

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

November – December 2023

"The church at the heart of the community with the community at heart."

FROM THE PASTOR

"'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."

When I was asked to accept a pastoral appointment to Plainville UMC nearly four years ago I was told this congregation was "small but mighty." Each year these words have proven true. Small as we are, we are mighty in mission, feeding dozens of households fifty-two weeks a year. We are mighty in prayer, signing our names to prayer letters that touch people's hearts and lift their spirits. We are mighty in outreach, with people joining in Sunday worship both in person and on line. We are mighty in fellowship, working side by side preparing church suppers and the Country Fair.

As we look ahead to the Year of our Lord 2024, we are asking for your help so that the mission, outreach and fellowship of Plainville UMC can continue as strong as ever. Please prayerfully consider your financial support for our church's ministry for 2024 and make a pledge. Do so as an act of thanksgiving for the grace of God which has brought us safe thus far, and as an expression of faith that grace will lead us home.

Please complete the enclosed pledge card, place it in the enclosed envelope and join us on **Consecration Sunday, November 12th at 9:00am**. If you cannot attend, please mail your pledge or drop it by the church.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Stuart Tucker

Plainville United Methodist Church
16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762
www.plainvilleumc.net plainvilleumc@verizon.net
Phone: 508-695-9587
Worship on Sundays at 9:00am
*Rev. Stuart Tucker, Pastor Steve Haunschild, Pianist
Kathy Trowbridge, Secretary*

The Deadline to submit news and information for the Jan/Feb issue of *The Parish Friend* Newsletter is 12noon on Friday, 12/15/23.

CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

November – Visit our Country Fair – Friday, Nov. 3rd from 11am – 7pm featuring our Famous Clamcakes & Chowder at the snack bar!

December 9, 2023 Chicken Broccoli Alfredo

January 13, 2024 Chicken Pot Pie

February 10, 2024 Lasagna

March 9, 2024 Meatloaf

April 13, 2024 Swedish Meatballs

May 11, 2024 Chicken Parmesan

June 8, 2024 Oven Roasted Chicken

All Suppers include dessert. \$14.00 each
No Dine-in - Pick-up Curbside in the parking lot
between 4:30pm – 5:30pm

MUST pre-order by 12Noon the Thursday prior to the supper date by calling 508-695-9587 or send an email to plainvilleumc@verizon.net

CHURCH MEETINGS

TRUSTEES together with **CHURCH COUNCIL**, will meet in the Cate Room at 7:15pm on Mondays, November 20th and December 18th.

ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

Friday (ONLY), November 3rd

from 11am to 7pm

2023 Country Fair News

Hi Folks! The annual Church Fair will be held on **Friday, November 3rd from 11 to 7pm**. Clean-up will be on Saturday, November 4th starting at 9am. The Fair needs **YOU**. Please volunteer to help at the Annual Country Fair. Your time and donations are definitely needed. Even 1 hour can be a big help. The Country Fair will have a Silent Auction, a Jewelry table, Handmades, Books, Antiques, Baked Goods and of course our Famous Snack Bar featuring clam cakes and chowder. **Please drop off your donations by Thursday November 2nd.**

Starting in October until the Fair, we will have a freezer available at the Church for baked goods. If you can bake for the Fair, cookies and anything else that would be wonderful! Please label everything and note if it has nuts or not.

Please contact Jill or Nancy with any questions, comments, or to volunteer.

The Fair Wrap-up meeting will be held sometime after the Fair. Please help.

Sincerely, *Jill Seaberg & Nancy Richardson*



OUR NEWSLETTER The price of 1st Class Stamps may be going up once again. ***Did you know that our newsletter is available via email?*** If you are able to help the church to conserve on the cost for paper, ink and postage, by receiving your newsletter by email, please let us know by sending us an email at plainvilleumc@verizon.net. Thank you.



PayPal

PayPal is available to use on our website for one-time donations to the Church such as for Capital Fund projects or even to supplement the general budget. You may also use PayPal to set up recurring donations for the Living Bread Food Pantry. **Please Remember:** PayPal is **not** for use for your regular weekly/monthly offerings or Tithes, please.

