

# The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

July – August 2021

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

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Indoor Worship - June 2021

On June 21 the Administrative Council voted to invite worshippers to be in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, June 27, 2021. Services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and Zoom and also broadcast on AM radio. Those who chose will still be able to worship either at home or in their cars in the parking lot.

The council takes this decision trusting that each member will decide for themselves what is best both for their own protection and for the protection of others around them.

Sensible precautions include social distancing, sitting apart in the pews and masks for those who are not vaccinated. Some who are vaccinated may chose to wear a mask as an added precaution.

Worshippers will be invited to sign prayer letters after the service. Instructions will be given that morning as to how best to do this safely.

The Council wished to include singing as part of the service. However on reviewing our Annual Conference’s guidelines [singing+may+5+2021.pdf \(brtapp.com\)](#) it is clear that group singing indoors should not occur. For this pastor and for many of us this is a painful reality we must continue to endure for now. The Conference’s full statement on re-entry is here: [New England Conference: Re-entry Considerations and Guidelines \(neumc.org\)](#)

We need to be flexible. How and where we worship will change as the situation changes. Let us pray those changes will soon be for the better.

*Pastor Stuart*



## CHURCH SUPPERS

We will be back in the Fall with our famously delicious church suppers! Watch the next issue of *The Parish Friend* newsletter for more details.

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**TRUSTEES** meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesdays, July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>.



**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets via Zoom at 7:15pm on Mondays, July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>.



## PRAYER LETTER MINISTRY

Since we can't meet and sign prayer letters, Sue Haines has printed post cards – similar to the look of the prayer letters. Sue, along with Grace Simmons, have been sending these cards out to people on our weekly prayer list and to people who need prayers. Each week Pastor Stuart includes them in his weekly “virtual prayer” on the PUMC Facebook page. Many thanks to Sue and Grace for assuring the Prayer Letters continue. If anyone has a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at 508-695-9587 or send an email and the message will be passed along.

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

**The Deadline to submit news and information for the September/October issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Monday, 08/23/21.**



## 2021 FALL YARD SALE

*A date for this will be set for early Fall 2021.*

Please continue to clean out a room or closet, your garage or attic and set items aside for the Yard Sale. Please remember to set aside only

new or "gently used" items for the sale. We will need your help with the Sale, and all of your donations will be needed and greatly appreciated.

**Please Remember...** No large furniture, computers, printers, TV's, or clothing for this sale. **MANY** hands and donations will be needed to make this sale successful!

**We will provide an update as soon as we have a date set for the Sale.**

## CHURCH "SIDEWALK SWINGER" SIGN

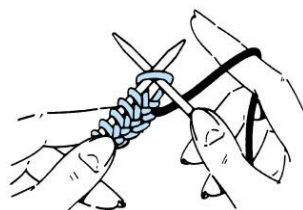
Help is needed to set up the Sidewalk Swinger sign which advertises our suppers out on the front lawn at the church. Once a month (only about 7x per year) you will need to set up the letters on the sign and put in front of the church. Not usually needed June – September. More than one person can volunteer. If we had enough volunteers, each may only need to do this 1-2 times a year. Please let Becca Simon know if you are interested in helping with the sign. Please call Becca at 508-643-1238.



## ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>  
from 12 to 7pm

Hi Folks! A slightly scaled back version is being planned for this year's Annual Church Country Fair. We are excited to see everyone and continue our annual tradition. There will be the usual items such as Jewelry, Food, Handmades & Silent Auction. (Please continue to be making items at home to sell at the Fair). There will not be any books or yard sale items as they will be sold at a Church Yard Sale in early Fall. Please help us continue this over 100 year tradition by volunteering your time, talents and support. Feel free to contact Becca Simon or Jill Seaberg for further information.



Jill Benker-Seaberg,  
Annual Country Fair Co-Chairman

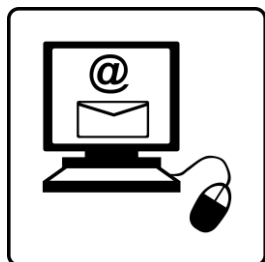


## Annual Conference Highlights:

The meeting of the New England Annual Conference took place via Zoom June 10, 11 and 12. It began with Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's episcopal address where he encouraged us to "move forward together in a future filled with hope as we build our beloved community in new and exciting ways." He called on laity and clergy to read "[Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to do About It](#)" by Brian D. McLaren. There will be an online discussion series on the book beginning September 13, 2021.

