



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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Tentative deadline for next Plain Talk:

November 16 (early due to Thanksgiving)

- UCC.org
- UCCNY.org

Plain Talk sponsorships will resume next month.

From the Pastor

Even though this is my first official call and full time church position as a pastor, I have much experience over the past four years that I would like to write about as a way to introduce myself a little more to the members of Plainville Christian Church.

As a seminary student, we are required to be student pastors in two different locations during the academic year with at least one year being in a church setting. As a UCC pastor, I was also required to complete one unit of CPE or Clinical Pastoral Education which can be done in a variety of settings.

I have also had experience as a regular supply pastor for a small congregation during my first year of seminary, as well.

My most recent student pastorate was at Trinity Roths UCC in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. During this time, I was in charge of the youth group with another young adult. We conducted a 30 hour famine with three young people and raised money and awareness of the problems of hunger. On the Sunday after that Saturday sleepover, I led a youth Sunday

worship service where the young adults did everything except the preaching. At this location I was able to preach and lead worship and assist the pastor in various other ministry opportunities.

During my second year of seminary, I was a student pastor at St. John UCC in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania.

During this academic year, I preached at least once a month and led worship every week. I also assisted the pastor in teaching the confirmation program with six students.

During that academic year, I traveled to Israel with my seminary colleagues for nineteen days. Upon return, I led an entire worship service based on my trip with scripture, story, and photographs.

The summer before my time at Fogelsville, I was a chaplain at Lancaster General Hospital – or LGH. I conducted regular visitations of people on all floors including the ICU and emergency rooms. I dealt with various death ministry opportunities as well as car accidents and other trauma situations as the on-call

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chaplain. This experience has really allowed me to grow in my pastoral care skills and let me acknowledge some of my own vulnerabilities.

One of the first experiences I had as a pastor was being a supply preacher for First Reformed UCC in Berwick, Pennsylvania. I was a regular fill-in during a time of pastoral transition for this congregation. I enjoyed this opportunity very much to allow me to really get my feet wet with preaching on a regular basis even

before I had a full year of seminary under my belt.

All of these experiences have in one way or another changed and challenged the way that I conduct ministry. I am very excited for Brea and me to begin our ministry here at Plainville Christian Church. As I am writing this short biography, my parents are expecting up to 8 inches of snow for Halloween weekend. I am still waiting for our first inch in New York and I cannot wait for us to experience our first New York winter.

Blessings,
Pastor Gary

Mission Update

Plainville Christian Church was well represented this year at the CROP walk held at Onondaga Lake Parkway. From what I hear it was the largest group we have had with five adults and seven



children. The day was cold, rainy and windy. However, we powered through the weather to complete the 4 ½ miles. A lot of jokes and fun along the way kept everyone motivated. In total \$686 was raised (more than twice last year's total!). A big thank you to all who supported us, and congratulations to all who walked! Maybe next year you too might join us!

Submitted by Shelly Beaumont

From the Editor

I hope you're all as excited to see the Plain Talk again as I am to help produce it. About half way through October, I was asked to fill the open position as editor. Even though the month was almost over, I wanted to get something out for November... and here we are!

For the December issue, things should be back to normal. Look for sign-ups in the community center to sponsor an issue (\$20 per month to cover printing and postage), to get the newsletter in the mail (although we're hoping to save money and have most people read it online), to get on an email list to let you know when the newsletter is available online, or for anyone who wants to help create the newsletter.

I look forward to working with all of you on Plain Talk!

Brea Rarick

New Member Sunday

On November 27, the first day of Advent – and, thus, first day of the church year – Pastor Gary and Brea will be joining Plainville Church. Anyone else who is interested in becoming a member should talk to Pastor Gary.

Turkey Dinner

November 8 marks the annual election day turkey dinner. The dinner starts at 4:30 -- \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for kids younger than 5.

And in preparation for the dinner a “Squash Party” will be held at the church at 6:30 on Thursday, November 3. There will also be work to do after the service on Sunday, Nov. 6. Lunch will be provided.

Desserts at the Parsonage

Pastor Gary and Brea welcomed church members into the parsonage in October for meet and greet desserts. Thirty-seven members toured the renovated parsonage, enjoyed homemade desserts, and spent social time with the new pastor and his wife and puppy.

Anyone who wasn't able to make any of the October dates and would like to see the changes (or just enjoy some casual time with the Raricks) can see Pastor Gary or Brea to set up a convenient time to visit the parsonage and see the updates.

Thanksgiving and the UCC

Schoolchildren will tell you that Thanksgiving is celebrated because in the 1600s the Pilgrims came to America to get religious freedom. And the first Thanksgiving was when the Native Americans sat down with the Pilgrims they had worked harmoniously with to celebrate the harvest. But did you know those Pilgrims were the earliest members of the United Church of Christ?

In 1620, 35 members of John Robinson's church joined 66 others to journey on the Mayflower across the Atlantic. Robinson is considered one of two “fathers” of the Congregational Church. This denomination then became part of the Congregational and Christian Churches. In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church joined with them and became our United Church of Christ.

So if your turkey just doesn't turn out perfectly or bad weather changes your plans, remember the sacrifices our religious forefathers made to assure we could safely worship as we choose each Sunday.

Concert Series

November has two concerts at our church. See Robin for more information.

- **November 9, 7 p.m.** B'Ville Community Band Veteran's Day Salute; community center; free program with refreshments
- **November 19, 7 p.m.** Andrew & Noah VanNorstrand; sanctuary; \$5 for adults

What is Mission: 1?

The United Church of Christ created the Mission: 1 initiative to help feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. From November 1 through November 11, the UCC plans to:

- Collect more than 1 MILLION items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services
- Gather contributions of more than \$111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need food-related ministries; and \$111,111 for East Africa famine-related ministries
- Write more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress, asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that benefits hungry and poor people worldwide

Plainville's Part

Each participating church was asked to set its own goals. At Plainville, a total of 111 cans of healthy food and \$111 for Neighbors in Need was set.

As of the end of October, several cans of food and \$84 have been collected. Canned goods are being collected at the front of the sanctuary for the local food bank and envelopes for Mission: 1 are in the back of the sanctuary.

Also as part of the initiative, Pastor Gary will be volunteering for at least 11 hours during the first 11 days of November. Anyone is welcome to join him.



Other Churches

- Union Congregational UCC in Somonauk, Illinois: 111 new visitors in church; 11 new members; 11 percent increased giving; 11 new or revitalized ministries; 11 compliments a day; 11 pieces of trash picked up per day; 11 pennies saved per day; 11 acts of kindness per week; and 11 smiles per day.
- First Church UCC in Lombard, Illinois, had the 11 church council members ask 11 others for \$11 apiece – and for those who gave to ask 11 more people for \$11.
- Pensacola Beach Florida Community UCC, a church with 197 members, got help from a local school and other groups, in a goal to raise 11 tons of food.

To read more about what other churches are doing, visit ucc.org/mission1. The UCC website will also keep a running tally on its website during the initiative.