SERVING YOUR CHURCH At our Annual Charge Conference, set for **Sunday, November 12th**, we will be looking for folks to serve the church in several capacities. Positions available “may” include – Church Treasurer, Trustees; Staff - Parish Relations Committee members; Prayer Letter Stewards; Liturgists who read scripture and announcements during worship; Sunday morning Greeters and Counters, Fall/Spring outdoor clean up crew, Advent Candle lighters, Advent/Lent/Special Sunday Readers and so much more. If you are interested in serving your church in any way, please speak with Pastor Stuart or call the church office to be directed to someone informed about the area of service you’re interested in.

PARISH NEWS



I wish to send my sincere thanks for the many prayer letters I have received as I faced my battle with breast cancer. I am pleased to report that after chemo treatments and surgery, I am now testing negative for cancer! Many thanks for all your prayers. *Laurie Kearns*

PUMC – in my thoughts...you are there. In my prayers...you are there. In my heart...you are *always* there. I want to thank you all for the prayer letters. I can’t thank you all enough.
Elsie Skinner



FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

THANKSGIVING TURKEY BASKETS

It’s that time of the year again!!

Once again, the Pantry will be handing out Thanksgiving turkey baskets to Plainville residents in need. These baskets will include all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal and a frozen turkey.

- Baskets will be distributed using a drive-through format in the church parking lot on **Sunday, November 19th from 11 am to 12 noon.**
- Signups for the baskets will be happening on **Wednesday, October 18th and Wednesday, November 1st as part of the normal Pantry distribution (5:30 pm to 6:45 pm).**
- If there are extenuating circumstances, registered clients of the Pantry can sign up for a basket by calling the church office at 508-695-9587 between October 18th and November 1st.

DONATIONS FOR TURKEY BASKETS

We are very thankful to have been able to get a lot of the items for the turkey baskets at reduced prices through the Greater Boston Food Bank. However, we are still in need of:

- Cans or Cartons of Chicken broth
- Boxes of quick bread mixes in Cranberry or Pumpkin flavors

Any donations of these items that you can make **before November 8th** would be greatly appreciated.



VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH TURKEY BASKETS

If you have wanted to help out in the Food Pantry but haven’t wanted to make an ongoing commitment, or if you’ve been wondering how volunteering at the Food Pantry works, or if you’re just never available on Wednesdays, helping out with Turkey Baskets is a great way to get a brief taste of what we do on a weekly basis.

*** We will be doing most of the bag assembly for the Turkey Baskets on Saturday, November 18th**

between 10 am and 2 pm. On Sunday morning, November 19th, final assembly will start at 10 am (please do not come any earlier), and distribution will start at 11 am.

Only adults (older than high school age) can help with distribution. Whether you have made Turkey Baskets for the last 20 years, or you didn't even know Turkey Baskets were a thing until 20 seconds ago, we would love to have your help!

If you would like to help out on either day (or both!), please contact Kathy Parker (kap0405@gmail.com) and let her know you're planning to be there. Even if you can only help for an hour, we would greatly appreciate it. *Many hands make light work!*

PANTRY DONATION UPDATES

We continue to appreciate donations of **cereal, boxed potatoes, and boxes or pouches of flavored rice or Minute rice**, as these things are difficult to get from the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).

The following would be particularly helpful for the months of November and December:

- **Pasta Sauce**
- **Hearty Soups (esp with beans)**
- **Stews and Chilis**

Please remember that donations of household items and non-perishable food can be left in the shed in the parking lot 24/7. You can also leave donations in the bin at the front of the store (near the registers) in the Plainville Stop and Shop.

PANTRY VOLUNTEER UPDATES

So Many THANKS to all of our dedicated, hard-working volunteers! We are looking to add volunteers to join our team to unload the GBFB truck on the second Wednesday of each month; the truck comes around 12:30pm. Depending on how many people we have, it can take between 15 and 30 minutes of moving 15-30 pound cases of food to unload the truck. We have a dolly cart to help move the cases of food. Please call the church office if you can help. Thanks for considering lending a hand!

THANKS to ALL of YOU!

