

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

September – October 2021

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian who lost his life opposing the Nazis.

He wrote, *“It is not we who build. He wills to build the church. No one builds the church but Christ alone....We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. It may be that the times which by human standards are times of collapse are for him the great times of building. It may be that the times which from a human point of view are great times for the church are times when it is pulled down. It is a great comfort which Christ gives to his church: you confess, preach, bear witness to me, and I alone will build where it pleases me...Church, stay a church! But confess, confess, confess, confess! Christ alone is our Lord, from his grace alone can you live as you are. Christ builds. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against you.”* From No Rusty Swords.

Pastor Stuart



OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATES

Saturday, October 16th
10:15am Our SPRC meets with the DS Today/Cate Room or Zoom

Tuesday, October 19th
7:00pm ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Most likely via Zoom. More information will be announced in church and via email as the date approaches.

The Deadline to submit news and information for the November/December issue of *The Parish Friend* is 12noon on Monday, 10/18/21.

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
Kathy Trowbridge – Secretary

CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

October 9, 2021 Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo

November – *No Supper* – Visit our Fair on Nov 5th from 12noon – 7pm for our famous Clam Cakes & Chowder!

December – *No Supper*

January 8, 2022 Chicken Pot Pie

February 12, 2022 Baked Ham w/ Homemade Mac-n-Cheese

March 12, 2022 Lasagna

April 9, 2022 Swedish Meatballs

May 14, 2022 Oven Roasted Chicken

All Suppers include dessert. \$12.00 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 508 699 7168 or send an email to plainvilleumc@verizon.net



CHURCH MEETINGS

TRUSTEES meet at 7:00pm in the Cate Room on Tuesdays, September 14th and October 12th.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets in the Cate Room at 7:00pm on Mondays, September 20th and October 18th.

PRAYER LETTER MINISTRY We are seeking a few more folks to be Prayer Letter Stewards. If interested, please see Grace Simmons or Susan Haines and shadow them for a Sunday or two. Please contact the Church Office if you volunteer to serve in this ministry so we can add you to the rotating, monthly schedule.

GREETERS & COUNTERS We are seeking a few more volunteers to greet folks as they enter worship on Sunday mornings. This would include saying “good morning!”, handing out bulletins and collecting the morning’s offerings. Training is available – simply shadow anyone serving in this position any Sunday morning. Please contact the Church Office if you volunteer to serve in this ministry so we can add you to the rotating schedule. The goal is to have 6 to 8 more volunteers so that everyone serves only once every other month. We need you! **COUNTERS** – this position is a bit more

involved. Please speak with Tom Simon or Susan Haines if you're interested in serving in this capacity.



**2021
FALL YARD SALE**
Saturday, September 25th
8am – 2pm
**SAVE THE DATE AND YOUR
"GENTLY USED" STUFF!**

We are planning our first FALL FLING Yard Sale for Saturday, September 25th from 8 am to 2 pm (dependent only on potential COVID restrictions). This yard sale will partially make up for the smaller church fair planned for later this year which will not have an "Attic" of used items or a Book table.

We will have plenty of seasonal Halloween costumes for sale but could certainly use donations of your gently used items. **Please remember:** No clothing, TV's, computers, printers, or large furniture. Due to the continued use of the Bowmar Hall by the Food Pantry, we are asking that your yard sale donations be dropped off at the church only during regular church office hours that week (M & W 9am – 11:30am), or between noon and 7 p.m. on Thursday September 23rd or Friday September 24th. If you can help out the day of the yard sale (even for an hour or two) or with sorting/pricing donations on the 23rd or 24th, please contact Tom Simon at 508-643-1238 or send an email to rymsimon@comcast.net.

