

# The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

May/June, 2020

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

## From the Pastor

Dear Plainville UMC Members and Friends,

We are all living through a time in history like no other. We have been told to stay in our homes and practice social distancing. Panic buying has emptied store shelves of certain items. Non-essential businesses have been shut down. Schools are closed. Many people are laid off or unemployed. The economy has suffered.

Worst of all we have not been able to be with our friends and family. Visits to hospitals and nursing homes are not allowed. We have not been able to gather for graduations, weddings, and funerals.

We have especially missed coming to church to worship face to face. Our situation has forced us to find new ways of being the church. Every Sunday I have been posting my sermons and pastoral prayers on our Facebook page Pumc Plainvillema. They also can be viewed on our webpage plainvilleumc.net. On weekdays I have posted brief meditations that I hope will help you through your day.

On Sundays at 9 am, which is our regular worship time, we have been video conferencing. It is our time of fellowship and prayer. It is easy to join us with your computer (if you have a web cam and microphone), laptop, tablet or smartphone. Just click (or type in) this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5345752885?pwd=TGx4UWRPSWs5N1crbHAwUHdrcGh0dz09>

You will be asked the password. It is 16ebacon. (Note that this link is for all future meetings. The old links may not work.)

If you can't join via computer or smartphone you can join with your phone. Dial (646) 558-1757. When prompted give the ID number for our meeting: 534 575 2885. The password is 16ebacon.

It has been truly great to see the faces and hear the voices of our church family and to be able to do so safely from our homes. Try to join us.

These are trying times. Our Lord assures us this too shall pass. We have been inspired by the heroism of doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, of the people that bring us our food and deliver our mail, people who work in food pantries, and of the extraordinary kindness of neighbors looking out for each other. We live in an age of heroes. I look forward to the time when we can meet and worship in person once more. That day will come.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Stuart Tucker



## PUMC SUPPERS

May 9, 2020

*This Supper has been cancelled.  
We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!*

**All suppers are on Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.**

**\$10.00 adults - Children Welcome**

Call the Church office at 508-695-9587 for tickets.

## CHURCH MEETINGS – May and June

**CRAFT MEETINGS for the Fair** have been suspended.

Please continue to make crafts, knitted or crocheted, and sewn items at home for our Fall Fair to be held in November 2020.

**TRUSTEES** meet via Zoom at 7:00pm on Mondays, May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Patty Brown to learn how to connect to Zoom.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets via Zoom at 7:15pm on Mondays, May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Sunday Flowers

Sunday flowers are on hold until we return to "in-person" worship.

**The Deadline to submit news and information for the July/August issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

### Plainville United Methodist Church

16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762

www.plainvilleumc.net plainvilleumc@verizon.net

Phone: 508-695-9587

**Worship, Sundays at 9 am.**

Rev. Stuart Tucker, Pastor

Peter J. Williams, Pianist Kathy Trowbridge, Secretary

## A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER



Despite the lack of in-person Sunday church services during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the church continues to function and bills must continue to be paid. The shutdown had a direct impact on

our church finances as tithe income was down 15% during the first quarter compared to last year, and closing the church for use by outside groups has also caused a drop of over 30% in Church Use income. We even had to cancel our May church supper and postpone our annual Spring Fling Yard Sale! Thanks to the continued tithing of some church members during this shutdown, we have been able to fund weekly payroll and stay current on other obligations, such as oil for heat, but more is needed.

If you are able, we ask that all church members continue to make every attempt to stay current with their financial pledge payments to the church. The church office continues to be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Pledges can be mailed to the church, dropped off during regular office hours, or placed in the mail slot next to the Spring Street entrance door. Payments can also be made by PayPal or credit card by following the "Donate" link on the PUMC website (although this method is not preferred since PayPal fees are deducted from amounts donated in this way). Whatever method you choose to keep sending in your pledges, tithes and offerings will be greatly appreciated! Be well, and may God bless you in these difficult times.

