

The Parish Friend

A Newsletter of the Plainville United Methodist Church

November – December 2025

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



FROM THE PASTOR...

November is a season of gratitude. The trees shed their leaves, families gather around tables, and we pause to give thanks for all that God has given us. In the church, November is also a time to reflect on stewardship—how we respond

to God’s generosity with generosity of our own. Stewardship isn’t just about budgets or pledges. It’s about discipleship. It’s about how we live our faith every day, how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us—our time, our talents, our treasures—to participate in God’s ongoing mission of love and renewal in the world.

This year’s stewardship theme, *“All In — Our Gifts, God’s Mission,”* invites us to remember that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. When we give, we are not just funding programs; we are fueling ministry. We are helping children learn about God’s love, providing meals for those who are hungry, visiting the sick, comforting the grieving, and supporting global missions that extend Christ’s compassion far beyond our doors.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that “God loves a cheerful giver.” Cheerful giving doesn’t come from guilt or obligation—it comes from gratitude. When we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, giving becomes an act of joy and worship. As you pray about your commitment for the coming year, I encourage you to think of stewardship as an opportunity to say *thank you* to God. Every gift, large or small, helps us live out our calling as a church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Together, let’s be *all in*—in our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. When we join our gifts with God’s mission, amazing things happen.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Ken

CHURCH SUPPERS TO-GO

November 7th Annual Country Fair:
Come for our Famous Clam Cakes &
Chowder for lunch or supper during
the Fair!

January 10, 2026 Rotisserie Chicken
February 14, 2026 Stuffed Shells
March 14, 2026 Ham with Mac – n - Cheese
April 11, 2026 Meatloaf
May 9, 2026 Oven Roasted Chicken
\$15.00 each.

Must reserve your meal(s) on or before 12noon on the Thursday, prior to each meal, by calling the church office at 508 695 9587 or send an email to plainvilleumc@verizon.net.



**ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE
REPORTS for 2025 ARE DUE TO THE
DS and to the CHURCH OFFICE
on or before Nov 14th.**



**CHURCH MEETINGS
CHURCH COUNCIL & TRUSTEES**
Meet at 7:00pm in the Cate Room on Wednesdays, Nov 12th and Dec 10th.

Plainville United Methodist Church
16 East Bacon Street, Plainville, MA 02762
www.plainvilleumc.net plainvilleumc@verizon.net
Phone: 508-695-9587
Sunday Worship at 8:45am – All Welcome!
Rev. Ken Mantler, Pastor
Steve Haunschild, Pianist Kathy Trowbridge – Secretary

**The Deadline to submit news and information
for the January/February issue
of The Parish Friend Newsletter
is 12noon on Monday, December 15, 2025.**

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 and we will add you to the Email list. Thank You.



Clean-up will be on Saturday, November 8th starting at 9 am.

Please contact Jill or Nancy or leave a message on the answer box at Church (508-695-9587) with any questions, comments, or to volunteer. Thank-you!!

Sincerely, Jill Seaberg & Nancy Richardson

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



**2025 Country Fair
Friday - November 7th
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.

Hi Folks! Our annual Church **COUNTRY FAIR** will be held on Friday, November 7th, from 11 am to 7pm.

The Country Fair will feature a Gift Shoppe, a Christmas Corner, lots of Jewelry, beautiful Hand-mades, Books and Puzzles, Antiques and Collectables, best in town Baked Goods and of course our Famous Snack Bar featuring Clam Cakes and Chowder! Please join in, volunteer, shop, donate!

Please bring your donations to the Church on Thursday November 6th if possible. Your donations will greatly contribute to the Fair's success.

Set-up for the Fair will begin on Sunday November 2nd after Church and finish the remaining areas on Wednesday night November 5th after Food Pantry around 7pm. Please Help!



A NOTE OF THANKS...

