



# PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

APRIL 2026

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.  
<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.  
<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
(Matthew 5: 13-16, NIV)

This past week, I was able to cross the last hurdle in order to be able graduate in may with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. The feeling that I had was a great sense of relief that the work that I had been at for the last eight years was finally coming to an end. To that end, I want to thank you all for your support and patience with me throughout this endeavor. It is another reason that I have considered it an honor to be your minister for the last six years.

So, other than relieved that the goal has been met, how do I feel as I am on the verge of receiving this honor on May 16? The feelings are a bit complicated. There is no doubt that I feel happy, grateful, satisfied, and proud of my achievement. It feels good. Nevertheless, it does not change me in any real manner. Am I better preacher or minister as a result of getting the degree? For the most part, no. Am I a better person as a result of completing the challenge? For the most part, no. Fundamentally, I am the same person now that I was before I started working on the degree. My values are no different and, more importantly, my value is no different.

In this part from his sermon on the mount, Jesus speaks of the innate value and worth of everyone that is not measured in achievements but in the simple fact that they are children of God. That is my worth. I am a child of God. I was a child of God without the title of Rev. Dr. by my name and I will be a child of God after I receive the title. I am no more defined by my accomplishments than I am defined by failures. Sure, they are important and are a part of who I am but they are only a part. What defines me and all of us is that we are beings created and loved by a Loving God and that does not change no matter what we accomplish or fail to accomplish. That is the joyous good news that Jesus brings to us. It is that message that I hope to continue to share – even with the title of Dr. by my name.

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Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blair



## FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

**April 2, 2026**

**Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17,31b-35

**April 3, 2026**

**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16:5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

**April 4, 2026**

**Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

**April 5, 2026**

**Easter**

*Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43 or Jerimiah 31:1-6

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

**John 20:1-18** or Matthew 21:1-10

**April 12, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

*Holy Language*

Acts 2:14a, 22-23

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

**John 20:19-31**

**April 19, 2026**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

*Breaking Bread*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:3-9

**John 20:19-31**

**April 26, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Powerful Witness*

Acts 2:42-47

**Psalms 23**

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Skott Bosanko, 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, Betty Gutjahr, Emma Heiser, Alice Hopfinger, Ruth Overby, 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**

# VA S.A.V.E. TRAINING

A **free** in-person course that will help you act with care and compassion if you come across a Veteran who is in crisis or having thoughts of suicide

**April 28, 2026  
6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Plymouth  
Congregational Church**  
431 W Melgaard Rd  
Aberdeen, S 57401

- S** Know the **Signs** that indicate a Veteran might be thinking about suicide
- A** **Ask** the most important question – “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”
- V** **Validate** the Veteran’s experience
- E** **Encourage** treatment and **Expedite** getting help



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Visioning Team Minutes****February 17, 2026**

Present: Robbie Eisenbeisz, Gail Gutjahr, Chad Masters, Donna Masters, Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Pastor Blair, Alan Chapman & Mark Gutjahr

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Opening Prayer: Gail Gutjahr

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

Old Business: Mark expanded on the documentation of the maintenance of the church. Had found an e-mail from Gary Warne that explained a lot of the jobs that are associated with the maintenance. Mark passed it along to Alan and asked to write down who to call for repairs.

New Business: Pastor talked about compensation to Dani Roeker for filling in for Laura. Mark will talk to Ed and get back to Visioning Team

Committee Reports:

- No report for Financial
- Alan reported everything is good except for some ants. He and Gary have been changing out traps.
- Donna reported Women's Fellowship will start changing out some window blinds around the church. Rummage sale date is July 17 & 18, 2026. The Bazaar will be November 7, 2026
- Sheila will get things lined up for the Easter party on Palm Sunday. Mark will do breakfast. G2G is going well.
- No report for Pastoral Relations.
- Pasotr Blair has a funeral on Sat. 21 for Dale Goehring. He will be going to Tusla for his video presentation March 9-13, 2026. Confirmation is going good. We will do come to supper starting April 15, 2026

Devotions: Robbie

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: March 17, 2026 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Mark Gutjahr

*Congratulations*

Julia Knie made the Dean's List at SDSU.

Julia is majoring in Accounting.

