



## PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

AUGUST 2025

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 19-21, NRSV)

Sometimes it is hard to determine the true meaning of anything anymore. For every definition, there seems to be another definition that is argued just as passionately and, in some cases, persuasively. This is especially true for those intangible things and ideas that are hard to define. In a recent essay by Rev. Matt Laney in a recent daily meditation on the United Church of Christ website, he struggles with this reality in our world through a piece titled "What Do We Mean By God? It goes as follows:

*People toss around the word "God" like we're all talking about the same thing. Spoiler alert: we're not. Ask three people what they mean by "God," and you'll get five different answers. Even atheists and theists argue past each other because they haven't defined their terms.*

*Imagine someone saying, "I don't believe in art. Art doesn't exist!" You'd blink and point to a painting, a ballet, a haunting melody. And they'd reply, "That's just pigment on canvas. Only bodies moving. Mere vibrations colliding with eardrums."*

*If by "art" they mean some floating, invisible force with a paintbrush, well of course they won't believe in it.*

*But what if we defined art as "the experience of meaning through human expression"? Suddenly, we've got something to talk about.*

*Let's try a similar approach with God. Here's one working definition: God is your ultimate concern (thank you, Paul Tillich), your highest good, your deepest loyalty, the thing you'd rearrange your life around, perhaps die for. That might be a divine being, sure. It could also be success, love, control, comfort, or the stock market.*

*Everyone has a god. The question isn't "Do you believe in God?" but "What's your God?" What sits on the throne of your heart? What do you love most fiercely? That's what shapes and guides your life.*

*You may not believe in 'God,' but you're definitely serving one.*

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It is good for us, in our lives of faith to look at the priorities in our lives from time to time. What takes up our energy, passion, time, and talents? Where is the treasure in our lives? God calls us to have God as our center and our treasure. It is not easy to do so. Other aspects of our lives demand so much from us. That is the calling of faith. It is the discipline of discerning and defining who we are and whose we are. May God bless all of us in such a journey of discovery.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Blair



## FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

**August 3, 2025**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Soul Investment*

**Luke 12:13-21**

Hosea 11:1-11 & Ps 107:1-9, 43  
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 & Ps 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:13-21

**August 10, 2025**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Living into the Promise*

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 & Ps 50:1-8, 22-23  
Genesis 15:1-6 & Ps 33:12-22

**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Luke 12:32-40

**August 17, 2025**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Restore Us*

Isaiah 5:1-7 & Ps 80: 1-2, 8-19  
Jeremiah 23:23-29 & Ps 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

**August 24, 2025**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*Healing Reign*

Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Ps 71:1-6  
Isaiah 58:9b-14 & Ps 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

**August 31, 2025**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Open Table*

Jeremiah 2:4-13 & Ps 81:1, 10-16  
Proverbs 25:6-7 & Ps 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dustan Burgard, Kristy Cihak, Cooper Davis, Alan Eppen, Annette Cook, Karen Filegar, Eric Gerber, Dale 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

A big thank you to the Women's Fellowship and everybody else who assisted to make the rummage sale a big success.

August will be busy with vacation bible school and the children getting ready to return to school.

Be kind to and love one another. Pray that the members of the Congregation who are ill or alone do well during the coming months.

God Bless you all,  
Brad Olson



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Another successful rummage sale! Thank you, Yvonne Franzen, for being our learder and everyone who donated and worked to make it happen. The extra help of ralph, Greg, Lynn, Kent, Ed, Jay and Gary the last day was greatly appreciated. Life is good when we work together for the church.

We were saddened to serve the funeral for Bill Haigh. He will be missed.

Our next project is new flooring the small bathroom.

If you notice how clean our church always is give Lois Korf a big "Thank You and Great Job!"

Marilyn Gramlow

# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

8-01	Laura Bunke
8-02	Heath Heagley
8-03	Benjamin Kirschenmann
8-05	Brad Olson
8-06	Joan Bosanko
	Owen Niederbaumer
	Jaryn Hilgemann
8-10	Delila Biel
8-13	Jayleen Lier
8-14	Travis Biel
8-15	Lennon Bunke
	Jackie Kirschenmann
8-18	Lois Korf
8-19	Greg Wilson
	Angela Heagley
8-21	Quinley Bain
8-25	Dani Roeker
8-25	Annette Cook
8-26	Charlotte Tobin
8-28	Ed Bosanko
	Gary Ottenbacher
	Franky O'Kennedy
	Mina O'Kennedy
8-29	Cristy Bieger
8-30	Kurt Himanga



May Birthstone  
-Peridot-



August Flower  
-Gladiolus  
or Poppy-

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

8-5	Mike & Annette Niederbaumer	25 years
8-10	Wayne & Shelly Kryswaty	??
8-16	Ron & Connie Biel	57 years
8-21	Aubrey & James O'Connell	49 years
8-26	Kermit & Cynthia Born	64 years
8-29	Ella & John McDowell	55 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



Sunday August 3-7.

