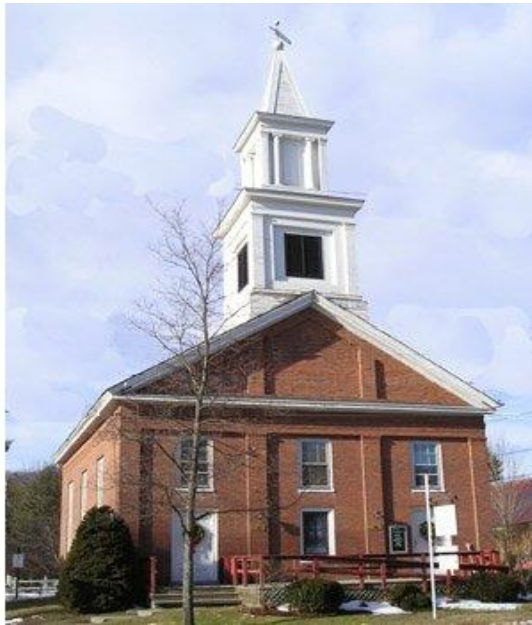


# Plainfield Community Baptist Church

Organized 1840

Love Grows Here



Plainfield Community Baptist Church

Post Office Box 84

Plainfield, New Hampshire 03781

603.675.6510

Email: [pcbch@comcast.net](mailto:pcbch@comcast.net)

Website: [www.pcbch.org](http://www.pcbch.org)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Plainfield Community Baptist Church is an American Baptist Church in its affiliation but is multi-denominational in its tradition. The purpose of this church is to serve as an ecumenical ecclesiastical body, to teach faithfully and to promote effectually the Christian religion in this community, to unite people in the spirit of faith and good will, to maintain public worship, to seek the welfare of our neighbor at home and abroad, and to establish here a true Church of Jesus Christ so ordered that all people may share in its worship and its work.

## **THE PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY**

Plainfield was chartered in 1761. It developed into an agricultural community which flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries and grew to encompass Plainfield Village, Meriden Village, and East Plainfield. It has become a residential community which values its agricultural heritage and its rural character. In addition, Plainfield residents proudly support outstanding educational opportunities for our children, the preservation of our historic buildings and of our natural resources, and the participatory government which centers on our annual Town Meeting. The current population in Plainfield is 2,364.

The town has an excellent public elementary school (K-8) which is rated one of the best small schools in New Hampshire, a private Christian school (K-10), a private high school, and an affiliation with Lebanon High School in Lebanon, NH. At the college level, Dartmouth College is nearby as well as River Valley Community College and Sugar River Valley Technical School.

Plainfield hosts two libraries, and local farms supply a variety of local produce to the area.

Plainfield is a great location. It has the feel and quaintness of the picture book New England village, yet is “close to anywhere.” Travel is easy: daily buses run from Lebanon to Boston, New York City and Montreal, Canada; two major highways intersect nearby; and the Lebanon Municipal Airport is just a few miles away.

## **AREA ATTRACTIONS**

Excellent health care facilities in our area include Alice Peck Day Hospital, Mount Ascutney Hospital, Valley Regional Hospital, White River Junction Veteran’s Administration Hospital, and Dartmouth-

Hitchcock Medical Center (home of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth, and named one of the “100 Best Hospitals in America”).

Finding cultural events is not difficult even in this relatively rural setting. Myriad events in the performing and visual arts are always scheduled at Dartmouth College (at both the Hopkins Center for the Arts and the Hood Museum of Art), the AVA Gallery, Northern Stage, and the Lebanon Opera House, to name a few. Kimball Union Academy also offers many cultural events, many of which are free to the community.

Plainfield is also only a few minutes away from several large fitness centers: the River Valley Club in Lebanon, the Carter Community Building in Lebanon, the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction, Vermont, and the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center in Claremont.

Outdoor activities abound in New Hampshire’s beautiful mountains; golf, hiking, skiing, exploring, and biking are a few of the activities to enjoy. We also have nearby lakes for swimming, fishing, and boating. We believe we live “in God’s country!”

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

Plainfield Community Baptist Church is located on the western side of New Hampshire along the Connecticut River. The church building was built in the summer of 1840. Universalists, Baptists, and Methodists funded the building’s construction, and various denominational congregations have used the building through the years. In the 1940s, membership and funds dwindled. In 1949, Rev. Laura Berthold and church members visited every household in Plainfield and explained the mission of creating a community church open to Christians of all denominations. Thus the Plainfield Community Baptist Church was born. Within a few months membership grew to 125. We believe our church still represents Rev. Berthold’s mission by welcoming all Christians through our doors.