She is the daughter of Brian and Janey Knie and granddaughter of Eloise and the late Ed Appletoft.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 04-06 Josh Heupel  
Mariah Bloom-McNeece
- 04-07 Shelly Krysowaty  
Grayson Eisenbeisz
- 04-09 Shelley Ochsner
- 04-10 Tristan Sederquist
- 04-11 Donel Lemler
- 04-12 Raeleen Schatz  
Eloisa Martinez
- 04-14 Julia Knie
- 04-15 Eric Gerber  
Kermit Born
- 04-18 Donnie Dittus
- 04-19 Donna Masters  
Gail Gutjahr  
Melissa Bunke  
Devin Johnson  
Derek Eisenbeisz
- 04-21 Barbara Goehring
- 04-22 Glenn Imberi  
Allison Jensen
- 04-23 Rhonda Masters  
Olivia Niederbaumer
- 04-25 Steve Biegler
- 04-29 Skylar Jo Cunningham

April Flower  
Daisies



April Birthstone  
Diamand

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

No Anniversaries in April.

*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.*



Pastoral Relations Committee Members 2026

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

**2026 Visioning Team Members**

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 this month has been well for everyone. Lent services will be over by the time you receive this. Glad to have the participation towards Lent and thank you to all who prepared soup. Maundy Thursday we will have a service and meal at 6 pm. Spring will be here so we can start enjoying time outside.

Blessings

Mark G Gutjahr



### Women's Fellowship minutes from 3-12-26

The Women's Fellowship of Plymouth Church met March 12, 2026 at 7pm with eight members present.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$32,067.35.

Old Business: Donna Masters reported that there are only 1 package of walnuts, 3-4 pecans and 2-3 sliced almonds left.

Jill called referring to the shade project for the church, she hasn't forgotten us, and is working on a commercial discount for us to use on our purchase.

Mary Ann Wilson brought pictures of wedding banners and she is getting a catalog on it for sizes and prices.

Meeting time was discussed for afternoons, it was decided at this time for no changes. Discussion was made on volunteers, if needed, for picking up members.

New Business: Ken's called with confusion on when purchases are made, that we say (when charging) that it should be charged to Women of UCC.

Sheila read off a menu for Maundy Thursday Seder Meal. We will meet after church on 22nd to plan for the meal.

Sheila discussed the Easter Party. Mary Ann volunteered to make cookies for party. Women's Fellowship will help supply candy for the party. Sheila reported on Pastor Blair's trip, he is now Dr. Rev. Blair Kirkpatrick. A party for pastor was discussed for closer to his graduation in May.

Prices for charging for funerals was discussed and agreed to raise our price to \$175.


**THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL**  
**April 2026**

Wed, April 1	<i>April Fool's Day</i> 3:30p G2G
Thur, April 2	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 6p-Seder Meal (Fellowship Hall)
Fri, April 3	<i>Good Friday</i>
<u>Sun, April 5</u>	<u><i>Easter Sunday</i></u> 10a-Worship
Wed, April 8	3:30p-G2G
Thur, March 12	7p-Women's Fellowship
<u>Sun, April 12</u>	<u><i>Second Sunday of Easter</i></u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 2:30p South Dakota Prairie Lakes Meeting Wessington Springs Info on bulletin board
Tue, April 14	7p-DAV
Wed, April 15	3:30p-G2G; 5:30pCome to Supper
<u>Sun, April 19</u>	<u><i>Third Sunday of Easter</i></u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 5p-- Confirmation
Tue, April 21	6:30p-Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE by Thursday April 23</u>
Wed, April 22	3:30p G2G
<u>Sun, April 26</u>	<u><i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i></u> 10a-Worship 11a-Easter Party
Wed, April 29	3:30p-G2G



## Plymouth Congregational Church

### April 2026

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  South Dakota Prairie Lakes Association Spring Meeting 2:30p Wessington Springs Delegates or anyone can attend. Info on bulletin board	13	14 7p-DAV	15 3:30p-G2G <b>5:30p- Come To Supper</b> 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 6p-DAV SAVE Training All welcome to attend	29 3:30p-G2G	30		

**Anyone wanting to announce graduations please contact Laura at 605-290-2746 or 605-225-2557, leave message if no answer.**

Dorothy Dockter sends a  
*Thank You*  
for the Valentines Day card she received from the church.