**ANNUAL COUNTRY
FAIR**

**Friday November 5th
from 12 to 7pm**

Hi Folks! A slightly scaled back version is being

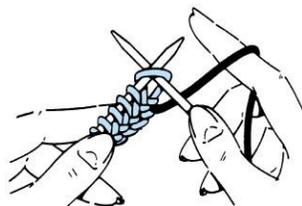
planned for this year's Annual Church Country Fair. We are excited to see everyone and continue our annual tradition. There will be the usual items such as Jewelry, Food, Handmades & Silent Auction. (Please continue to be making items at home to sell at the Fair).

There will **not** be any books or yard sale items as they will be sold at a Church Yard Sale in early Fall – see Yard Sale ad above.

Please help us continue this over 100 year tradition by volunteering your time, talents and support.

Feel free to contact Becca Simon or Jill Seaberg for further information.

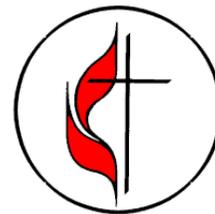
Jill Benker-Seaberg,
Annual Country Fair Co-Chairman



**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 in front of the church. Not usually needed June –

September. More than one person can volunteer. If we had enough volunteers, each may only need to do this 1-2 times a year. Please let Becca Simon know if you are interested in helping with the sign. Please call Becca at 508-643-1238.



**Annual Conference
Highlights:**

The meeting of the New England Annual Conference took place via Zoom June 10, 11 and 12. In began with Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's episcopal address where he encouraged us to "move forward together in a future filled with hope as we build our beloved community in new and exciting ways." He called on laity and clergy to read ["Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to do About It"](#) by Brian D. McLaren. There will be an online discussion series on the book beginning **September 13, 2021**. **Please let Pastor Stuart know if you will read the book and want to participate in the Zoom discussion.**

**The Greater Boston
FOOD
BANK**



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

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 12:30pm. We have dolly carts to help unload and get the foods 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 send an email to the church at plainvilleumc@verizon.net if you can lend a hand.

Next Dates – September 8th and October 13th. Together, with your help, we **DO** make a difference!

We are “the church at the heart of the community with the community at heart.” **THANK YOU**

FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY



PANTRY UPDATES

The Plainville Athletic League fundraiser for the Living Bread Food Pantry was a great success. Our young Plainville athletes and their families raised \$16,500 for the Pantry. To date, this is

the largest donation we have ever received! Many thanks to Andy Ferreira for all his hard work organizing this fundraiser. Also, many thanks to P.A.L. for their support to the Pantry over the years. We are very thankful for their donation and plan to buy a new, large freezer to help keep frozen meats. P.A.L. has also raised a lot of money for the Malia Jusczyk Foundation. It has been nice to see the hearts all over Plainville (both red and gold). The red hearts are for the Living Bread Food Pantry and the gold M. J. hearts are for Malia Jusczyk, a 12-year-old Plainville student who is fighting cancer for the second time. Our pantry volunteers continue to work making bags full of perishable and nonperishable foods, dating food that has been donated, and handing out food to our patrons in need. We are continuing to hand out the food using our drive-through method in our parking lot and two drive-through windows where we hand out the bags of food. We plan to continue this method through the fall and pray the weather cooperates. We thankfully are receiving help from the Horace Mann Education Association weekly on Tuesday afternoons. Gary Espenhain, a teacher from H.M.E.A., brings two to three high functioning students to help us date, separate and store our donations. It has been wonderful getting to know the students, and they have been such a great help with organizing our food donations. The Pantry is planning ahead to Thanksgiving and our annual day of handing out turkeys and the fixings. Volunteer Tom Lamonte has handled this with Kathy Parker for many years. However, Tom is retiring and moving away from Plainville. We have added Renee Wassersug to our team to help make our Turkey day a continued success.

OUR WORK CONTINUES

In order to continue our work of feeding all who need food in Plainville, we consistently need donations of food. A list of foods to donate is on the church website under “Food Pantry” Please continue to donate during the upcoming months when most donations drop off significantly. It is very easy to donate now by placing your items into our donation shed located in the parking lot near the back door of the church. You can drop off your

non-perishable foods anytime by driving (or walking) into the parking lot when it’s convenient for you. We check the shed frequently and remove donations regularly. You may also donate non-perishable food by using the green bin located at the Plainville Stop & Shop. Frequently Stop & Shop will have items at the end of the register which can be purchased for donation into the bin.

