	24 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study	25 6:30p-Worship Team Practice 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 53052 6:30p-Christian Education Committee	26	27 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 9:00a-Cub Scout Event
28 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship 10:30a-Living Roots 6:00p-Youth Group	29 6:30p-Cub Scouts 6:30p-T.O.P.S. 7:30p-Boy Scouts	30	31 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study			

