

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

APRIL 2025

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." (John 8:2-11, NRSV)

With the tracing his finger through the dirt, Jesus changed the crowd's way of thinking and feeling. Some scholars suggest that what Jesus was tracing on the ground was the sins of the woman's accusers. We will never know. What is clear, however, is that Jesus brought a change in the crowd. Maybe it was a sense of mercy. Maybe it was a sense of shame. Maybe it was merely a sense of self-preservation of their reputations. Regardless, the crowd dissipated and the woman received mercy from punishment. Jesus stood and saw her. He saw HER — not the accusations about her or the fury of the crowd but her and he did not condemn her. That is the Jesus that we proclaim. It is the Jesus who is merciful and loving and forgiving.

And if that is where the story ends, that is the image that will remain. It would be the image of a man with a divine sense of forgiveness. Yet, Jesus does say one thing more after assuring the woman that he does not condemn her. He admonishes her to not sin again. Yes, the grace is free and it is unearned but it is not empty of expectations. Jesus is loving and forgiving but he is also one who has great expectations of us. It is as if the expectations are impossible for us to meet. And they are.

Jesus knows full well that the woman will sin again, that all of us will sin again.

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This is the journey of Lent. We are called to acknowledge that we will never be without sin. Nevertheless, we are called to repentance and renewal. We accept that we are forgiven but we do not rest on it. We continue to seek to do what Jesus tells us to do; to follow in the way that he shows us. Yes, we fail and fall but we turn again to the course set before us. In that, we come closer and closer to the image that God has designed for us. May God continue to bless in our Lenten journey.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blair

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

April 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Lent Something New

Isaiah 43:16-21 & Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 **Isaiah 43:15-21** John 12:1-8

April 13, 2025 Palm/Passion Sunday

Into Jerusalem
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a & Psalms 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-14-23:56 or Luke 24:1-24

April 17, 2025 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4m(5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2,12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18, 2025 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9 John 18:1-19;42

April 19, 2025 Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:27-66 or John 19:38-42

> April 20, 2025 Easter Resurrection Joy

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 1Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 **John 20:1-18** or Luke 24:1-12

> April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 & Psalms 118:14-29 Revelations 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

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, **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 move forward into April, we can anticipate spring and Easter Sunday. Please remember to pray for peace in the world, and spread kindness wherever possible. I once had a Minister tell me the following: without Easter there is no Christmas. This has always made me think and makes for good discussion. During this Lenten season, we think about Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, which gives us hope. Welcoming 3 new members is also so positive and exciting.

Have a great April.

God Bless you all,

Brad Olson

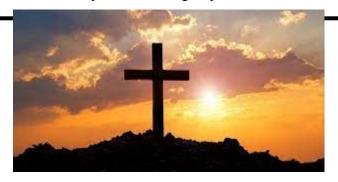
Our prayers go out to Leo Schumacher's family.

Leo Schumacher passed away March $12^{\rm th}$. His funeral was March $18^{\rm th}$ in Eureka.

He was a member of Plymouth since Feb. 2017. He is survived by two daughters; Vicki (Doug) Mundt of Aberdeen and Heidi (Jeff) Bratkiewicz of Sioux Falls; one brother, Ivan Schumacher; eight grandchildren- Skylar, Luka, Kelsey, Tia, Bailey, Caden, Danny and Sam; & 3 great grandchildren- Liam, Langston and Grant.



Lois Wales was put on Hospice the third week of March. Lois became a member of Plymouth in May of 2002 and was a member of the Women's Fellowship until she moved into Mother Joesph Manor. **Sending her and her family love and prayers.**



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/02	Danielle Podoll
4/03	Dale Goehring
>	Devin Severson
4/04	Wayne Krysowaty
4/06	Josh Heupel
	Mariah Bloom-McNeece
4/07	Shelly Krysowaty
	Grayson Eisenbeisz
4/09	Shelly Ochsner
4/10	Tristan Sederquist
4/11	Donel Lemler
4/12	Raeleen Schatz
	Eloisa Martinez
4/14	Julia Knie
4/15	Eric Gerber
	Kermit Born
4/16	Priscilla Pfeifle
4/17	Lois Wales
4/18	Donnie Dittus
4/19	Donna Masters
	Gail Gutjahr
	Kevin Johnson
	Derek Eisenbeisz
4/21	Barbara Goehring
4/22	Glenn Imberi
	Allison Jensen
4/23	Rhonda Masters
	Olivia Niederbaumer
4/25	Steve Biegler
4/29	Skylar Jo Cunningham



April Birthstone
-Diamond-



April Flower
-Daisy-

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

No Anniversaries this month.

