



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

MARCH 2026

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.
(Matthew 16: 13-20, NRSV)

In her poem "The Summer Day," Mary Oliver asks: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" There is a story that we all create about how we want our life to go. Specifics within that story may change as we live our lives but the basic values about who we are and what we desire for ourselves remain constant. We want to be a good person, have a loving family, be accomplished in what we choose to do, be reliable and trustworthy, to name a few.

In this encounter with his disciples, Jesus explored with them expectations that were placed on him. He did so in a manner that showed them that we have our own stories to share that need not be dictated by others. Although he was aware of how others saw him and wanted to be, he knew who he was and what God desired for him.

Growing up as one of five children, it was often confusing who I was supposed to be. Was I going to be like my willful oldest sister, my organized other sister, my brilliant older brother, my assertive twin brother, a combination of all of them, or nothing like any of them? What did my parents want me to be? What did God want me to be? It

took some time to find my place in the world. And even when I had a vision of what I thought I should be, what happens when my life did not go the way that I envisioned?

This is one of the callings of the season of Lent. It is a season of self-examination. It is a time when we look at the story that we are telling with the living of our lives. Is that story the one that we wish to tell or is it one that we are allowing to be told without our paying attention? God desires for us to tell our stories of faith; to live the message that we feel called to live. During this season, may we all rediscover and share with faithfulness the story that each one of us are designed by God to tell.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair

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FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent
Bold Blessing
 Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalms 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent
Thirsty Voices
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalms 95
 Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Restored
 I Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalms 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Breath of Hope
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalms 130
 Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday
 Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29
 Matthew 21:1-11
Passion Sunday
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalms 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dale Mork, Janet Von Eschen, 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, Alan & Corene Chapman, and Greg Wilson.

Pray for our members and friends who reside in care facilities or are shut-ins, wherever they reside:

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**



Wednesday Lenten Soup Devotions

Pastor will be using the book
 "Life of the Beloved"
 6PM-Pilgrim Hall

Please sign-up or call 605-225-2557 (leave message) if planning on attending. Thank you.

March 4-Becoming Beloved-Chosen

Hosted by Robbie Eisenbeisz

March 11-Becoming Beloved-Blessed

Hosted by Gail Gutjahr

March 18-Becoming Beloved-Broken

Hosted by Tobin's

March 25-Becoming Beloved-Given

Hosted by Mark & Erin Gutjahr

Visioning Team Minutes

January 20, 2026

Present: Gail Gutjahr, Laura Bunke, Dani Roeker, Pastor Blair, Mark Gutjahr,

Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Chad Masters, Donna Masters, Kristin Tobin and Robbie Eisenbeisz

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Opening Prayer: Mark Gutjahr

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

Old Business:

Locks have been installed to DAV room.

New Business:

- Kristin relayed information from Ed about decreasing the value of the building to help bring down the insurance payments. Need to get quotes on what it would cost if we needed to replace roof.

Need to find someone to learn everything from Alan, Larry and Gary about the maintenance of the building or start writing it down.

Committee Reports:

- No report
- No report
- No report
- Sheila said that Christmas cards were sent out to Shut-ins, G2G colored Christmas trees to send along. Christmas gifts were appreciated and enjoyed by 3 families. Christmas program went well. Balloon project has raised \$270 so far. Teachers are having children work on the 1700 Valentine cards that go with the balloons.
- Dani talked about the staff evaluations and the issues they struggle with and the solution to issues has been put into action.

Pastor thanked Dani for training to help Laura with Bulletins and Weeklys. He wants to have Wednesday Soup devotion Suppers from after Ash Wednesday to week before Maundy Thursday. Also talking to Ralph and Koos and Women's Fellowship about having a Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday. Clergy meetings will be held in Redfield.

Devotions: Blair

Next meeting: Feb. 17, 2026 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Laura Bunke



Come to Supper will begin April 15th at 5:30pm

Hosted by Mark & Erin Gutjahr.

Menu will be determined at later time.

All are welcome to attend.

Looking forward to good food & great fellowship.