As we come into the holiday season, it is a great time to think about how much we have to be thankful for. We are thankful for the great team of volunteers who work together every week to serve those in Plainville struggling with food insecurity and other financial challenges. We are thankful for all of the many area organizations who have contributed to the work of the Pantry; the Rotary Club, St. Martha's, the Jackson and Wood Schools, a number of KP clubs and organizations, and the Plainville Public Library are just some of the groups who give to the Pantry. We could not provide food for *anyone* without the generosity of *so many* here in Plainville who donate to the Food Pantry as individuals and families. The donation shed needs to be emptied almost daily, and the bin at Stop and Shop is emptied several times a week. Without these thoughtful and generous donations from all of you, we would not be able to help our neighbors in need. We are a small church and a small town, but our people have really big hearts. And for *that* we are very thankful!

More Winter Foods that are always in need:

Canned Beef or Chicken Stew
Peanut Butter
Jam/Jellies/Fluff
Mac-n-Cheese

Boxed Potatoes – *Scalloped, Cheese-y, and instant potatoes, too.*

Flavored Rice – *sm. boxed or pouches work best – flavored such as Spanish, Chicken, beef, Pilaf.*

White or Brown Rice – *sm boxes or pouches work better than the larger bags.*

Canned or Pouches of Tuna
Canned Chicken
Cereals – Hot or Cold
Spaghetti-O's with meatballs or franks
Canned Beef Ravioli

Thank you for helping our neighbors in need this winter season.

Fall/Winter Food Collection –2023

The Living Bread Food Pantry

A Mission of the

Plainville United Methodist Church

16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA

*Items we are in greater need of right now are highlighted in **BOLD**.*

BREAKFAST ITEMS *Hot or Cold Cereals – esp low or no sugar added.* Breakfast Cereal Bars, Granola Bars. ***Quick Bread Mixes in Cranberry or Pumpkin.***

LUNCH ITEMS *Lrg and Small Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Marshmallow Fluff, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti O's - esp w/ Meatballs or Franks, Canned Beef Ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, Canned Chili, Beef/Chicken Stew, Hearty Soups especially with Beans.*

BEVERAGES Canned Coffee, Non-refrigerated Juices – family sz bottles. Non-refrigerated Parmalat Milk (in the canned milk aisle) family sz cartons and individual “juice box” sizes – White or Chocolate. Lemonade drink mixes.

FRUIT - Canned fruits all packed in 100% Juice and Applesauce (including No-Sugar added), Including snack cup sizes.

CONDIMENTS Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup, Relish, Pickles, Olives, BBQ Sauce. Salad Dressings – especially Ranch and Italian.

SNACKS Graham Crackers, All varieties of Crackers. Healthy Fruit Snacks & Trail mixes, dried fruits and nuts. Pudding Mixes, Jello Mixes. Chips, Pretzels, Popcorn, etc.

SUPPER ITEMS ***Boxed Mac-n-Cheese, Hamburger Helper (for Ground Beef, Chicken or Tuna), Pasta and Sauces including alfredo sauce, Pasta Salad Kits, Baked Beans, Sloppy Joe Sauce, Taco Kits, Boxed or Pouches of Instant Potatoes &***

Mixes (Mashed, Cheesy, Scalloped, etc), Rice – sm bx or pouches of white/brown. Rice mixes such as: Pilaf, Spanish, etc., Canned Veggies – all types.

ALL TOILETRIES - such as bars of bath soap, shampoo & hair conditioner, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant for men & women, disposable razors, shaving cream, Q-tips, lip balm, hand & body lotions, Gold Bond powders.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS such as liquid dish soap (for washing dishes), dishwasher detergents, paper towels, 2-ply toilet paper, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, kitchen sponges, tissues.

MONETARY DONATIONS are greatly appreciated to help us buy food from the Greater Boston Food Bank at pennies on the dollar, stretching your donations.

Make Checks payable to:

Living Bread Food Pantry

Mail to: PUMC, 16 E. Bacon St., Plainville, MA 02762, ATTENTION: *LB Food Pantry.*

Or drop off: to the Spring Street door on M & W 9am – 12noon and FRI 9am – 1pm.

*The Living Bread Food Pantry helps to feed over 50 families every week, year 'round.
Your support is strongly needed and greatly appreciated.
Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.*