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PlainfieldUMC 
a growing faith community

Questions?

Please contact the church office

815-436-9651

pumc@plainfieldumc.com

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PLAINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMMING SEPTEMBER— DECEMBER 2019



Tools for the Journey



EQUIP



RELATE



SERVE



WORSHIP

Kid's Book Club – Grades 2-7

First Thursday of the Month – 6:30pm

Wendy Proulx – proulxwendy@gmail.com

Melanie Dale – melaniedale@comcast.net



Come have fun with us! Each student reads a book each month and then we meet to discuss it. (You can find these at the library!) We connect Bible passages and stories to the themes! We have games, art projects, and amazing snacks! Sometimes we watch movies to connect to the books we read. Check out our facebook page or watch the newsletter for upcoming books this year!

October 3rd – Insignificant Events in the Life of A Cactus by Dusti Bowling



WHAM! — We Have A Mission

First and Third Wednesday of the Month, Additional dates to serve, 6:30-7:30pm

Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com

Calling all kindergarteners through 5th graders! Come join us as we serve. Each month a new project is chosen. We learn, then we get involved in hands-on missions.

Prayer Shawl Group

One Monday Each Month — 9:30am (watch newsletter for dates)

Debbie Obrecht — debbieobrecht@comcast.net



As a part of the Prayer Shawl Group, you may never know how much your shawl touches another person's life. Prayer shawls are given for many reasons: illness, grieving, celebrations, or anyone needing prayers and comfort. When a person is given a prayer shawl, we pray for that person asking God to wrap them in His compassionate love. When wrapped in their shawl, a person can feel warmth and the love and prayers that surround them. There is an old saying... "Our hands are God's hands." We trust that God works through us as we knit and give our shawls.

Prepare to Come Close to the Mystery:

An Advent Evening for Women

Date TBA

Becky Potter — rspotter6@comcast.net or 815-351-1759



Advent is a four week season that invites us to prepare for Christ's coming so that we will not miss life's greatest gift. Come before you are caught up in the busy-ness of the Holiday season and join the Circle of Women for an evening of gentle reflection on the Mystery of Christmas. An evening set aside to prepare the manger of your heart to receive Christ. We will share some simple and realistic ways to keep ourselves focused on Christ's coming in the midst of our daily lives.

Christmas Around the World Family Event

Sunday, December 15, 3:00-5:00pm



You won't want to miss this special event where we will celebrate Christmas traditional from around the world. Your family will be able to learn about Christmas traditions from other countries as you sample the tastes, sights, and sounds of this blessed season. All ages are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors for this unforgettable night! Interested in participating with the traditions in your family? Contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com to learn more.

Worship and Picnic in the Park

Sunday, September 29, 10:00am



On the last Sunday in September (9/29), instead of holding regular services, PUMC will be hosting a worship service and potluck picnic at the Grande Park Pavilion on Grande Park Blvd. This is the date of the Plainfield Harvest 5K Run when parking at the church is always a challenge. Rides are available for those who request one. We're taking this opportunity to gather offsite, get to know each other better by all attending one service, and enjoy what we hope will be a beautiful fall day!

Crop Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 27th, 2:00pm

Hope UMC, 2506 Caton Farm Rd., Joliet

Church office — 815-436-9651



Walk, pray, and/or donate to support hunger ministries right in our own backyard. People of all ages are encouraged to come out. Portion of proceeds benefit the Ridgewood United Community Pantry and the Plainfield Interfaith Food Pantry.

Fall Festival

Sunday, October 20, 4:00-6:00pm



It's an annual tradition at PUMC! Join us for fall family fun as we play outside, share a hot dog and chili super, and celebrate God's blessings. Hayrides, scarecrows, pumpkin crafts, roasting marshmallows, and so much more! People of all ages are welcome.

Aurora District Lay Academy

Nov. 2 & 9, 8:00am-3:00pm,

Hinsdale UMC, 945 S. Garfield St., Hinsdale, IL

Larry Newton, Lay Servant — tubbfan@gmail.com



Wonderful opportunity for all lay persons (non-clergy) to learn new skills and grow in discipleship at the District Level. Special sessions available on Connectional Living/ Connectional Giving, Spiritual Gifts, and United Methodist Heritage. Connect with other United Methodists on the District and be energized for ministry here at PUMC!

Women's Book Group

Third Thursday of the Month — 7:00pm

Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Women of all ages are invited to be a part of PUMC's Women's book group. We read a wide variety of books, many suggested by the participants. If you love reading, great discussions, and having fun, then come join us any month you are available!

