



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR’S DESK

OCTOBER 2025

*Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake. - Psalm 79:8-9 (NRSV)*

There is a recent devotion on the United Church of Christ website entitled “Thoughts and Prayers” that I found prescient and poignant in many ways. It spoke of what the author termed “vague spirituality” during the time of crises. The author noted that in the wake of another mass shooting or a natural disaster or some other kind of horrible tragedy, there is a rush by many people, especially political leaders, to send “thoughts and prayers.”

To be clear, there is absolutely nothing wrong with sending thoughts and prayers to victims and loved ones of horrible tragedies. As Christians; as people of faith; as people with compassion, holding our suffering neighbors in loving prayer is more than appropriate. It is part and parcel of what defines our faith. Prayer is a powerful force in the universe and much can be done when people come together in prayer.

Instead, what needs to be considered in the light of our often-heartbroken nation and our divided peoples is the question of whether “thoughts and prayers” so often expressed are anything more than a “vague spirituality” to address the tragedy and move on. Communities rebuilding after a natural disaster know full well that “thoughts and prayers” though appreciated in the heart of the disaster don’t rebuild their houses or their churches or pay their bills. Family members of children slain in schools though grateful to be held dear in prayer in the moment of their loss know that thoughts and prayer don’t take away the loss that they will feel every day for the rest of their lives. They will not take away their fear the next time one of their other children step on to the school bus.

The simple challenge of faith is that we must not let our “thoughts and prayers” become a “vague spirituality” where we are not held responsible for what happens next. We are called to be a people that doesn’t just pray and think about those who suffer amidst us but to act. We are called to reach out, comfort, and do what we can to change. That is what faith means. Thoughts and prayers, no matter how sincere and well-crafted, cannot replace acts of Christian compassion, justice, and mercy.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blair

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## FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

**October 5, 2025**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Free to Grieve*

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26 & **Psalms 137**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalms 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

**October 12, 2025**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Planting Life*

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7** & Psalms 66:1-12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c & Psalms 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

**October 19, 2025**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Ask Boldly; Live Justly*

**Jeremiah 31:27-34** & Psalms 119:97-104

Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

**October 26, 2025**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Take Heart*

Joel 2:23-32 & Psalms 65

**Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22** & Psalms 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8; 16-18

Luke 18:9-14



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dustan Burgard, 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 & 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

It seems like whenever we turn on the television, the news is always sad. We certainly could use a kinder world. Our representatives in Washington act in such inappropriate ways and send a terrible message to the young children of our country. We could all do better. 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. Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

God Bless you all,

Brad Olson

### Women's Fellowship Report

Women's Fellowship met Sept 11, 2025 with eight members and Pastor Blair present.

The following items were discussed:

1. Money left in the campership fund will be left there for future needs.
2. The Rummage Sale will be scheduled later, but will be mid-summer.
3. Dishcloths will continue to be sold for \$2 each.
4. The Bazaar will be Saturday November 1, 9a-2p. Committee chairperson's include Joan Bosanko, ShirLee Gutjahr, Pat Swanson, Donna Masters, Lois Korf, Esther Lier and Corene Chapman.
5. 4 Card tables will be purchased.
6. New flooring has been installed in the handicapped bathroom. A special thanks to Lois Korf for the large donation toward the cost.
7. A professional carpet cleaner will be contacted to clean entry and hall carpets.
8. Election of officers was held; Donna Masters-President, Joan Bosanko- Vice President, Marilyn Gramlow-Secretary, Linda Gohn and Laurie Cunningham-Treasurers.
9. Special Note- The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 7, at 7pm due to Wedding events in church.

# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 10-05 Cheryl Olson
- 10-08 John McDowell
- 10-10 Khloe Kramp
- 10-11 Blair Kirkpatrick
- 10-14 Benjamin Mulder
- 10-16 Gary Warne
- 10-19 Helen Orth
- 10-21 Jame Gerber  
Linda Gohn
- 10-22 Linda Emery
- 10-23 Melissa Gisi  
LaVonne Wolf
- 10-25 Merle Kost
- 10-26 Ralph Moos  
Jennifer Benson
- 10-28 Marilyn Gramlow  
Shane Cunningham
- 10-31 Nikolai Brown



October Flower  
Cosmos

October Birthstone  
Opal



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10/06 Jason & Angela Heagley 18 years
- 10/24 Jay & Bobbie Lier 33 years

Send love and prayers to Erna Gross and her family and friends as Erna was put on hospice late September.



*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

**Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ**  
**Visioning Team Minutes**  
**July 15, 2025**

**Present:** Brad Olson, Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick, Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher,  
Chad Masters, Mark Gutjahr, Kristin Tobin, Roberta Eisenbeisz, Dani Roecker

Call to Order: Brad Olson

Opening Prayer: Paster Blair

Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2025 Roberta moved to approve and Dani seconded the motion. All voted in agreement

Old Business:

The parking lot was discussed. Bids will be obtained to fill the cracks and crack seal. Paster Blair mentioned that Dick Gohn suggested a fund raising campaign to help fund the project.

New Business

Laura provided the committee with dates that she will be absent in the near future.

Committee Reports

Financial reports were reviewed. No update provided.

Kristin for pastoral relations. Directory is nearly complete

Blair provided an update of his activities. He is still working on his PhD education

Lights have been replaced as needed. It was suggested that Kordel Chmela be contacted to see if he would have an interest in helping with plant ops

Women's Fellowship they are getting it ready for the rummage sale

Sheila updated information for Vacation Bible School and an improved sound system.

Next Meeting: September 16th, 6:30pm. Brad prayer Blair devotions

Devotions: Robbie provided

Motion to adjourn by Mark, seconded by Kristen. All voted yea.

Respectfully submitted: Brad Olson

# Come To Supper

Wed. October 15th, 5:30p

Hosted by Laura Bunke & Sheila Bunke

Halupsy (AKA-Pigs in blanket/Cabbage rolls)

Dumplings and Potatoes

Kuchen

Looking forward to some great food and fellowship.

- We will be joining Columbia Church for Confirmation this year. Will be every other week started Sunday September 21. Meet at Church at 4:30p and class in Columbia.
- We have 3 students so far and if anyone else is interested contact office 605-225-2557

Vitalant and Plymouth have joined together to have another blood draw.

Brad Olson will be in charge of the blood draw Friday, November 14, 2025.

Watch for more information to come.





## Women's Fellowship Annual Bazaar

**Saturday, Nov. 1st  
9a—2p**

### **We need volunteers for the following:**

- **Goodies for the Bake Sale**
- **Home made crafts**
- **Pies for the lunch**
- **Volunteer sign-up sheet in Narthex to help before, during and after the Bazaar**



#### **Sharyn (Sherrie) Elliott Obituary**

The memorial service for Sharyn M. Elliott, 77, of Aberdeen, SD, will be 10:30, Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at Plymouth Congregational Church, with Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick officiating. Burial will be at Northville Cemetery at a later date. Sharyn died Saturday, September 13, at her home in Aberdeen.

Visitation will be 3:00-7:00pm, Monday, with family present from 5:00-7:00pm, followed by a prayer service at 7:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Sharyn M. Summers (Sherrie) was born on July 23, 1948, in Aberdeen, SD, to Dale and Margaret (Townsend) Summers. She grew up in Aberdeen and attended Simmons Elementary, Simmons Junior High, and graduated from Central High School in 1965. Sherrie furthered her education by attending Northern State College where she received her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree. Sherrie made her career as an elementary school teacher and was proud of her 40 years of service in the Aberdeen School District.

Sherrie married Dan Zinter. Together, they had one daughter, Nichole. She then married Gordon Gray, and they had two children, Haylee and Elliott. After Gordon's death in 2008, Sharyn married Burton Elliott. Burt died in 2024.

