



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FROM PASTOR BLAIR'S DESK

SEPTEMBER 2026

*Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak,
for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." (Jeremiah 1:4-8, NRSV)*

Recently, I read a beautifully written memoir by Reema Zaman entitled I Am Yours. Born in Bangladesh, she writes of finding her voice and the power of it in her thirties after a lifetime of letting it be silenced by her rigid and uncompromising father, the expectations of her native culture, and a series of emotionally abusive relationships that included the trauma of rape. What struck me about the book, other than the fact that her prose is strikingly beautiful, was the struggle that she had to undertake to realize that her voice and her very being was valuable. It amazed me how easy it was for her to accept who others told she was and should be and how difficult it was for her to find and embrace her own narrative; her own identity.

Unfortunately, hers is not a story that is lone or even rare. In the society in which we live, despite all the noise that we see on tv or on-line, there are far more souls who find their voices silenced than allowed to give voice. Granted, some of that silence is self-imposed. How many of us are like Jeremiah and say to God (albeit unconsciously) "Who am I to have a voice? Who am I that anyone would care what I believe or would like to say." This could come from a natural shyness or modesty or it could come from a message given by a domineering parent, controlling partner, tyrannical boss or it could merely be as a result that there are so many people who seem more talented, profound, or audacious.

IN THIS ISSUE...

PASTOR'S MESSAGE.....	1
FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY.....	2
PRAYER & VISITATION REQUESTS.....	2
PLACERVILLE FALL CAMP.....	2
MODERATOR MESSAGE.....	3
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE.....	3
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES.....	4
HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY RUTH OVERBY.....	4
2026 VISIONING TEAM MEMBERS.....	4
2026 PASTORAL RELATIONS MEMBERS.....	4
JULY VISIONING TEAM MINUTES.....	5
THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH.....	6
OCTOBER CALENDAR.....	7
CHURCH AND FAMILY LIFE	8
A LOOK INTO OCTOBER 2026.....	9
THANK YOU'S.....	10
A VISIT FROM A CARDINAL.....	10
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER.....	10
COME TO SUPPER	11
UPCOMING EVENTS AT PLYMOUTH.....	11

What Jeremiah hears from God is something that we are all called to hear and embrace in our lives. Each and everyone of us do have a voice in the kingdom that God seeks to form on earth. It is a voice that is uniquely and it is valuable. It is valuable because it is made by God. We are made by God – not as a mistake or a whim or an oops. To that end, we have a identity that is all our own and blessed by God. Not only is it blessed by God but we are called to share it with the world. How we express it is also part of its identity. Some of us may find our voice through the spoken word or the written word. Some of us may find expression through music or the visual arts. Others still may find our voice in the meals we create or the everyday kindnesses we do for our neighbors. The call, however, is the same. Embrace your identity as God's gift to the world. Make your voice heard boldly and clearly no matter the medium you are called to use. Jeremiah heard that call and responded. Reema Zaran heard a similar call in a completely different context and found herself. What might happen if we hear and respond?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Remember, Restore & Renew
Exodus 12:8-14 & Psalm 149
 Ezekial 33:7-11 & Psalm 119:33-40
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Road to Freedom
Exodus 14:19-31 & Psalm 114
 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
 Genesis 50:15-21 & Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Tensions in the Wilderness
Exodus 16:2-15 & Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Jonah 3:10-4:11 & Psalm 145:1-8
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
God's Sustaining Presence
Exodus 17:1-7 & Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 & Psalm 25:1-9
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32

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

G2G

will be starting

**Wednesday, September 16th at
 3:30pm**

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**



Placerville Camp's 2026 Fall Youth Event

Oct 30-Nov 1

7th-12th graders and one adult chaperone per group.

Register by Friday October 23rd 2026.

Starts at 7pm on Friday wraps-up at 9am with wor-
 ship on Sunday.

Flyer is on Bulletin board with sign-up sheet.

Campers are also encouraged to bring an appropriate
 Halloween costume & 2.5 yards of fleece to make
 their own fleece blanket.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Hope your summer has been going well. Thank you to Sheila and everyone that helps make VBS great for the kids. G2G will start in September. The garden table is a great way to share your extra vegetables. We are also looking for extra people to help out with audio and video on Sunday mornings.

Blessings

Mark G Gutjahr



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship met in the beautiful garden at the home of Lois Korf on August 24th.

The rummage sale was a success with special thanks to Yvonne Franzen for being the chairperson, to everyone who helped price and sort and those who donated items.

The new window coverings on the east and south windows have been installed. Thanks to donna & Lois for helping the installer.

*****If there is ever an issue with one of the blinds do not attempt to fix it, notify Donna Masters and she will contact the installer.*****

If any supplies are needed in the kitchen please let Dianne Spitzer know.

Joan Bosanko is chairperson for the Bazaar on October 31st. We are in need of someone to bake rolls. Shirley Gutjahr will make the BBQ; Corrine Chapman & Jeannie Heitman will do decorations; Donna Masters will order nuts.

Pies, baked good and craft items are needed.

