



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

AUGUST 2026

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. (Philippians 3:12-16, NRSV)

There is an exercise that I often have the patients from the Addiction Care Center do when I am listening to them share their fifth step. I have them close their eyes and imagine a creek as if they were a bird flying overhead. I ask them to see in their mind's eye the whole course of the creek from its beginning to its end. While they are doing that I take a sheet of paper and draw two lines – one a straight line and one a curvy line. I then have them open their eyes and tell me which line best represents the image of the creek that they pictured. In nearly every case, they pick the curvy line as the most representative.

We then talk about the statement, "God has a plan for your life." I suggest that maybe the statement is altogether true and that a better way to describe God's involvement in our lives as, "God has a direction for your life." Looking at the creek, the water has a direction that it is called to flow and sometimes the course that the creek is following in that direction is, indeed, a straight line because the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. More often than not, that course comes to be obstructed by something (a fallen tree, a hill, a large stone) and the water has to find a way around that obstacle. That, in turn, changes the course of the creek. Once past the obstacle, however, the water will return to the direction that it is meant to go and the creek finds its way in a straight line until the next obstacle.

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We are often frustrated by the obstacles that come into our lives and cause us to temporarily change the course of our aims and goals; the vision of the path our lives should follow. In the midst of it all, God is with us in the journey so that those changes of course do not permanently lead us away from the direction to which we are called. Indeed, those obstacles become ways for us to pause and contemplate on our journey with God. Those obstacles make our lives more meaningful and fulfilling. They may, in reality, be the moments that save us. For what happens to a creek that only runs in a straight line. Its current goes faster and faster and digs a deeper and deeper cut for it to run. It forms a rut that becomes its own prison with walls too deep to escape.

God is with us in all the twists and turns of our lives. God infuses them with meaning and provides for us the fullness of the journey. Of course, that does not make the painful twists and turns any less painful and if those obstacles are loss and devastating disappointments, that pain is not erased by any means. What we are given, however, is a fullness of God's presence with us which is neither simplistic or a rut. My prayer is that we might all find that fullness in our relationship with God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Face to Face

Genesis 32:22-31

& Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Isaiah 55:1-5 & Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

When All Seems Lost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

& Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

I Kings 19:9-18 & Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Bold Moves

Genesis 45:1-15 & Psalm 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 & Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Be Transformed

Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Psalm 124

Isaiah 51:1-6 & Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Spirit-Led Living

Exodus 3:1-15

& Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Jeremiah 15:15-21 & Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kyle Brinkman, Tom Gohn, Mary Hermansen,
Amy J. Severson, Emma Heiser, Skott Bosanko,
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, 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**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Happy summer to everyone. Hope you have enjoyed a vacation or a break of some sort. If anyone has some concerns you can contact me 605-228-5150.

Blessings

Mark G Gutjahr



Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship meeting has been changed to Monday August 24, at Lois Korfs' house at 7pm.

All women are invited to a Garden Party, snacks and meeting.

There will be no meeting in September.

Call 605-225-2557 to get your Nuts ordered for the fall Nut Sale.

The Women's Fellowship Bazaar is Saturday October 31st this year. We still have spots open for venders, please call office if interested.

All the crutches & medical devices that were donated by DAV for the rummage sale that did not sell, were given to the Midwest Medical Organization. They were ecstatic to receive them.

*****Mark your calendar*****

G2G

will be starting

Wednesday, September 16th at 3:30pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

8/01	Laura Bunke
8/02	Rita Heupel
	Heath Heagley
8/03	Benjamin Kirschenmann
8/05	Brad Olson
8/06	Joan Bosanko
	Daniel Severson
	Owen Niederbaumer
8/10	Delila Biel
	Taylor Ramsdell
8/11	Joshua Johnson
8/13	Jayleen Lier
8/14	Travis Biel
8/15	Jackie Kirschenmann
	Lennon Bunke
8/18	Lois Korf
8/19	Greg Wilson
	Angela Heagley
8/21	Quinly Bain
8/25	Dani Roeker
8/26	Annette Cook
8/28	Ed Bosanko
	Gery Ottenbacher
	Franky O'Kennedy
	Mina O'Kennedy
8/29	Cristy Biegler
8/30	Kurt Himanga