FOR MONETARY OR GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Our Church Secretary is in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Please use the Spring Street door which is closest to the office when making a monetary or Gift Card donation. If you would like to mail a check, please write it out to “Living Bread Food Pantry” and send it to the Plainville United Methodist Church, 16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762. The Pantry has a PayPal Account on the church website at www.PlainvilleUMC.net. If you have any questions regarding the Pantry, feel free to call the church office at 508-695-9587.

CURRENT ITEMS WE ARE IN NEED OF ARE...

Non-perishable foods such as Spaghetti-o’s, beans, hearty soups, spaghetti sauce, coffee, canned vegetables, canned fruit (in 100% juice) and healthy snacks.

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.

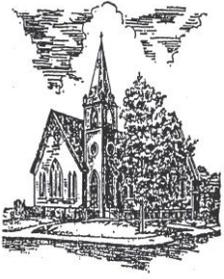
HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Please bring in extra vegetables from your garden or if you find a great sale in the stores.

****PLEASE NOTE** - We can only accept perishable foods on Wednesdays – between 8am – 10:30am is preferred, however, our Church Secretary is in the office until 12 Noon and pantry volunteers are back in the pantry around 4:30pm on Wednesdays. Please don’t leave fresh produce, anything requiring refrigeration or freezing, in the Pantry shed out in the parking lot.

THANK YOU!

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.



Faithfully,
Becca Simon, Pantry Coordinator
**FROM OUR CHURCH
HISTORIAN...**

From the History files: Over 30 Years ago - Plainville United Methodist Church and the Trinity United Methodist Church in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

PUMC's outreach mission to the Trinity UMC in Monrovia, Liberia began in the late 1980's when Rev. David Hill was our minister. At that time, District Superintendent, Rev. Bob Sweet, had visited Africa and wanted churches in his district to "adopt" churches there. Contact was made with Rev. John S. Bestman, Pastor, at Trinity UMC and a relationship began.

In the Fall of 1989, Rev. Bestman travelled to the U.S. and visited Plainville on his way to visit his daughter in Michigan. Rev. Bestman stayed in Plainville about a month. Rev. David and Nancy Hill graciously provided meals and lodging at the parsonage for him, while he was here. The Hills and some church members took Rev. Bestman to visit Trinity UMC in Providence RI and to visit Somerset UMC in Somerset MA, where he was acquainted with the minister. Bob and Elna Fawcett took him on a tour of Plymouth MA with a visit to the Mayflower and The Forefathers Monument; and they also made a trip to North Conway NH. Nancy Hill and Rev. Bestman went shopping one day and he was awed and amazed at the choices available in our grocery stores. In Liberia, he said, there was only one choice and only of limited items!

On his last night in Plainville, PUMC held a farewell supper, at which Rev. Bestman thanked the people for being so nice to him, and he thanked Nancy Hill for the fine "pineapple soup", meaning the sweet and sour pork she had prepared. A letter dated December 12, 1989, expressing his many thanks and appreciation for his stay in Plainville, stated that he had arrived home safely on the 6th of December.

There were many phone calls and letters from Rev. Bestman, asking PUMC for prayers and financial and moral assistance for his church in Liberia; many calls coming in the middle of the night, due to the time difference. In a letter dated January 18, 1990, Rev. Bestman made an appeal to PUMC to "kindly assist the kids with only \$100 to receive their report cards for the ended academic year." As noted in a PUMC Annual Charge Conference Booklet, the PUMC Sunday School children held a plant sale and raised \$190 for scholarships for the children of Trinity UMC. On January 5, 1990, Rev.

Bestman acknowledged the safe receipt of things from PUMC. He said he also shared some things with a little church in Garnersville, Liberia. We had sent choir robes and supplies which Sue and Jerry Haines had driven to Baltimore MD for shipping.