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 03-07 Kathryn Brunson
- 03-08 Mary Cross
- 03-10 Eric Stevens
- 03-12 Jeannette Sorge
- 03-13 Carolee Owens
- 03-15 Fran Ness
- 03-16 Robbie Eisenbeisz
Tami Leddy-Sederquist
- 03-18 Brendan Gregoire
- 03-21 Jerry Heupel
Josh Moos
- 03-22 Sara Serfoss
- 03-23 Glenn Spitzer
- 03-29 Alan Chapman
- 03-30 Larry Ligtenberg
Tavia Lawler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

03/25 Marc & Robin Bitz 20 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

March Flower
Daffodil



March Birthstone
Aquamarine

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

I do hope everyone is enjoying the nice winter. Though we all know it can change to cold and snow. Challenges are what makes us grow no matter where we are. Jesus is determined to help us through.

Please try to attend the Lenten Services. We will also start up Come to Supper in April. Any suggestions or concerns please let me know 605-228-5150

Blessings
Mark G Gutjahr

Women's Fellowship minutes from 2-12-26

The Women's Fellowship of Plymouth Church met Feb. 12, 2026 at 7pm with nine members and Rev. Kirkpatrick present.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$31,363.53.

Old Business: Donna Masters reported that there are only 11 packages of nuts left. The need for a wedding banner was discussed. Mary Ann Wilson will have information as to where one can be ordered from.

New Business: The women's Fellowship by-laws for the Visioning Committee were reviewed. They will be amended and approved at our next meeting. We have not heard back from IDC re: new window treatments.

The rummage Sale will be July 10th 8a-3p and July 11th 8a-noon.

The Bazaar will be Nov. 7th.

Rev. Kirkpatrick announced that Lenten Services will be based on the book "Life of the Beloved" and hopefully include some discussion. A Seder meal will be served on Maundy Thursday.

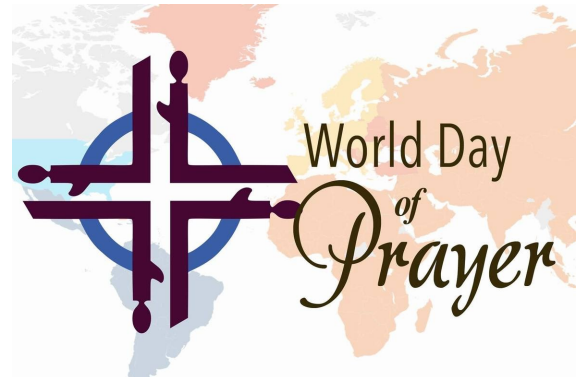
Rev. Kirkpatrick will receive his Doctorate of Divinity on May 16th.

A discussion was held if it would be possible for more members to attend the Women's Fellowship meetings if we met in the afternoon instead of evenings? We would appreciate your input on this matter. Thank you.



THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
March 2026

<u>Sun, March 1</u>	<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> 10a-Worship; Holy Communion 11a-Fellowship
Wed, March 4	3:30p G2G; 6:00p Soup Devotion
Fri, March 6	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>
<u>Sun, March 8</u>	<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30p Confirmation
Tue, March 10	7p-DAV
Wed, March 11	3:30p-G2G; 6:00p Soup Devotion
Thur, March 12	7p-Women's Fellowship
<u>Sun, March 15</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, March 17	6:30p-Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u> <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i>
Wed, March 18	3:30p G2G; 6:30p Soup Devotion
Fri, March 20	<i>Spring Begins</i>
<u>Sun, March 22</u>	<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30p- Confirmation
Wed, March 25	3:30p-G2G; 6:00p Soup Devotion
<u>Sun, March 29</u>	<u>Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Easter Party



Plymouth Congregational Church

March 2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Second Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	2	3	4 3:30p-G2G 6:00p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Robbie Eisenbeisz	5	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	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 6:00p-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</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	18 3:30p-G2G 6:00p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Kristin Tobin	19	20 <i>Spring Begins</i> 	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	23	24	25 3:30pG2G 6:00p-Soup Devotion Hosted by Mark Gutjahr	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Easter Party 	30	31				



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



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

New church website:
plymouthaberdeen.com

Don't forget to follow us on:



[https://www.facebook.com/
plymouthaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/plymouthaberdeen)



[https://www.youtube.com
@PlymouthUCCAberdeen](https://www.youtube.com/@PlymouthUCCAberdeen)

