



**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

FROM PASTOR BLAIR’S DESK

JULY 2025

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Roman 12: 9-21, NRSV)

To state the obvious, peace is hard. It is hard to win and even harder to maintain. Whether it is between nations, peoples, individuals, or even within oneself. It is hard because tensions consistently arise between what is wanted or idealized and what is real. In this imperfect world and within us imperfect human beings, there are hurts (intentional or not), wounds (seen or not), and ignorance (willful or not) that create turmoil. When those hurts and wounds or ignorance remain unattended to, they fester and make ever less likely avenues to experience peace. Winning peace then requires the hard work of forgiveness and understanding and maintaining peace requires the even harder work or persistence and diligence.

In recent days, we, as a world, have witnessed and experienced the ugly specter of war where violence is waged and innocents are injured or killed alongside those who perpetuate violence. The cynical part of me wants to just throw up my hands and say, "such is the way of the world." In terms of the Middle East, the desire or expectation of peace seems to be a foolhardy pursuit destined to break the heart of those who desire peace. These nations, after all, are nations and peoples who have lived with hate for each other for generations and have nurtured that hate as diligently as they have their desires for relief from that hatred. How does one even pray for something that seems so far beyond the realms of possibility? Yes, there may be cessation of violence for a number of reasons but can there ever be peace, really and realistically?

The answer for the faithful is yes and that is not just an answer born solely from idealized faith. It is born from human experience. It, however, takes work – the persistent and steady work of peacemakers who enter the arena again and again and again. It takes patience and diligence and not the mindset of impulsive people who care only about attention and easy wins. That is what makes me both cynical and hopeful at the same time. I am cynical that such people are not currently at work but hopeful that they might just arise to just a thing. We have within ourselves to win and maintain peace both in small and in grand ways. I pray that we might just do so.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair**

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FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

July 6, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Surprising Prophets
2 Kings 5:1-14 & Ps 30 or
 Isaiah 66:10-14 & Ps 66:1-9
 Galicians 6:(1-6), 7-16
 Luke 10:1-11, 16-201

July 13, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Caring Neighbors
 Amos 7:7-17 & Ps 82 or
 Deuteronomy 30:9-14 & Ps 25:1-10
 Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Word and Work
 Amos 8:1-12 & Ps 82
 Genesis 18:1-10a & Ps 15
 Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Shaped by Prayer
 Hosea 1:2-10 & Ps 85
 Genesis 18:20-32 & Ps 138
 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
 Luke 11:1-13



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dustan Burgard, 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, Emma Heiser, Alice Hopfinger, Ruth Overby, Priscilla Pfeifle, Joan Sanders, Lois Wales, Kelli Wells, Nancy Wells and June Whites.

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

June started with the beautiful spring tea, great music, sandwiches and dessert. The butterfly theme was so appropriate, such lovely outfits by all the women in attendance. We once again will be blessed with music by the choir in July. Please pray for all that are ill and in need of our support and love. We have recently lost so many long time members. Be kind to and love one another. Pray that the world and sensible leaders wake up and bring peace to the United States and the world.

God Bless you all,

Brad Olson

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of Linda Mork.

Prayers to Dale, family and friends.



Linda L. Mork, 82, of Aberdeen, SD, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Funeral Service was held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at Plymouth Congregational UCC, with Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick officiating.

Burial was at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery.



Prayers to Lovila Hanson's family.

Lovila passed away Tuesday June 24th, 2025.

Spitzer-Miller will be handling the funeral arrangements.

Funeral will be first part of August and burial at Sunset Memorial.



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 7-2 Aria Gregoire
- 7-5 Milbert Fix
- 7-4 Kelli Wells
- 7-5 Yvonne Warne
- Lyla Harrell
- 7-6 Dennis Gelling
- 7-7 Ryan Metter
- 7-8 Janet Von Eschen
- Sam Tobin
- 7-9 Bianca Ochsner
- 7-10 Karen Severson
- 7-11 Dianne Spitzer
- 7-13 Annette Niederbaumer
- Lily Cait Heagley
- 7-14 Jon Domaska
- 7-15 Joe Pistulka
- 7-19 Betty Gutjahr
- 7-20 Kristin Tobin
- Jayde Lier
- 7-21 Jeffery Severson
- 7-22 Jordan Black
- 7-23 Jeannie Heitmann
- 7-24 Mike Benson
- Molly Johnson
- 7-27 Amanda Johnson
- Traisen Lynn
- 7-29 Colleen Carman
- Dale Mork
- Karen Mastel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 7/07 Dayton & Annette Cook 36 yrs
- 7/07 Eric & Jane Gerber 18 yrs
- 7/08 Alan & Corene Chapman 37 yrs
- 7/13 Koos O’Kennedy & Missy Nguyen 12 yrs
- 7/21 Chad & Rhonda Masters 24 yrs
- 7/25 Mark & Erin Gutjahr 16 yrs

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.



July Birthstone
-Ruby-

July Flower
-Tulip-



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

*Thank
you*

word “tribe” to describe you, I think it fits perfectly. You were her social group, her community-her “tribe”.

Much love to you all!

Carla, Leslie, Holly & Lynn

Dear Friends of mom (Lu Van Beek),

We are ever so grateful to all of you for helping out at Mom’s funeral AND for your friendships with her over the years. Although mom wouldn’t have used the



Women’s Fellowship

June has been a busy month for the women of our church.