## **CHURCH FACILITY**

Our church building has seen many physical changes over the years, with the work of the most recent upgrades done almost exclusively through the free and loving labor of members of our congregation. Recent work includes updating the sanctuary, the vestibule, the

community room in the basement including a new kitchen, and adding a handicap chair on the stairs leading to the community room.

The Church also owns a historic building next door which serves as the parsonage. This building was built in 1800 and originally served as a tavern. The building was sold to the church in 1875 to serve as the home for pastors and their families.



Behind the church and the parsonage is the lovely park owned by the church: Cory Taber Memorial Field. The field boasts a tennis court, basketball court, soccer field, baseball diamond, and a playscape. The park is open to the public and used by the Town Recreation Department for youth athletics. Recently our congregation has hosted community BBQs, a Senior Field Day, Tacos in the Park, and served donuts and coffee to soccer parents in this beautiful setting.

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

The church has approximately 104 members. The majority of the church members live in Plainfield and the surrounding community (Cornish, Meriden, West Lebanon, Canaan, and Windsor, Vermont). Our church is theologically diverse: many of the members have had experience in other congregations and/or denominations, ranging from Quaker to Catholic. The majority of our current members are from the “over 50” age group with a scattering of younger families. It is part of the church’s vision to attract new members while continuing to retain, support and encourage the long-standing members.



## **ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

The church is governed by a Master Board which is comprised of 12 dedicated members and the pastor. The Master Board and the pastor work together towards the daily running of the church. Each member of the Master Board oversees various functions such as facilities, music, Christian education, etc.

The Plainfield Church Women (PCW) gather together in praise, ministry, spiritual support and service to God. The PCW meets monthly for programs and activities throughout the year. They come together in ministry and provide receptions for families following the funeral of a loved one. They provide visitation to the sick and make gift baskets at Christmas. They have recently coordinated and provided receptions following weddings. They help support the work of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and the White Cross. Each year they donate to one or two domestic organizations and one or two international ministries. The PCW participates in and often chairs the activities in our church regarding fundraising.

Music is an important part of our services. We have a vocal choir, several hand bell choirs, and a variety of other artists and groups who provide weekly special music on a monthly rotation. We have a wonderful organist who plays for us twice a month and several pianists who supplement on other days.

We have a Sunday School program for school-aged children and we provide a teenaged sitter for our younger children during the service.

Often an adult also does a Christian story time with the younger children during the service.

## **PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

We enjoy a wonderful fellowship every Sunday following worship and many attend to catch up with others.

A weekly Bible study currently offered by a lay leader of the congregation is well attended.

Our church reaches out to the community. Some of our outreach includes: annual rummage sale, annual clothing sale, quarterly church suppers, Fourth of July pancake breakfast and Fourth of July strawberry shortcake social, annual plant sale, Soup's On Game Night, Senior Luncheon, coffee and donuts to soccer parents, and Senior Field Day. Our church mission outreach includes a monthly Birthday Bank collection for area charities, America for Christ offering, monthly collection of non-perishable food for the food pantry, Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child, and other organizations as the need arises.

## **OUR NEW PASTOR**

We are a strong, passionate, and loving congregation yet we are in need of church renewal and are looking for a pastor to partner with us to move forward. Surveys indicate that our services lean strongly toward the traditional service, yet we have incorporated contemporary elements and are willing to explore others. We expect our pastor to accept all people as Jesus would. We desire our pastor to live in the parsonage and be a visible and active member of our community. We wish our pastor will work, play and pray with us in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

Our new pastor should:

- Provide thoughtful and well prepared sermons based in Christian theology
- Be a collaborative leader, a good administrator and a team player
- Provide worship that speaks to our diverse theological expressions
- Include all members and visitors in the identity of the church
- Provide pastoral support in times of joy and pain
- Recognize the value of other faiths and other Christian denominations

## **COMPENSATION**

The compensation package to be offered includes a cash salary, housing in the parsonage, social security, retirement, medical and dental insurance, life insurance, and church business car mileage allowance. Please see 2017 budget for details.

The final package offered to our new pastor would be commensurate with education and experience. Such things as moving expenses, vacation time, sabbatical, and continuing education would be worked out accordingly.



## **IN CLOSING**

We seek God's continuing guidance and support and look forward to the future with great expectation as we continue to be an active, involved and supportive church family that is a symbol of Christian faith to the community. To pastors interested in responding to our search, we say "WELCOME."

Inquiries should be directed to:

Rev. Dale Edwards  
One Oak Ridge Road, Building 3, #4A,  
West Lebanon, NH 03784  
Phone: 603.643.4201  
Email: [dale.edwards@abcvnh.org](mailto:dale.edwards@abcvnh.org)

And to:

PCBC Pastor Search Committee  
Email: [pcbcnh@comcast.net](mailto:pcbcnh@comcast.net)