6p-8:30p

Ages K-5

Meet Joseph

Enjoy a petting Zoo

Create Pottery

Make Mud Bricks

Color a Sarcophagus

Make a Cairo collar

Closing Program Aug 7 at 7pm

All are Welcome



### *Come to Supper*

*CTS was held July 9th. Hosted by the Roeker's The food and fellowship was great.*

*They donated \$229 to Christian Ed for VBS.*

*Next Come to Supper will Be Wed. August 20th at 5:30p*

*Hosted by Pastor Blair.*

*-Menu- Chicken Parmesan & Dessert*

*Looking forward to some great food and fellowship.*



Today was the absolute worst day ever

And don't try to convince me that

There's something good in everyday

Because, when you take a closer look,

This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if

Some goodness does shine though once in a while

Satisfaction and happiness don't last.

And its not true that

It's all in the mind and heart

Because

True happiness can be obtained

Only if ones surroundings are good

Its not true that good exists

I'm sure you can agree that

The reality

creates

My attitude

It's all beyond my control

And you'll never in a million years hear me say that

Today was a good day.

Now read from bottom up

-Unknown Author-Stole from Facebook-

**Plymouth Congregational Church****Visioning Minutes****June 24, 2025**

Present: Mark Gutjahr, Erin Gutjahr, Roberta Eisenbeisz, Pat Swanson, Sheila Aplan- Ottenbacher, Dani Roeker, Kristin Tobin, Ed Bosanko, Alan Chapman and Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick.

Approval of minutes: Ed moved to approve and Roberta seconded the motion. All voted in agreement.

**Old Business:**

- Endowment Update—Stock Market Up-so doing well

Resurfacing parking lot –Dick Gohn suggested to Pastor that they start a campaign for the resurfacing. Ed said he would get together with Dick and start the planning.

**New Business:**

Schmidt/ Heir wedding on July 12 want to use the church. They wish to have it opened at 8 am. Pastor will open and Sheila will cover the rest of the day. William will assist in the audio.

**Committee Reports:**

- Financial—Ed reported that the checking account is strong due to special contributions-\$15,198.30 this month. The Endowment checking account is strong if we need it in the future to meet monthly bills.
- Facilities manager Alan Chapman reported that Larry and Gary had replaced the lights over the door to the sanctuary. Laura needs a new air conditioner in her office. There is one available in the church.
- Sheila reported that the web site was up and functioning well. VBS is in the planning for Aug. 3-7. Placerville has 2 kids planning to go.

Pastor will be gone July 3-8 for family reunions. Lovila Hanson has passed and the family would like to use the church just for a family celebration. Dale Mork has requested a wish to join the men's coffee on Wednesday. Pastor will provide a ride for him. A stranger requested parking privileges for a couple of nights. Pastor okayed it. DAV may be moving their vehicle. His 80 page draft of his doctorate thesis is completed and ready to take to his advisors.

Next meeting: July 15, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Swanson

# PLYMOUTH ROCKS

## *Church and Family Life*

*Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher*



G2G will begin Wed, September 17 at 3:30 pm



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 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Everyone is invited!**

It's not too late to join the fun. Stop in from 6:30-7 each night to check out our Egypt shops. You can help make pottery, create mud bricks, finish tied blankets for children in need, decorate a Cairo collar or miniature sarcophagus and enjoy our petting zoo! And we'll learn about God's Hope, God's Grace, God's Forgiveness and God's Family.

New church website:  
[plymouthaberdeen.com](http://plymouthaberdeen.com)

Don't forget to follow us on:



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



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



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

[#PlymouthROCKS](#) [#plymouthab-](#)

August is also back to school time!

We'll be collecting for the Salvation Army Snack Pack program

Items to donate:

Peanut butter,  
individual packs of cereal,  
individual size juice boxes,  
individual snack crackers,  
granola bars,  
individual fruit or pudding cups,  
microwave oatmeal  
or tuna pouches.

**Collecting until Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.**



## A LOOK AHEAD

\*\*\* SEPTEMBER \*\*\*

### PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship	8	9 DAV-7p	10 CTS-5:30P Bosanko's & Tobin's	11	12	13
14 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 2p-Bethesda	15	16 6:30P- Visioning Meeting	17 G2G- 3:30pm begins	18 <a href="#">Newsletter Deadline</a>	19	20
21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	29	30				

## THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

### August 2025

Sat, Aug. 2                      10:30a Funeral Lovila Hanson, Spitzer-Miller

Sun, Aug. 3                      Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
10a-Worship; communion  
11a-Fellowship  
6-8p VBS

Mon, Aug. 4                      6-8 VBS

Tue, Aug. 5                      6-8 VBS

Wed, Aug. 6                      6-8 VBS

Thur, Aug. 7                      6-8 VBS 7p Program-All Invited

Sun, Aug. 10                      Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship

Mon Aug. 11  
Thru  
Sun Aug. 17                      Brown County Fair

Sun, Aug. 17                      Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship  
2p-Bethesda

Tue, Aug. 19                      Visioning Team Meeting; 6:30p  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wed, Aug. 20                      5:30p-Come to Supper

Sun, Aug. 24                      Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship

Sun, Aug. 31                      Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
10a-Worship  
11a-Fellowship



## Plymouth Congregational Church

### August 2025

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 <u>All invited</u>	8	9
10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<b>Brown County Fair!!</b>			<b>Be Safe &amp; Have Fun!!</b>		
17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 2p-Bethesda	18	19 6:30P- Visioning Meeting	20 CTS- 5:30P 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						



**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.plymouthaberndeen.com](http://www.plymouthaberndeen.com)

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

***SUNDAY 10:00 AM***

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

