



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR’S DESK

FEBRUARY 2026

**13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.
14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you,
and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper
for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus
had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens
were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.
17 And a voice from the heavens said,
“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”**

This last month, we began the season of Epiphany with the Baptism of our Lord. In the next month, we will be beginning the season of Lent and although the emotions associated with the season may differ, the promises remain the same. The promises present in the baptism are that we are born in the state of grace. The rite of baptism, according to the UCC Book of Worship, is “an outward and visible of an inward and spiritual grace.” What saves us is that we are born through the grace of God. That is the basis of the faith we have in Jesus. He showed us the way to understand the fullness of God’s unending grace.

During the season of Lent, we have the same promises of grace and that grace comes in the form of forgiveness. As we go through a season of self-reflection, we find that the fullness of God’s grace is great enough to overcome our self-doubts and our imperfections. It is great enough to overcome our mistakes and regrets; our disappointments and losses. At the core we know ourselves to be loved in the fullness of who we are.

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To that end, the love that we have received becomes the love that we are called to give. As we are loved so are we called to love. We are the imperfect extensions of God’s perfect love. That is the meaning of Lent. We find ourselves in the midst of God’s perfect acceptance and grace. We find ourselves accepted, forgiven, understood, embraced, strengthened, and found. That is grace at its fullest. We find ourselves to be both loved and loving.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
The Vision Beautiful
 Micah 6:1-8
 Psalms 15
 I Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Restoring Beauty
 Isaiah 54:1-9a, (9b-12)
 Psalms 122:1-9, (10)
 I Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)
 Matthew 5:12-20

February 15, 2026
Transfiguration
 Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalms 2 or 99
 II Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalms 51:1-17
 II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
 Psalms 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Koos O’Kennedy, Dustan Burgard, Cooper Davis, Alan Eppen, Karen Filegar, Eric Gerber, 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:

Dale Mork, Ernest Schipke, Betty Betten, Colleen Carman, Dorothy Dockter, Erna Gross, Betty Gutjahr, Emma Heiser, Alice Hopfinger, Ruth Overby, Priscilla Pfeifle, Joan Sanders, Kelli Wells, Nancy Wells and June Whites.

Please contact the church office (225-2557) to be added to or removed from the Prayer List.



**REMEMBER
 OUR SERVICE PEOPLE
 And All the Troops Stationed
 Around the World**



Visioning Team Minutes

November 18, 2025

Present: Laura Bunke, Dani Roeker, Alan Chapman, Pastor Blair, Mark Gutjahr, Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Ed Bosanko, Pat Swanson, Chad Masters, Donna Masters, Kristin Tobin and Robbie Eisenbeisz

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Opening Prayer: Ed Bosanko

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

Old Business:

- Ed reported that he would give a full financial report at the annual business meeting this month.

The team looked at the 3 bids submitted for the parking lot improvements.

New Business:

The team voted to install a key Pad lock on the DAV room.

- Robbie suggested purchasing a new tree for the sanctuary. Everyone agreed that a smaller tree was needed. Robbie, Marilyn and Donna will shop for a new tree and new garland for the rails in the sanctuary.
- It was decided to decorate for Christmas after the Annual business meeting dinner.

The Visioning Team Christmas supper will be held on Dec. 16 at The Flame.

Committee Reports:

- Ed reported that the finances required a \$17,000 withdrawal from the Endowment Fund to cover expenses.
- Alan Chapman reported that Lois noticed a couple of leaks by the piano and quickly provided buckets. Will turn on heat strips to see if that helps.
- Donna announced that the bazaar was a success and that new nuts will be coming in.
- Sheila said that we will be providing Thanksgiving dinners to 3 families who have children in G2G this year. On Nov 25 we will join 3 other churches to provide a Thanksgiving meal for the needy in our community.
- Kristin organized a Pastoral group to evaluate the Pastor on Nov 25.

Pastor indicated that he was working on staff evaluations. He added that his doctorate paper received approval in his latest trip to Oklahoma. He will then present his paper to the Board in January and graduate in May.

Devotions: Robbie

Next meeting: Jan.20, 2026 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Swanson



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 02-01 Patricia Haigh
Lauren Tobin
- 02-02 Alice Hopfinger (93)
- 02-05 Jason Heagley
- 02-07 Sandra Brunson
- 02-08 Dayton Cook
- 02-18 Kamilla Kramp
- 02-22 Mary Davis
Bryan Johnson
- 02-24 Jessica Hilgemann
- 02-26 George Cross (84)
- 02-27 Braidan Lynn
- 02-28 Cherie Biel

FEBRUARY
Iris



February



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 02/14 Bill & Tammi Regula 29 Years
- 02/18 Doug & Vicki Mundt 37 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.

