

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

September – October 2022

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

FROM THE PASTOR

In his book Accountable Discipleship David Lowes Watson reminds us that our heritage in early Methodist societies provides us with a model: the class meeting. It was a weekly gathering, at which members were required to give an account to one another of their discipleship. It was a means by which Methodist members could watch over one other in love. They were grounded in solid theological principles which could be readily grasped. They drank deeply from the well of the gospel at a time when there were many shallow ponds offering mere reflections of the Word.

It is high time we followed their example.

Pastor Stuart

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 it outside in front of the church. Not usually needed June – September. More than one person can volunteer. Please let Donna Brown or Susan Haines know if you are interested in helping with the sign. Feel free to call the Church office for more information.



CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

October 8, 2022 Pot Roast

November – Visit our Country Fair –
Fri, Nov. 4th from 11am – 7pm

December 10, 2022 Chicken Broccoli Alfredo

January 14, 2023 Lasagna

February 11, 2023 Ham with Homemade Mac-n-Cheese

March 11, 2023 Chicken Pot Pie

April 18, 2023 Swedish Meatballs

May 13, 2023 Oven Roasted Chicken



All Suppers include dessert. \$14.00 each
No Dine-in - Pick-up Curbside in the parking lot
between 4:30pm – 5:30pm

MUST pre-order by 12Noon the Thursday prior
to the supper date by calling 508-695-9587
or send an email to plainvilleumc@verizon.net

CHURCH MEETINGS

TRUSTEES meet at 7:00pm in the Cate Room on
Tuesdays, September 13th and October 11th

CHURCH COUNCIL meets in the Cate Room at 7:15pm
on Mondays, September 19th and October 17th.

CRAFT MEETINGS

Hi Folks! This year’s annual Church Fair will be held on
Friday, November 4th from 11 to 7pm. Clean-up will be
on Saturday, November 5th starting at 9am.

The Fair committee is losing our long time Co-chair, Becca Simon. We will miss Becca and Tom as they start their next adventure in California. They will be missed! Nancy Richardson has volunteered to step into the Co-chair role. The Fair needs **YOU**. Please volunteer to help with the success of the Annual Church Fair. Your time and hard work are definitely needed.

In the month of October we will have a freezer available at the Church for baked goods for the Church Fair. If you can bake for the Fair, that would be wonderful!

Please contact Nancy at 508 699 5649 or
richardson.william@comcast.net or
myself at 508 699 0591 or jbenkerseaberg@comcast.net
with any questions, comments, or to volunteer.

**The next Fair meeting will be announced.
All who wish to help are most Welcome!**

**The Deadline to submit news and information for
the Nov/Dec issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon
on Friday, 10/21/22.**

Plainville United Methodist Church
16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762
www.plainvilleumc.net plainvilleumc@verizon.net
Phone: 508-695-9587

Worship on Sundays at 9:00am

*Rev. Stuart Tucker, Pastor Steve Haunschild, Pianist
Kathy Trowbridge, Secretary*

OUR NEWSLETTER Our newsletter is available via email! If you wish to save paper, ink and postage and have the newsletter available to you on your computer, please let us know by sending us an email at plainvilleumc@verizon.net or call the Church office at 508-695-9587. Thank you.



PayPal

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

Please Remember: PayPal is **not** for use for your regular weekly/monthly offerings or Tithes.

SERVING YOUR CHURCH

At our Annual Charge Conference, (date to be announced once we hear from the District) we will be looking for folks to serve the church in several capacities. Positions available may include – Trustees; Staff, Parish Relations; Prayer Letter Stewards; Liturgists who read scripture during worship; Sunday morning Greeters and Counters, Fall/Spring outdoor clean up crew, Advent Candle lighters/Readers and so much more. If you are interested in serving your church in any way, please speak with Pastor Stuart or call the church office to be directed to someone informed about the area of service you're interested in.



FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Hello PUMC! I'm Sherri Minch, and along with Bethany Cloutier, I will be seeking to fill Becca Simon's very large shoes as co-coordinators of the Food Pantry. I know you all know and love Bethany, but most of you don't know me, so allow me to take a minute to introduce myself. My husband and I moved to Plainville with our two small boys 18 years ago; he's originally from the Albany area and I grew up in Southern California. We are active in Medway Community Church. I homeschooled both our boys from the very beginning, and I homeschooled our younger son

all the way to high school. He graduated last June (2021), and since then I have been looking to find out what God wants me to be when I grow up. And it seems like a big piece of that is becoming co-coordinator of the Food Pantry!

