

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

From Pastor Blair's Desk

November 2026

12 "So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. 14 Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, 15 yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. 16 Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, 18 who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. 19 You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the Lord your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. 22 Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven. (Deuteronomy 10: 12-22, NRSV)

Power by itself is meaningless. That sounds counterintuitive, doesn't it? In most cases, the value of power lies in its utility. The power of an engine is used to propel a vehicle, light a house, create heat. The power of weaponry is to win a war, put down insurrection, subdue threats. Without a purpose, power loses its meaning; its value. Even when it is at rest, it is meant to serve a purpose be it intimidation or maintaining peace through deterrence. Power for simply power's sake is meaningless.

The book of Deuteronomy is primarily a book to set out an understanding of what it means to be an Israelite. Primarily comprised of sermons from Moses, it lays out the nature of the relationship between God and the nation of Israel. For the Israelites, it describes who they are and whose they are. The conditions (laws) of the covenant are established once again as well as who God is and what God expects.

Note, then, the nature of God in terms of power. Yes, God is all powerful. God, after all, is God of all gods and Lord of lords. God is awesome and mighty. Yet, that power is not power for power's sake. It is meaningful because it provides succor for widows and orphans. It is meaningful because it welcomes strangers. God's meaningful because it is wielded in the display of love and concern for God's people.

(Continued on Pg 3)

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 Minutes.....3
Pastor's Messages Cont.....3
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....4
2026 Visioning Team Members.....4
2026 Pastoral Relations Members.....4
Sept No Visioning Team Minutes.....5
Annual Business Meeting.....5
Come Join the Choir.....5
This month at Plymouth.....6
November Calendar.....7
Church and Family Life 8
A look into December 2026.....9
RIP Betty Betten.....10
Christmas Colorings.....11
Poinsettia orders in by Nov 15.....11

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

November 1, 2026
Twenty-Third
Sunday after Pentecost
Partners in Service
Joshua 3:7-17 & Psalm 107:1-7,33-37
Micha 3:5-12 & Psalm 43
I Thessalians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12
All Saints Day
Revelations 7:9-17 & Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 7, 2026
All Saints Day
Daniel 7:1-3 & Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Tending God's Light
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 & Psalm 78:1-7
Song of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24 & Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70
I Thessalians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-3

November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Extravagant Opportunity
Judges 4:1-7 & Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 & Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
I Thessalians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ
Reigning Compassion
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 & Psalm 100
or Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Connie Biel, Tom Gohn, Mary Hermansen, Amy J. Severson, Cooper Davis, Karen Filegar, Joyce Ochsner, Marjorie Ormand, Jeannette Sorge, and Greg Wilson.

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

Ernest Schipke, Colleen Carman,
Dorothy Dockter, Betty Gutjahr, Emma Heiser,
Alice Hopfinger, 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

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

(CONT.)

November 26, 2026
Thanksgiving Day
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 & Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Where Are You, God?
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



A Message from our Moderator

Thank you to all who came to trunk or treat. We got through some sprinkles. We are having our annual business meeting on November 15 after church, with a thanksgiving meal afterwards. We need some positions to fill on the visioning team, pastoral relations, and delegates. Please prayerfully consider one of them.

Blessings
Mark G Gutjahr

Women's Fellowship Meeting Minutes

Women's Fellowship met at the church on Oct. 8th, 2026.

The upcoming Bazaar on Oct. 31st was discussed.

Joan Bosanko, chairperson, announced tables will need to be set up after worship on Oct 25th. There are 15 venders coming. Cheryl Johnson, Dianne Spitzer and Laurie Cunningham will be in charge of baking the rolls. ShirLee Gutjahr will do the noon lunch. Many workers will be needed.

Donna Masters has order sheets for people wanting to purchase nuts. They will need to be returned to her by Nov 1. There are dishcloths available to sell.

Yvonne Franzen and Reb. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher reported on the Prairie Lakes Association meeting held in Redfield on Oct 4th. The Spring meeting will be hosted by the UCC church in Watertown.

There will be Women's Fellowship meetings in November and December but not in January.

From Pastor Blair's Desk Continued—

Throughout this election season, I have noticed that our nation is crying out for a change in politics. There is a call for decency and compassion that I have not heard in political discourse for sometimes. People are hurting and scared about their future and there is a cry to be heard and attended to. There is a resistance to the standard cynicism that often accompanies our consideration of who answers the call to public service.

