



## PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

MAY 2025

***Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. -  
John 20:11 (NRSV)***

Mary was frightened that first Easter morning. She had gone to do what would have been a painful but routine chore. It was the task of preparing the body of her slain master. She did not relish doing it but it had to be done and she would rather her doing it than some stranger. But then everything was different. The stone had been rolled away which told her the tomb had been disturbed. She did not want to look into the tomb. She was afraid of what she might see. But she had to bend down and see what was inside. She could not stand the idea of not knowing. Her lord was too important to her.

Sometimes, we would rather not do something that we know has to be done. It may be too hard. It may be too painful. It may be too much; more than we think we can handle. We know that for us to be able to do this thing, we may need to bend down and look where we do not want to look. We may have to face something inside of us that we have often dismissed or ignored.

But the way of Jesus calls from us the humility and courage to do those things that we may first choose not today. The way of Jesus calls from us an openness and honesty with ourselves that enables us to be honest with God. The gospel is that God through Jesus is with us in our bending down and our facing up to life's challenges. Through our honesty and humility we are not just given a fresh glimpse into ourselves but a greater understanding of God's love and understanding.

Mary was rewarded with the Good News when she had the courage to bend down and look into the tomb. So are we given the Good News of being loved and forgiven when we bend down and look at ourselves. May we all find the peace of God's love and mercy in this Easter season.

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**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Blair**



## FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

**May 4, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
*The Way Forward*  
**Acts 9:1-6,(7-20) & Psalm 30**  
 Rev 5:11-14  
 John 21:1-19

**May 11, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
*Life-giving Acts*  
**Acts 9:36-43 & 23**  
**Revelations 7:9-17**  
 John 10:22-30  
**Mother's Day**

**May 18, 2025**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
*Imagine*  
 Acts 11:1-18  
 Psalm 148  
**Revelations 21:1-6**  
 John 10:22-30

**May 25, 2025**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
*Disciples Together*  
 Acts 16:9-15  
 Psalm 67  
 Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5  
 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

**May 29, 2025**  
**Ascension Day**  
 Acts 1-11  
 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
 Ephesians 1:15-23  
 Luke 24:44-53



## 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 May, we can all be thankful for what has happened during April. A beautiful message from Blair, all the children receiving their bibles, a choir that brings music to the Church and improved attendance. It is so nice to see the young children and families at Sunday service. Hopefully we can continue the excitement in May. Please pray for all that are ill and in need of our support and love. Waiting and watching for spring to happen.

God Bless you all,

Brad Olson

The Palm Sunday Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt was a super exciting day. Everyone had full tummys from Mark Gutjahr's breakfast and it was a beautiful day to have an outdoor Easter egg hunt. Lennon Bunke called BINGO and many won wonderful gifts. Sounded like everyone had a great time. Thank you to all the Volunteers who helped from donations to decorating and clean up. Wouldn't be able to have these fun events without all your hard work.

The breakfast raised \$447 in donations and Gutjahr's gave it to Church general funds.



### NOTE FROM LAURA—SECRETARY

\*I will be gone from May 6th to 11th. Leave message if need anything or Pastor Blair will be in his usual hrs.

\*The directory came out a few weeks ago and a lot of addresses were off or people left out. Please let me know if you need any changes and/or if you need a copy.

\*UPDATE on the picture directory, the final has been approved and sent back, with God's help we may see them soon. :)



# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5-01	Aurelia Steiger
5-02	Ella McDowell
	DaviMae Kysar
5-03	Kori Lemler
	Indy Warne
5-05	Annabelle McDaniel
5-07	James O'Connell
	Erin Gutjahr
	Leslie Gully
5-08	Christian Gutjahr
5-09	Marjorie Ormand
	Mike Ullrich
	Sarah Knie
	Kyle Brinkman
5-10	Jayden Harty
	Judy Bunke
5-11	Ordean Heitmann
5-12	Mike Roeker
5-13	Mary Ann Wilson
	Ashton Davis
5-14	Janet Pistulka
5-18	Cheryl Johnson
5-20	Ron Biel
5-23	Dylan Owens
5-24	Miranda Schmaltz
	Christopher Pistulka
5-25	Eloise Applettoft
5-26	Dean Niederbaumer
5-29	Bryan Owens



May Birthstone  
-Emerald-



May Flower  
-Lily of the valley-

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

5-3	Ed & Joan Bosanko	57 years
5-20	Kasey & Brendan Gregoire	2 years
5-20	Gary Ottenbacher & Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher	25 years
5-21	Mark & Lynette Mulder	20 years
5-27	Milbert & Lunda Fix	45 years
5-31	Jeffery Sederquist & Tami Leddy-Sederquist	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)380-0498
Financial	Ed Bosanko-(605)228-2486
Spiritual	Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher-(605)380-8688
Auditor	Rod Fouberg-(605)229-1310