## OUR THANKS TO...

Eileen Newell for taking and posting video to the church's FaceBook page of our Sunday morning parking lot services each week throughout the pandemic. **Our thanks to** Tom Simon and all those who helped get the technology set up for broadcasting our Sunday services by AM radio and other tech needed to make worship available throughout the pandemic. **Thank you to** Pastor Stuart for figuring out how-to-do what-we-can-do throughout the pandemic to keep a Godly presence available online and in the parking lot these long 15 months. It has been a long and trying time but we have persevered with faith and hope thanks to these and other dedicated folks here at PUMC!!



## EMAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

Do you have an Email address you would share with the Church? It would save the Church a considerable amount of money on paper, ink, envelopes, postage and time if

we could send your newsletter by Email. If you have an Email address, please consider sharing it with us, by sending us an email at: [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net)  
*Many thanks!*

## FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY



### PANTRY UPDATES

The Plainville Athletic League fundraiser for the Living Bread Food Pantry is coming to an end. On June 20<sup>th</sup> they auctioned off the final red heart. The funds made by the auction will benefit the

Food Pantry and the Malia Jusczyk Foundation. The fundraiser has been a great success raising a lot of money for the Pantry. It has been nice to see all the hearts all over Plainville (both red and gold). The gold M. J. hearts are for Malia Jusczyk, a 12-year-old Plainville student who is fighting cancer for the second time. Our pantry volunteers continue to work making bags full of nonperishable foods, dating food that has been donated, and handing out food to our patrons in need. We are continuing with our drive-through method by using our parking lot and two drive-through windows where we hand out the bags. We plan to continue this method at least until the end of summer.

### OUR WORK CONTINUES

In order to continue our work of feeding all who need food in Plainville, we consistently need donations of food. A list of foods to donate is on the church website under "Food Pantry" 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 back door of the church. You can drop off your non-perishable foods anytime by driving (or walking) into the parking lot when it's convenient for you. We check the shed frequently and remove donations regularly. You may also donate non-perishable food by using the green bin located at the Plainville Stop & Shop. Frequently Stop & Shop will have items at the end of the register which can be purchased for donation into the bin.

### FOR MONETARY OR GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Our Church Secretary is in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Friday 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 donation. If you would like to mail a check, please write it out to "Living Bread Food Pantry" and send it to the Plainville United Methodist Church, 16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762. The Pantry has a PayPal Account on the church website at [www.PlainvilleUMC.net](http://www.PlainvilleUMC.net). If you have any questions regarding the Pantry, feel free to call the church office at 508-695-9587.

## CURRENT ITEMS WE ARE IN NEED OF ARE...

**Non-perishable foods** such as Spaghetti-o's, beans, hearty soups, spaghetti sauce, coffee, canned vegetables, canned fruit (in 100% juice) and healthy snacks.

**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.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP...

In July and August, bring in extra vegetables from your garden. **\*\*PLEASE NOTE** - We can only accept perishable foods on Wednesdays – between 8am – 10:30am is preferred, however, our Church Secretary is in the office until 12 Noon and pantry volunteers are back in the pantry around 4:30pm. Please don't leave fresh produce, anything requiring refrigeration or freezing, in the Pantry shed out in the parking lot.

### THANK YOU!

Thanks so much for all your donations and support. We couldn't feed people without your continued and generous support. Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers who are faithful to their work at the pantry. It takes many hands to keep our pantry running. Together, donors and volunteers, we are making sure that no one in Plainville goes hungry. Faithfully,  
Becca Simon, Pantry Coordinator



**Help is Needed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, year 'round**, to help us unload the truck from the Greater Boston Food Bank – right here in our parking lot. The truck arrives around 12:30pm. We have dolly carts to help unload and get the foods into the pantry. This takes an hour or less most times to do. Feel free to bring a friend, teenager or neighbor with you to lend a hand. Please send an email to the church at [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net) if you can lend a hand. Next Dates – July 14 & August 11.

