

# The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

July - August 2025

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



## FROM OUR FORMER PASTOR...

### A Farewell Prayer

*Lord God, since its founding, this, your church, has had clergy come and go. But you and you alone have always been our Shepherd and our guide. Continue to make*

*its people strong in prayer and zealous to serve this community. Make them bold to proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ and may they go from strength to strength in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*As Pastor Ken begins his ministry here, I pray that he may be blessed as I have been blessed with open minds, willing hands, loving hearts and generous spirits.*

*Trusting that all things work to the good for those who love the Lord, guide us through this time of hope and expectation. May we honor the legacy of those who have gone before us and continue to grow in love, service and devotion to you. For we pray all of this in the name of our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Amen.*

Farewell My Friends,

*Pastor Stuart*

## JOIN US IN WORSHIP:

Beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>, worship on Sunday mornings will be held at our **new time – 8:45am** in the Air-Conditioned Sanctuary. Can't be here in person? You are welcome to join us in worship by FaceBook Livestream and on YouTube using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@pumcevents4624>.

Plainville United Methodist Church

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[www.plainvilleumc.net](http://www.plainvilleumc.net) [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net)

Phone: 508-695-9587

**Sunday Worship at 8:45am – All Welcome!**

*Rev. Ken Mantler, Pastor*

*Steve Haunschild, Pianist    Kathy Trowbridge – Secretary*

## FROM OUR NEW PASTOR...

I am excited to be your new pastor. I am sure you are curious about me as I am about all of you. I was born in Northampton, MA in 1979. I grew up in Easthampton, MA, attending church at Christ UMC in Northampton for my entire childhood. I am proud of my Western Mass heritage. As a lifelong United Methodist, I am deeply rooted in Wesleyan theology. After graduating from high school, I went to school to be an accountant. A mission trip to Nicaragua changed my relationship with the business world. So I decided to become a high school history teacher. During my time studying to be a teacher, I worked as a camp counselor at Wanakee United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center in Meredith, NH. After graduating with my accounting and history degrees (with a teacher certification) from UMASS@Amherst, I was asked to be the Program Director at Wanakee. At that point, I knew I was going to dedicate my life to ministry. I spent three summers as Program Director. I kept getting asked, why can't our worship be like it is at Wanakee? I kept sending young people back to churches and communities that did nothing to help their spirituality. This is the genesis of my call into ordained ministry. So I went to Boston University for my MDiv. In my last year at the seminary, I met my wife, Meghan, who was getting an MDiv/MSW dual degree. We have now been married for 13 years. We have two children, Micah (10) and Erin (7). Micah loves playing baseball and sports in general. Erin is mostly the opposite; she loves being an artist and is in rhythmic gymnastics. Last year, my wife became a priest in the Episcopal Church, where she serves at Nativity Episcopal Church in Northborough, MA. She also doesn't drive due to poor eyesight, hence why I am not living in/near your community. During my time as pastor, I have served Leyden (MA), Greenfield (MA), Bridgewater (MA), and Epworth in Worcester, MA. I love to cook, watch sports, and read (theology, history, and lots of other stuff). I can't wait to get to know you all in the coming months!



Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Ken Mantler*

**The Deadline to submit news and information  
for the September/October issue  
of The Parish Friend Newsletter  
is 12noon on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

## MEMBERSHIP

There are several members who are celebrating the following membership milestones this year:

75 years	Marilyn (Bowmar) Benker	1950
75 years	Les Negus	1950
65 years	Cheryl (Cate) Brederson	1960
65 years	Robert Kenerson	1960
60 years	Hope (Beyersdorfer) Bryant	1965
50 years	JoAnn Nelson	1975
50 years	John Nelson	1975
40 years	Larry Birkbeck	1985
40 years	Donna Brown	1985
40 years	Lisa (Haines) Golden	1985
40 years	Brett Robbins	1985
25 years	Jerry Haines	2000
25 years	John Simmons	2000
15 years	Abby Seaberg	2010
10 years	Brandon Hayward	2015
10 years	Robbie Hayward	2015
	Joan Hutson	2025
	Jane Mingo	2025
	Pat Rabinowitz	2025

Over the summer, I'll be reviewing the membership and friends list to note other milestones that will be occurring.

*Grace Simmons,*  
Membership Secretary

## CHURCH HISTORIAN

As church historian, history is being made and noted this summer as we say a fond farewell to Pastor Stuart Tucker and on July 6<sup>th</sup>, we will greet and welcome Pastor Ken Mantler, whom we will be sharing with South Walpole UMC.

Pastor Stuart has been with us for 8 years, from 2017 to June 30 2025.

During his time in Plainville, together, we weathered the COVID pandemic by holding our services outdoors in the church parking lot, and when we could return to the sanctuary for services again, hand-sanitizer stations were positioned at entry ways. The hand-sanitizer station at the Spring Street entrance has been dedicated to Pastor Stuart as an honor and reminder of his 8 years here at PUMC. A collation was held after Pastor Stuart's last church service here at PUMC on June 22, honoring Pastor Stuart and his wife, Rev. Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker.

