

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

January/February, 2021

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

From the Pastor

Someone posted a Nativity scene on Facebook with the caption, "The first Christmas was simple. It's okay if yours is too." I was reminded of a past Christmas. It was 1973. There was an oil embargo by the OPEC countries. Suddenly everyone had to think about saving energy. It had many effects. One that I remember most vividly came that Christmas. Every previous Christmas that I could remember nearly every house on the block where we lived had Christmas lights. These were not the whimpy LED lights you see today but big, robust incandescent lights that burned hot and bright. That Christmas my block and all blocks went dark. It felt strange and it was definitely not right.

In the past there have been years when our personal or collective circumstances have made Christmas "not right." This year is one of them. And yet we find a door is opened for us to discover the true meaning of this time. Christ was born to be the light of the world. He is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. This present darkness will pass away. The story of Christmas will not. May the new born King be born anew in our hearts this year and every year.

Pastor Stuart

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18 – 25, 2021



Most years, the Shrine of Our lady of LaSalette in Attleboro, hosts a Prayer service open to all. With COVID19, there may not be an open to the public service, but all are welcome to join your voice and heart in prayer together from your own home. God will still hear us as we pray for each other.

**MARCH/APRIL PARISH FRIEND DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT INFO IS: Monday, February 15th.**



THE CALENDAR SUPPER - January 9th, 2021

This is the world-famous Chicken Pot Pie supper with stuffing, potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and dessert. This year's Calendar Supper will be "To-Go" style. Must pre-order by 12noon on Thursday,

January 7th by calling or sending an email to the church office. To-Go Suppers cost \$12.00 each. Pick up from the church parking lot on Saturday, January 9th between 4:30-5:30pm. This supper sells out fast - get your order in now!

**All To-Go suppers are
\$12.00 each.**

**Call the Church Office for reservations
508-695-9587 or send an email to
plainvilleumc@verizon.net.**

PLAINVILLE UM CHURCH SATURDAY TO-GO SUPPER SCHEDULE 2021

January 9 th	Calendar Supper - Chicken Pot Pie.
February 13 th	Meatloaf
March 13 th	Lasagna
April 10 th	Swedish Meatballs
May 8 th	Ham



**Must pre-order by 12Noon the Thursday the week
of the supper by calling the Church Office for
reservations 508-695-9587 or send an email to
plainvilleumc@verizon.net.**



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

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

How will you spread the light of Christ, especially in light of what we have been through, this year?

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mondays, January 18th and February 15th
at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Mondays, January 11th and February 8th
at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Here are the ways you, your friends and family can join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00am:



- on your computer you may join us on Facebook Live on our Facebook page, Pumc PlainvilleMA.
- You may join us by either computer or by phone via Zoom. See **new** instructions below.
- You may listen from the parking lot through a speaker system
- You may listen on your car radio in the parking lot by tuning to **530 AM** on your radio.

Here is a **new** link for joining in worship via Zoom:
Stuart Tucker is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Plainville Sunday Worship

Time: This is a recurring meeting - Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76163082763?pwd=TEhrMDNhTjE1RjVSeHZUVEdWdmY2dzO9>

Meeting ID: 761 6308 2763 Passcode: 16ebacon

PARISH NEWS



Dear Pastor Tucker and all my friends at PUMC, Thank you for always keeping in touch and miraculously doing so much with so little. God bless you all through this time of pandemic and always. Deb Tucker

To PUMC,

Thank you for all the prayers. They meant so much to me and my family during a challenging time. Many times, I'm sure people's prayers are what carried me through. Merry Christmas to you all. Corrine & Jeff Forbes

CHURCH HISTORIAN NEWS

There has been so much history happening here at PUMC during this past year of the 2020 COVID-19 virus pandemic. It doesn't seem possible that our last full in-church service was held on March 15, 2020! Restrictions and guidelines by the State were put in place on March 17th, regarding large gatherings, and restaurants, retail stores, churches and many businesses were shut down. Pastor Stuart began posting a message and a prayer, sometimes daily, and on Sundays, on the PUMC Facebook page. As the weather became warmer, a decision was made to meet outside in the church parking lot on Sunday mornings to be able to visit and be together, while wearing masks and adhering to the 6' social distancing recommendations. As the weather turned cooler, it was thought that maybe we could begin meeting in the church again, but as the virus intensified, that has not been feasible for PUMC. During this time, the Trustees have been hard at work, and accomplished many things. The bell tower was repaired and this summer, Don was able to ring the bell again. The handicap ramp was repaired and partially rebuilt, the front doors of the church were refurbished, and the Spring Street entrance was rebuilt. Many thanks to Patty Brown for her years of service on the Trustees, as she steps down in 2021.



Becca Simon has kept the Living Bread Food Pantry operating under her expert guidance and with many helpful volunteers. The Pantry has received many donations and has been able to serve the community during this time when so many families' lives have been impacted by COVID-19 and the imposed restrictions.

Prayer cards, in place of our prayer letters, are being sent to people whose names are mentioned during the prayer of concern.

The Supper Committee has held two successful Take-out Suppers and have made plans for more Take-out Suppers in the coming months, January through May 2021.

Since we are unable to meet in person, we can still tune in to the Sunday service via Facebook Live, Youtube or Zoom, send a card or a note, and/or make a phone call, and try to stay in touch with each other. Quite an historic year, for sure!! Best wishes for the New Year. *Grace Simmons*, Church Historian

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!