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.

Alan & Corene want to say
"THANK YOU!"
For all the cards, phone calls,
prayers and
well wishes.

2025 Visioning Team Members

Moderator	Brad Olson-(605)216-2450
Moderator El	ect Mark Gutjahr-(605)228-5150
Facility Manag	ger Alan Chapman-(605)377-3291
Communicati	ons Patricia Swanson-(605)730-0714
WF Represen	tative Erin Gutjahr-(605)216-2660
At Large	Dani Roeker-(605)377-3080
At Large	Ron Beil-(605)228-1035
At Large	Chad Masters-(605)380-4098
Financial	Ed Bosanko-(605)228-2486
Spiritual	Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher-(605)380-8688
Auditor	Rod Fouberg-(605)229-1310

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

We need donations of candy for the Easter egg hunt and prizes for Bingo. Everyone is welcome to help decorate and prepare the Fellowship Hall for the Easter Party on Saturday April 12th at 2pm.

Join us on Palm Sunday, April 13th, following service for a BREAKFAST & EASTER EGG HUNT



Greetings from Placerville!

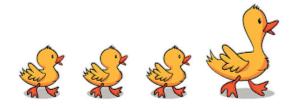
We wanted to follow up with all of you where the campaign settled with the replacement of the camp truck. First of all, THANK YOU all for your contributions to accomplish this goal. So, so many generous individuals and organizations were kind enough to help out. A grand total of \$58,923 was raised with the giving bodies being 1 conference association, 14 churches, 2 Women's Fellowships and 47 individuals! That is tremendous! A truck has been purchased and will not only be a work vehicle, but a traveling billboard. Might as well advertise while driving around, right?

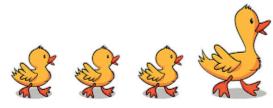
Also, we are looking for volunteer summer staff to help out mostly in the kitchen to help prepare meals, but to help do what ever is needed. We are hoping to get two people for each of the following weeks: June 8-13; June 15-22; June 22-28; July 6-12; July 13-19; July 20-26. if you are interested, please let Kerry know which week(s) you would like. placervillecampucc@gmail.com

Blessings!

Kerry Steever—Placerville Camp Director







Come to Supper

The first CTS of 2025 will be

Wednesday April 16th at 5:30pm.

HOSTS: Brad Olson & Sheree Hogan

-Italian theme meal-

Spaghetti, Lasagna & Fettuccini Alfredo, Dessert

We are in need of volunteers for May & July. Sign-up sheet is in Narthex or contact Laura at the church.

Looking forward to some great food and fellowship.



On Sunday March 30th, 2025 We welcomed 3 new members:

-Lauren Tobin

-Eric Lipp

-Kordel Chmela





Visioning Team Minutes February 18, 2025

Present: Brad Olson, Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick, Sheila

Chad Masters, Mark Gutjahr, Kristin Tobin, Ron Biel, Roberta Eisenbeisz

and Laura Bunke.

Call to Order: Brad Olson Opening Prayer: Mark Gutjahr

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

Old Business:

• Endowment update. Discussed performance of funds and looking at other choices. The money can be used as directed by the Congregation. Brad will contact and provide update at next meeting,

Come to supper has dates open and sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

New Business

- Discussion was held to add another individual to sign checks. Brad has volunteered to do this in addition to Ed, Jay and Alan. Mark motioned to approve and Alan seconded. Paper work is in process.
- It was decided that we will try to organize a Choir. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex and a practice scheduled with Sheree Hogan as director.
- It was decided to keep the newsletter monthly instead of every two months.
- The Bells and the fact that they have been loaned to Brentford Church was discussed. An update will be available at the next meeting.

Brad is looking into Bids for parking lot. Allan Ochsner had painted lines previously.

Committee Reports

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

Alan provided an update on the church facilities. Water issues and leaks are being addressed. The women Fellowship has talked about replacing the tile in the bathroom.

Women's Fellowship- no representative.

Kristin for pastoral relations. Donna Masters has agreed to serve on the committee.

