



Greetings PUMC Family in the Name of the Risen Christ,

I write this article one day after the U.S. women's soccer team collapse in the World Cup final against Japan. By all accounts this World Cup was filled with spectacular play, thrilling last minute goals, and shocking upsets. Perhaps the most spectacular goal scored in the entire tournament was when U.S. player Megan Rapinoe launched a perfect kick from mid-field to Abby Wambach who headed the ball into the goal, literally a last second goal to tie their quarterfinal game 2-2 against powerhouse Brazil. After group play to get to the final, Japan defeated two undefeated teams, host country Germany in the quarters and Sweden in the semis.

Before Japan defeated Sweden in the semifinals, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo said she was "sentimentally cheering for Japan" to reach the final. Sweden had defeated the U.S. in group play. Fans of both teams from the U.S. and Japan had what I call "believers momentum" going into the final. Millions of fans in both countries surely felt their team was *destined* to win. When the U.S. took the lead late in the game—twice—it appeared they were destined to win. But when Japan came back twice to tie the game, it appeared Japan was destined to win. Hope Solo got hammered just before Japan tied the game 2-2; I knew she was not 100% going into the penalty kicks to determine the champion. After the U.S. lost, Hope Solo did not make excuses or bring up the late play when she got hit hard. She congratulated Japan on their triumph and tweeted, "I will embrace this silver medal and give my utmost respect for Japan."

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers of his day, "Do you not know that in a

race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it" (1 Corinthians 9:24). It is easy to read a verse like this in the Bible and misunderstand Paul's main point given our contemporary love affair with competition and picking winners and losers. We may think the object of our faith is to keep our own "believers momentum" going, hoping and praying to avoid challenges to our most treasured beliefs. We may extend too far Paul's metaphors of sports and victory by comparing our faith journey and our task of proclaiming the gospel to *answering* once-and-for-all life's difficult questions and *winning* souls for Christ. Paul wrote in the next verse: "Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one." Hope Solo and the other amazingly talented and dedicated players on the U.S. team did "lose the prize" for which they worked so hard, but they certainly trained hard and played hard "in such a way that they could win it."

At PUMC we encourage you to "train hard" and "play hard" in your faith journey so that you may weather the storms of life and so that you are "always prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [for] the reason for the hope that you have ... with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). We *seek* answers to life's difficult questions and *share* the gospel message of God's infinite grace not because we want to keep the "big mo" on *our side* or to *win a prize* but because we want to bring all of God's people together to transcend the incompleteness of competing winners and losers. Hope Solo showed the world how to be a "good loser." Through seeking and sharing our lives with each other we will show the world how to "hope together."

In God's Grip,

Pastor Chris

PRAYER REQUESTS

WE PRAYED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

THIS PAST MONTH ~ Arianna Adcock, Phyllis Anderson, Michael Bornancin, Mary Church, Nicole Clem, Margaret Ferguson, Wendy Lange, Connie Luther, Marjorie Moore, Isiah Moseley, Jim Paauwe, Beverlee Parks, Betty Quast, Wayne Richie, Kay Schmidt, Jean Seneca, Howard Shull, Jeff Smith, Patrick Sullivan, Ray Sullivan, Bob Tisdall, Marcia Vaughan and Grace Vidito

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE

MILITARY ~ For all of our troops and their families.

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE ~

Enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and affirm our solidarity with Christians around the globe. This past month we prayed for those in *Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.*

We prayed for Lolly Adolfson as she traveled to Jalaph, Guatemala. She volunteers at the Marta and Maria girls orphanage, teaching them to sew. On her last trip she taught them to make their uniform blouses. What a blessing Lolly is to these girls.

FAREWELL

We bid farewell to Pastor Craig and Linda Miller and wished them well as they start a “new chapter” in their lives. They have moved to Peoria (408 West Altorfer Lane, Peoria, IL 60615) to become “hands on” grandparents. And Pastor Craig will also be serving as a part-time pastor in a small United Methodist Church in Peoria. We also said goodbye to Elmer Martin, Linda’s father.

We said goodbye to Pastor Jon Wilterdink and his wife Beth. Jon & Beth have moved to Ohio (9890 Juniper Court, Mentor, OH 44060 to begin new pastoral assignments there. They have located close to Beth’s family and look forward to family get-togethers.

