



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

MARCH 2025

"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11, NRSV)

There is a radical message that is evident in these words by Jesus. It is more than just assurance for those seeking solace from God. It is, indeed, a radical reshaping of the world view of the religious leaders at the time. It was a message that promises of God was not just limited to the nation of Israel or those converting to their religion. It was a message that the promises of God was extended to all.

And it was a hard message for that community to hear. Groucho Marx once said in a letter to the Friars' Club that he "would not care to belong to a club that would have me as a member." There is a sense that there is something special or significant about belonging to something that is exclusive. It makes one feel special and significant when one is picked to be a part of something that not everyone can. It speaks of merit, achievement, quality, etc. Such is the same with religion, I suspect. We want to know that our membership in a church is something sacred and significant; something that not everyone can have.

What Jesus calls us to believe, however, is that membership is sacred and special not because of its exclusivity but because of its inclusivity. What makes the love of God so powerful is that it is extended to all and not to some. It is the radical welcome that is the hallmark of the Way of Christ and not the judgment of the leaders of the religion.

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That need for exclusivity extends even to today. We remain just as tribal as the people of Jesus' day. The divisions of religions and even within Christianity today often play on that tribalism in order to judge who is worthy of God's love and salvation and who is not. Such attitudes, however, fly in the face of the teaching of the very one who we call our savior. The sacred nature of our identity is not the doctrine that we teach but the simple fact that God calls us children. That is the secret of our sacredness and as such it is a sacredness that we are called to extend to others as well. My prayer is that our church can continue to offer that sacredness as our very mission in this community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blair

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

March 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday
Astounding Glory
 Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalms 99
 II Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)

March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17/Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalms 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent
Wilderness Companions
 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
Strong and Tender
 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalms 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35/Luke 9:28-36, 937-43a)

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent
Open Invitation
 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalms 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Now What?
 Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalms 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dustan Burgard, Kristy Cihak, Cooper Davis, Alan Eppen, **Annette Cook**, Karen Filegar, Eric Gerber, **Dale Mork, Linda Mork**, Jaxon Kaiser, Bob Olson, Joyce Ochsner, Marjorie Ormand, JoAnn Sanborn, Eddy Schaeffer, Jeannette Sorge, Shirley Schaeffer, Janet Von Eschen, **Alan Chapman**, Corene Chapman and Greg Wilson.

Pray for our members and friends who reside in care facilities or are shut-ins, wherever they reside:

Betty Betten, Colleen Carman, Dorothy Dockter, Erna Gross, Betty Gutjahr, Lovila Hanson, Emma Heiser, Alice Hopfinger, Ruth Overby, Priscilla Pfeifle, Joan Sanders, Leo Schumacher, Lois Wales, Kelli Wells, Nancy Wells, June Whites and Joan Williams.

REMEMBER OUR SERVICE PEOPLE

And All the Troops Stationed Around the World

*Please contact the church office (225-2557)
 to be added to or removed from the Prayer List.*

Yes! We still have nuts for sale!

Slivered Almonds....\$8.00

Whole Almonds....\$8.00

Gourmet Mixed Nuts....\$10.00

English Walnuts....\$8.00

**Call the Church and place your
 order today! (225-2557)**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

As we finally get a break from this cold and bitter weather, please remember to pray for those who have lost loved ones, and those who have struggled with so much illness and pain. As we approach this Lenten season, please remember that Christ died for our sins so we may all be better human beings. Be kind and do something nice for your family, friends and strangers each and every day. Easter is right around the corner. May peace in the middle east and around the world continue to be a focus for all.

God Bless you all,

Brad Olson

Thank you all for your generosity.

We raised \$200 for the Balloons for Senior Program.

We sent \$2300 to Louie Blue Coat /Dakota Association and a box of hats, socks and blankets donated by DAV.

CORRECTION

Dee Lauinger was out sunning, not sinning.

I am sorry Dee for my mistake but it sure did make me laugh when you pointed it out. (A little chuckle I needed in that moment.) I can see it as one of those articles that would have been read on the Johnny Carson Show back in the day.

Enjoy your sunning and all the wonderful things you described in your letter, I am happy you are enjoying your time so well.



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mar. 07	Kathryn Brunson
Mar. 08	Mary Cross
Mar. 10	Eric Stevens
Mar. 12	Jeannette Sorge
Mar. 13	Carolee Owens
Mar. 15	Fran Ness
Mar. 16	Robbie Eisenbeisz Tami Leddy-Sederquist Joan Williams
Mar. 18	Brandan Gregoire
Mar. 21	Josh Moos Jerry Heupel
Mar. 22	Sara Serfoss
Mar. 23	Glenn Spitzer
Mar. 29	Alan Chapman
Mar. 30	Larry Ligtenberg Tavia Lawler



March Flower
Daffodil



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

March 25 Marc & Robin Bitz 19 years

Note: If you know of a birthday or an anniversary that was missed, we are deeply sorry. Please advise the Plymouth Congregational Secretary and she will make sure the dates are calendared for the future.