Plainville United Methodist Church

has some amazing volunteers, who dedicate much time and energy into keeping our church running and active. I would like to give a "shout out" and thanks to PUMC's many unsung heroes and the many workers without whose generous help nothing would go forward.

Today I'm writing about one of those heroes: Council Chair, Eileen Newell. Just a few words on what she does -

Eileen has been involved and active at PUMC since her family moved to Plainville when she was in the second grade. Active in Sunday School and the Junior Choir, and moving on to the adult choir, in years past.

Eileen thanks helpers every week ---I'm giving heartfelt thanks to her for all she does for the church and us.

...continued

She is not only Chair of the Church Council, and has been for many years, but in addition to Eileen arriving early each Sunday to set up the tablet for video streaming of the morning service, she sees that the candles are lit and changes the altar cloths to the correct colors for the appropriate Sundays and seasons. On Communion Sundays, she prepares the communion vessels with the bread and "wine". She also keeps the list of Sunday service readers up to date.

Then, after the service, many times, she sees that the candles are off, the lights are off and the doors are securely fastened and locked and the heat in the Cate Room is lowered. Most Sundays she is a counter and records and banks the offerings. Eileen also then uploads the recorded service to Facebook Live and YouTube.

Eileen collects the money for the church suppers, for the Baked Goods tables at the church Country Fair and for the Yard Sale.

Thank you, Eileen, and God Bless.

Submitted by,

Grace Simmons, Membership Secretary

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE REMINDER...

**Our Annual Charge Conference is set for
Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00pm
at the So. Walpole UM Church,
1886 Washington St., So. Walpole, MA.**

Please begin to think about what you might like to help with for the upcoming year.

Where can you Help?

There are many relatively small functions that are done to keep our church running. We could use people for as little as 1 hour per month up to whatever you would like to offer. All of these 'positions' are voluntary and the more people who are willing to pitch in, the smaller the tasks may seem. Some of the positions are currently covered (at least until the next charge conference). But for information, the items/positions we have are:

- 1) Read Scriptures during the Sunday Service (You can sign up to do this once per month, or every-other month, or just as a fill-in).

The schedule can be arranged to accommodate any volunteers.

- 2) Prepare and send Prayer Letters – This is generally scheduled for a volunteer to do a month of Sundays at a time. It's not a lot of work and can easily be taught to anyone who would like to help out. It basically entails layout out the prayer letters Sunday morning then addressing and mailing them when you have time after church.
- 3) Facebook maintenance - Set up the Tablet and set-up the "Facebook Live" post during Church Services. Create/Maintain Facebook Events for special happenings ie: Suppers, fairs, special services.
- 4) Greeter - hand out bulletins, take count of attendees
- 5) Open - verify that sanctuary lights, A/C, & sound system are on when needed, windows open, fans on for the start of the Service.
- 6) Close - verify that sanctuary lights, A/C, & sound system are off, windows closed, etc when the Service is over.
- 7) Counters – Count, record and deposit weekly tithes and offerings
- 8) Communion Steward – prepare the communion cups & plate of bread before the service, wash and store after the service.
- 9) Communion Server – Assist Pastor in serving Communion.
- 10) Fair/Yard Sale – If/When these are held, lots of people are needed, we accept anyone's help for a couple of hours or the whole time of the event. Also additional help needed for set-up and clean up. (Again, the more people willing to help, the smaller each task can seem)

11) Suppers – Do you have a “signature meal”? Would you like/be able to cook for 40 or so? We have 8 or 9 Suppers in a standard year, each supper is “Planned” by a different cook/planner. Other than the main cook/planner, other help is needed for each supper serving out the food into the take-out containers or providing a dessert.

12) Visitation Committee - Take some time to go and visit church members or friends who are in a hospital or shut-in.

13) WebMaster/ PC Support – Maintain our webpage and supply other PC Support as needed.

Other Functions to consider: committees or positions are presented at our Annual Charge Conference and voted for the next year/term(s). Each committee should have 3 or more members and members are elected/appointed or approved each year at the Annual Charge Conference for the next year beginning that January.

