

# The Parish Friend

*A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church*

**January/February, 2018**

***“The church at the heart of the community with the community at heart.”***

## **From the Pastor**

No one who has not been a parent can understand what it is like when the tiny hand of your new born baby grasps your finger for the first time. From that moment they own your heart. Such a strong grip for such tiny hands.

It is an experience you never forget and cannot describe.

Our Savior once had hands like that. They were so small he could not grip the sides of the manger in which he was laid.

His fingers were so small they could not wrap all the way around Joseph or Mary’s little finger.

The great paradox of the Christian faith is that those tiny hands made the stars and the galaxies; All that is or ever was or ever will be. And yet at a particular time, in a particular place, the eternal Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He chose the humblest of families, the poorest of nations.

The omnipotent God reached out with the tiniest of fingers, to own our hearts.

A million hymns and anthems have tried to describe the mystery. Even choirs of angels cannot explain it. We can only follow their example, and sing in exultation.

## **Charge Conference Highlights 2017**

The theme for this year’s annual church conference was Vital Conversations: Holy Conversations with our Churches. On Saturday, December 9 2017 our congregation gathered to celebrate the great things that God has done among us in the past year and to look ahead to our ministries in the coming year.

- We celebrated our congregation’s 125 anniversary.
- We gave thanks for Rev. Jim Blair’s ministry at Plainville, which ended in June, and the beginning in July of Rev. Stuart Tucker’s ministry.

- We gave thanks for the dedication of each member of our church staff: our custodian Mike Allard, our church secretary Kathy Trowbridge and our organist/pianist Peter Williams.
- We acknowledged the ministries of our Lay Speakers Craig Brown and Bethany Cloutier.
- We celebrated giving 100% of our mission share to the annual conference.
- We adopted a Safe Sanctuary policy.
- We noted improvements to our building, including a new floor in the kitchen, downstairs bathroom the Spring Street foyer and stairs.
- We agreed to be the chartered organization for a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack.
- We celebrated 32 years of the Living Bread Food Pantry. Much hard work and many volunteers along with the generous donations of local businesses and organizations have made it possible to serve an average of 40 Plainville families a week.
- We celebrated our Church Suppers and our Church Fair, acknowledging the hard work of many individuals that made these events so successful.
- We gave thanks for the lives of our members who passed away in the past year: Phyllis Peck, Ross MacDonald, and Beverly Armitage Thornley.

Plainville UMC’s Church Conference was a celebration of our vital congregation. Full copies of the Church Conference reports, which include all our financial data are available in the Cate Room.

See you in church!  
Pastor Stuart



## THE CALENDAR SUPPER - January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This is the world famous supper where all months of the year are represented at twelve tables with distinct décor and desserts. Chicken Pot Pie is the entrée. This supper sells out fast - get your tickets now!

## LASAGNA SUPPER - February 10<sup>th</sup>

Homemade lasagna with Garlic Bread, Peas, Salad, and Brownies with Vanilla Ice Cream for dessert.

**All suppers are on Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.  
\$10.00 adults - Children welcome.  
Call for tickets - Joan 508-695-5141 or  
Rita 508-699-8646.**

**WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
January 18 – 25, 2018**



**MARCH/APRIL PARISH FRIEND DEADLINE TO  
SUBMIT INFO IS: Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**



## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany, which commemorates the spreading of Christ's light, begins after the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, on January 6.

How will you spread the light of Christ this year?

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mondays, January 15<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:15 p.m. in the Pastor's Office.

## TRUSTEE MEETINGS

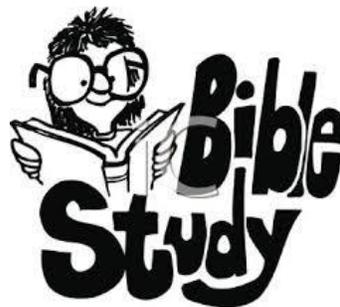
Mondays, January 8th and February 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Pastor's Office.