2025 Visioning Team Members

Moderator	Brad Olson-(605)216-2450
Moderator Elect	Mark Gutjahr-(605)228-5150
Facility Manager	Alan Chapman-(605)377-3291
Communications	Patricia Swanson-(605)730-0714
WF Representative	Erin Gutjahr-(605)216-2660
At Large	Dani Roeker-(605)377-3080
At Large	Ron Beil-(605)228-1035
At Large	Chad Masters-(605)228-4098
Financial	Ed Bosanko-(605)228-2486
Spiritual	Roberta Eisenbeisz-(605)380-6578
Auditor	Rod Foubert-(605)229-1310



Shelley Ochsner's sister, Dawn, has stage 4 cancer and was given 6 months to live and needs our prayers.

Please send prayers to Annette Cook, she is in extreme pain in her lower back.

Prayers to Dale & Linda Mork.

Dick Gohn is recovering from Influenza A and coming along well.

Prayers to those not mentioned but know we still say a prayer for you everyday.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I trust you.

I trust you not just when it's easy
but even when its hard.

I trust you not just when it makes sense
but even when I don't understand why.

I trust you not just when its good
but even when it seems like I'm going through hell

I trust you not because I know what you're doing
but because I know what you promised.

AMEN

Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ

Visioning Team Minutes

January 21, 2025

Present: Brad Olson, Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick, Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Chad Masters, Mark Gutjahr, Kristin Tobin, Ron Biel, Roberta Eisenbeisz and Laura Bunke.

Call to Order: Brad Olson

Opening Prayer: Brad Olson

Approval of Minutes Brad moved to approve and Robbie seconded the motion. All voted in agreement

Old Business:

Endowment update moved to meeting next month. Discussed performance of funds and looking at other choices. Kristin brought up people's opinions from survey that they would like to see the money be used for the church, aka parking lot or maintenance of church rather than in stocks for chance of losing money if church declines and ends. Blair put out that we should discuss at annual visioning meeting on Jan 26th to discuss with members.

New Business:

- No to request to use parking lot to access home, Ron motioned and Kristin seconded.
- Discussed lift system and what next step is in issue. Brad talked to Mr. Robin Bobzien at city and they will not help. Will turn in to insurance to see if they will cover it.
- Come to supper- decided it will start in April thru October, second Wed of every month unless fair interferes for August. List to be available for sign up on Sunday Jan 26 and then left in Narthex.

Help for Secretary- Brad volunteered to learn and we will ask in weekly and at meeting for another to help for when Laura has surgery or is sick.

Committee Reports:

Ed not in attendance so with only one month on financial we moved on to next report.

Alan had sent an email for his report. Blair read it for him. There are two leaks, one in men's bathroom and one in women's bathroom, which will be dealt with on Wednesday by Hase Plumbing. They will also replace the sink faucet in the sacristy. There has been no heat in Pilgrim Hall for two weeks. The air handling blower motor (which was original from 1969) failed but has since been replaced. The water circulating pump for Pilgrim Hall also had a water leak and a frozen spindle. The repair parts had to be ordered but have not yet arrived. The cost for these repairs is going to run about \$2500.

Women's Fellowship- no representative.

Sheila spoke about G2G back in swing of things on Wednesdays and starting new section of topics. Youth group is working on meeting date as a new member would like to join and schedule will be decided when all information is available.

Kristin for pastoral relations, they have already met with Blair and need to meet with rest of staff over next month. Term limits for positions in visioning team and pastoral relations need volunteers to step up to let those in positions who are past their term limits step down. Will be brought up at Sundays meeting.

Blair visited Lovila Hanson at St Lukes today and she is doing as well as expected. Blair continuing on his doctoral and spoke of giving donation once he receives his inheritance.

Next Meeting: February 18, 6:30pm.

Devotions: Pastor Blair

Motion to adjourn by Robbie, seconded by Mark.

