



# PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK**

**MAY 2026**

*As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young,  
as it spreads its wings, takes them up,  
and bears them aloft on its pinions,  
the Lord alone guided him (Deut. 32: 11-12a, NRSV)*

The world seems to be in almost constant turmoil these days with an assassination attempt, war with Iran, bitter divisions among leaders in our country, fires in Nebraska, and economic burdens. It is a lot, to say the least and I believe that I am not alone in wanting to just shut it all out and concentrate only on those things right in front of me (which can be daunting enough!).

The passage above from Deuteronomy was part of a recounting of the tumultuous life of Jacob. Jacob was a person chosen by God to lead Israel but the road to that leadership was not smooth but full of deception, danger, and disruption. His life, indeed, seemed to move from one disruption to another. He tricked his brother out of his birthright, his father out of the blessing meant for his brother, and his uncle out of stock. He was often fleeing from danger and starting anew.

Disruptions are upsetting and stressful. They require rethinking of choices, agenda, and goals in life. Nevertheless, not all disruptions are bad. Surprises can be exciting and amazing as well as scary and daunting. For Jacob, the disruptions were just part of the larger story of how he came to trust God more and more. Whether good or bad, he looked to God for guidance and support even when what he faced was not something he would have chosen for himself. Like an eaglet pushed out of its nest by its mother, Jacob learned to trust that something larger than himself knew him better than he knew himself and was there to support him.

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In our lives of faith, the story of Jacob teaches us that we can learn to embrace the disruptions of our lives even when we don't want to. We can embrace them because we are not alone. We have God who sees us and knows us and cares for us in ways that we can't even imagine. Through that trust, those disruptions can be avenues for growth and intimacy in our relationship with God. As that relationship grows then so do the other relationships that we form. Embracing change is hard but unless we leave the nest, how do we know that we can fly?

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Blair**



## FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

**May 3, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Enduring Witness*

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

**John 14:1-14**

**May 10, 2026**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Witness of Love*

*Mother's Day*

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

**John 14:15-21**

**May 14, 2026**

**Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

**May 17, 2026**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Spirit of Witness*

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

**John 17:1-11**

**May 24, 2026**

**Pentecost Sunday**

*Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

**May 31**

**Trinity Sunday**

*This is Good*

Genesis 1:1-4a and Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Skott Bosanko, Dustan Burgard, Cooper Davis,  
Karen Filegar, Joyce Ochsner, Marjorie Ormand,  
Jeannette Sorge, 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, 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**

You are all invited to  
"Eloise Appletoft  
75th Birthday Celebration"  
on May 30th at 4pm  
at Plymouth Fellowship Hall.  
Come join us for good food,  
good company and  
help Eloise celebrate her birthday.

If you plan to attend let Janey  
know 605-290-4106 by May 10th  
so we can plan for food.

Hope to see you there!



**Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ****Visioning Team Minutes****March 17, 2026**

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

Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher, Chad Masters, Donna Masters, Kristin Tobin, Ron Beil, Alan Chapman and Robbie Eisenbeisz

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Opening Prayer: Mark Gutjahr

Approval of February minutes: Robbie moved to approve and Alan seconded the motion. All voted in agreement

**Old Business:**

Discussed compensation for Dani for covering for Laura, approved \$550 to be paid to Dani. Everyone Thanked Dani for her help.

**New Business:**

- Discussed the idea of a Scholarship program to get musicians/singer from Northern to come perform on Sundays. Idea to be discussed further and depends on amount of donations brought in for the idea.

Need to notify the Delegates about the Spring Dakota Prairie Meeting so they may attend.

**Committee Reports:**

- No report
- Pump went out that circulates the water around outer walls to heat church. Waiting on quote to see how much to fix. Grinnell has items it wishes us to fix, will be working on those in coming weeks.
- Meeting with (lady) about window treatments tomorrow. Keeping meetings in evening and if anyone would like a ride, please contact Donna to set that up. Will be helping with the Seder Meal for Maundy Thursday, meeting Sunday March 22 after church. We have 1 walnut and 4 pecan bags left for nuts.
- Plans for Easter Party on Palm Sunday all coming together. G2G is going well.
- Pastoral/Staff meeting pushed back an hr. on Wed. March 25<sup>th</sup> to 7pm due to Soup devotionals. Working on updating the Cancellation lists.