August Flower
Poppy

August Birthstone
Peridot



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

8/05	Mike & Annette Niederbaumer	26 yrs
8/10	Wayne & Shelly Kryswaty	??
8/11	Ron & Connie Biel	58 yrs
8/16	Audrey & James O'Connell	23 yrs
8/21	Dean & Jane Niederbaumer	50 yrs
8/26	Kermit & Cynthia Born	65 yrs
8/29	Ella & John McDowell	56 yrs

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

Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ

Visioning Team Minutes

June 16, 2026

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

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Approval of May minutes: Kristin moved to approve and Gail seconded the motion.

Old Business:

Mark has employed 2 high school students to mow the church lawn for \$65 each cutting.

New Business:

- Midco is replacing our phone equipment on June 30th 1-5 pm. Phone and internet will be down during that time.
- Allan Ochsner will be helping on Saturday June 20th with the Veterans Evaluation Services (truck) that asked to use our parking lot, bathroom and waiting area.

Laura cited there is a need to replenish Gas and food cards for the Helping Hands account.

Committee Reports

Financial Report and Treasurer's Report- Ed Bosanko reported that presently there is about \$6400 in the checking which should cover the July expenses.

Women's Fellowship- Donna Masters reported that preparations were being made for the annual rummage sale on July 17 & 18.

Minister of Church and Family Life- Sheila Apland- Ottenbacher reported that 7 have signed up for VBS on July 27-July 30. Anyone interested in helping out during VBS should attend the organizational meeting on June 24th at 6pm. Sheila relayed a message from William stating that he is working diligently on the sound system to get rid of the popping sound.

Pastor's Report- Blair reported that he will in Watertown for July 8& 9 getting some dental work done. Then he will take vacation time for 1-2 weeks October. He added that July 16 will be the first Thursday session for his summer reading series discussing the book "Help, Thanks. Wow: Three Essential Prayers" by Annie Lamott.

Devotions: Robbie Eisenbeisz

Next meeting: July 21, 2026 @ 6pm Opening Prayer: Pastor Blair Devotions: Kristin Tobin
Respectfully submitted: Pat Swanson

Jam Tri Conference is coming up, Friday & Saturday, September 18-19.

We have two tickets available if anyone is interested in attending.

Reach out to Laura 605-225-2557 to learn more.

THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

August 2026

<u>Sun, Aug 2</u>	<u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship; communion 11a-Fellowship
Wed, Aug 5	5:30p Come to Supper
Thur, Aug 6	6p Book & Ice Cream Social
<u>Sun, Aug 9</u>	<u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Mon, Aug 10- Sun, Aug 16 Brown County Fair	
Tue, Aug 11	7p-Dav
Thur, Aug 13	6p Book & Ice Cream Social 7p Women's Fellowship Meeting
<u>Sun, Aug 16</u>	<u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
Tue, Aug 18	6:30p Visioning Team Meeting
Thur, Aug 20	<u>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</u>
<u>Sun, Aug 23</u>	<u>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship
<u>Sun, Aug 30</u>	<u>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship



Plymouth Congregational Church

August 2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	3	4	5 CTS-5:30p	6 6p-Book & Ice Cream Social	7	8
9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	10 	11 7p-DAV	12	13 6p-Book & Ice Cream Social 7p-WF meeting	14	15 
16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	17	18 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting	19	20 <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	21	22
23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	31					



PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Church and Family Life

Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher



G2G will begin Wed, September 16 at 3:30 pm



Vacation Bible School just finished on June 30th. Several kids gathered to hear stories of Paul and the Underground Church. They learned that: God's love is a gift; God's love changes us; God's love is always with us; God's love saves us; and God's love is worth sharing. Paul's constant encouragement and positive words of faith inspired members of the Underground Church to continue meeting and sharing God's love and their faith in Christ. Their faithful witness inspires us to be bold in our faithful witness today. Thank you to our faithful volunteers!! You rock!