Plymouth Rocks Church and Family Life

Upcoming Events

March 5 - G2G @ 3:30
 March 12 - G2G @ 3:30
 March 16 - Youth Group @ 5
 March 19 - NO G2G
 March 26 - G2G @ 3:30
 Wed evenings - Prayer service

Placerville Camp Schedule for 2025

Women's Camp - June 1-5
 Shining Stars (Gr 2-3) - June 2-6
 Family Getaway - June 5-8
 Seekers (Gr 4-5) - June 8-13
 Faith Explorers (Gr 6-8) - June 15-20
 Crossroads (Gr 9-12) - June 22-28
 Grand Camp - June 20-22
 Family Camp - July 20-26

Camperships are available. Early registrations are due by May 1st. See Sheila for more details. Registrations available at the church or online at placervillecamp.net. If you register online, please let Sheila know so we can pay your registration fee.

Special News

I will be offering an evening prayer time each Wednesday during the season of Lent.

There are a lot of uncertainties in our world today and it's important to take time to pause and refocus. Many of our neighbors are scared, sad and worried. It's hard to know what to do. A little time reflecting with God can help bring clarity and peace. Join me in a time of offering our hopes and fears to God.

Our G2G class has grown from an average attendance of 9 in September to 15 this spring! We are definitely growing.

This growth has brought a few challenges as there is a lot of energy in our small classroom. Kids range in age from pre-school to fifth grade. We are fortunate to have an eighth grader join us to help out.

The goal is always to help the kids learn more about God and their relationship with each other which is a reflection of God's love for us. My request is that you would continue to lift up myself and Pastor Blair as we work with these kids connected to our church.

Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher

John 17: 21 That they may all be one.
 Sharing and living God's word in our church family and beyond.

NEXT MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 G2G-3:30P 6:30p prayer service	3	4	5
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10a: Worship; communion 11a: Fellowship BETHESDA-2PM	7	8 7P: DAV	9 G2G-3:30P CTS-5:30P 6:30p prayer service	10 7P: Women's Fellowship	11	12
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship	14	15 6P: Visioning Meeting <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Deadline</u>	16 3:30P G2G 6:30p prayer service	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 5PM Journey to the Cross	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19 HOLY SATURDAY
20 EASTER 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship	21	22	23 3:30P G2G	24	25	26
27 Second Sunday after Easter 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship 11:30a-Sermon Reaction meeting	28	29	30 3:30P G2G			



THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

March 2025

<u>Sun, March 2</u>	Transfiguration Sunday Worship and Holy Communion; 10a Fellowship; 11a
Wed, March 5	ASH WEDNESDAY; 6P NO G2G
Fri, March 7	World Day of Prayer
<u>Sun, March 9</u>	First Sunday of Lent Worship; 10a (Sermon Project) Fellowship; 11a Pastor Blair's Sermon response; 11:30a
Tues, March 11	DAV Meeting; 7p
Wed, March 12	G2G; 3:30p Prayer Service 6:30p
Thur, March 13	Women's Fellowship meeting; 7p
<u>Sun, March 16</u>	Second Sunday in Lent Worship; 10a Fellowship; 11a Sermon study group; 11:30a Youth group; 5p
Mon, March 17	St. Patrick's Day
Tue, March 18	Visioning Team Meeting; 6:30p NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Wed, March 19	NO G2G Prayer Service 6:30p
Thur, March 20	First day of Spring
<u>Sun, March 23</u>	Third Sunday in Lent Worship; 10a Fellowship; 11a Sermon study group; 11:30a
Wed, March 26	G2G; 3:30p Prayer Service 6:30p
<u>Sun, March 30</u>	Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship; 10a Fellowship; 11a



Plymouth Congregational Church

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Transfiguration Sunday 10a: Worship; communion 11a: Fellowship	3	4	5 3:30p G2G ASH Wed. service 6PM	6	7	8
9 First Sunday in Lent 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship 11:30a-Project sermon response meeting	10	11 7P: DAV	12 3:30P G2G 6:30p prayer service	13 7P: Women's Fellowship	14	15
16 Second Sunday in Lent 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship 6:30p-Lent follow-up study	17 St Patrick's Day 	18 6P: Visioning team Meeting <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	19 3:30P G2G 6:30p prayer service	20 First Day of Spring 	21	22
23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship 6:30p-Lent Follow-up study	24	25	26 3:30P G2G 6:30p prayer service	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10a: Worship 11a: Fellowship One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	31					



**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Aberdeen, SD 57401

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REACHING OUT,
RENEWING LIVES



Church Staff:

Pastor	Rev. Blair Kirkpatrick
Minister of Church and Family Life	Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher
Secretary	Laura Bunke
Director of Music Ministry	Missy Nguyen
Child Care Attendant	Eloise Appletoft
Custodian	Lois Korf
Facilities Manager	Alan Chapman

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00—2:00, Mon, Wed-Fri.

Phone: (605) 225-2557

Email: sec.plymouth@midconetwork.com

www.plymouthaberndeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

www.plymouthaberndeen.com