Got my Pastor Dr. Blair Kirkpatrick plaque. Thanks to the Church for allowing his distraction for his Education. Graduation will be May 16 in Tulsa, OK. Thanked Pastor Sheila for covering for Wed. Soup Devotional while he was away. May do the Devotionals again next year. Maundy Thursday's Seder Meal will be as traditional as possible with the adding of Christianity at the end with Communion. Ralph is donating the lamb and Koo's is cooking it.

Devotions: Mark

Next meeting: April 21, 2026 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Laura Bunke

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 5-01 Aurelia Steiger
- 5-02 Ella McDowell  
DaviMae Kysar  
Mark Bunke
- 5-03 Kori Lemler
- 5-05 Annabelle McDaniel
- 5-07 James O'Connell  
Erin Gutjahr
- 5-08 Christian Gutjahr
- 5-09 Kyle Brinkman  
Marjorie Ormand  
Mike Ullrich  
Sarah Knie
- 5-10 Judy Bunke  
Jayden Harty
- 5-11 Ordean Heitmann
- 5-12 Mike Roeker
- 5-13 MaryAnn Wilson  
Ashton Davis  
Janet Pistulka
- 5-18 Cheryl Johnson
- 5-20 Ron Biel
- 5-23 Dylan Owens
- 5-24 Miranda Schmaltz  
Christopher Pistulka
- 5-25 Eloise Appletoft
- 5-26 Dean Niederbaumer
- 5-29 Bryan Owens

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 5/03 Ed & Joan Bosanko 58 years
- 5/20 Brendan & Kasey Gregorie 3 years
- 5/20 Gary Ottenbacher & Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher 26 years
- 5/21 Mark & Lynette Mulder 21 years
- 5/27 Milbert & Linda Fix 46 years
- 5/31 Jeffery Sederquist & Tammi Leddy-Sederquist 18 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.*

### Pastoral Relations Committee Members 2026

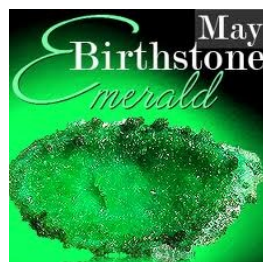
- Dani Roeker (Chairperson) (605)377-3080
- Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher (605)380-8688
- Alan Chapman (605)377-3291
- Rhonda Masters (605)380-0436
- Donna Masters (605)228-9307
- Brad Olson (605)216-2450
- Rev. Blair Kirkpatrick (605)228-9307

### 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

May Flower  
Lily of the Valley

May Birthstone  
Emerald



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to springtime. Thank you for participating in the lent season. Come to supper has started each month. Let all of us pray and support everyone in Plymouth.

Blessings

Mark G Gutjahr

### Women's Fellowship Minutes

The Women's Fellowship of Plymouth Church met April 9th at 7p with 9 members present.

The Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$32,691.78 was approved.

The Secretary's report was read.

Old Business: we are reminded to use "Women of UCC" when using our charge account at Ken's for items purchased for Women's Fellowship. Donna reported there are only 3 packages of nuts left.

May Ann was not present to report on the wedding banner. We will try to meet with Jill regarding new blinds on the 22nd or 23rd. We received several good comments on the Seder Meal.

New Business: the date of the Bazaar was changed to Oct. 31st. The rummage sale will be July 17th & 18th. JoAnn will check into ordering placemats.

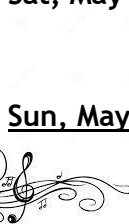
We will be cleaning the Kitchen on Monday April 20th at 9am.