September Book — While We Were Watching Downton Abbey by Wendy Wax

October Book — The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo

November Book — Evicted by Matthew Desmond

December Book — The Bee Keeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Garden Group

Dates TBD

Patty Habersberger – dsh01@comcast.net



The Garden Group consists of anyone who admires nature and its wonders. We like to share gardening tips and visit local events and places such as a fairy garden class at The Growing Place, Fall Fest at the Fields, and the Morton Arboretum to name a few. We also help maintain the church's memorial garden and volunteer for spring and fall cleanups at church members' homes. It is a great time of fun and fellowship. Our fall brunch will be held on Thursday, September 19 at the church. Contact Patty for more information.

Serve at the Ridgewood United Community Pantry

Fourth Wednesday of the month, 11:30am-3:00pm

Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Join the team as we unload the Big Red Truck, stock the tables, and assist clients in receiving food from the pantry. People of all ages and abilities are welcome — jobs are assigned by person for what works for you! Volunteers bring a sack lunch and eat together before the pantry opens.

JWEL – Justice through Witness, Equality and Love

Dates TBD



The JWEL small group seeks to highlight and listen to the stories of those on the margins. Our ultimate goal is to use education and awareness as a tool to help mobilize the congregation to reach out to all our neighbors with love and radical hospitality. Join the conversation on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/488345251277586/>

Moms Encouraging Moms

Various event dates, times, and locations

Megan Marconi and Sharla Brender – momsencouragingmomspumc@gmail.com



Moms Encouraging Moms is a mother's support group where we enjoy the friendship, guidance, encouragement, and fun we share together. Our mission is to support each other and to serve the church and community. Join their email list or facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/96453843159/>) to receive regular updates and details! This fall we're introducing WHAM Wednesdays! Join us for a chance to connect and have fun! Childcare provided (WHAM programming or nursery care).

- 9/18: Creating Care Packages
- 10/2: Game Night/Appetizers
- 10/16: Soup Exchange and Chat
- 11/6: Yoga
- 12/4: Sock Exchange/Hot Cocoa

Letter Writing Small Group

Quarterly Meetings, 9:30-11:30am, as scheduled
Harriett Nelson – richardnelson58@yahoo.com



Do you like to receive actual hand-written cards through “snail mail”? Would you like to give that joy to others? Come be a part of the team! We gather quarterly and for the Big Serve in May. All supplies are provided. You just bring your favorite pen! This is a great way to connect with our church family and to let them know we are thinking of them!

Bellissimo Ringers Bell Choir

Saturday mornings, 8:30-9:30am

Kelly Markwell — kelly.markwell@gmail.com



The Bellissimo Handbell choir provides special music at both 8:30 and 11 am services. The ensemble benefits from a wide spectrum of ages. Whether age fourteen or seventy-four, they ALL have a great time, and provide a real blessing to us on Sunday mornings when they share their gifts! Come join in!

Children's Choir

1st and 3rd Wednesday Evening Rehearsals, 6:00-6:30pm

Karyn Holstead — kholstead@hotmail.com



Calling all kids who love to sing! Join the children's choir and have fun learning new songs with your friends. We welcome kids from kindergarten through 5th grade.

Chancel Choir

Wednesday Evening Rehearsals, 7:00pm; Sing during 8:30 Worship

Beth Best — 525beth@gmail.com



The Chancel Choir welcomes singers of high school age and older to this SATB choral worship experience. The choir prepares anthems that include diverse styles of music: from masterworks to gospel, spirituals to Mozart ~ and up-tempo contemporary selections, as well. The choir assists in leading worship at the 8:30am service each Sunday morning.

Worship Band

Wednesday Evening Rehearsals, 6:30pm; lead during 11:00 worship

Megan Marconi — (815) 302-5781, mamarconi1029@gmail.com



The Worship Band augments and enhances the musical offerings of the service with praise hymns, interpretations from *The Faith We Sing* hymnal, and other anthems. Play an instrument or like to sing? Come join in leading worship at the 11:00am service each Sunday.

Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Groups

First and Third Sundays, 6:30pm to 8:00pm; Additional Outings/
Events as scheduled

Youth Leaders; Roger Beitzel, Youth Director — roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com



We're set to have fun and grow in our faith this fall as we focus on building respect in our relationships. Bring yourself, bring your friends, and bring your enthusiasm as we explore what it means to be a Christian youth in today's world.

Save the Date!

Junior High Youth Fall Retreat

Oct. 11-13, Dixon Valley, Cost: \$50.00

Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner

Nov. 6, Delicious dinner from our youth will be served. Plus, the location for the 2020 Youth Mission Trip will be announced!