Before we get on with news, I want to first take a moment to thank Becca for her incredible service as coordinator of the Food Pantry for the last 24 years. I also want to appreciate Tom for all that he did to make it possible for Becca to invest so much in the Food Pantry. Under Becca's leadership, the Food Pantry has grown immensely. She filed all the paperwork to connect us with the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB); this gives us access to 1600 pounds a month of free or reduced-price food, as well as access to weekly donations from Walmart, Target, Stop and Shop, Trader Joe's, and Cumberland Farms. She has organized additional weekly donations from local businesses (including White Barn Farm, Panera, and Entenmann's) as well as annual food drives with the Boy Scouts and the Post Office. In addition to coordinating the assembly and distribution of weekly food bags for 40-60 households, she has overseen the provision of a huge number of other items through the food pantry, such as turkey baskets, gift cards, and special bags of non-food items for special occasions such as Mother's Day and Father's Day. Possibly most importantly, her kind and caring personality has recruited and retained an impressive set of more than 40 volunteers from a variety of churches who serve in a multitude of ongoing ways, everything from filing paperwork with the GBFB to recycling mountains of cardboard. Becca is absolutely irreplaceable, but Bethany and I hope to be able to keep what she has built running smoothly and effectively.

PANTRY DONATION UPDATES

Thank you for your ongoing generosity in donating items through the shed, and a special thank you to those of you who have dropped off fresh produce from your garden on Wednesday afternoons between 4:45pm and 5:15pm. Because of our relationship with the Greater Boston Food Bank, we are able to acquire many non-perishable items at free or reduced prices.

There are, however, some food items that are hard to get through the GBFB, and it would be great to have donations of any of the following:

- cereal and oatmeal (*normal size boxes are easier for us to distribute than "family" size boxes*)
- boxed potatoes
(*especially the scalloped or au gratin kind*)
- boxes or bags of *flavored* rice

...continued

Also, we are going to start offering a number of non-food items on a request basis, things such as bath soap, shampoo & hair conditioner, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, and shaving cream. These items are also not easy to get through GBFB, so any donations of these items would be greatly appreciated. Non-perishable and non-food items can be dropped off any time in the shed in the church parking lot or in the bin at the Plainville Stop and Shop. Thanks!

PANTRY VOLUNTEER UPDATES

I am so thankful for the fantastic team of volunteers that Becca has assembled. We have an amazing team that collects truckloads of store donations and sorts them every Wednesday morning from 8:15am to 10:15am, and weekly teams that assemble and distribute bags on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. We could use an extra driver with a pickup truck to help with picking up donations on Wednesday mornings. And we would be happy to have additional volunteers on our Wednesday evening teams; this is a commitment for just one Wednesday each month. There is also the opportunity to be part of the Sunday morning team that makes additional bags from 10am to 11am. Students 16 and older (or younger if accompanied by an adult) who need volunteer hours can help out on Wednesday nights making bags.

GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK (GBFB)

Lastly, we could **really** use additional help (especially the strong kind with good backs and knees) unloading our truck from the GBFB on the second Wednesday of each month. **The next delivery dates are Wednesdays, September 14th and October 12th.** We get 1600 pounds of food packaged in cases of 15-30 pounds, and it takes about 45 minutes to unload and put things away. Unfortunately, the arrival time varies somewhat between 11:00am and 12:30pm, and I can't text volunteers an exact time until about 10 minutes ahead of time. But we could really use extra hands (and hand trucks if you have them!!) to help with this process; many hands make light work.

If you would like to volunteer in any of these capacities, please leave a message with Kathy Trowbridge, at 508-695-9587, and I will connect with you.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

We are looking forward to being able to give out hamburger patties and hot dogs for Labor Day, as well as extra small bags with condiments and foil.

There is also a team at work already planning for our Thanksgiving turkey baskets.

THANK YOU!

I think that Becca's words of thanks from the last newsletter can't be improved on. So I am quoting her when I say, *"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 ever goes hungry."* And to that I want to add my deepest thanks and appreciation to Becca and Tom for all they have done for the Food Pantry and the residents of Plainville, and wish them all the best in this new season of their life!

Faithfully,
Sherri Minch, Co - Coordinator

LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY NEEDS LIST

Fall 2022

* Cold Cereal (*normal size boxes are easier for us to distribute than "family" size boxes*).

* Oatmeal

* Boxed Potatoes (*especially scalloped or au gratin*)

* Boxes or bags of **flavored** rice (Pilaf, etc)

These items (below) are not easy to get through GBFB, so any donations of these items would be greatly appreciated.

* Bars of Bath Soap

* Shampoo & Hair Conditioner

* Feminine Hygiene products

* Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

* Deodorant

* Shaving cream

Non-perishable and non-food items can be dropped off any time in the shed in the church parking lot or in the bin at the Plainville Stop and Shop.

Thanks for your generous and continued support!