We will be welcoming Pastor Ken Mantler on his first Sunday with us; July 6<sup>th</sup> **at 8:45am. *Please be sure to note our church services will begin as of July 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am.*** A welcoming gathering will be held at a later date.

Prayers for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Grace Simmons,*  
Local Church Historian



*Plainville United Methodist Church*  
*"The Church at the Heart of the Community*  
*with the Community at Heart".*

## CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

Thank you for your support for all of our Church Suppers all year! We will start up again in October. *See you then!*



## CHURCH MEETINGS CHURCH COUNCIL & TRUSTEES

Meet at 7:00pm in the Pastor's Office in the A/C on Mondays, July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Did you know...?

The Church can send your newsletter to you by email. No more misplaced paper copies! Reduce your recycling pile! The Emailed newsletter would always be available to you on your computer, laptop or tablet. If you'd like to receive the newsletter by Email instead of US Mail, please send us your Email address to [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net) and we will add you to the Email list. Thank You.



## 2025 Country Fair Friday - November 7<sup>th</sup> 11am to 7pm

Our annual **COUNTRY FAIR** will be held this November.

We need lots of volunteers to ensure the success of the Church's largest fund raiser. We need **YOU** in any way that you can contribute.

## FAIR MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Church.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

With everyone helping, there will be a Snack bar, Baked Goods, Antiques and Collectibles, Books, Gift baskets, Jewelry, Crafts and Hand-mades. Start working on those Fair donations now to help the Fair be as successful as possible. Making crafts is a fun summer project!

## NEW THIS YEAR:

We are hoping to add a "Holiday Shoppe" featuring home decor for various different holidays, Christmas items, small gifts, a variety of gift baskets to purchase, and other holiday/home gifts. Is there anyone willing to create something for this fun Shoppe? Summer is the perfect time to start creating!

## QUESTIONS OR TO LEND A HAND:

Please contact Jill (508-212-1421) or Nancy (508-479-8403) or leave a message on the answering machine at Church (508-695-9587) with any questions, comments, or to volunteer.

Thank-you!!

*Jill Seaberg & Nancy Richardson*





## FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

### FOOD DRIVES

Many thanks to the Plainville Post Office for their *Annual Stamp Out Hunger* Food Drive in May. It's only because of the strong and dedicated community support we receive on a regular ongoing basis, that we are able to continue to assist our neighbors living with food insecurity. **THANK YOU TO ALL PLAINVILLE RESIDENTS!**

### MONETARY DONATIONS

We send our heartfelt **THANKS** to the kind folks at Village Green Apartments, in Plainville, for their monetary donations to the Pantry in May and June. These donations will help us to keep our shelves stocked this summer and help feed the hungry in our area. We thank the Village Green residents for their continued and generous support!

Monetary donations may be sent to: The Living Bread Food Pantry, 16 E. Bacon St., Plainville, MA 02762. Please make checks payable to: *Living Bread Food Pantry*. You may also visit our website at [plainvilleumc.net](http://plainvilleumc.net) and look for the PayPal tab to donate there. Be sure to check the box for the Pantry.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP...

When gathering with family or friends for parties or cookouts this Summer, consider asking your guests to bring a non-perishable food to donate to the Pantry.

You may drop off non-perishable foods to the shed in our parking lot, anytime, 24/7/365. The shed is checked regularly and items brought inside daily.

We appreciate your kind and generous donations all year 'round helping us love and care for our neighbors in need, making Plainville the Hometown with the most Heart!

*The Church + Volunteers + Caring People like You = No one ever need go hungry in our area! **MANY THANKS!***

**SPECIAL PROJECTS** We're looking for Adult volunteers to help wash and clean the pantry – floors, doors, windows, curtains, and wash the refrigerators and freezers inside and out, periodically throughout the year. If interested in lending a hand with any of these projects, contact Bethany at 508 446 5414.

### CURRENT ITEMS IN NEED...

**We are seeking cans of Baked Beans (tall or short), Pasta (any type) and re-useable grocery bags with handles like the type you purchase from grocery stores.**

Non-perishable items and bags can be dropped off in the shed in the parking lot anytime, 24/7/365. The shed is checked and items are brought inside regularly. *Many Thanks!*

*Because of your year 'round generous donations, willingness to do God's work here, and because of all the care and love we provide together to our neighbors, we are and will continue to be the Church at the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart. We are grateful for all of you!*

With Many thanks,

*Bethany Cloutier*, Pantry Co-Coordinator

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

There are drop-off bins for non-perishable food and personal care items as well as household products located at the Plainville Public Library, Hatch Materials on Rt 1 in Plainville, Stop-n-Shop in Plainville, and the Plainville Historical Commission.

***\*Please remember...don't leave foods requiring refrigeration or freezing or any fresh produce in these bins.***

***\*Smaller sizes of foods and other items tend to work best.***