Blair provided an update of his activities.

Next Meeting: March 18, 6:30pm.

Devotions: Robbie Eisenbeisz

Motion to adjourn by Robbie, seconded by Mark.

Respectfully submitted: Laura Bunke

Plymouth Rocks Church and Family Life

Upcoming Events

April 2 @ 3:30 pm - G2G
April 9 @ 3:30 pm - G2G
April 13 - Presentation of
Bibles and Easter Party
April 16 @ 3:30 pm - G2G
April 23 @ 3:30 pm - G2G
April 27 @ 5 pm - Youth Group
April 30 @ 3:30 pm - G2G

Planting Seeds of Hope Art Contest



Six of our G2G kids entered the Climate Hope art contest sponsored by the National UCC.
Winners will be announced in early April.

Special News

Don't forget about the many opportunities to attend Placerville Camp this summer.
Placerville is our UCC camp in the Black Hills and has a rich history.
Camp brochures are available. We have full camperships available. Call the church or see Sheila if you are interested.

Donuts for Teachers

We will be sharing donuts with educators in the Aberdeen Public Schools again this year during May. Donations to purchase the donuts and volunteers to deliver are needed. Let Sheila know if you can help.

All-Church Easter Party
will be held on Palm Sunday,
April 13th after worship.
Come and enjoy an
Easter brunch with fun games
and activities for all agesEaster egg hunt, Bingo,
cookie decorating, and
fellowship for the whole
family.

Evening prayer continues each Wednesday at

6:30 pm through Easter.

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.

A LOOK AT NEXT MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Donations will be taken for "Donuts for Teachers"				1 Happy May Day!	2	3 FUNERAL-11am Mary Cross
4 Third Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship-communion 11a-Fellowship 6:30p-Follow-up Study	5	6 7P-DAV	7 G2G- 3:30P Last day of G2G	8 7P-Women's Fellowship	9	10
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 6:30p-Follow-up Study	12	13	14 CTS- 5:30P	15	16	17
18 Fifth Sunday after Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship Strengthen the Church offering	19	20 6:30P- Visioning Meeting Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24
25 Sixth Sunday after Easter Honoring Veterans 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	26 Have a Happy & Safe	27	28	29	30	31







THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL April 2025

Wed, April 2 G2G; 3:30p

Prayer Service-6:30p

Sun, April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

10a:Worship;communion

11a:Fellowship BETHESDA-2PM

Tues, April 8 DAV Meeting; 7p

Wed, April 9 G2G; 3:30p

Prayer Service-6:30p

Thur, April 10 Women's Fellowship meeting; 7p

Sat, April 12 2p-Decorating for Easter party

VOLUNTEERS

Sun, April 13 Palm/Passion Sunday

10a: Worship; bible presentation

11a:Meal & Easter Egg Hunt

Tue, April 15 Visioning Team Meeting; 6:30p

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wed, April 16 G2G; 3:30p

Come to Supper; 5:30p Prayer Service-6:30p

Thur, April 17 Maundy Thursday "Journey to the Cross"

Service; 6p

Fri, April 18 Good Friday

Sat, April 19 Holy Saturday

Sun, April 20 EASTER

10a:Worship 11a:Fellowship

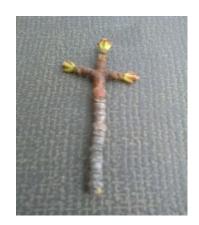
Wed, April 23 G2G; 3:30p

Sun, April 27 Second Sunday after Easter

10a:Worship 11a:Fellowship

11:30a-Sermon Response meeting

5p: Youth Group Meeting









Plymouth Congregational Church April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 G2G-3:30P Prayer Service 6.:30p	3	4	5
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship BETHESDA-2PM	7	8 7P-DAV	9 G2G-3:30P Prayer Service 6.:30p	10 7P-Women's Fellowship meeting	11	12 2p- Decorating for Easter Party VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Easter Breakfast & Party (egg hunt)	14	15 6:30P- Visioning Meeting Newsletter Deadline	16 3:30P- G2G CTS-5:30P Prayer Service 6.:30p	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 6PM 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 5p-Youth Group Meeting	28	29	30 3:30P- G2G			



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Aberdeen, S.D.

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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.plymouthaberdeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

www.plymouthaberdeen.com