Also, a huge thank you to Lois Korf and Dianne Spitzer for their generous donations of Thrivent Choice Dollars to help with cost of blinds.



Trunk or Treat Sunday October 25th—time to be announced

Women's Bazaar Saturday October 31st 9a-2p
Few tables still available, contact Joan Bosanko



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9/01	Darin Gully
9/03	Gene Mastel
9/05	Sheila Bunke
9/07	Marc Bitz
9/08	Mark Mulder
9/09	Kordel Chmela
9/10	David Johnson
9/11	Keelie Kirschenmann
9/13	Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher
9/16	Koos O'Kennedy
9/17	Ruth Overby "100 yrs old"
	Daniel Kirschenmann
	Sami Leddy
9/18	Jay Tobin
	Lydia Hopfinger
	Brynn Noelle Cunningham
9/19	Craig Bunson
9/20	Doug Heupel
9/21	Dorothy Dockter
	Brayden O'Connell
	Inara Schmaltz
9/22	Adalyne Kirschenmann
9/24	Shane Richey
9/25	Doug Eisenbeisz
9/28	Jane Niederbaumer
	Bill Regula
9/28	Bobbie Lier
9/29	Herman Lier
9/29	Joyce Ochsner

September Flower
Morning Glory

September
Birthstone
Sapphire



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

9/01	Herman & Ester Lier	69 yrs
9/02	Allan & Shelley Ochsner	20 yrs
9/08	Steve & Cristy Biegler	42 yrs
9/12	Dick & Linda Gohn	45 yrs
9/12	Kent & Dani Roeker	23 yrs
9/23	Bryan & Carolee Owens	26 yrs

Happy 100th Birthday



Special 100th
Birthday wishes to
Ruth Overby.
Congratulations!!!

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
July 14, 2026

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

Call to Order: Mark Gutjahr

Opening prayer: Pastor Blair

Approval of minutes: Robbie moved to accept and Dani seconded the motion. All voted in agreement.

Old Business:

- Midco phone replaced, but still a few issues. They are working to correct those.
- The Helping Hands will be replenished with \$750 due to generous donations.
- Mowing issues- be more careful around the Rock Garden
- William updated his work on the sound system. Mark moved to purchase an Isolation Transformer suggested by William to eliminate the pops during church. Alan seconded it. All voted in favor. If it doesn't help it can be returned in 30 days. There is \$450 budgeted for this, which would leave an expense of \$360.

Alan reported that the roof had been caulked by Hub City Roofing and has held up well during the recent rains. It was agreed to talk to those who donated to repairing roof and to put that money into special account until needed for the roof.

New Business

- There will be no church funeral for Nancy Wells, but rather a Grave site service at Columbia cemetery on August 18.

The Women's Fellowship will be asked to serve coffee and cookies at our church after Nancy's service.

Committee Reports

- Ed reported that due to two surprising donations this month the checking account is up to \$17,280 which will pay the bills through August.
- Alan said he needed to call a plumber to clear a clog in the little sink in the kitchen. Gary volunteered to pick up some of the broken branches in the church lawn.
- Sheila and her volunteers are working on preparing for VBS. As of now 12 are enrolled. She will be asking the children to donate snack packs to the Mid West Medicine Foundation for the poor.
- Dani stated that the Pastoral Relations will be meeting in September.

Pastor reported that the Book Study is going well and will meet again after VBS. Sheila and he will be attending the joint Tri Conference in Sioux Falls on September 18-19. He decided to cancel his vacation in October.

Devotion: Kristin Tobin

Next Meeting: August 18, 2026

Opening Prayer: Mark

Devotions: Gail

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Swanson

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

We have one ticket available if anyone is interested in attending.

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

THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

August 2026

Sun, Sept 6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 10a-Worship; communion
 11a-Fellowship

Monday September 7th Happy Labor Day- Church Closed

Tue, Sept 8 6:30p-Pastoral/Staff Meeting
 7p-Dav

Wed, Sept 9 5:30pm-COME TO SUPPER

Sun, Sept 13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 10a-Worship
 11a-Fellowship

Tue, Sept 15 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting

Wed, Sept 16 3:30p-G2G

Thursday-Sunday Jam Tri Conference in Sioux Falls
 Sept 17-20 (Both Pastors Gone)

Sun, Sept 20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
 10a-Worship-guest speaker —Art Marmorstein
 11a-Fellowship

Mon, Sept 21 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE

Wed, Sept 23 3:30p-G2G

Sun, Sept 27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 10a-Worship
 11a-Fellowship

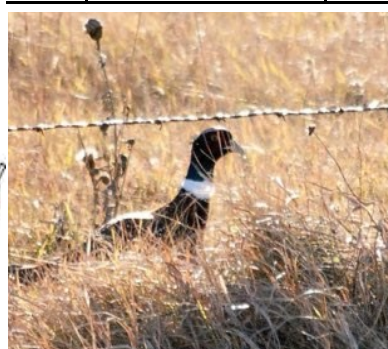
Wed, Sept 30 3:30p-G2G



Plymouth Congregational Church

September 2026

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 6:30p-Pastoral/ Staff Meeting 7p-DAV	9 CTS-5:30p	10	11 Patriot Day 	12
13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	14 Laura Gone	15 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting Laura Gone	16 <i>G2G-3:30p</i>	17 JAM Tri Conference Meeting Sioux Falls, Pastors Gone	18	19
20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Guest Speaker— Art Marmorstein 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	21 <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	22 First Day of Autumn 	23 <i>G2G-3:30p</i>	24	25	26
27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	28	29 Building Usage 6:30-8pm	30 <i>G2G-3:30p</i>			



PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Church and Family Life

Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher



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

Help!

