

# The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

March - April 2023

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

## FROM THE PASTOR

Lent began this week with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Those of us who gathered received the sign of the cross on our foreheads and heard the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is how we begin our forty day journey to Easter, when we celebrate Christ's victory over death. This same week I noticed signs of new life. Our unusually warm winter has fooled my maple tree into blossoming and some of my bulbs have begun to sprout. I was reminded of the song, "Hymn of Promise," which is number 707 in our hymnal. Its lyrics include, "In the bulb there is a flower...In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be..."

There is more than a celebration of nature here, though. The hymn writer, Natalie Sleeth, wrote this hymn after her husband Don was diagnosed with terminal cancer. She wanted to make a statement of faith in the face of this fatal illness. So she wrote in the last verse, "In our end is our beginning; in our time infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; and at last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

*Pastor Stuart*



**The Deadline to submit news and information for the May/June issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Friday, 04/21/23.**

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*

*Steve Haunschild, Pianist    Kathy Trowbridge – Secretary*

## CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

March 11, 2023 Chicken Pot Pie

April 15, 2023 Swedish Meatballs

May 13, 2023 Oven Roasted  
Chicken



All Suppers include dessert. \$14.00 ea.

**No dine in – Take out only.** Pick up curbside in the church parking lot between 4:30-5:30pm.

**MUST pre-order** by 12Noon the Thursday prior to the supper date by calling 508 695 9587 or by email to [plainvilleumc@verizon.net](mailto:plainvilleumc@verizon.net)

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**CHURCH COUNCIL & TRUSTEES** meet at 7:15pm in the Cate Room on Mondays, March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR KICK-OFF

Hi Folks! It's time to start planning for our 2023 Annual Country Fair. The Fair is the largest fund raiser for our Church and we need everyone to help. We will have a kick-off meeting on **Monday, April 3rd at 7pm** in the Cate Room. Please join us for an "ideas and planning" session.

**All are welcome!**

Thank You!

Jill Seaberg & Nancy Richardson  
Fair Committee Co-Chairs

## PARISH NEWS

Dear Food Pantry,

I wanted to thank you so much for the assistance you have provided me this year. I appreciate the help and all your friendly faces on Wednesday nights are so nice.

Sincerely,  
D. T.



Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for your prayer letter. It is so comforting to know you are praying for us. The Prayer letter is such a wonderful idea to share God's love and support. God bless you all for thinking of us.

Thank you again,  
Terry Cardillo and Family.

**Spring Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, April 29, 2023**  
**8:00am – 2:00pm**



**SCOUT SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

February 12<sup>th</sup> is Scout Sunday and I have a few words I would like to share with you as the Chartered Organization Representative for PUMC.

The Scouting program sponsored by our Plainville United Methodist Church was more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provided fun, fellowship, and training to our youth as well as the youth in our community.

The Scouting program emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness. But the success of our Scouting programs depends on the volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that young people may benefit from the Scouting ministry. As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary this February, we salute and honor the dedicated volunteers who serve, and who have served, as Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Sea Scout Skippers and Venturing Advisors, and in many other important positions of leadership.

Today, on Scout Sunday, February 12, 2023, as the Chartered Organization Representative for PUMC, I am sad to announce that as of December 31, 2022, PUMC is no longer the Chartered Organization of a Boy Scouts of America Scout unit.

Cub Scout Pack 46 was a PUMC chartered unit for over 75 years until it dissolved in 2021, caused partially by the COVID pandemic and also by a lack of youth participation and lack of adult leadership.

Scout Troop 132, which PUMC has chartered since 2018, dissolved on December 31 2022, due, in large part to the lack of members and lack of adult leadership. Another factor, was the decision of the United Methodist Church to no longer charter a BSA unit, due to the recent legal action against the Boy Scouts of America organization. A new plan allows a United Methodist Church to enter into an affiliate sponsorship, which PUMC is no longer in a position to offer.

Plainville United Methodist Church was a proud sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 46, (also of Scout Troop 46 which disbanded in the 1950's) and Scout Troop 132 and was proud to have been a part of Scouting for such a long span of time. It is sad to have our affiliation with Scouting come to an end. BSA, Mayflower Council may look to start up a new Cub Scout Pack in the Spring, with a new sponsor.

So, on this Scout Sunday, please pray for the Scouting organization, as it continues to inspire boys and girls to become responsible adults and community leaders.

Thank you,  
Grace Simmons  
Chartered Organization Representative

**At the Plainville United Methodist Church**  
**16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA 02762**

Tired of being stuck inside due to winter weather and the pandemic? “Think Spring!” Why not clean out a room or closet and begin putting items aside for the Yard Sale. Please remember to set aside only new or “gently used” items for the sale. If you can help with the Sale, or have something to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

***DONATIONS – NEW & IMPORTANT UPDATE:***

Due to the expanded use of Bowmar Hall by the Food Pantry through Wednesday of the sale week, we are asking that you **hold on to your yard sale donations and don't drop them off at the church until Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> or Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll have someone there from 2 to 7 PM on those days to help with your donations. Please don't drop off items early.**

***Please Remember...*** No large furniture, clothing, computers, TV's, or other electronics.

***HOW YOU CAN HELP...*** Help is needed Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm (to set up tables and sort initial donations), as well as Thursday and Friday (April 27 & 28) from 2-7 to accept and sort new donations. We also need help to put up signs a week or so before the sale and to take them down immediately after the sale. Of course, ***Many hands*** are needed to cleanup following the sale.