Sherrie loved her family and was especially fond of her grandchildren! She loved decorating for holidays, especially Halloween. She was an avid Minnesota sports fan and enjoyed watching Twins and Vikings games. She had a special love for animals, and her pets were particularly important to her. Sherrie loved her students and was proud to help with Summer Discovery and Super Summer programs.

Grateful for having shared Sherrie's life are her children: Nichole 'Niki' (Darren) Pahl, Haylee (Paul) Vershure, and Elliott (Sarah) Gray; grandchildren: Dahltin Pahl, Kolbey (Seth) Jaeger, Archer Vershure, Audrey Vershure, Luke Vershure, Journey Gray, Sienna Gray, Sadie Gray, and Vincent Gray; brother, Carl (Mary) Summers; and special cousin, Rosalind Cain Motley.

Preceding Sherrie in death are her parents Dale and Margaret Summers; husbands, Gordon Gray and Burton Elliott; and siblings, Daryl Summers and Marilyn Summers.

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



G2G each Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 pm  
All kids age K-5 are invited to join us!  
Registrations available at the church



Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm in the Plymouth Church parking lot.

**We need candy donations and decorated cars to make this successful! Sign up sheet in the narthex.**

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/>

This year, we are looking for financial donations for the snacks and drinks for our G2G class. There are some specific dietary restrictions that make it easier for Sheila to pick up the snacks for each week. If you wish to help out, see Sheila or mark your donation for G2G.

**Confirmation has begun!**  
There are three from our church that are joining four from the Columbia church. We meet every other week in Columbia. Our confirmands are Kylynn Lipp, Annabelle McDaniel, and Michael Roeker.

Please pray for the seven confirmands and be ready for ways you can help them achieve their goals.

## A LOOK AHEAD

### \*\*\* NOVEMBER \*\*\*

## PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 ALL SAINTS DAY  WF-Fall BAZAAR 9a-2p
2 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	3	4	5 3:30p-G2G	6	7	8
9 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship <b>11a-Annual Business Meeting followed with meal by Gutjahr.</b>	10	11 7p-DAV HAPPY VETRANS DAY	12 3:30pG2G	13 7p-WF meet- ing	14 Blood Draw Time??	15
16 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	17	18 6:30p Visioning Team Meet- ing <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u>	19 3:30pG2G	20	21	22
23 Reign of Christ 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving  	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship						

## THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL September 2025

<u>Sun, Oct 5</u>	<u>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship
Tue, Oct 7	7p-Women's Fellowship meeting
Wed, Oct 8	3:30p-G2G
Thur, Oct 9	Rehearsal and Dinner
Fri, Oct 10	Loken/Kraft Wedding
<u>Sun, Oct 12</u>	<u>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, Oct 14	7p-DAV
Wed, Oct 15	3:30p-G2G 5:30p Come to Supper
<u>Sun, Oct 19</u>	<u>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, Oct 21	6:30p-Visioning Team Meeting
Wed, Oct 22	3:30p-G2G
Sat, Oct 25	3-5p TRUNK or TREAT
<u>Sun, Oct 26</u>	<u>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship Noon-Marilyn Gramlow Birthday Luncheon
Wed, Oct 29	3:30p-G2G
Fri, Oct 31	Happy Halloween



## Plymouth Congregational Church

### October 2025

SUNDAY	M ON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship  World Communion Sunday	6	7 7p-WF meeting	8 3:30p-G2G	9  Wedding Rehearsal	10 Loken/Kraft Wedding  	11
12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	13	14 7p-DAV	15 3:30pG2G 5:30p-CTS	16	17	18
19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	20	21 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u>	22 3:30pG2G	23	24	25 Trunk Or Treat 2-4p
26 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship Noon-Marilyn Gramlow Birthday Luncheon	27	28	29 3:30pG2G	30	31 Happy Halloween  	



**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](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)