So what does that mean for the church which is expected to operate independently of politics and civic institutions. The call for us is profound. It is a call against cynicism and power for power's sake. It is a call to follow God and have humility in our exercise of power and resources. We proclaim not just a powerful God but a loving and compassionate God. We proclaim a God who hears the cry of those who are without power and without influence; who hears the cry of the stranger and the outcast. As those who worship such a God, we, too, are called to be attuned to those cries as well. May we be powerful in our response to such cries; in our care for those who are crying out.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Blair

Happy Birthday!

11/02 **Dee Lauinger**
Marshall Bunke

11/03 **Wanda Gelling**
Hanna Masters

11/04 **Rod Fouberg**

11/05 Keith Liedle
11/10 Ashlyn Harty
11/12 Emma Heiser
11/13 Saffron Steiger
11/15 Devynn O'Connell
11/17 Thomas Sederquist

11/18 **Mark Gutjahr**

11/19 **Coralyn Lawler**
Jacquelyn Blide

11/21 **Kasey Gregoire**

11/22 **ShirLee Gutjahr**

11/24 **Emma Gutjahr**

11/25 **Yvonne Franzen**
Dianne Ligtenberg

11/29 **Brayden Stoddard**
Kim Richey
Dayla Hauck

November
Birthstone
Topaz



November
Birth flower
Chrysanthemum



Happy Anniversary!

No Anniversaries in November.



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. Dr. 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

No Minutes for September Visioning Team

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday November 15, following services.

Meal to follow meeting.

We need some members to volunteer for delegates, duties would include attending conference meeting with ability to vote, 2 yr obligation, up to 3 terms.

Member at Large 2 yr obligation, 3 terms, attend Visioning Team Meetings.

Pastoral relations committee needs volunteers. 2 yr obligation, up to 3 terms.

Contact office 605-225-2557 for more information.



Come join the Choir starting this month!





THIS MONTH AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL
October 2026

Sun, Nov 1 — **All Saints Day/ Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**
10a-Worship; Communion
11a-Fellowship



Tue, Nov 3 — ELECTION DAY—DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Wed, Nov 4 — 3:30-G2G

Thur, Nov 5 — 6p-Roman's Study

Sun, Nov 8 — **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
10a-Worship
11a-Fellowship



Tue, Nov 10 — 7p-DAV

Wed, Nov 11 — 3:30p-G2G
Veterans Day

Thur, Nov12 — 6p-Roman's Study
7p-Women's Fellowship Meeting

Sun, Nov 15 — **Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
10a-Worship
11a-Annual Business Meeting/Meal

Tue, Nov 17 — 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting

Wed, Nov 18 — 3:30p-G2G

Thur, Nov19 — 6p-Roman's Study

Sun, Nov 22 — **Reign of Christ**
10a-Worship
11a-Fellowship



Thur, Nov 26 — *Happy Thanksgiving*

Sun, Nov 29 — **First Sunday of Advent**
10a-Worship
11a- Fellowship



Plymouth Congregational Church

November 2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints Day/ Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	2	3 Election Day 	4 3:30p-G2G	5 6p-Roman's Study	6	7 All Saints Day
8 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	9	10 7p-DAV	11 3:30p-G2G Veterans Day 	12 6p-Roman's Study 7p-WF meeting	13	14
15 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10a-Worship 11a- Annual Business Meeting/Meal	16	17 6:30p Visioning Team Meeting NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	18 3:30p-G2G	19 6p-Roman's Study	20	21
22 Reign of Christ 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	23	24	25 No G2G	26 	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	30					





PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Church and Family Life

Rev. Sheila Apland-Ottenbacher



G2G is every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm

No class on Nov 25th Grades k-5 are welcome!





Thank you to everyone that participated with a decorated trunk. Your creativity was fun to see.

And thank you to everyone that donated candy to share.

We had 160 trick or treaters and their families stop by for our treats.



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/

November special outreach project will be providing a Thanksgiving meal to two local families. Details are still being worked out. Donations are welcome!

Happy Thanksgiving!



A LOOK AHEAD

*** DECEMBER 2026 ***

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 3:30p -G2G	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship; Communion 11a-Fellowship	7	8 7p-DAV	9 3:30p -G2G	10 7p-WF meeting	11	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship	14	15 6:30p Visioning Team	16 3:30p -G2G	17 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship/Children's Program 11a-Fellowship	21 First day of winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 6p-Service *Christmas Fund Offering*	25 Christmas Day	26
27 First Sunday after Christmas Day 10a-Worship 11a- Fellowship	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		









Betty Ann Betten, age 99, passed away on October 14, 2026, in Golden Valley, MN. Betty was born in Redfield, SD, on December 2, 1926, to Charles and Sophie (Coopersmith) Carico.

