



April 2008
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**The Presbyterian Church of
Plum Creek**

550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239
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The Caller

April 2008 Worship Schedule

Frenzy or Error

Text: II Timothy 3:16

Dr. Lolla, preaching

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

April 6, 2008

Third Sunday of Easter

Measuring the Spirit by Truth

Text: Galatians 1:10

Dr. Lolla, preaching

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

April 13, 2008

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Counter-cultural Faith!

Text: I Corinthians 1:27

Dr. Lolla, preaching

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

April 20, 2008

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Guard your Witness

Text: Exodus 20:4

Dr. Lolla, preaching

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

April 27, 2008

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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. To submit an editorial be sure to include your name. 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: Dr. John J. Lolla

**Praise & Worship Team Leader/
Children's Choir Director:** Kathy Grabigel

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Church School Classes: Sundays 9:40 to 10:50 a.m.

Letter from Reverend Lolla- April 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month was interesting with Reverend Jeremiah Wright making the headlines for a sermon he preached following the 911 terrorist attacks on America, in 2001. Wright has been Barack Obama's minister for many years. If you did not hear the news reports, Wright made disparaging remarks about America deserving the attacks because of its racism. The maelstrom of anger directed at the United Church of Christ minister, and by association, Obama, displayed the influence upon the public of words spoken by a religious leader. Although the content of Reverend Wright's sermons have been known for some time, the timing of their release was viewed as some to be more than coincidental. Within a few days, Obama disassociated himself from his pastor's message.

Would Reverend Wright's comments have been as controversial if they were not linked to the leading candidate of one of America's political parties? Yes, they would. However, their connection with a candidate for the presidency raised questions about America's future. Will we be led back into the racial hostility that tore at America's heart during the late 1960s? It was perceived the Reverend's views were influential upon his high profile church member, revealing a hidden, unknown side to this candidate for America's highest political office.

Jeremiah Wright exposed what many white Americans fear – black outrage that remains hidden from public view. Had the Reverend crossed the great divide of Church/state separation in his condemnation of America? Or was he simply stating what many want to avoid about their fellow Americans – not all are pleased with the social progress that has been made from the Jim Crow days. But there was another thread to the public outcry against the Chicago preacher.

The visceral rejection of Wright's invoking God's curse upon America in another sermon expressed a deeply held view across the land that our nation was a gross victim of injustice and evil on 911 – plain and simple. There is almost no sympathy among Americans for the impact of freedom of speech spewing forth across the world. Freedom of speech has lost the international respect of many who believe that public modesty is a virtue, especially when it comes to morality. Wright barely touched this theme, however. He seemed preoccupied with sheer condemnation of the nation that allowed him to publicly vilify it without punishing him for treason – although privately, some Americans believe that treason is exactly what the minister preached.

Which raises a question about preaching. To what extent can the gospel be preached without becoming political? Is it simply not mentioning a candidate's name for endorsement from the pulpit? Or is it raising moral and ethical questions about the course of a nation's political leadership when it appears to be straying from God's purposes? Can any nation claim to be "under God" if the public will wants to muzzle the preaching of those biblical themes that challenge – and at points condemn - root assumptions of a nation's social righteousness; even when those unchallenged assumptions contribute to social misery?

I once was told by a friend before I accepted the call to ministry, "Jack, you will be judged by your congregation by how well you are able to get them to drink the castor oil that heals them." Jeremiah Wright could have been more effective if he had used the approach used by many other preachers to help their audiences drink their castor oil – humor. But no one was humorous after 911 – there was no joking about what happened – not even from the pulpits of Jay Leno and David Letterman. A pastor recognizes those occasions when what is needed is pastoral care, not humor nor damnation. Perhaps America's outrage stems from wanting pastoral care from its political leadership as it enters God's future, as well as from its pulpits.

God bless you,
Pastor Jack

BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Ellis Rosenberger
29 Gale Shreffler

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

WEDDINGS

Lindsey Shaginaw and Timothy Berkebile
March 15, 2008

MEMORIALS

For Randall Redlich

Troy M. Baer
Neighbors on Crest Lane
Bob and Hazel Berringer
Leslie and Mike Novilla
Dennis and Darlene Clark
Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson
Mr. Howard Edwards
W. A. Blose
Carole B. Clark

For Nelma Parr

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lasser

DAY CAMP AT PLUM CREEK – MEMORIAL GIFTS:

For Christ Bante

Ms. Colleen Tabak
Ms. Sara Marks and Family
Donna Romanelli
Phillip, Ursula, Nicole and Sean Grosbeck
Lyle Patrick Haney
Ronald and Glenda Sekerchak
Ann Kalik

Stewardship

The blessings of Stewardship within our church are evident in many ways. Aside from our regular giving for the upkeep and operation of the church, the number of people who give of their time and talents is at all times wonderful. The dramatic presentation "Believe" allowed close to 100 people give of their time and talent to contribute to this ministry. This number is reflective of everyone from greeters, ticket takers, those who worked in the Fellowship Hall, to the people in the presentation itself.