### *Easter Lily & Flower Dedications*

- \*In loving memory of my husband, Virgil Biel & my brother Dick Biel — Delila Biel*
- \*In loving memory of Ellie Kirkpatrick — Blair Kirkpatrick*
- \*In loving memory of Mom—Verlene, step Dad—Jim, & Fran Herman— From their Loving Family  
Patti, Cindy, Kent & Chuck*
- \*In loving memory of our parents— Alan & Corene Chapman*
- \*In loving memory of Milo Apland— Kathy Apland*
- \*In loving memory of Gordon D Severson, husband, father & grandfather — Karen Severson and Family*
- \*In loving memory of Joe Elsperger— Kevin Elsperger*
- \*In loving memory of my husband, Russ “Buzz” Gramlow— Marilyn Gramlow*
- \*In loving memory of my husband, Julius Kirschenmann — Mavis Kirschenmann*
- \*In loving memory of my parents, Dewelle & Edna Whempner— Lois Korf*
- \*In loving memory of my wife Kathy— Ralph Moos*
- \*In loving memory of Gottlieb & Olivia Ottenbacher, Viala Ottenbacher & Joyce Holtey.*
- \*In loving memory of Milo Apland— Gary, Sheila & William Ottenbacher*
- \*In loving memory of our parents and grandparents— Greg & Mary Ann Wilson*
- \*In loving memory of Koos' parents, Faan & Rja O'Kennedy*
- \*In loving memory of Missy's father, Sang Nguyen— Koos O'Kennedy & Missy Nguyen*
- \*In loving memory of our daughter Kelly Bosanko— Ed & Joan Bosanko*
- \*In loving memory of Allan's sister, Linda Fay Ochsner*
- \*In loving memory of our mothers, Verna Ochsner and Kathy Thornblad  
— Allan & Shelly Ochsner*
- \*In loving memory of our sisters Elaine Tobin, Lori Tobin & Kelly Bosanko  
— Jay & Kristin Tobin*
- \*In loving memory of Gary's parents, Al & Mavis Akkerman and Gary's brother, Keith Warne*
- \*In loving memory of Yvonne's parents, Ed & Nelva Filegar— Gary & Yvonne Warne*
- \*In loving memory & honor of our loved ones—Kurt Himanga & Eloisa Martinez*
- \*In honor of everyone fighting cancer or other illnesses—Laura Bunke*
- \*In loving memory of Gerhard M. Gutjahr, Husband, Father & Grandfather  
—Betty Gutjahr & the Gutjahr Family*

### *Come to Supper*

*The first CTS of 2025 was held April 16th. Hosted by Brad Olson & Sheree Hogan The food and fellowship was great.*

*They donated \$250 to the Music Fund.*

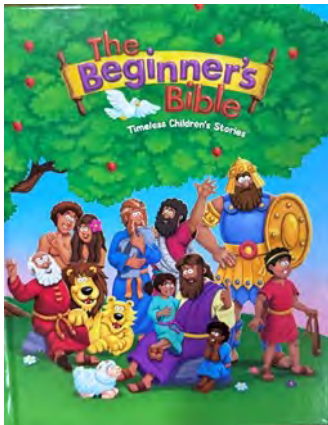
*Next Come to Supper will Be Wed. May 14th at 5:30p*

*Hosted by Mark Gutjahr and Family, watch weekly for updates.*

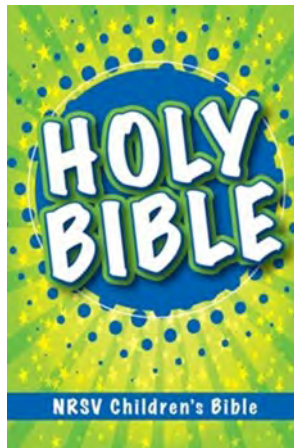
*Looking forward to some great food and fellowship.*

### *Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Bible Presentation April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday*



Inara Schmaltz  
Oliver Hollis  
Marshall Bunke  
Lydia Hopfinger  
James Hadley  
Matilyn Hadley  
Alex Hadley



Emma Gutjahr  
Lily Cait Heagley  
Tavia Lawler  
Kylynn Lipp



*Women's Fellowship  
Spring Tea  
Saturday*

*June 14th, 2025*

*\$15*

*Limited seating,  
Purchase  
tickets*

*by calling  
(605)228-6477*

*or*

## Visioning Team Minutes

March 25, 2025

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

Call to Order: Brad Olson

Opening Prayer: Brad Olson

Approval of Minutes of February 2025 Roberta moved to approve and Mark seconded the motion. All voted in agreement

### Old Business:

- Endowment update. Discussed performance of funds and looking at other choices. Brad contacted Matt Wagner at United Church Funds and will schedule a portfolio review in April.
- Come to supper has dates open and sign up sheet is in the Narthex.
- The choir has been practicing and will perform Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. About 12 individuals have agreed to participate.
- Follow up on Chimes. Mark will send a letter to Brentford church and determine their status

Still need signatures of Ed, Jay and Alan to allow Brad to sign checks.