Sunday School for Children and Youth

Sunday mornings, 9:45am-10:45am beginning September 8
Rev. Sherry Steele— sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com

The cornerstone of our Christian education ministries, Sunday School classes are available beginning with toddlers (age 2 by Sept. 1, 2019) through High School Seniors. Classes use curriculum resources to explore the Bible and our faith tradition through stories, games, art, music, drama, and fellowship. Classes participate in hands-on learning opportunities and mission projects to deepen their understanding and grow in faith.

“Fun” Men’s Group

First or Second Sunday of the Month – 12:30pm

Eric Wellman – ewellman97@yahoo.com



The “Fun” Men’s Group invites men of all ages who enjoy good food, fellowship, and service around our church and community. The group meets at different restaurants and pubs in the area right after the 11:00am service. Besides its monthly lunch meetings, the group helps out with various events throughout the year, including the Really Really Free Market and other jobs necessary around the church.

September 8th-Cemeno’s Pizza, 1630 Essington Rd., Joliet

October 6th-Craft’d, 16031 S. Lincoln Hwy, Plainfield

November 3rd-Backroads Pub and Grill, 13717 S. Lincoln Hwy, Plainfield

December 8th-Heroes West, Freedom Brothers, 11914 IL-59, Plainfield

The Traveling Team

Every other 1st Tuesday of the Month — 6:30pm

Victoria Eggerstedt — pveggerstedt@gmail.com



This group serves as a resource and information-sharing group for people that love to travel. We do not travel together, but help each other plan trips; share travel tips, resources & information; talk about awesome places we’ve been to that others might want to add to their own “travel bucket list”; and keep ourselves abreast of what’s going on in the travel industry and its ever-changing travel restrictions. All are welcome!

Cycling Group

Dates/Times/Locations Vary

Eric Lenning – EricLenning@sbcglobal.net



Fun, fellowship, fitness, and faith formation are the goals of the Cycling Group. Whether you’re new to bicycling or have been riding for years, we hope you will join us! Rides are very casual with a typical distance of 15-20 miles at a pace of 12-13 mph on paved paths, like the Fox River Trail or crushed limestone, like the I&M Canal Trail.

“Authenticity” Adult Class

Sunday mornings, 9:50am to 10:45am, beginning September 8
Monday lunch, 11:30am-1:00pm, beginning September 9
Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Have you ever longed for someone else’s life? Better to seek authenticity in your own life by showing up completely with honesty and courage. Do one small thing and jump into “The Authenticity Challenge,” where you will be invited to embrace authenticity in three key areas of your life: vocation (the What), relationships (the Who), and faith (the Why). Over the course of 21 days, you will be guided through seven daily challenges each week related to one of these areas.

Covenant Bible Study

Day/Time TBD by interested participants
Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Are you ready to deepen your understanding of scripture and answer God’s call to a faithful life in Jesus? Have you been waiting for that *one great bible study* to come along so you can explore, ask questions, and seek to connect God’s Word to your daily life? Now’s the time! Pastor Sherry will be leading this 8-week Bible encounter this October-November. Come and take a fresh look at a timeless promise. E-mail to register.

“Fear of the Other” Adult Class

Sunday mornings, 9:50am to 10:45am, beginning Oct. 6 through Oct. 27
Monday lunch, 11:30am-1:00pm, beginning Oct. 7 through Oct. 28
Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



There is a distinctively Christian way to engage the so-called “outsider” and “stranger.” Tolerate one another. Wait. Isn’t that supposed to be love one another? It’s one thing to genuinely love people who are more or less the same as we are, but what about those who are not only strangers, but people who live completely different lives? In this class, you will be invited to look more closely at the Gospel’s command to love—because to genuinely love those considered to be “Other” may be the hardest thing for people of faith to do.

“Listen: Praying in A Noisy World” Adult Study

Sunday mornings, 9:50am to 10:45am, beginning Nov. 3 through Nov. 24
Monday lunch, 11:30am-1:00pm, Nov. 4 through Nov. 25
Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Create a new experience with God by learning to listen. We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts.

This class will offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. With a focus on listening prayer and prayer as a two-way conversation, the experience will assist you in building and deepening a personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.

As we learn to listen, we find a new depth and fulfillment in our relationship with God and a new experience of God as guide and companion in our lives. The daily prayer pattern includes an invitation, silence, Bible reading, a story, guided time for reflecting and listening, and practical help for developing specific prayer practices.

“Light of the World” Advent Study

Sunday mornings, 9:50am to 10:45am, beginning Dec. 1 through Dec. 22
Monday lunch, 11:30am-1:00pm, Dec. 2 through Dec. 23
Rev. Sherry Steele — sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com



Dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ! Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it’s also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. Author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary’s visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. A rich and challenging learning experience to enhance your journey towards Christmas.