Tom Simon, PUMC Treasurer

## A NOTE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Hello Church Family!

I know that I'm not the only one who misses seeing everyone each week; I hope you are all staying healthy and that this separation doesn't last much longer. For anyone with access to a computer, Pastor Tucker has a short devotional message each morning (or at least almost every day); they are posted to the Facebook site and the YouTube page both of which you can access via our church website: Plainvilleumc.net. Alternatively you can go on your own Facebook and friend request and follow 'PUMC Plainvillema', and/or you can go to YouTube.com and search for 'Plainville United Methodist Church' and subscribe in order to automatically receive a copy. You can go to the YouTube page to view any time that you want without subscribing as well.

### Prayer and Fellowship

Several of us have been getting together through a free site called Zoom that allows meeting over the Internet on

Sunday mornings for some Prayer and fellowship. You can join with or without showing your face on a "webcam" if you join us via your computer that has a camera.

If you haven't come before but you'd like to join, just send us your email address so you will receive the weekly invitation (still looking for ways to have a single re-usable login, but for now there's a new one each week). We currently do this on Sunday morning at 9:00am. I wonder if 9am is too early for some during these "quarantine" times and would like to hear from anyone who believes that they would join if it were a little later. We get together for just a little more than half an hour (Zoom has a 40 minute limit). If you would join but at a different time, please email [events.pumc@gmail.com](mailto:events.pumc@gmail.com) to let us know. Just give your email and the time you think would work best: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 (All times are Eastern, where the church building is physically located).

In Christian Love,  
Eileen Newell, Church Council Chairman

## A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Church Family,

First I want to say, I miss seeing and talking with all of you and pray that everyone is well. I look forward to when we are all able to meet in person again. We are well in the Brown household. Craig and I have enjoyed watching Pastor Tucker's services on line and participating in some of the Church Zoom meetings but it's just not the same as seeing everyone's welcoming smile and offering a hug or a handshake.

Even though our church building is not open I am happy to report that the Trustees are meeting on a regular basis, (by Phone), to discuss taking care of the church building.

We have been able to approve a few projects during this time. We obtained five estimates for necessary repairs to our handicap ramp, we voted on and hired a contractor for these repairs and anticipate the work being complete by the time church reopens.

After much research we decided on a defibrillator to purchase for the church. We selected one that is compatible with the ones in use by Plainville's emergency response teams. This means that if we have a need to use the defibrillator, when the emergency response team arrives they will not have to switch the equipment over, saving what could be very valuable time for a patient. The defibrillator will be mounted on a wall upstairs and we plan to place signs in numerous locations indicating where the defibrillator is located.

Another project that is in the works is repairing the bell and bell tower. Over my many years on the Trustees I

have found that when we have a project that appears to be difficult to complete for various reasons, frequently financial, God is always good, he finds a way! We have been blessed, yet again with a very generous anonymous donation of \$10,000 to help with this project and we are close to making a decision on a contractor.

That's all for now, keeping my Church Family in prayer that you are healthy and keeping safe.

Love & Blessings,  
Patty Brown, PUMC, Trustee Chairperson



### 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 – and Sue is sending these cards out to people on our weekly prayer list and to people who need prayers. Each week Sue gives Pastor Stuart a list of names of people needing prayers, and Pastor Stuart includes them in his weekly “virtual prayer” on the PUMC Facebook page. Many thanks to Sue for assuring the Prayer Letters continue. Many thanks to Tom, Eileen and Pastor Stuart for arranging for the virtual sessions. If anyone has a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at 508-695-9587 or send an email and the message will be given to Sue.

### CHURCH HISTORY

In these unprecedented and historical times, there are unique ways our church is dealing with social distancing and complying with the orders issued by the CDC and Governor Baker. It has been 6 long weeks since March 15 when we were last able to meet in church together. However, Pastor Stuart has developed weekly sermons and prayers and posted them on the PUMC Facebook page. Amazingly, Monday night, we were able to hold a “virtual” Ad Council meeting via Zoom and continue the business of the church. How wonderful and important technology has become in our lives! Although palms could not be distributed this year for Palm Sunday, Nancy Richardson and Sue Haines delivered the lovely Easter Lilies and Tulips. The plants were beautiful, and such a bright spot for Easter. Praying everyone is well as we live through these times.