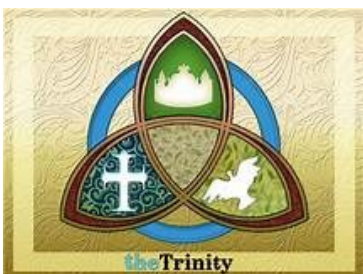
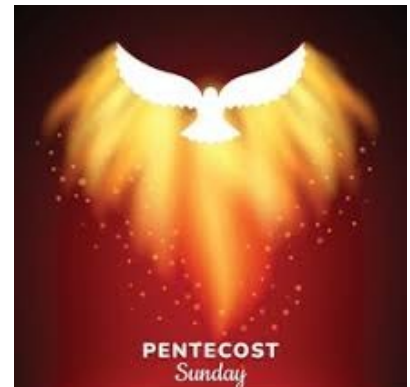
Next meeting will be Thursday May 14th at 7pm.

A huge "THANK YOU" for the ladies who cleaned  
and organized the church kitchen on April 20th.

Women's Fellowship



# THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL May 2026

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>Sun, May 3</u>  | <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b><br>10a-Worship; communion<br>11a-Fellowship      |
| Wed, May 6   | 3:30p-G2G-Last Day Party   |
| <u>Sun, May 10</u>   | <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b><br>10a-Worship<br>11a-Fellowship                 |
| Tue, May 12  | 7p-DAV   |
| Wed, May 13  | 5:30p-Come to Supper   |
| Thur, May 14   | 7p-Women's Fellowship<br><i>Ascension Day</i>                                  |
| Sat, May 16  | Blair's Graduation in Tulsa, OK  |
|  <u>Sun, May 17</u> | <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b><br>10a-Worship/Music Service<br>11a-Fellowship |
| Tue, May 19  | 6:30p-Visioning Team Meeting<br><b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE by Tuesday May 26</b>  |
| <u>Sun, May 24</u>   | <b>Pentecost Sunday</b><br>10a-Worship/Confirmation<br>11a-Fellowship          |
| Mon, May 25  | Memorial Day-Office closed   |
| Sat, May 30  | Building Usage 3-8p  |
| <u>Sun, May 31</u>   | <b>Trinity Sunday</b><br>10a-Worship<br>11a-Fellowship                         |



# Plymouth Congregational Church

## May 2026

| SUNDAY   | MON  | TUE                                      | WED                                  | THUR  | FRI  | SAT   |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |                                      |   | 1<br> | 2   |
| 3<br>Fifth Sunday of Easter<br>10a-Worship; Communion<br>11a-Fellowship  | 4  | 5  | 6<br>3:30p-<br>Last Day<br>G2G Party | 7   | 8  | 9   |
| 10<br>Sixth Sunday of Easter<br>10a-Worship<br>11a-Fellowship/Cake<br><i>Happy Mother's Day</i>  | 11   | 12<br>7p-DAV                             | 13<br>5:30p-<br>Come to<br>Supper    | 14<br><i>Ascension<br/>Day</i><br><br>7p-WF meeting | 15   | 16<br>Blair's<br>Graduation<br>in Tulsa, OK                                       |
| 17<br>Seventh Sunday of Easter<br>10a-Worship/Music Service<br>11a-Fellowship<br> | 18   | 19<br>6:30p<br>Visioning<br>Team Meeting | 20                                   | 21<br><u>NEWSLETTER<br/>ITEMS DUE!</u>              | 22   | 23  |
| 24<br>Pentecost Sunday<br>10a-Worship/Confirmation<br>11a- Fellowship<br><i>Strengthen the Church<br/>Offering</i>   | 25<br>Happy<br>Memorial<br>Day<br>Office<br>closed | 26                                       | 27                                   | 28  | 29   | 30<br>Building<br>usage<br>3-8p<br>4pm Eloise<br>Appletoft<br>75th B-day<br>Party |
| 31<br>Trinity Sunday<br>10a-Worship<br>11a- Fellowship   |  |  |                                      |   |  |   |



**Happy Birthday Eloise Appletoft!**  
 75th B-Day party  
 4pm 5-30 Fellowship Hall  
 More info on page 4



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



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>  
[#PlymouthROCKS](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/PlymouthROCKS)  
[#PlymouthUCCAberdeen](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/PlymouthUCCAberdeen)

G2G is done for the year on  
May 6<sup>th</sup>!