WELCOME

On July 1st we welcomed Pastors Eun-Hye Choi and Chris Walters and their son Tim. They are living at the parsonage at 15229 S. Indian Boundary Line Road, Plainfield, IL 60544, phone 815-733-6256.

NEW BABY

We welcomed a new PUMC family member—Alyssa Kate Nauman, new born daughter of Brent & Megan Nauman. Congratulations and welcome!!

BAPTISMS

We rejoice with Michael and Kerry O’Shea upon the baptism of their son Grady Michael O’Shea. He is blessed with loving grandparents Michael & Martha Watt and Michael & Joni O’Shea, Sr. His great grandparents are Michael & Pamela O’Shea. We welcome Grady into this household of faith!

SYMPATHY

Sympathy to the Dave Patkova family in the loss of Dave’s mother, Ann Shirley Olsen. Cards may be sent to them at 24265 Norwood Drive, Plainfield, Illinois 60585.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all who helped with the church clean-up day. THANK YOU! We appreciate that you gave up your Saturday morning to help clean your church home. Thanks for your hard work!

FALL EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING KICKS OFF ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th!

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for exciting opportunities to grow in faith!



News From Missions

GARDEN CART DOING BRISK "BUSINESS" -

We thank the members of the congregation who are bringing items to our Garden Cart each Sunday. The items have been just flying off, with nice donations left for our mission projects. We've had flower bouquets, plants, muffins, herbs and so much more put on the cart for your enjoyment.

Please look in your gardens and gather up a couple servings of something. Bring them to church and leave them on the cart. While you are there, look around to see if there is something you could use. If so, take it and leave a donation.

We sincerely thank Jeri Scurlock and Diane Roberts for being in charge of the Garden Cart this summer. And we thank all you "givers" and "takers" who participate!

The Garden Cart is like walking along the beach after a storm: you just never know what interesting things might appear!

PROJECT 12 IN FULL SWING - We are lifting up one of our projects each week, telling you a bit about it, and hoping you will support it with a dollar (or more). There are little blue envelopes in the pew racks for your donations. Or, you may write a check to PUMC with the notation: "Project 12" in the memo blank. Please drop your donations in the offering plate or get them to the church office.

NEW PROJECT - We are in the process of adding another project to our Rainbow Covenant List. By doing this, we will return to our "slate" of 12 projects we have had in previous years. The project is the Chua Church Construction project in Bolivia. Sponsored by our Conference, three members of our congregation traveled there with other Conference members to dig and lay the foundation to the church in 2009. They were Frank DeCou, Jim Ferguson and Chip Mackley. They returned with many interesting stories about their experiences there. Since that time, other UM Conference teams have traveled to Chua to continue work on the building. There are still things that need done, and we are happy to be able to help finish it!

MISSION TRIPS - Members of our church are busy with mission trips this summer. Some of our youth and chaperons, 46 in all, recently returned from Biloxi, MS, where they assisted with local projects.

As of this writing, Lolly Adolfson is in Guatemala helping in an orphanage.

And July 30 - Aug. 6, a team of 15 young adults from our church and the Arlington Heights UMC will travel to Costa Rica to do construction projects. Our members' expenses were largely paid by funds from the VIMRIDES-To the Airport Fund.

Remember to call Jim and Jane Ferguson, 815-436-5734 if you are traveling to or from our airports. They will arrange transportation by our volunteer drivers, and you make a donation to the VIMRIDES Fund.

Please watch the Sunday Bulletins for mission news updates.

Estalee DeCou



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM!

10 PUMC Young Adults are heading to Costa Rica, led by Pastor Sherry, from July 30-Aug 6! They will be joining with 4 people from First UMC of Arlington Heights to tackle building projects in Alejuela, Costa Rica. A HUGE word of thanks to our VIM drivers – the bulk of this trip is funded by their service of rides to and from the airport. We can't thank you enough! PUMC team members include: Alex Mackley, Don Wachal, Jennie Obrecht, Stephanie Thompson, Nick Baumgartner, Chris Eurich, Kelsey Cadogan, Jeff Glotfelty, Kirk Decker, and Sarah King.



Youth Group Car Wash

The Route 59 construction is done ... AMEN! Well, as I write this the finishing touches are underway, but I have faith!

Route 59 WILL be ready for us to go to Plainfield Automotive on Ottawa and 59 for the youth to host a "FREE" car wash on Sunday August 14 from 11:00 to 2:00. Free will donations will fund youth ministries, including next year's mission trip to Joplin, MO.