Be well,  
Grace Simmons, PUMC Historian



### Miscellaneous

Many, many thanks to Becca Simon and the volunteers who have kept the Living Bread Food Pantry open. By developing a changed plan in operations, the pantry is still able to serve the needs of the community. Our Church Family and our community are blessed by the work these folks do every week, year 'round.



2020

**Our Annual Spring Yard and Bake Sale has been postponed. We will reschedule the Sale sometime between mid-Summer and early Fall.**

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 some time mid-summer to early Fall with the Sale, and all of your donations will be needed and greatly appreciated.

#### ***Please Remember...***

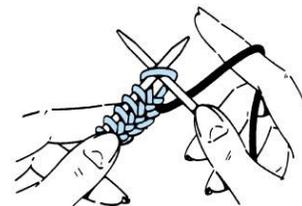
No large furniture, computers/printers, TV's, or clothing for this sale. **MANY** hands and donations will be needed to make this sale successful!

***We will provide an update as soon as we know when we can hold the Sale.***

### ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

Hi Folks! I hope all of you are staying healthy and safe. During this crazy time I would like to suggest we continue creating those crafts for the Fair at home.

Anything for the Handmades table, Christmas ornaments, even masks to handout would be helpful. Please continue to stay safe and I look forward to seeing all of you real soon.



Jill Benker-Seaberg,  
Annual Country Fair Co-Chairman

## THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry has converted to a drive-through pantry every Wednesday evening at 6:15 p.m. due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are making up bags of food and putting them in the trunks of our families in need as they drive through our parking lot. We have seen a ten percent increase in the amount of families needing food over the past month. We have also been sharing food and supplies with the Wood/Jackson schools who are now conducting a drive-through pantry. We have recently received food through a flash food drive hosted by several families who announced on social media that the pantry was low on food. These families followed the Firetruck parade last Sunday (April 19<sup>th</sup>) and picked up bags of food people set along the side of the road. Our pantry has been filled up and overflowing thanks to the generosity of our Plainville neighbors. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful, caring community. The "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive campaign hosted by the Post Office in early May has been postponed. No date is set at this time but we will let you know when the Post Office will be holding their drive. I would also like to thank all our hard working volunteers who have been making 150 bags of food every week and handing them out to our families in need. The volunteers have been wearing masks and gloves to keep everyone safe. If you would like information on the pantry, you can go to the church website at [Plainvilleumc@Verizon.net](mailto:Plainvilleumc@Verizon.net) or you can check out our Facebook page at *Living Bread Food Pantry - Plainville MA*.



Many thanks for your support all year,  
Becca Simon,  
Living Bread Food Pantry Coordinator

## MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS Wednesday, May 6th

is the last day to submit your Mother's Day Flowers order. Easter Flowers were ordered and delivered to folks in the church family who live close by the church. Many enjoyed receiving the flowers and claimed it was a bright spot of joy in their day, so we have decided to offer flowers for Mother's Day, too. **Because we don't have much time to receive your order, please contact the church office during office hours or send an email with your order on or before 11am on May 6<sup>th</sup>.** \*Please send along your payment *with the completed order form* as soon after you place your order as you can.



Please see the order form below and fill it out *before* emailing or calling in your order. Please have the form handy when you call. Thank you!

## MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS ORDER FORM

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9" Geranium @\$23.00 ea
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hanging Basket of asstd flowers @\$28.00 ea
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hanging Basket of Million Bells with asstd flowers @\$24.00 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12" potted Mandevillea Vine w/ trellis and asstd flowers @\$45.00 ea

DELIVER TO: (*local to PUMC*)  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: A Mother's Day message created by the office will be delivered with each plant ordered.**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and copy it into an email or have it handy when you call the church to place your order. Please also return the form to the church with your payment.



## EMAIL VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTER "The Parish Friend"

Now more than ever, email is an important form of remaining in contact. You can print at home any pages you want to put on the frig. The email version will save the church budget on ink, postage, paper, printed envelopes and time. Please send an email to the church office at [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net) or call Kathy during office hours at 508-695-9587 to sign up.