Betty grew up on a farm in Crandon, SD, along with her brothers and sisters. She started school there and then attended Redfield High School, graduating in 1944. Betty worked at the movie theatre in Redfield, selling popcorn, and then at the Packard Hotel, where she worked with guests at the front desk, managed telegram services, and sold bus tickets to travelers.

Betty married her husband, Robert Betten, in July of 1949, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Redfield. Their daughter, Mary, was born in 1951. Betty and Bob were married for 53 years, until his passing in 2002.

Betty and Bob moved to Aberdeen in 2001, where she lived until moving to Golden Valley, MN, in 2023, to be closer to family.

Betty was a homemaker who was always busy. She did bookkeeping for Bob's family business and served others in her community. Betty was very social and engaging and known for her sharp wit and humor. She was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary and in the Congregational Church in Redfield and Aberdeen, making many friends along the way. She loved music, theatre, and movies and was part of the Redfield Area Arts Council. Betty came from a large family and stayed close with her parents, siblings, in-laws, and many nieces and nephews. She loved cooking and invited her family over for meals and treats often. Betty and Bob also enjoyed traveling and did so often to spend time with their family and friends.

Betty is survived by her grandchildren: Stan Schroeder, Danielle (Heath) Brolsma, and Lauren Schroeder; and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews and their children.

Betty is preceded in death by her husband, Bob; her daughter, Mary; her parents, Sophie and Charlie; her brothers and sisters; and several nieces and nephews.

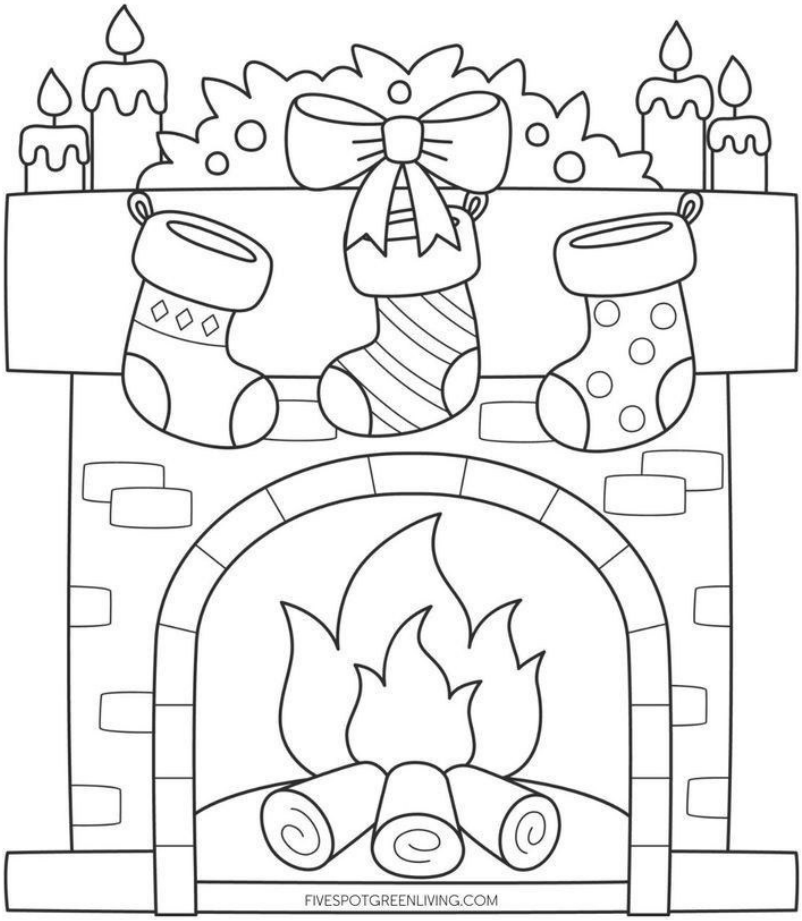
A private memorial service and interment will be held for Betty's family in Redfield. Hyke Funeral Home of Redfield is assisting Betty's family (www.hykefuneralhome.com).



Thank You, all who helped with the Trunk or Treat. We missed the hard rain and everyone had fun. Even found a dinosaur tail by the flowers so if you lost one we have it for you.

Color me and hang me on the bulletin board at church.





Poinsettia orders

In Narthex.

Orders must be in by <u>November 15th.</u>

4.5"-$7.

6.5"-$14.

10"-30.

Pink/Red/White



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

431 West Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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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

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www.plymouthaberdeen.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

***SUNDAY* 10:00 AM**

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