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



G2G on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

**DONUTS FOR  
TEACHERS**

**We will be thanking  
teachers and support staff  
in the Aberdeen Public School  
system sometime at the end of  
April or early May.**

**Financial donations are  
needed to purchase the donuts  
and volunteers for delivery  
would be appreciated.**

**Let Sheila know if you are  
interested in helping.**

**Thank you to everyone that  
supports the learning of our  
kids and youth.**

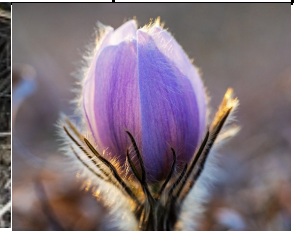
**You make a world of difference.**

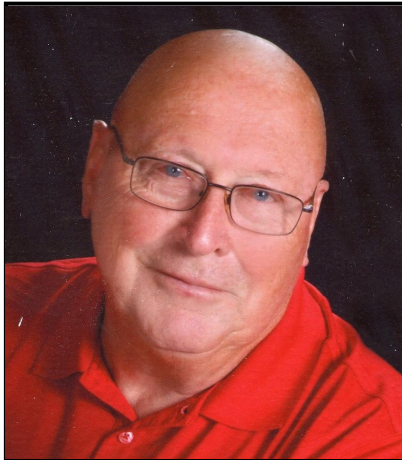
# A LOOK AHEAD

## \*\*\* MAY 2026 \*\*\*

### PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	4	5	6 3:30p-G2G Last Day of G2G Party	7	8	9
10 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship/Cake <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	11	12 7p-DAV	13	14 <i>Ascension Day</i>  7p-WF meeting	15	16 Blair's Graduation in Tulsa
17 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship 5p Confirmation	18	19 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship <i>Strengthen the Church</i> <i>Offering</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30 Building usage 3-8p
31 Trinity Sunday 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship						

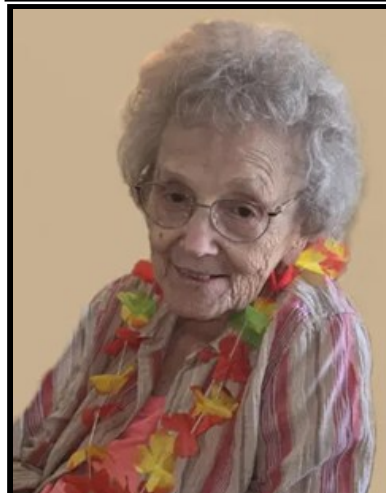




Dale A Mork, born July 29, 1940 passed away on March 3, 2026. Sending prayers to the family and friends of Dale Mork. Dale went home to join his wife Linda, Tuesday *March 3<sup>rd</sup>*, *after being on hospice*. His celebration of Life was held here at Plymouth, tomorrow, Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



The celebration of Life for Janet Von Eschen was, Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10 am at Plymouth Church. Janet passed away on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Sending prayers to Dennis and family. May she rest in peace.



The funeral service for Priscilla Pfeifle, 93, of Aberdeen, SD, was 2:00pm, Monday, March 2, 2026, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, with Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick officiated. Burial will be in Eureka City Cemetery at a later date. Priscilla died Monday, February 23, 2026, at Bethesda in Aberdeen, SD.



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

Menu:

Lamb, Sweet potato & reg potato, radish salad, matzah ball soup and a dessert.

**Women's Fellowship will be making the meal.**

**Ralph Moo's is providing the Lamb &**

**Koos O'Kennedy will be preparing the Lamb.**

To register for meal,  
 please call 605-225-2557 or 605-290-2746 (leave message)  
 or sign up in Narthex. Thank You.



*Come to Supper – April 15th at 5:30pm*

*Hosted by Mark & Erin Gutjahr.*

*-MENU-*

*roast beef sandwiches, potato & vegetable  
 with cookie for dessert..*

*All are welcome to attend.*

*Looking forward to good food  
 & great fellowship.*

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit  
Org.

U.S. Postage

P A I D

Aberdeen, S.D.

Permit No. 403

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)*