Please contact Bethany Cloutier at 508-446-5414 to sign up to work during the week, on Sale day, or to help out in any way.

***MANY hands are needed*** to make this sale successful! Even if you only have just a little time to give –***We need Y-O-U!***

## **PUMC - The Church Building**

**130 years 1893 - 2023**

Our church building has been in existence for 130 years -- How the past 5 years have flown by since we celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018!

In October 2022 it was 130 years from the laying of the cornerstone and in June 2023 it will be 130 years since the first worship service was held in this "new" church building in 1892.

There was no organ, (although maybe there was a piano) until 1895 when an addition was made to the altar area to accommodate a large, new pipe organ, donated by Albert and Mary (Grandma) Burton. When the pipe organ was removed around 1960, Clayton Cate made a shadow box of some of the organ stops. His wife, Beatrice Falk Cate was organist and directed the choir here for many years. The shadow box can be seen mounted on the wall in the Cate Room.

The Cate Room was known originally as the Epworth League Room, with a wooden floor that creaked whenever you walked across it, (possibly trying to sneak in late to worship service). Folding wood panel doors, with frosted glass windows, separated the room from the sanctuary. The room was first remodeled with a gift from Clayton Cate's Aunt and Uncle and the room was dedicated in their honor. In about 2000, a second remodel was completed, when Dr. John Grenfell was minister here. The kitchenette and upstairs bathroom were added with a gift in memory of Amy Sabean. That generous gift also provided for adding the padding to the original pews, which were made of polished and curved oak wood, but with no padding. The 2 air conditioners were added during this time as well.

Thinking of this winter, and a couple of the below freezing days we had, it is hard to imagine attending a church service with little heat and dim lighting. There was probably a coal-fired furnace and gas lights. In reading Mary Burton's diaries from the early 1900's, there were days she felt it was too cold to attend church, and she only lived a block away, but had to walk, no matter what the weather was. We are thankful to have heat throughout the building, even if it is not as warm as we sometimes would like it. And electricity is such an unnoticed, taken-for-granted utility, until the power is out!

Many thanks to the Boards of Trustees, over the years, who have worked hard to keep our church updated and in good repair, and to the people who have enabled the improvements to be made.

Now – as this is the 130th anniversary year of PUMC, some people have expressed an interest to occasionally get together, and discuss some of the church's history and also share remembrances and stories held by members and friends. We could possibly meet once in a while, after church on a Sunday for a short time, maybe an hour or so, with "coffee and---" and enjoy our friendship and share our history together.

Submitted by,  
Grace Simmons,  
Local Church Historian

## **PUMC Membership**

The official list of members stands at 113, but our active church is much more than just numbers.

PUMC has a loyal and dedicated core of members and friends who step up and get the job done, in so many ways; volunteering in the Living Bread Food Pantry, serving on committees, preparing communion, handing out Sunday bulletins, ringing the church bell, preparing a take-out church supper, being a prayer letter steward, taking care of finances, working on the church fair, helping at a yard sale, or taking part in a church service, and in so many more ways. We are a vibrant church!!

We have lost some very active members and friends in the past few years, who contributed so much to PUMC. We remember them and try to follow in their footsteps. With a focus on the future, we boldly proclaim Christ to the world as we minister to those around us.

Submitted by,  
Grace Simmons,  
Membership Secretary



***Plainville United Methodist Church – The Church at the Heart of the Community with the Community at heart!***

## FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY



### A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

In January, Sherri Minch stepped down as co-coordinator of the pantry. She worked incredibly hard during her four months while she was here and

we thank her for her contributions. I am pleased to announce that Jerry Haines and I, along with all our dedicated volunteers, will make sure that the pantry runs just as smoothly as Becca left it.

**PLANNING AHEAD** The pantry handed out 50 toiletry bags for Valentine's Day. Easter is our next major holiday. We plan to give out gift cards (the amount has yet to be determined) to help clients buy a special meat for their holiday dinner and Easter candy. *Please feel free to donate some candy!*

The Greater Boston Food Bank is offering an improvement grant for which we plan to submit a request for three new refrigerators along with an electrical upgrade to accommodate those refrigerators.

Before she left, Sherri submitted a grant for gift cards from Gift Card Bank and our pantry was chosen to receive a generous amount. God is good!

**FOOD DRIVES** There are no Food Drives in the foreseeable future that we are aware of because the US Post Office partnered with the Plainville Scouts (now since disbanded) to collect food for the Pantry in May under their "Stamp Out Hunger" campaign. If your neighborhood, organization or workplace is interested in running a Food drive, please contact the Church office for more information.