Church website:
plymouthaberdeen.com

Don't forget to follow us on:



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



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



<https://www.instagram.com/plymouthuccaberdeen/>

August is also back to school time!
We'll be collecting for the Salvation Army Snack Pack program
Items to donate:
Peanut butter,
individual packs of cereal,
individual size juice boxes,
individual snack crackers,
granola bars, individual fruit or pudding cups, microwave oatmeal or tuna pouches.
Collecting until Aug 31st.

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

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	7 Labor Day Office closed	8 7p-DAV	9 CTS-5:30p	10	11	12
13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	14	15 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	16 G2G-3:30p	17	18	19
20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	21	22	23 G2G-3:30p	24	25	26
27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	28	29	30 G2G-3:30p			

JAM Tri Conference
Meeting
Sioux Falls

Did you Know?

- Our church has an AED defibrillator.
- There is a wheel chair and walker available for use in the building.
- Hearing devises are available.

Did you Know?

- The Women's Fellowship have dish cloths for sale.
- Our Library has a large selection of books for all ages that may be checked out.

Did you Know?

- There is a children's playroom staffed by Grandma Eloise on Sunday mornings.
- We have coffee fellowship hour after service on Sundays.



Nancy E. Wells

The graveside service for Nancy E. Wells, 91, of Aberdeen, SD, will be 2:00pm, Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at Lakeview Cemetery in Columbia with Pastor Blair Kirkpatrick officiating. Nancy died, Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at Bethesda Home in Aberdeen.

Nancy E. Brunn was born on September 1, 1934 to Oscar and Joyce (Reed) Brunn in Aberdeen, SD. She lived on the family farm near Mellette, SD. She went to country school and then attended high school in Brentford, SD. After graduating, she moved to Aberdeen and got a job in banking.

In November 1958, Nancy married Clyde Wells in Aberdeen SD. From this union, they had one daughter. During this time, Nancy was a stay-at-home mother until Kelli was grown and she started working at Dakota Bank for 14 years until retiring.

Nancy was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church and the Senior Center. She enjoyed reading, baking, and traveling.

Grateful for having shared Nancy's life is her daughter Kelli M. Wells.

Preceding Nancy in death are her parents, Oscar and Joyce Brann; husband, Clyde Wells; and siblings: Lynn K. Brunn, Janice Holmes Poirier, Ann Laub, and Willa J. Becker.

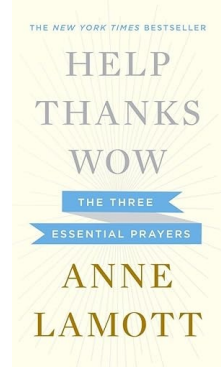
Prayers to Kelli and all of Nancy's friends and family. RIP Nancy.



Thursday Evening Book and Ice Cream Social

August 5th & August 13 at 6pm in Library.

A few books still available if you'd like to attend.





Come to Supper – August 5th at 5:30pm

Hosted by

Tobin's & Bosanko's

-MENU-

Ham Loaf, cheesy potatoes,
carrots & Dessert

All are welcome to attend.

Looking forward to good food
& great fellowship.

Gail Gutjahr will be hosting
Septembers Come to Supper
Wednesday September 9th at 5:30p
— Menu to be determined.—

Wednesday October 14th
we will have a good Ole Pot-Luck Meal at 5:30p.
There will be a sign-up list in Narthex for
everyone to let us know what they are bringing.

Sunday November 15th, our Annual Business Meeting after
service is scheduled, followed by a meal.

Thinking ahead, we need volunteers for delegates.
Your duties would include attending conference meetings
with ability to vote. 3 year obligation.
If interested reach out to office-605-290-2557

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

431 West Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Org.

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P A I D

Aberdeen, S.D.

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REACHING OUT,
RENEWING LIVES



Church Staff:

Pastor	Rev. Dr. 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