### New Business

Laura will schedule a boiler inspection.

- Discussed putting up signs in parking lot identifying it as private. Brad will get bids from Jensen's and Lien's for resurfacing.
- Journey of the Cross still needs volunteers and will be performed April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Committee Reports

Financial reports were reviewed

Kristin for pastoral relations. Directory is nearly complete

Blair provided an update of his activities. Visits have been made to the nursing homes

Hase plumbing has repaired leaks costing about \$3000.

Women's Fellowship no report

Sheila updated information for delivering donuts to schools April 13<sup>th</sup>. Bibles will be provided to children in the Church. The website now has a QR code to assist with donations.

Next Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm. Mark prayer Blair devotions

Devotions: Robbie

Motion to adjourn by Ron, seconded by Mark.

Respectfully submitted: Brad Olson

# Plymouth Rocks Church and

## Upcoming Events

May 7 @ 3:30 pm - G2G  
End of Year Party

## **Palm Sunday celebra- tion and presentation of Bibles**



Twelve Bibles were presented during our worship service on Palm Sunday.

## **Special News**

Don't forget about the many opportunities to attend camp at Placerville Camp this summer. Placerville is our UCC camp in the Black Hills and has a very rich history of nurturing the lives of everyone that attends. Camp brochures are in the rack in the narthex. We have full camperships available from the church. Call the church office or see Rev. 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.

## **Fun All-Church Easter Party held on Palm Sunday**




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



## A LOOK AHEAD

\*\*\* JUNE \*\*\*

### PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship-communion 11a-Fellowship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Pentecost Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship <i>Strengthen the Church Offering</i>	9	10 7P-DAV	11 CTS-5:30P	12	13	14 <b>Spring Tea</b>
15 FATHERS DAY Trinity Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship-Cake 11:30a-Project Sermon Reaction	16	17 6:30P- Visioning Meeting <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Deadline</u>	18	19	20	21
22 Second Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 6:30p Pentecost Reaction <i>Strengthen the Church offering</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Buckmeier / Tobin</b>  <b>Wedding</b>
29 Third Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 6:30p Pentecost Reaction	30 Blood Drive					



## THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL May 2025

Sat, May 3                      11a-Funeral for Mary Cross, daughter of Betty Betten

Sun, May 4                      Third Sunday of Easter  
10a-Worship; communion  
11a-Fellowship  
6:30p-Follow up Study

Tues, May 6                      7p-DAV Meeting

Wed, May 7                      G2G- 3:30p End of Year Party!

Thur, May 8                      5:30p-Fellowship Hall Usage; Piano Recital  
7p-Women's Fellowship meeting

Sun, May 11                      Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship; Mother's Day Cake  
6:30p-Follow up Study

Wed, May 14                      5:30p-Come to Supper

Sun, May 18                      Fifth Sunday of Easter  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship

Tue, May 20                      Visioning Team Meeting; 6:30p  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sun, May 25                      Sixth Sunday of Easter  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship  
2p-Bethesda

Mon, May 26                      Happy Memorial Day



## Plymouth Congregational Church

### May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Donations will be taken for "Donuts for Teachers"				1	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 5:30p-Piano Recital; Fellowship hall usage 7P-Women's Fellowship	9	10
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship; Mother's Day Cake 6:30p-Follow-up Study 	12	13	14 CTS- 5:30P	15	16	17
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	19	20 6:30P- Visioning Meeting <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Deadline</u>	21	22	23	24
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter Honoring Veterans 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	26 Have a Happy & Safe 	27	28	29	30	31

#### COMMUNITY REMINDER

Brown County Clean-up

FREE -

April 24-May 10th



WILL BE IN JULY-MORE INFO TO COME



**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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P A I D

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](mailto:sec.plymouth@midconetwork.com)

[www.plymouthaberdeen.com](http://www.plymouthaberdeen.com)

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

***SUNDAY 10:00 AM***

*[www.plymouthaberdeen.com](http://www.plymouthaberdeen.com)*