A big "thank you" goes to Thomas & Dolores Raddatz of Plainfield Automotive for the gracious offering of their lot for this event. Also, we thank our materials suppliers: Manager Bob of Advance Auto Parts at 15935 S Route 59 and Manager Jeff of Napa Auto Parts at 15420 S Route 59.

Please bring rags to wash cars and towels to dry.

DRESS CODE

GIRLS: one piece or tankinis with shorts over bottom (no bikinis or short shorts)
GUYS: muscle / T-shirts and shorts or boxer-type swim suits

Youth and adult leaders, please RSVP on Facebook or contact Pastor Chris to express your interest in serving the car wash.

Youth Group Leaders / Volunteers Retreat

Jesus often went on retreat to focus his ministry and to gather together his disciples. On Saturday, August 13, all adult youth leaders, volunteers, and interested persons in serving youth ministry at PUMC are invited to a half-day retreat at "Oasis Place of Prayer" in Plano from 9:00 to 2:00. The cost will be \$10 per person, and we will bring our own lunch to the retreat.

Going beyond PUMC's four walls (and the walls of our own houses, etc.) on the retreat will release our minds and hearts from the daily noise and distractions and allow us to focus on dreaming of and planning for a wonderful year to come for the youth. Let us gather together, relax, unwind, grow deeper in our relationships with each other, and thus grow deeper in our relationship with God.

Please contact Pastor Chris to express your interest in serving the youth in the coming year and to attend the retreat.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR CRAIG & LINDA

Dear Plainfield Church Family,

Greetings from Peoria.

Linda, Marty, and I have finally reached a point in the process where we can reclaim space that has been occupied by way too many boxes of stuff. After many trips to the donation centers at the Salvation Army and Goodwill, and a few to the curb, the house is feeling much more homey. And what a joy it is to be just across town from Larissa, Travis, and the grandkids!

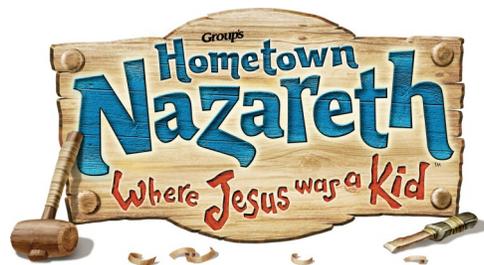
Linda and I wish to thank you for the wonderful generous love gift that was presented to us and is now a part of the Craig and Linda Miller Scholarship at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Needless to say, your kindness with this gift will serve to help students for countless years who have been called to the ordained ministry of our beloved Church. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thank you also for the wonderful retirement reception. It was a most joyful and celebrative event. I especially want to thank the Staff-Parish Relations Committee for hosting the event, those who spoke, and the Filipino congregation for their wonderful performance.

But of greatest importance is my gratitude for the wonderful support and sojourning in ministry that I experienced among the members and staff at Plainfield United Methodist Church for the past five years. We accomplished a great deal in that time and became increasingly a church in mission and ministry. To say that PUMC has a powerful future is an understatement, and you all have made that possible.

May God continue to bless you and may you continue to be the blessing that you are to God, to our Lord's Church, and to the community.

Peace and blessings be with you always.
Pastor Craig



THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME VBS!

We know the kids and adults will be talking about it for a long time to come. What a GREAT TIME we all had “going to Jesus’ Hometown of Nazareth.” We wish to thank everyone for your donations, help, and prayer; we would never be able to do it without all of you. Thanks to all of the family leaders, shop keepers, helpers, game leaders, our awesome band, and the kitchen crew. You made the week very special for the kids. To our set designers and builders – you are truly a blessing to PUMC. You, along with our costume makers, helped to make VBS more authentic. Thank you, thank you! And thanks to everyone who made snacks, donated snacks, supplies, props, and monetary donations –what a difference your donations made. Planning now begins for next year. Stay tuned!

... Pastor Sherry and Cheryl, VBS Co-directors

Want to **relive the VBS memories**? Head to our church’s website media page at plainfieldumc.com/media-gallery to experience the fun all over again!

Copies of the **AWESOME VBS DVD** created by Tim Scates are available. Please contact the church office to reserve your DVD or Blu-ray version.