Together, with your help, we **DO** make a difference! We are "the church at the heart of the community with the community at heart." **THANK YOU!**



## FROM OUR CHURCH HISTORIAN...

### *A Few Days in the Life of Mrs. Mary Bennett Burton* (Continued)

The diary from 1907 was fairly upbeat (although Mary did mention losing a daughter Alice in April 1885) and Mary's life was very busy with church, family and every day household events. By 1912, only 5 years later, her life had changed. Her beloved husband Albert W. died on June 24, 1909, and the grandchildren were now 5 years older.

Wesley Burton, her grandson, son of her son A. Edward, was very close to his grandmother and she was very proud of him. He would spend a night or two with her and often dropped by to have supper with her. His mother, Nettie, had recently died on December 15, 1911. Wesley was musically inclined and took violin and singing lessons in Franklin and Boston. He also sang in the church choir and attended church regularly. On Sunday, January 7, 1912, Wesley joined the church on probation. Mary wrote that she hoped (others in her family) would join soon). On Easter Sunday, April 7, 1912, Wesley was brought into the church as a member. Mary could not go to church that day, but was very thankful. Mary notes that Wesley graduated from High School on June 18, 1912, gave the welcoming address and played a violin solo. In the Fall of 1912, Wesley applied to the Rangers in Boston, to learn nautical engineering. (As an aside, Wesley carried on his grandmother's dedication to the church: singing in the choir and teaching Sunday School. He was a veteran of WW I and marched in the Memorial Day parades, handing out small flags to the children who marched and carried flowers to the cemetery to place on the graves of veterans. Wesley's wife, Loretta, was also active in the church with the Ladies Aid and Guild.)

Electricity was being installed in Plainville in 1912. Mary received an estimate to have her house wired with electricity (\$215), but she deemed it too costly and said they would do with the gas lights they had. A few months later she notes that the electricity was turned on (street lights) for the first time. Even though better off financially than many, Mary always prayed that she wished everyone would be safe, comfortable, and warm. Transportation in those days was by train to Boston and Providence and by street car to North Attleboro where they shopped and did their banking. A few people had autos. Mary was afraid to ride in one at first, but noted what a wonderful experience it was after her first outing!

In 1912, Mary was still actively involved with her church, but she had bouts of illness and it was more difficult for her to get around. She did manage to get to church often and taught a Sunday School class of about 10 boys, who would sometimes meet at her house if she were unable to go to church. She mentions other church activities: prayer meetings were held on Thursday evenings, many times at Mary's house; the Official Board (now our church council); the Epworth League (held in the Epworth League room of the church, which has been renovated and is now the Cate room.) Many of the activities she writes about were to raise money for the church: food sales, rummage sales, and church suppers. Some entries follow:

Sun. Jan 28, Rev. King preached on India illustrating with pictures and idols. Very interesting.

Wed. Jan 31, Gas man brought news of big fire in Attleboro, Bates Opera House and a shoe store. A couple Mary knew lost everything and their \$900 for a vacation was burned.

May 17, Mary baked 5 qts. of beans for the food sale & they cleared \$17.23

May 23, the G.A. R. had an Anniversary supper and entertainment, although Mary not quite well enough to go. Daughter Linnie and 2 granddaughters went – the best chowder was by our baker, Mr. Peckham.

June 6, Noted Albert (her husband) home from the (Civil)war on this date.

June 22, her anniversary. Mary and Albert W. Burton were married June 22, 1859. She misses him so, but all the while thanking God for His goodness.

Mary turned 76 on Oct. 4, 1912 and received 76 posies. She says, All the days are great, but God is good.

Many of the people she names as visitors and relatives and friends are families who continued to help our church grow through the years: Brown (the planter next to the front steps was given in memory of O.P. Brown), Barney, King, Woodward (Dick Woodward's family), Henrich, Shepardson, Kenerson, Bigelow, , many others, and, of course, Burton.

Mary's closing verse on Dec. 31, 1912: Praise God from whom all blessings flow - and What! Could ye not watch with Me one hour. Jesus.

Mary mentions every day things and activities of the church. She notes many people who were workers and/or members of the church: the "Saints" who helped bring PUMC to where we are today. Thank you, Grandma Burton, for our legacy.

Faithfully submitted by,  
Grace Simmons,  
PUMC Church Historian