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



March 29th

Plymouth Easter Party

Join us after worship for

Easter Brunch

Easter Egg Hunt

Egg Decorating

Cookie Decorating

BINGO

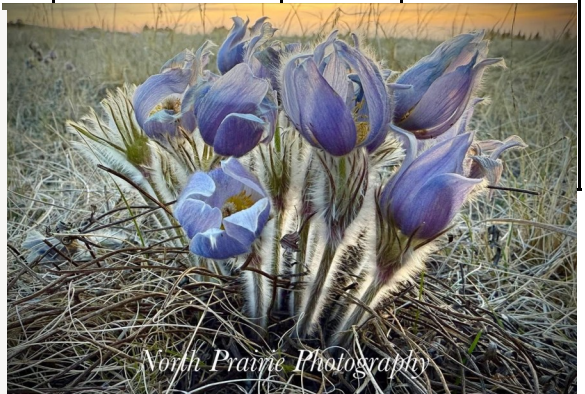
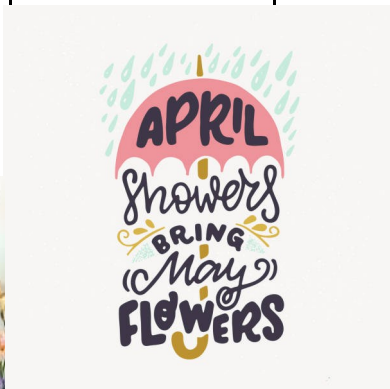
Great Fellowship and Fun for Everyone!



March 6th is World Day of Prayer

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

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 3:30p-G2G <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 Maundy Thursday Seder Meal 6pm	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Sunday 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship <i>Happy Easter!!!</i> 	6	7	8 3:30p-G2G	9 7p-WF meeting	10	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	13	14 7p-DAV	15 3:30p-G2G 5:30p- Come To Supper Hosted by Mark & Erin Gutjahr	16	17	18
19 Third Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	20	21 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u>	22 3:30pG2G	23	24	25
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	27	28	29	30		





The funeral service for Dale E. Goehring, 87, of Aberdeen, SD, was at 10:00am, Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Plymouth Congregational UCC, with Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick officiating. Burial at will be at Riverside Memorial Park at a later date.

Dale died Saturday, February 13, 2026, at Bethesda Home in Aberdeen.

Dale was born on April 3, 1938, in Tolstoy, SD and was the son of Elmer and Bertha (Christman) Goehring. His family moved to Aberdeen, SD in 1941. Dale attended school in Aberdeen, graduating from Central High School in 1956. After high school, he continued his education at Northern State College. After college, he worked for many years in the Aberdeen area as an insurance agent for Western States Life Insurance Company.

In 1959, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Drake, at Plymouth Congregational Church in Aberdeen. Dale and Barbara shared a loving and supportive marriage of 67 years and together raised four children. He had a deep love for his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was very active in his family's lives and was always willing to lend a hand, when needed. He enjoyed building houses, hunting, fishing, showing horses, NSU basketball, and traveling.

Our family would like to extend a deep appreciation to the staff of Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, and everyone who has provided care to Dale these last years. As a family, we will always be grateful for the support and kindness shown.

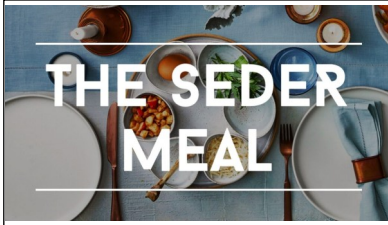
Dale is survived by his children, Scott (Patty) Goehring of Minneapolis, Minn, Steve (Julie) Goehring of Westport, SD, Sandy (Pat) Baumberger of Blair, NE, and Lori Tobin of Rapid City, SD; 9 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Marlene Gruett and Donna Levi; sister-in-law, Mary Peterson; brother-in-laws, Dean Peterson, Orville Gruett, and Donald Levi; parents-in-law, Morgan and Lula Drake.



Sending prayers to Dale Mork, family & friends, as Dale has been put on hospice care the second week in February.

Sending prayers to Janet Von Eschen, Dennis and family as Janet has been placed on comfort care.



Plymouth will be having a Seder meal for Maundy Thursday, April 2nd in the Pilgrim Hall at 6pm.

Come join us March 29th (Palm Sunday) following service for our **Plymouth Easter Party!!**

Easter Brunch



Easter Egg Hunt



Egg Decorating



Cookie Decorating



BINGO

Easter Bingo



**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

www.plymouthaberdeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

www.plymouthaberdeen.com