Sunday School Staffing – Let the fall recruiting begin! Pastor Sherry is recruiting for teachers and helpers in all age groups (children, youth, and adults) for the regular Sunday School year. Is God calling you to volunteer in our education ministry area?



Teachers and helpers work in teams. You can choose to teach every week, or work on a rotation (2/weeks/month). Training and curriculum is provided. You are guaranteed to experience the joy of serving! Contact Sherry at sherry.scates@plainfieldumc.com or 815-436-9651 for more information.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Each Sunday in August:

8:30am Holy Communion

9:30am Worship and Sunday School

August 1	7:00p Stress Support (205)
August 2	5:30p Cruise Night
August 3	9:00a MOM’s (Offsite)
August 4	No Church Events
August 5	Office Closed - No Church Events
August 6	No Church Events
August 7	12:00p Brunch Bunch (Offsite) 12:30p Young Men’s Group (Offsite)
August 8	No Church Events
August 9	5:30p Cruise Night 7:00p Membership & Outreach (C/L)
August 10	9:00a MOM’s (Offsite)
August 11	7:00p Trustee’s (C/L)
August 12	Office Closed 10:45a Widows Group (Offsite)
August 13	9:00a Plainfield Area Infertility Group (205) 6:00p Restaurant Samplers (Offsite)
August 14	11:00a Youth Car Wash (Offsite) 4:00p Family Ministry BBQ (Church) 6:00p Adult Dinner Club (Offsite)
August 15	Due Date for Circuit Rider Articles 8:30a Knitting Group (PFH) 6:30p Education Committee (C/L) 7:00p Stress Support (205)
August 16	5:30p Cruise Night 6:30p Stewardship (C/L)
August 17	8:15a Men’s Group Breakfast (Offsite) 9:00a MOM’s (Offsite)
August 18	9:30a Small Group Ministry Team (PFH) 7:00p Women’s Book Group (205)
August 19	Office Closed - No Church Events
August 20	10:00a Church & Society (C/L)
August 22	7:00p Administrative Council (JBFH)
August 21	Regular Sunday Services
August 23	5:30p Cruise Night
August 24	9:00a MOM’s (Offsite) 11:00a Trinity Food Pantry (Offsite)
August 25	No Church Events
August 26	Office Closed - No Church Events
August 27	9:00a Chuck Wagon (Offsite)
August 28	6:30p Sunday School Training (C/L)
August 29	No Church Events
August 30	5:30p Cruise Night
August 31	9:00a MOM’s (Offsite)

AUGUST GREETERS

August 7th	Jim & Kay Schimpf
August 14th	Jerry & Christine Santerelli
August 21st	Franklin & Pat Brown
August 28th	Chuck & Ann Anderson

AUGUST USHERS

August 7th	Lolly Adolfson, Ed Hodgson, Tony Carrozza & Don Johnson
August 14th	Scott Long, Jon Knipper & Jonathan Proulx
August 21st	Don Kinley, Tom Baker, Larry Newton & Charles Crews
August 28th	Skip & Sue Glasgow, Michael Mays & Martha Wassenaar

The Family Ministry Team is planning a second "Young Families Dinner" for Sunday, August 14, at 4:00pm. Parents can play classic yard games with their children before having the opportunity to enjoy a barbecue for the adults while the kids are fed and cared for by our loving volunteers. Evites have been sent out to families with elementary school children and younger, but our email list may not be complete! Check your email for your Evite to RSVP for this event, or let us know if we missed you! For more information, contact Wendy Proulx at wjproulx@comcast.net.

Name that Tune!

Match the Lyrics on the left with the Song Title on the right.

Christ the Savior is Born	Fill my Cup, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul	Go Tell It on the Mountain
. . . who thee by faith before the world confessed	His Eye Is on the Sparrow
O what peace we often forfeit	How Great Thou Art
I hear the rolling thunder	Jesus Loves Me
. . . Over the hills and everywhere	Just a Closer Walk with Thee
I am weak but though are strong	Lead On, O King Eternal
. . . For the Bible tells me so	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
I sing because I'm happy	Silent Night, Holy Night
Jesus, thou are all compassion	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
. . . Calling for you and for me	Something Beautiful
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong	There Is a Balm in Gilead
Sometimes I feel discouraged	What a Friend We have in Jesus
. . .but he made something beautiful of my life	For All the Saints