

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

September – October, 2020

“The Church at the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart.”

FROM THE PASTOR

"All Creatures Great and Small"



On August 17th I discovered a Monarch caterpillar in my yard. A few days later it had turned into a chrysalis. In a few days more it will emerge as a glorious butterfly. Watching these transformations up close is inspiring.

Perhaps the most surprising discovery was at the bottom of the cage after the chrysalis had formed. There I found the caterpillar's head! I was astonished. How does an animal lose it's head and survive? The answer is that a nectar sipping butterfly does not need a heavy leaf gnawing head. It has to lose it in order to fly.

In the twelfth chapter of Romans the apostle Paul tells his readers not to be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. For a caterpillar being transformed means not just growing wings but getting rid of whatever would weight it down. Our transformation into the people God created us to be means identifying and casting off those things that keep us from soaring, even if it means losing our heads.

See you on Sunday,
Pastor Stuart

Deadline to submit news and information for the November/December issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Monday, 10/19/20.

PUMC SUPPERS

2020-2021

*New this year –
Take-out Suppers are coming to PUMC!*

Stay tuned to your email for more detailed information. Menu and list of dates coming after September 1st. Interested in helping out with this new take-out format for suppers? Please reach out to Donna Brown or the church office.



CHURCH MEETINGS

TRUSTEES meet in the Pastor's Study at 7:00pm on Mondays, September 14th and October 12th, via Zoom online.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets in the Pastor's Study at 7:15pm on Mondays, September 21st and October 19th, via Zoom online.



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 *Many thanks!*

Plainville United Methodist Church

16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA 02762

Phone 508-695-9587 Website www.plainvilleumc.net

Email plainvilleumc@verizon.net

Church office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 9:00am – 12Noon
and Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Rev. Stuart Tucker, Pastor

Peter J. Williams, Pianist Kathy Trowbridge, Church Secretary

LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY HISTORY

The Living Bread Food Pantry has been serving the town of Plainville for 35 years. The Jesus Fund was established in early 1985 to reach out to those in need in the name of Jesus. By October of 1985, Elna and Bob Fawcett set up a small closet in the Falk Room in the lower level of our church which became our food pantry. In time the closet was expanded to a larger closet. In 2005 Derreck Brown built the current, even larger pantry when he was working toward his Eagle Scout badge. Since then the pantry has grown even more and now uses all of the Falk Room. On Wednesdays, the room looks like a little grocery store with fruits, vegetables, breads, and desserts. Now due to the Pandemic, the Pantry is using the Falk Room plus Bowmar Hall and the entire parking lot for our drive through pantry. We seem to keep growing and working to fulfill our mission that "No one in Plainville will go hungry".



FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

With expansion comes the need for a lot of hard work to run the pantry. We have many volunteers that

faithfully help out weekly in order to keep the pantry running. Our jobs seem to have increased trying to keep up with the Pandemic guidelines. We currently are running a drive through pantry outside in the parking lot and hope to do this as long as we can. (Really hoping we have a mild fall and winter!) It is difficult to say when we will be able to bring the pantry back inside. Until then, our Wednesday morning team goes out to Walmart, Entenmann's, Panera Bread, Cumberland Farms and Trader Joe's to collect donated perishable foods. Instead of our little grocery store, where our clients would pick out which perishable foods they want, we now make up fifty bags of perishable foods to hand out. Wednesday evenings, another team of volunteers make up fifty bags of refrigerated items and another fifty bags of frozen meats. During Pantry, volunteers put all the bags in car trunks and also ask if clients would like extra items such as large cakes, vegetables, or toiletries. On Sundays, another group of volunteers make up about fifty bags of nonperishable items from the shelves of the food pantry. They also sort and date food that has been

donated. On top of that, they are all wearing masks, socially distancing and disinfecting while they work. The Pantry could not run without our faithful, hard working volunteers.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

FOOD NEEDS

We are currently in need of spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, canned fruit, packaged rice sides, boxed potatoes and toilet paper. There is a list of ideas for healthy food donations on the church website. You can drop off food anytime at the church in our new donation shed in the parking lot thanks to Adam Gousie who built it for his Eagle Scout badge. You could also drop off food with our secretary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon by using the Spring Street door. If you are shopping at Stop and Shop, you can drop off food in our green bin near the doors of the store.