DECEMBER 2020 – UPDATES

We had approximately fifty families pick up their bags of food last night, December 16th. We are using a drive-through method to hand out bags of food meaning most of our volunteers work outside. We got an early start at 5:00 p.m. since it was so cold outside (28 degrees with a light breeze). The volunteers all wore winter coats, hats, gloves and masks periodically warming ourselves by our outdoor propane heater. Our takeout windows worked well and efficiently. We have a board that goes through an open window in Bowmar Hall where we slide out our bags of food and the volunteers outside put the bags in the trunk of each vehicle.

We were all worried it would start snowing but it held off until we were all safely home. We had extra gifts to hand out last night which all families greatly appreciated. Amy, a Bishop Feehan student, donated fifty stockings full of toiletries and candies. Visiting Angels gave us several bags of large toiletries and toilet paper. We also handed out \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards. This is one of our busier nights when our families are preparing for the holidays. We wished everyone a Merry Christmas as we loaded their trunks full of food.

FOOD PANTRY – FUTURE PLANS

The Pantry plans to be *open* every Wednesday through the winter. If the Pantry needs to close due to inclement weather, it will be posted on the church website at www.PlainvilleUMC.net We will also put the information on the church answering machine, which you may call anytime, 24/7 at 508-695-9587.

HOLIDAY SUPPORT & THANKS

We have received many donations from families and companies during this holiday season. We would

like to thank everyone for helping to support the Pantry over the course of this year. However, we have had a large increase in the families that have signed up this year due to the pandemic and related job loss.

OUR WORK CONTINUES

In order to continue our work of feeding all who need food in Plainville, we will need even more donations of food. A list of foods to donate is on the church website under “Food Pantry” and included in this issue of *The Parish Friend* newsletter. Please continue to donate during the upcoming months when most donations drop off significantly. It is very easy to donate now by placing your items into our donation shed located in the parking lot near the door. You can drop off your non-perishable foods anytime by driving in the parking lot when it’s convenient for you. We check the shed frequently and remove donations regularly.

For Monetary or Gift Card donations

Kathy, our Church Secretary is in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Please use the Spring Street door which is closest to the office when making monetary or Gift Card donations. If you have any questions regarding the Pantry, feel free to call the church office at 508-695-9587.

Some of the current items that we need are...

2-ply toilet paper, beans, hearty soups, coffee, canned vegetables, canned fruit and healthy snacks.

2020 has been a tough year and I believe it will be a while before our economy improves and our clients will be able to get back to work.

HOW YOU CAN HELP... Please consider holding a food drive in January, February and/or March by involving your neighborhood, office, relatives, etc. to help us keep up with the higher demand for food.

Thanks so much for all your donations and support. Also, thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers. It takes many hands to keep our pantry running.

Becca Simon,

Living Bread Food Pantry Co-Ordinator

Suggested Foods to Donate
To benefit The Living Bread Food Pantry
16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA 02762

Suggested Items to donate include:

BREAKFAST ITEMS

Breakfast Bars, Cereal Bars, Granola Bars, Carnation Instant Breakfast (packets), Cold cereals – low sugar such as Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Chex, Kix, Corn Flakes, Wheaties, Rice Krispies, etc. Hot Cereals - Oatmeal (box of packets) including regular flavors, low sugar and No Sugar added varieties and Cream of Wheat.

LUNCH ITEMS

Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Marshmallow Fluff, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti O's, Canned Ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, Hearty Soups esp w/ Beans.

BEVERAGES

Canned coffee, Lemonade Mix (powdered), Iced Tea Mix : non-sweetened, sweetened and sugar-free. Kool Aid drink mix: non-sweetened and sweetened.

Non-refrigerated Juices – family sz bottles and individual juice boxes. Non-refrigerated Parmalat Milk (in the canned milk aisle) family sz cartons and individual “juice box” sizes – White or Chocolate.

FRUIT - all packed in 100% Juice

Individual Fruit cups, Canned fruit, Applesauce – jars and individual cups.

CONDIMENTS

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

SNACKS Little Debbie's Snacks, Graham Crackers, Cookies, Microwave popcorn, Cheeze-It Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Wheat Thins, Triscuits, Goldfish Crackers, etc. Pudding Mixes and individual cups (non-refrigerated), Jello Mixes and individual cups (non-refrigerated), Individually bagged, and Family Sized=Chips, Pretzels, Popcorn, etc.

SUPPER ITEMS

Boxed Mac-n-Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Pasta and Sauces (including Alfredo, etc), Pasta Salad Kits, Baked Beans, Taco Kits, Instant Potato Mixes (Cheesy, Scalloped, etc), Rice – white/brown, Rice mixes such as: Rice Pilaf, Zatterain's mixes, Uncle Ben's mixes, etc.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Liquid Dish Soap (for hand washing dishes), Paper towels, 2-ply TP, Laundry Detergent PODS, Dryer Sheets, Kitchen Sponges.

TOILETRIES

Individual Bars of Bath Soap, Shampoo and Hair Conditioner, Tooth Brushes and Tooth Paste, Deodorant for Men and Women, Disposable Razors for Men and Women, Shaving Cream, Q-Tips, Feminine Hygiene Products, Lip Balm, Sm. Hand Lotion, Tissues.

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted and always in need any time of year. Monetary donations allow us to purchase food at a lower price from the Greater Boston Food Bank. Your support in providing foods or monetary donations is appreciated by all the many people they will feed this winter - from Seniors living on small fixed incomes to families with young children. *Thank You!*

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