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

To place altar flowers, either memorial or celebratory, please sign the Flower Chart in the Cate Room, or contact Kathy in the church office. The cost of each display is \$15. Please mark your donation "flowers".

## CRAFT MEETINGS

Looking for something *FUN* to do this Winter? Come on over and join us in making crafts for the Country Fair! We'll begin on **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**, at 7pm in the Cate Room. Next meeting after that will be **March 6<sup>th</sup>**, 7pm, and usually the first Tuesday of each month. No set skill level needed – we'll show you how – come join the fun!



## BIBLE STUDY

Ever wonder how the books of the Bible came to be written? Or how they were put together? Or why we have so many translations? Our mid-

week Bible study will resume on **Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm** in the pastor's office. Join us for the answer to these questions and more.

## PLAINVILLE UM CHURCH

### SATURDAY SUPPER SCHEDULE 2018

**January 13<sup>th</sup> Calendar Supper featuring Chicken Pot Pie, Stuffing, Potatoes, Green Beans, rolls, various desserts.**

**February 10<sup>th</sup> Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Peas, Salad, Brownie and Vanilla Ice Cream**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Breakfast for Dinner**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Clam Cakes & Chowder, Cole Slaw, and Sherbert for Dessert.**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Appetizers and Desserts**

**\$10 Adults – Children Welcome  
Suppers begin at 5:30pm**

**For Tickets call Joan 508-695-5141 or  
Rita 508-699-8646**

## FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

**THANK YOU!** Many Thanks to all those who contributed to the work of the Living Bread Food Pantry over the past year. We were blessed to receive an abundance of food for the Christmas holiday which brought joy to all who are in need in our community. With your continued help, we look forward to a New Year of Christian Service to our community!

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** The Pantry is always in need of Rice – Brown or White, Rice Mixes such as Pilaf, etc. Instant Potatoes – Mashed, Scalloped, etc. Canned Tuna and Chicken, Canned Fruit in 100% juice, Hearty, low sodium soups such as minestrone, soups with beans or lentils, and chili (red or white). Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam, Canned Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni, Spaghetti with Meatballs. Mac –n-cheese, Pasta/noodle mixes (Pasta-Roni, etc), Hot and Cold Cereals and Coffee.

**Personal Hygiene:** disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, combs, brushes, feminine care products.

**Household Products:** 2ply toilet tissue, napkins, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap.

**Monetary Donations:** We are grateful for Monetary donations and they are always welcome any time of year. We purchase foods and other necessities when our supplies run low, especially throughout the Winter. Please make checks payable to “The Living Bread Food Pantry” and send to us at the church. Your monetary donations to the Food Pantry are tax deductible.



## News from your local Church Historian January/February 2018

The free, 12-week, on-line Historian Workshop, sponsored by the Indiana Conference and taught by Rev. Richard Stowe, has been completed. The course of study introduced what a church historian does, the types of materials and records that should be preserved and where and how to store them. It was an in-depth course and covered many aspects of saving and taking care of a church's artifacts.

The New England United Methodist Conference has a Historical Society and a New England Conference on Archives and History. The archives for the New England conference are held at the Boston University School of Theology. Kara Jackman is our archivist. She has prepared a wonderful tutorial on church records preservation which can be accessed on-line. The tutorial touches on how, what, when and where to store records and artifacts.

Rev. Pat Thompson, who lives in Vermont, is conference Historian. Margaret Bickford is Curator of the artifact collection that has been on display at the NE Conference offices in Lawrence, MA. However, that building is being sold and the conference offices will be moving into a newly purchased building in Methuen, MA. The Historical Society is investigating different options for housing the collection in the future. More thoughts on this will be discussed at the NE Historical Society's meeting in the Spring, 2018.