### CURRENT ITEMS IN NEED...

In need at this time is – **Hearty Soups, Quick Bread Mixes and Brownie Mixes.**

**Also in great need: Hot & Cold Cereals, Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Marshmallow Fluff, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti O's - esp w/ Meatballs or Franks, Canned Ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, Canned Chili, Canned Beef or Chicken Stew, Pasta and Sauces including alfredo sauce.**

**GBFB FOOD DELIVERY** 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 food 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 call Bethany at 508-446-5414 or Jerry at 508 954 3274 if you can lend a hand. **Next Dates – March 8<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU!** Thanks so much for all your donations and support throughout the year. 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 as efficiently and smoothly as it does. We have a great *TEAM* here at the Living Bread Food Pantry – a mission of the Plainville United Methodist Church and *TOGETHER*, donors and volunteers, we are making sure that no one in Plainville ever goes hungry.

Faithfully,  
Bethany Cloutier, Pantry Co-Coordinator



**NEW – FLASHFOOD APP**

**SAVES YOU UP TO 50% ON EVERY PURCHASE MADE USING THE APP!**

***Save money and fight against Food waste!***

Want to save up to 50% on groceries? Here's how:

- Download the FlashFood app to your cellphone.
- Find store locations near you  
*(Stop-n-Shop in Plainville and No. Attleboro are listed as a participant!)*
- Choose your discounted food items from the app
- Pay right in the app using any major Credit Card, or VISA debit card.
- Then, pick up your FlashFood order at the grocery store. Head to the store, grab your food items from the FlashFood zone and quickly confirm your order with the customer service desk.
- Finally, enjoy good food, a great deal and the good deed – you just saved some food from the landfill!

The selection of foods changes daily if not more frequently based upon what is available when you are shopping thru the app. This program is **only** available through an app you download to your cell phone.

**NOTE - Not available in-store.**

All foods chosen by the stores for FlashFood app purchases are **\*nearing\*** their expiration dates, but are **still good** to eat. Give it a try and let us know how it works out!



**Spring Food Collection –2023**  
**The Living Bread Food Pantry**  
A Mission of the Plainville United Methodist Church  
16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA

*Items we are in greater need of right now are highlighted in **BOLD**.*

**\*ESPECIALLY SEEKING:** Quick Breads, Brownie mixes, and Hearty Soups *especially with Beans.*

**BREAKFAST ITEMS** Hot & Cold Cereals – esp low or no sugar added. Breakfast Bars, Cereal Bars, Granola Bars, **Carnation Instant Breakfast (packets), protein shakes.**

**LUNCH ITEMS** Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Marshmallow Fluff, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti O's - esp w/ Meatballs or Franks, Canned Ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, Canned Chili, Beef/Chicken Stew, Hearty Soups especially with Beans.

**BEVERAGES** Canned Coffee, **Non-refrigerated Juices – family sz bottles and individual juice boxes. Non-refrigerated Parmalat Milk (in the canned milk aisle) family sz cartons and individual “juice box” sizes – White or Chocolate.**

**FRUIT - all packed in 100% Juice** Individual Fruit cups, Canned fruit, Applesauce (including No-Sugar added) – jars and individual cups. Dried Fruits and Real Fruit Leathers.

**CONDIMENTS** Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup, Relish, Olives, Pickles, BBQ Sauce, Teryaki Sauce. Salad Dressings – especially Ranch and Italian.

**SNACKS** Graham Crackers, All varieties of Crackers in boxes or individually packaged. Healthy Fruit Snacks & Trail mixes, dried fruits and nuts. Pudding Mixes and individual cups (*non-refrigerated*), Jello Mixes and individual cups (*non-refrigerated*). Individually bagged, and Family Sized = Chips, Pretzels, Popcorn, etc.

**SUPPER ITEMS** **Boxed Mac-n-Cheese, Hamburger Helper** (for Ground Beef, Chicken or Tuna), **Pasta and Sauces including alfredo sauce**, Pasta Salad Kits, **Baked Beans**, Sloppy Joe Sauce, Taco Kits, **Boxed Instant Potatoes & Mixes (Mashed, Cheesy, Scalloped, etc)**, **Rice – sm bx or pouches of white/brown. Rice mixes such as: Pilaf, Spanish, etc., Canned Veggies – all types.**

**ALL 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.

**MONETARY DONATIONS** are greatly appreciated to help us buy food from the Greater Boston Food Bank at pennies on the dollar, stretching your donations.

**Make Checks payable to: LB Food Pantry**

**Mail to:** PUMC, 16 E. Bacon St., Plainville, MA 02762, ATTENTION: *LB Food Pantry.*

**Or drop off:** to the Spring Street door on M & W 9am – 12noon and FRI 9am – 1pm.

*The Living Bread Food Pantry helps to feed over 50 families every week, year 'round.*

*Your support is strongly needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community.*