A large group of ladies attended our annual tea on the 14th. A special thanks to Pat Swanson & Diane Ligtenberg for all their work organizing it. Ralph Moos, Brad Olson, Greg Wilson, Larry Ligtenberg, Gary Ottenbacher and William Ottenbacher did a great job serving tea, coffee & water and helping with clean up afterwards. The door prize was won by Brittney Weisser and the quilt by Lora Wallgren.

On Sunday, June 15th, we had the pleasure of helping with Shirley Fetherhuff’s 100th Birthday Celebration for a lovely lady.

We were saddened by the death of Linda Mork and serving lunch after the service, the large number of family and friends attending was a real tribute to Linda.

We are now working Monday mornings from 9am until coffee time sorting and pricing items for the rummage sale July 18th & 19th. Join us for a fun time.

Marilyn Gramlow



Come to Supper

Robbie Eisenbeisz & Delila Beil raised \$321 for general fund with their CTS.

Next Come to Supper will Be Wed. July 9th at 5:30p

Hosted by Roeker's

Smoked pulled pork-coleslaw-chips-dessert

Start cleaning out those closets and basements. No electronics-Tv's-clothing-shoes.

Rummage Sale

**Friday July 18
10a-5p**

**Saturday July 19
8a-noon**

Bag sale begins at 11a on Saturday.



Plymouth Congregational Church

Visioning Team Minutes

May 20, 2025

Present: Mark Gutjahr, Roberta Eisenbeisz, Pat Swanson, Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Dani Roeker, Kristin Tobin, Ed Bosanko and Pastor Blair.

Approval of Minutes: Ed Bosanko and Kristin Tobin. All voted in agreement.

Old Business- none

New Business - none

Committee Reports

- Sheila reported that 49 doz. Donuts went out to educators this year. Donna Masters pledged to cover any left over costs. VBS is tentatively set for Aug. 3-7.
- Pat read Marilyn's minutes from the last meeting on May 8, 2025.
- Kristin reported that the Pastoral Relations committee will begin meeting quarterly from now on. The picture directory will be coming soon.
- Pastor Blair reported that the Tri –Conference minister will be at the next meeting in Brentford on October 27, 2025. Shirley Featherhuff' BD party is scheduled for June 15, 2025.

Ed was reassured that the Endowment Fund was doing well. The checking account is doing well with some unexpected contributions.

Next meeting date: June 17, 2025 6:30 pm

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Swanson



**PLYMOUTH
ROCKS**
Church and Family Life
Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher



Vacation Bible School

All kids ages K-5 are welcome

August 3-7 from 6-8:30 pm

Closing program at 7 pm on August 7th.

Everyone is invited!

We need volunteers to help with crafts, activities and storytelling. Let's make this a fun time for the kids! If you can join us for an evening or part of an evening, we would love to see you!

Let Sheila know if you are able to help!

Egypt is a fun and magical place to encounter the one true God.

New church website:
plymouthaberdeen.com

Don't forget to follow us on:



<https://www.facebook.com/plymouthaberdeen>



<https://www.youtube.com/@PlymouthUCCAberdeen>



<https://www.instagram.com/plymouthuccaberdeen/>

VBS Registrations available
at:

vbspro.events/p/plymouthaberdeen

or scan



Contact Sheila at

ce.plymouth@midconetwork.com

if you have any questions

A LOOK AHEAD
***** AUGUST *****
PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10a- Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship 6-8p VBS	4 6-8P VBS	5 6-8p VBS	6 6-8p VBS	7 6-8p VBS 7p program All invited	8	9
10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10a- Worship 11a-Fellowship	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Brown County Fair Be Safe and have FUN!!					
17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a- Worship 11a-Fellowship 2p-Bethesda	18	19 6:30P- Visioning Meeting	20 CTS- 5:30P Pastor Blair	21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22	23
24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10a- Worship 11a-Fellowship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10a- Worship 11a-Fellowship						



**THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
July 2025**

Fri, July 4	HAPPY IDEPENDENCE DAY Everyone have a safe 4th
<u>Sun, July 6</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship
Wed, July 9	5:30p-Come to Supper Hosted by Roeker's
Tue, July 8	7p-DAV Meeting
Fri, July 11 Sat, July 12	Rehearsal and meal Schmidt/Hier Wedding
<u>Sun, July 13</u>	<u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, July 15	Visioning Team Meeting; 6:30p
Fri, July 18 Sat, July 19	Rummage Sale 10a-5p Rummage Sale 8a-Noon **Bag sale begins at 11a**
<u>Sun, July 20</u>	<u>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, June 22	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
<u>Sun, July 27</u>	<u>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 2p-Bethesda
Wed, July 30	Pastor/Staff Meeting 6p



Plymouth Congregational Church

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day 	5
6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship	7	8 7P-DAV	9 CTS-5:30P Roeker's	10	11 Rehearsal /Dinner	12 Schmidt/Hier Wedding 
13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	14	15 6:30P- Visioning Meeting	16	17	18 Rummage Sale 10a-5p	19 Rummage Sale 8a-noon Bag sale starts at 11a
20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 2p-Bethesda	21	22 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	23	24	25	26
27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	28	29	30 6P Pastor/ Staff meeting	31		



For the Summer months, we are taking requests for music you would like to hear played at service. Just contact Laura and let her know what song your heart wants to hear. Missy, Blair and Laura will do their best to make it happen.



**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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Org.

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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

www.plymouthaberdeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

www.plymouthaberdeen.com