14) Membership Committee – Keeps track of number of church members, records births, Baptisms, Confirmations, Deaths and transfers

15) Financial Secretary – Orders the envelopes, Keeps track of the giving and supplies statements quarterly.

16) Local Church Historian

17) SPPRC (Staff Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee) – Committee “in charge” of the church paid-staff Musician, Secretary, Pastor

18) Trustees – This committee is in charge of church property. Planning for and overseeing that needed maintenance is done.

19) Lay-Member-to Conference – A member from our congregation who will attend the Regional “Annual Conference” and

represent our church voting on the articles brought up, etc and reporting back to the church.

20) Food Pantry/Jesus Fund – The Jesus Fund was established so that the church is able to help community members in need. The Food Pantry is an extension of the Jesus Fund. There is help needed each week verifying the expiration dates on donated foods and helping to put food away as well as making up bags for distribution.

21) The Church Council (or Administrative Council) is made up of the chairperson or representative of each of the committees. They meet once per month and verify and approve any expenses and assure that the work of the church is running as smoothly as possible. There are 3 Council positions other than committee heads that are elected or appointed each year: The Chair of this council, Church Treasurer, Council Secretary.

- Chair of this council – Runs the monthly meetings to keep prosecco flowing
- Church Treasurer – Maintains all bank accounts, pays any bills including payroll and associated taxing. Reports balances to the committee quarterly.
- Council Secretary – Records the “minutes” of the meetings, sends the report to the Church Secretary for the archives where they are kept after the approval the following month.



*“The Church at the Heart
of the Community
with the Community
at Heart!”*



FROM THE LIVING BREAD FOOD PANTRY

FOOD DRIVES

Many thanks to the Plainville Public Schools for their planned food drives throughout the

upcoming school year. 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.

Especially now, we want to **THANK YOU - ALL PLAINVILLE RESIDENTS and ALL DONORS!**

MONETARY DONATIONS

We send our heartfelt **THANKS** to all the kind folks who regularly send us monetary donations for the Pantry all year. These donations help us to keep our shelves stocked and help feed the hungry in our area. We thank you all for your 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 and look for the PayPal tab to donate there. Be sure to check the box on the site for the Pantry.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

It saddens us to report the due to the Federal Government shut-down, the SNAP Benefits Program (formerly known as Food Stamps and WIC) has also been shut down. We do not know when or if this program will resume. We are seeing a huge increase in the number of seniors, singles and families with young children turning to the Pantry for assistance during this very uncertain time. We do not know how long this will continue, nor how large the increase for the need for food will grow. **WE NEED** the support of our amazing community to rally around and collect non-perishable foods, and send in monetary donations to help keep our shelves stocked in an effort to meet this very high demand we are now facing. The Holidays are just around the corner, and we are certain the need will not decrease before then. Can we count on your always generous support? Please shop the sales at your local markets, run a food drive in your neighborhood or at your place of work, and collect for our neighbors in need. Your support, no matter the size, is greatly

needed and so very much appreciated. Only by working together can we help our friends, family and neighbors make it through these trying times. Thank you for your continued and generous support!

When gathering with family or friends, any time throughout the year, please 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...

The Holidays are coming quickly. We are seeking cans of Yams – large and small and re-useable grocery bags with handles like the type you purchase from grocery stores. Other items we are always in need of: Cold and Hot Cereal, Hearty Soups with meat and beans, Beef or Chicken Stew, Canned Pastas with Meat (think Beef Ravioli, Spaghetti with Meatballs), Canned Tuna or Chicken. Also seeking warm Winter Hats and Gloves for Adults (mostly) and some for Children.

Re-useable 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!*

We pray for you and your families, that you may have all you need. We are thankful for your continued generous donations, so that we may continue to help, care and love our neighbors. Only by working together, 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, as well as the Donation Shed in our parking lot.

***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.**