MONETARY DONATIONS

If you would like to donate money, you can send a check to the "Living Bread Food Pantry" in care of the Plainville United Methodist Church at 16 East Bacon Street in Plainville, or drop off in our mail slot at the Spring Street door. You may also donate to the Pantry by using PayPal on our website at Plainvilleumc@verizon.net

STOP-N-SHOP in PLAINVILLE

In this time of uncertainty due to COVID19, supporting local non-profits has never been more important. As you make essential trips to the grocery store, you can purchase a \$2.50 re-usable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop store located at 109 Taunton Street, Plainville MA. During the month of September, Living Bread Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable *Community Bag* at the Stop & Shop store located in this **Plainville MA store only**. If you do pick one up, be sure to practice standard safety protocols. Just like you need to wash your hands regularly, always wash your reusable bags before and after use. If possible, bag your own groceries at check out when using a reusable bag. Thank you in advance for your support!

PANTRY DRIVE-THROUGH UPDATE

We continue to have a drive-through Pantry every Wednesday evening from 6:15 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. We plan to continue using this method as long as we can. We are currently serving approximately 45 families per week. Our clients are to keep their windows up and pop open their trunks so we can put food in. In order to talk to us, clients can roll the window down an inch. According to new state regulations, we cannot ask for ID's anymore, but we still request that new clients register with us by using a current bill or letter with their Plainville address on it.

FOOD SUPPLY

Currently, there are no plans for food drives. The Lion's Fall Festival was cancelled this year so we will not have a table there. I have not heard from the Boy Scouts if they plan to have a drive in November. So please keep the donations coming. We belong to the Greater Boston Food Bank where we can purchase food at a greatly reduced price. We order 1,500 pounds of food once a month.



Help is Needed the 2nd 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 12:30 pm. We have a hand truck and carts to help unload and get the boxes of food into the pantry. This takes us about an hour to unload. Feel free to bring a friend, teenager or neighbor with you to lend a hand. Please call Becca Simon at 508-643-1238 if you can lend a hand. Next Dates – September 9 & October 14.

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

If you would like to join us on Facebook, look for our group page at **Living Bread Food Pantry – Plainville MA.**



PayPal

PayPal is now available to use on our website for one-time donations to the Church such as for special projects or even to supplement the general budget. You may use PayPal to set up recurring donations to the church or for the Living Bread Food Pantry.

Please Note: PayPal is not for use for your regular weekly/monthly offerings or Tithes unless you have no other way to get them to us.

OUR ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE



The date for our Annual Charge Conference will fall sometime between October and December. The schedule and the forms are not yet ready. Forms are being updated and changed for clarity this year. As soon as the forms are ready, Kathy in the church office will notify you and

send the form(s) to you along with the deadline to turn it in by. The UMC is looking to know whether we are available during daytime hours to hold our Annual Charge Conference via Zoom. Please let Pastor Stuart know if you prefer daytime conference times.

We are in what's called the *Commonwealth West District*, with the Rev. Megan Stowe remaining as our District Superintendent. All Charge Conferences will be held via Zoom online this year.

Our own Annual Conference date will be set a week or more prior to the Charge Conference date. Notices will be emailed of these dates as soon as we know them. Chairmen and church leadership will be notified of any reports each person may have due. The reports are changing this year, so there may be something new to fill out.



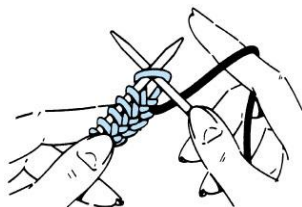


PRAYER LETTER MINISTRY

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.

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



2020

**Our Annual Spring
Yard and Bake Sale
has been postponed.**

***We hope to reschedule the
Sale sometime between
late 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 late 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.***

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 paying bills. We need your continued help to do this.

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