I have found myself thinking about that word a lot this summer. Why is it hard to ask for help? Why do I feel like I need to take care of things myself? When did that word become a negative thought? After I broke my elbow in May, I needed to accept help from others. I couldn't lift anything. I had to recognize that it was ok to ask for help. I didn't like it.

Sometimes I tried to do it myself and suffered the consequences of pain and discomfort. But those around me were more than willing to help if I just asked.

So, to those that helped when asked: Thank you. To those that helped without being asked: Thank you.

And to those like me, who might need help in the future: It's ok to ask for and accept help.

God's always offering if we just accept it.

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/>

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Salvation Army Snack Pack program.



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

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship <i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i>	5	6	7 3:30p- G2G	8 7p-WF meeting	9	10
11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	12	13 7p-DAV	14 3:30p- G2G	15	16	17
18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	19	20 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>ITEMS DUE</u>	21 3:30p- G2G	22	23	24
25 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship <i>Trunk or Treat</i> <i>Time to be announced.</i>	26	27	28 3:30p- G2G	29	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> 9a-2p Women's Fellowship Bazaar

*Women's Fellowship
 Bazaar
 Saturday October 31
 9a-2p*

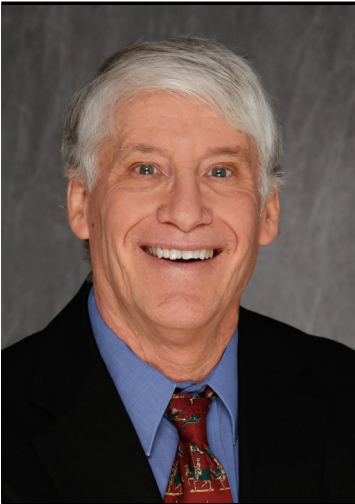


Delila Biel would like to thank everyone for joining her for fellowship after church on August 9th. I want to thank everyone for the cards and the birthday wishes. I am truly blessed with my family, friends and loving church family. God Bless you all.

Lorry Wells donated \$40 in Nancy Wells memory for Newsletters.

Lila Morris Donated \$50 in Nancy Wells memory for children's Christian Education.

thank you!
Love
One Another



Dr Art Marmorstein--Special Speaker on Sunday September 20th's service.

Dr. Marmorstein has been teaching at Northern since the fall 1988 semester and is the current mace-bearer, the distinction given the longest-serving Northern faculty member. He uses the handle "Ancient Art" because he's a specialist in ancient history and the most ancient of the NSU faculty members. He teaches lower division Western survey classes and upper division classes in ancient history, covering ancient Rome, ancient Greece, early church, and world religions.

More information can be found on him at NSU website.

I took my son Kyle to the Dr. for his foot. After many frustrations the good news was the foot, he had surgery on is healing perfectly. The bad news is the broken foot is looking at 6mo to a yearlong process.

They put a hard cast on him to be changed out every 2 weeks until we get a removable one when they come to the hospital here in Aberdeen. Right now, its waiting for the swelling to subside and things will move forward as fast as things heal. Surgery is in future but the bone that is broken, as we were told is like mashed potatoes, that has to find its hardness again before surgery is possible.

As we left the Dr's office our spirits were fighting to stay full of light. I could see Kyle starting down the path, so I grabbed his hand and started to pray. "Dear Lord Jesus, please help this young man see that you are here helping him. Please show yourself to him so he can feel your presence and power. Let a pigeon land on my car." Kyle wanted the 3 days of darkness the pigeons use to cause back in the 1800's, I said "maybe not that extreme but maybe send a cardinal for Kyle. In your name Lord Jesus Amen"

We went about our business and when I pulled into his drive way there was a family of 3 cardinals on his bay window. The look on Kyles face was worth more than all the money in the world.

Thank you, Jesus, for that moment!

I had to share, for I so believe in the power of prayer!!!

Thank you all for your prayers for Kyle.

(pic Kyle took)





—Come to Supper —

September 9th at 5:30pm

Hosted by

Gail Gutjahr

-MENU-

Baked Potato Bar and Chili

All are welcome to attend.

Looking forward to good food
& great fellowship.

Wednesday October 14th will be our last Come To Supper.

We are planning on having 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.

(if you are planning on a salad please write if macaroni, potato or Jello Please)

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)



♥ HAPPY ♥
GRANDPARENTS
♥ DAY ♥

September 13th

**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. 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.plymouthaberndeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

www.plymouthaberndeen.com