G2G Artwork

**Palm Sunday Smiles**



**DONUTS FOR  
TEACHERS-THANK YOU  
TO EVERYONE THAT  
HELPED!**

*Confirmation  
Sunday*

*Will be on Pentecost  
Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Come and celebrate  
with Annabelle  
McDaniel and  
Michael Roeker*

**A LOOK AHEAD**  
**\*\*\* JUNE 2026 \*\*\***  
**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

| SUNDAY   | MON | TUE   | WED | THUR                | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|---|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
|  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4                   | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>Second Sunday after Pentecost<br>10a-Worship; Communion<br>11a-Fellowship   | 8   | 9<br>7p-DAV   | 10  | 11                  | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>Third Sunday after Pentecost<br>10a-Worship<br>11a-Fellowship  | 15  | 16<br>6:30p<br>Visioning<br>Team Meeting<br><u>NEWSLETTER</u><br><u>ITEMS DUE</u> | 17  | 18<br>7p-WF meeting | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost<br>10a-Worship<br>11a-Fellowship/Cake<br><i>Father's Day</i><br><i>First Day of Summer</i> | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25                  | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost<br>10a-Worship<br>11a- Fellowship   | 29  | 30  |     |                     |     |     |



Start thinking about items to bring for the Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale July 17-18.





Hailey Tobin, Reese's wife, will graduate from NSU with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education this month.

Elise Meide, grand daughter of Marilyn Gramlow, will graduate with her Doctorate of Medicine from USD Sanford School of Medicine in Vermillion, SD.

She will be completing her residency in Dermatology at University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Matthew John Severson, the son of Micheal & Amy Severson and grandson of Karen and the late Gordon Severson, is graduating from Ipswich High School. He will be attending Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, SD, this fall of 2026, majoring in Heavy Equipment operator.

**MY GOD BLESS YOU ON YOUR FUTURE ENDEVORS!**



Come to Supper – May 13th at 5:30pm  
 Hosted by Laura Bunke , Kyle Brinkman,  
 Sheila, Lennon & Marshall Bunke

-MENU-

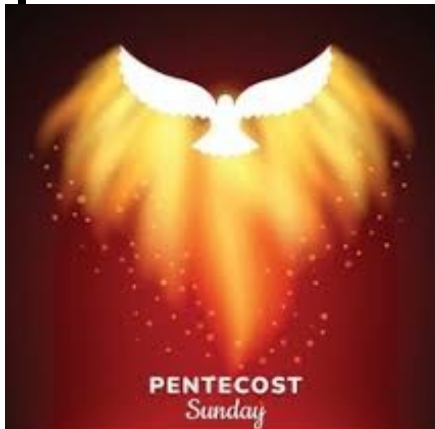
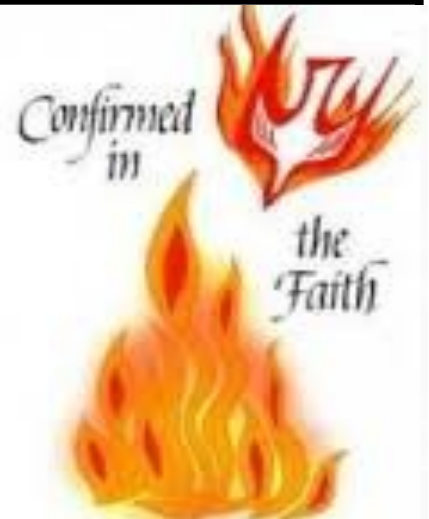
Taco Bar- beef & Chicken  
 hard shell & soft shell  
 Dessert

All are welcome to attend.

Looking forward to good food  
 & great fellowship.

## Confirmation — Pentecost Sunday

Congratulations  
 Annabelle McDaniel  
 and  
 Michael Roeker



**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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P A I 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.plymouthaberdeen.com](http://www.plymouthaberdeen.com)

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 10:00 AM**

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