The first letters from Rev. Bestman always praised God, while also expressing a need for prayers and financial assistance. A letter, written to the Fawcetts, dated September 26, 1991 and hand-written (not typed) was more desperate. Liberia had been torn by a Civil War led by rebels. Rev. Bestman describes the horror of the time, and how he and his family had to flee from Monrovia to a nearby town. He said many people were killed and many died of hunger and sickness, and most of the Trinity members had fled to neighboring countries. He wrote "We were beaten, jailed for about 3 days for leaving the rebel lines for Monrovia. By God's grace we were released by Rebel Leader Mr. Charles Taylor. Praise the Lord!" Rev. Bestman pleaded for support for his family (clothing, finance, etc.), for everything they owned had been destroyed by the rebels and even burned down. On October 24, 1991, PUMC voted to send clothing and supplies to Rev. Bestman and Trinity UMC. A box was filled and again, Sue and Jerry Haines delivered the box to Baltimore MD to be shipped overseas to Monrovia, Liberia. In 1992, PUMC voted to take \$535 from its budget and send the money to Trinity for scholarships. Money had to be sent in the form of a wire transfer. Rev. David Hill retired in 1997, and in 1998, Trinity UMC was still listed as a budget line item as one of our mission projects. At that time, it was suggested and approved to have the project posted as an Advance Directive on the New England Conference initiative calendar.

I am researching further to see if there was any other contact with Rev. Bestman. The Civil War in Liberia raged from 1989 to 1997.

(Information taken from talks with Rev. David Hill and Sue and Jerry Haines, 3 letters to the Fawcetts and PUMC Annual Charge Conference Booklets).



Photo: Rev. Bestman and Bob Fawcett in 1989 when Rev. Bestman visited Plainville, MA.

Faithfully submitted by,
Grace Simmons,
Local PUMC Church Historian

Fall & Winter Food Collection -2021
To benefit The Living Bread Food Pantry
16 East Bacon Street Plainville, MA

Suggested Items to donate include:

BREAKFAST ITEMS

Breakfast Bars, Cereal Bars, Granola Bars, Carnation Instant Breakfast (packets), Ensure or Glucerna Shakes. **Hot Cereals** such as Oatmeal - flavored Packets, including "LOW SUGAR", Cans of Plain oats and Cream of Wheat are needed. *(We have a good supply of cold cereals for now).*

LUNCH ITEMS

Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Marshmallow Fluff, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti O's, Canned Ravioli and Beef-a-Roni, Chili, Hearty Soups especially with Beans.

BEVERAGES

Canned Coffee, Lemonade Mix (powdered), Iced Tea Mix : non- sweetened, sweetened and sugar-free. Kool Aid drink mix: non- sweetened and sweetened. 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 – jars and individual cups.

CONDIMENTS

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

SNACKS

Little Debbie's Snacks, Graham Crackers, Cookies, Microwave popcorn, Cheeze-It Crackers, Ritz Crackers, Wheat Thins, Triscuits, Goldfish Crackers, etc., Healthy Fruit Snacks & Trail mixes. Individually bagged, and Family Sized = Chips, Pretzels, Popcorn, etc., Pudding Mixes and individual cups (*non-refrigerated*), Jello Mixes and individual cups (*non-refrigerated*).

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 (Cheesy, Scalloped, etc), Rice – white/brown, Rice mixes such as: Rice Pilaf, Zatterain's mixes, Uncle Ben's mixes, etc.

***FRESH FRUITS & VEGGIES** - Fresh fruits and vegetables from your gardens (*or if you find a great sale at the stores!*) are most welcome. Fresh produce is always in great need and is the most difficult to obtain. ***Please aim to drop off Fresh produce on Wednesdays (only)– between 8:30am – 10am, or after 4:30pm, if possible.**

*The Living Bread Food Pantry helps to feed over 60 families every week, year 'round.
Your support is strongly needed and greatly appreciated.
Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community !*