<u>Pastoral Relations Committee Members 2026</u>	
Dani Roeker (Chairperson)	(605)377-3080
Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher	(605)380-8688
Alan Chapman	(605)377-3291
Rhonda Masters	(605)380-0436
Donna Masters	(605)228-9307
Brad Olson	(605)216-2450
Rev. Blair Kirkpatrick	(605)228-9307

<u>2026 Visioning Team Members</u>	
Moderator	Mark Gutjahr-(605)228-5150
Moderator Elect	Gail Gutjahr-(605)216-6961
Facility Manager	Alan Chapman-(605)377-3291
Communications	Patricia Swanson-(605)730-0714
WF Representative	Donna Masters-(605)228-9307
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
	Robbie Eisenbeisz-(605)380-5678
Auditor	Rod Fouberg-(605)229-1310

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Hope everyone has made it through the craziness of the new year. Thank you, to Brad, for doing a great job as a Moderator last year. As your Moderator this year, I will, with the help of the Visioning team, continue the programs of the church. Thank you to all the people that volunteer and help at the church. We will have an Ash Wednesday service. Pastor Blair has a great plan for the other Wednesdays for lent. We will have soup and a devotion. Anyone with a suggestion or comment is always welcome. Let us think about some goals for the future of Plymouth. Thank you.

Blessings
Mark G Gutjahr

Beyond the Balloon is providing balloon bouquets again this year for area care facilities in February.

Cost is \$10 per bouquet.

Contact Pastor Sheila

Thank you.



THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
February 2026

Sun, Feb 1 Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany
10a-Worship; Holy Communion
11a-Fellowship

Mon, Feb 2 Groundhog Day

Wed, Feb 4 3:30p G2G

Sun, Feb 8 Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany
10a-Worship
11a-Fellowship
4:30p Confirmation

Tue, Feb 10 7p-DAV

Wed, Feb 11 3:30p-G2G

Thur, Feb 12 7p-Women's Fellowship

Sat, Feb 14 Happy Valentines Day

Sun, Feb 15 Transfiguration
10a-Worship
11a-Fellowship

Tue, Feb 17 6:30p-Visioning Team Meeting
NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE

Wed, Feb 18 6p-Ash Wednesday

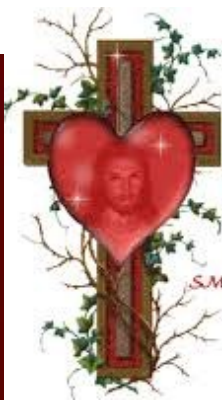
Sun, Feb 22 First Sunday in Lent
10a-Worship
11a-Fellowship
4:30p- Confirmation

Wed, Feb 25 3:30p-G2G
6:30p Lent Soup Devotion



Plymouth Congregational Church
February 2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	2	3	4 3:30p-G2G	5	6	7
8 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30p-Confirmation	9	10 7p-DAV	11 3:30p-G2G	12 7p-WF meeting	13	14 Happy Valentines Day 
15 Transfiguration 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	16	17 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	18 Ash Wednesday 6p 	19	20	21
22 First Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	23	24	25 3:30pG2G 6:30p Soup Devotion hosted by Blair	26	27	28



*I have
JESUS
in my
Heart!*



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



New church website:
plymouthaberdeen.com

Don't forget to follow us on:



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



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

[#PlymouthROCKS](#)
[#PlymouthUCCAberdeen](#)

G2G on the 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at 3:30 PM

**PLACERVILLE CAMP
2026**

Women's Camp-May 31-June 4

Shining stars-May 31-June 4
Grades 2 & 3

Family Getaway June 4-7

Seekers-June 7-12
Grades 4 & 5

Faith explorers-June 14-19
Grades 6-8

Grand Camp-June 19-21

Crossroads-June 21-27
Grades 9-12

Family Camp-July 12-18
Placervillecamp.net

See Pastor Sheila for more details and camp scholarship info



It's time to think about sharing "Love Notes" again this year!

We will have valentine bags for all our kids and youth available in the fellowship hall.

Cards for our shut-ins will also be available to leave special thoughts.

We'll try to send them out right after Valentine's Day to share our love!

Thank you to everyone that supported the Beyond the Balloon adopt a grandparent program. So many will receive balloon bouquets this month.

A LOOK AHEAD
***** MARCH 2026 *****
PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Second Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	2	3	4 3:30p-G2G 6:30p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Robbie Eisenbeisz	5	6	7
8 Third Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30p-Confirmation <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	9	10 7p-DAV	11 3:30p-G2G 6:30p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Gail Gutjahr	12 7p-WF meeting	13	14
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i>	16	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u>	18 3:30p-G2G 6:30p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Kristin Tobin	19	20	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	23	24	25 3:30pG2G 6:30p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Mark Gutjahr	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Easter Party	30	31				



Allan & Shelley Ochsner have created a service for the surrounding Veterans, Aberdeen Area Veterans, "Building Common Ground".

They are in process of purchasing the Burlington RR building, north from the Flame & Mazatlán's. This mission is hoping to house all the veteran groups in one area.

Someone donated \$200,000, for every dollar amount donated they will meet it up to \$200,000. So far they have \$40,000 and keep reaching for their goal.

The plan with the building, they will also have programs, many speakers, help for suicide prevention and for Veterans to get help with filling out paperwork for many programs available to them.

Anyone wanting to help in any way contact

Shelley Ochsner at 605-228-4179

PO Box 2141, Aberdeen SD 57402-2141

Aberdeenvets.org

Let's all help to reach their GOAL!!!





Remember to join us
for our
Ash Wednesday
service

February 18th at 6pm

The Visioning Team will be hosting the
Soup Devotion Wednesdays, starting the
on February 25th at 6pm

in the Pilgrim Hall. (Time may change)



Pastor Blair is working on having a
Seder meal for Maundy Thursday
(April 2nd)

in the Pilgrim Hall.

(time yet to be decided)

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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U.S. Postage

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