## PARISH NEWS



*Dear Friends,*

*Just a note to thank you all for your prayers. I really needed them and I appreciate all your kindness.*

*Mary Melchoirri*

*Dear Plainville UM Church Members,*

*Your prayers are greatly appreciated. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.*

*Love, The Family of Helen Brauner*

*...Continued*

The PUMC committee that helped plan the monthly activities in celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of our cornerstone, will be meeting in January to begin to formulate plans to sort, itemize, and document the many records and artifacts that need preservation in our church. We will be working with Pastor Stuart to begin planning for Heritage Sunday in May and for a celebration in June to commemorate the first worship service held in the newly completed church, 125 years ago, in June 1893.

All who are interested in the history, the present and the legacy for the future of PUMC, are invited to be a part of the committee. One of the first tasks will be gathering the various records together. If you have photos (baptisms, weddings, Christmas pageants, special services, church school picnics, church suppers, etc.) or remembrances of long, ago events, and more recent events, that could be transcribed into a memory booklet for posterity, please let us know and we could make a copy if you do not want to donate the original. Those are all part of our historical record that we want to preserve. Another task will be to continue the plan to have a pictorial directory booklet completed this year. The last one was done in 2000.

Please join us as we take the past into the future.  
Grace Simmons,  
Local Church Historian



**Boy Scouts of America  
Cub Scout Pack 46  
January/February 2018**

Plainville United Methodist Church has sponsored BSA Cub Scout Pack 46 for over 70

years. During the Spring months of 2017, Scout Master of BSA Troop 132, George Kleczka, began to revive an interest in the Pack and to recruit more boys. Eight boys signed up and George has become Cub Master. Meetings are held twice a month at the Boy Scout House on Spring St. in Plainville.

Pack 46 was a member of the former Old Colony Council. Old Colony Council and Knox Trail Council have merged to become a new council, Mayflower Council, effective September 2017.

**All** adult leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training (YPT). YPT is a 20 -minute training course that can be taken online. A completion Certificate is issued and is good for two years.

A new policy, recently adopted by the BSA, is the inclusion of girls in the Cub Scout program. The plan is for the girls to be members of a Pack, but there are to be separate Dens for boys and girls. In the near future, girls will be allowed to join BSA Scout troops and will be eligible to attain the rank of Eagle. Girls have been able to join the BSA Venture program for several years.

A request by BSA Troop 132 was recently brought to the Ad Council, asking PUMC to be the chartered organization for Troop 132. Members of the BSA Mayflower Council and Troop 132 (Bill Dunbar, BSA Field Director; Walter Pelrine, Unit Commissioner; George Kleczka, Scout Master; Renee Wassersug and Jill Machado, Troop Committee members, attended the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad Council to answer questions. The Charter for Troop 132 has been held by the Lions Club of Plainville, but due to some problems, the troop requested a change. The Ad Council voted to be the Chartered organization for Scout Troop 132 and Cub Scout Pack 46. Charters renew each January.

Looking forward to Scout Sunday in February.

Grace Simmons,  
Chartered Organization Representative





**PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Plainville, MA 02762  
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## UNDER OUR ROOF



WORSHIP  
LOVE  
PRAYER  
SALVATION  
FAITH  
HOPE  
FOOD PANTRY  
BIBLE STUDY  
SELF HELP GROUP MEETINGS  
MUSIC  
FELLOWSHIP  
HELP FOR THE NEEDY  
COMMUNITY



Dear Church Family,

The Trustees are reaching out to all who care for our beloved church to ask for help in funding a new roof for the church building. The condition of the roof is such that it currently needs replacement. We are in the process of obtaining estimates, so far they are ranging between \$45-\$50,000. Our goal is to raise the funds necessary for this project by May 2018. Your help in realizing this goal would be greatly appreciated. On behalf of everyone at Plainville United Methodist Church, I thank you in advance for any thing you can do to help with this need.

If you wish to discuss the project I would be happy to hear from you.

Your sister in Christ,

Patty Brown  
Chairperson, Trustees, PUMC