We have many opportunities for this kind of Stewardship. In the next few months, calls for help at the Rummage Sale, Flower Sale, Strawberry Festival, and Praise at the Pavilion will be requested. If you have helped in years past we certainly hope you will continue to do so. If you are looking for a 'new' way to give to the church, pick an event and help be a steward for that event.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Team

THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING!!! May 2 and 3, 2008

Yes, the rummage sale is coming!! During the first week of May, our church will be overrun with stuff!! We will have bicycles, Christmas decorations, lots of clothes, books, mugs, toys, hats, antiques, jewelry, furniture, suitcases, and plenty of other stuff, too. You can help in many ways:

1. We really need help with set up and clean up. Set up is Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 pm and clean up is Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 pm.
2. We also need lots of help with sorting and pricing. We will be doing this Monday through Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm and from 7 pm to 9 pm. On Thursday, the National Day of Prayer, set up will be 9-4pm. Everyone is encouraged to come to the service at 7pm.
3. We need donations of good, useable merchandise to be dropped off during the sorting times listed above.
4. We need baked goods for the bake sale on Friday.
5. We need cashiers during the sale from 9 am to 7 pm Friday and 9 am to 2 pm Saturday.

Please consider helping with this year's sale. We always have a lot of fun! This year the monies raised will help to fund our mission outreach through the Day Camp at Plum Creek and the Lenten musical, "Believe." Please call Carolyn Ressler, chair at 412 793 9686, with any questions or concerns, or speak to any Day Camp Board member.

When considering what to bring to our sale, we thought you might appreciate poem written by fellow congregation member, Jean Manzuk:

Things

*My family all tell me my house is an utter disaster
Perhaps they are right and I should clean out
The clutter, bring order to chaos.
But where shall I start?
The small baby spoon kept to feed the babies their pablum
Is really too small to make even a dent
There's Aunt Lillian's mesh flower thank you that she sent.
The picture filled walls though not great works of art
Give a tug to my heart because they were painted for me.
It's true that my rooms are too full of sofas and more
But when they all come home, must they sit on the floor?
My cookware peeks out from all cupboards and shelves.
I really don't need three sets of dishes myself
Though I want to leave each of my children a share
Of my dishes and pans and four sets of flatware.
My books line the walls from the floor to the ceilings
And give me some uneasy feelings,
But I can't give them up because I am aware
That I need to review them to be sure
That the words that I love are still there.
Each day brings more and more seed of things
Of things that I really don't need.
Are my treasures all waste
Since they've outgrown my space?
It's time to put this list away.
Tomorrow is another day.*

ACCURATE RECEIPTS – a small part of God’s ministry!!

Praise God that so many people are actively involved in so many ministries here at Plum Creek!

Just look at BELIEVE if you want evidence that we are all working as the Body of Christ to do his work. There were leaders, singers/actors, technical people, greeters, publicists, coffee hour coordinators, set makers, cookie bakers, costumers, financial supporters, baby sitters, program folders, photographers, and on and on. Other examples of many working together for Christ are the Day Camp, the music program, Senior Dinners, Coffee Hours, Oasis, Rummage Sale, Vacation Bible School, Funeral Luncheons, and, again, the list goes on and on.

Part of doing the ministry is acquiring the needed supplies. We appreciate church members’ willingness to purchase what is needed for approved ministries, but we do need to follow good accounting principals. Please make sure you get accurate detailed receipts and save them for items purchased. Once accurate receipts are received, we then have a set procedure to assure payment is approved and made as quickly as possible.

We are blessed to have so many people actively participating in Christ’s ministry here at Plum Creek and we want to be sure that the support of their efforts goes as smoothly as possible. So, please hold onto your receipts and turn them in as soon as possible. Thank you so much for all you do in the name of Christ here at the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek!!!!

Dear Plum Creek Congregation:

Jeff and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions in making "Believe" a wonderful ministry this year. The Holy Spirit is truly at work here at Plum Creek. It was so awesome to see so many people from our community in fellowship with us to celebrate the joy that God gives us through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Also, it was so amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work from within our congregation as so many people volunteered their time, talents, energy and finances for the purpose of giving glory to God. What wonderful blessings and unexplainable joy God has given us here at Plum Creek!

In a world where there is so much heartache and pain caused by sin, thank God for giving us His Son, Jesus to be that perfect unblemished Lamb to take away the sins of the world. Hallelujah!! He is risen!!! And we have new life through Him!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please keep Jeff and I and Nicholas in your prayers to help us discern God's daily will for our lives. Please continue to pray for my staff position here at Plum Creek as I seek to discern God's will for the music ministry.

God is using Plum Creek in a mighty way! How beautiful it is for us to be a part of God's plan to bring more people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

To God be all glory, honor and praise!!!!

In Christ,

Kathy Grabigel
Plum Creek Praise and Worship Leader

Additional thanks to Greg & Tracey Beehner, Nick & Ilene Calabrese, Sandy Cole, Bob & Linda Crossey, Wilma Elicker, Jim & Kathy Kirk, Joe & Jane Marzullo, Bob McMahon, Jack & Melanie Mills, Larry & Dot Mills, Jeff & Lindsay Mueller, Dave & Mary Jo Nesbit, Bonnie Redlich, Blaine & Francis Scherf, Gale Shreffler, Eileen Siems, everyone who prayed, made cookies, ushered, costumed, greeted, financially supported, came and saw "Believe", everyone who brought people to see the ministry, and anyone else that I may have forgotten. Thank you so much for supporting this God-given ministry. Our church family is truly blessed to have such wonderful people. Praise God!!!!!!!

THANK-YOU NOTE

3/13/08

Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek –

Thank you for sowing seeds of God's Word and love in our community with your musical "Believe." Our family of we, two grandparents, two parents and one grandchild, truly were thrilled. It made me feel Jesus' sacrifice for us even more. Watching and hearing "Believe" was a Blessing.

Thank You!
Janice Grieco

