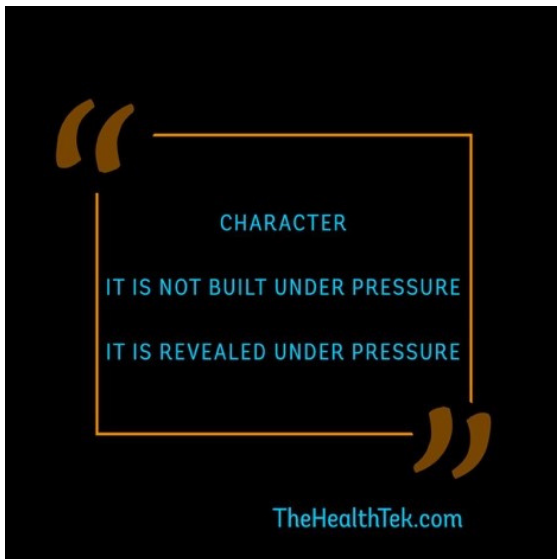


it's not what's
under the tree
that matters.
It's who's gathered
around it.

Words of Wisdom



Here we are hurtling into December of 2020. Whether you are a child or a seasoned octogenarian, this past year is one we will never forget. The year began as so many others with hopes, dreams and possibilities. It wasn't very far into the year when the word "pandemic" started being bandied about. Before we knew it the world around us was shutting down evoking fear, anxiety, and uncertainty everywhere we looked. And let's face it, we are not good at not knowing what comes next in life. Covid became more real to us as the numbers rose and people died. Very slowly we learned new information about this frightening virus, enough to be careful but not enough to feel like we had any control over it. We haven't been able to gather together-even forcing our worship to be "online."

We've learned "forced" flexibility which doesn't feel very flexible at all. Our kids, grandkids, and kids of friends have had to adapt to remote learning bringing about new problems and challenges for the kids and their parents. We also experienced the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of rogue police officers igniting every fear, memory, and pain that our African-American sisters and brothers have experienced through injustice. Violence erupted in many places as emotions, and frustrations boiled over into rioting fueled by the actions of outside agitators. If that wasn't enough, we had a national election which revealed that politically this country is split in two.

If you are still reading this, then it is a Christmas miracle! Don't give up yet, just hang in there with me.

As I reflect on the last 11 months, it's easy to see all the difficulties. But the more I think about those months, the more I am amazed and encouraged by the hearts, courage, and character of all of you! I've seen you checking in on each other, sending notes and reaching out to others. You guys constantly ask if there is someone who needs help. You support one another, prayerfully and practically. You support one another through online worship, Grandpals, Mom's Encouraging Mom's and so many other ways.

As a congregation you are supporting the community by letting our building house the YMCA's Kids Zone program. This provides kids the opportunity for e-learning, especially for families whose parents cannot work remotely from home. And, our building is the home for Bags of Hope providing 400 kids and families with food.

Plainfield UMC, you are the definition of character. No matter what swirls around you this year or any year, you are a witness to God's love in who you are and what you do! I am so proud to be in ministry with you! Merry Christmas, one and all!

Pastor Dick

DECEMBER 6th

Join us for Communion from 11-12:30pm.



This Sunday, we'll be celebrating "mobile" Holy Communion at the church property.

Join us online as we bless the elements in the service. Then, come to the church (corner of Illinois and Chicago Streets) anytime between 11am-12:30pm to receive the elements. Please stay in your car and line up facing Lockport St. (see map).

Much care will be taken to prepare and handle the bread and juice safely and to minimize contact as you are served. As always, the bread is gluten free and ALL people of all ages are welcome to join us. We can't wait to see you face to face!



Join us on December 24, 2020 as we welcome Christ in story, song, and celebration in our online Christmas Eve worship, premiering on Facebook at 4:30pm.

Our Christmas Eve worship can be watched anytime on our Facebook page, website, app and YouTube. If you have any questions please contact the church office at (815) 436-9651.

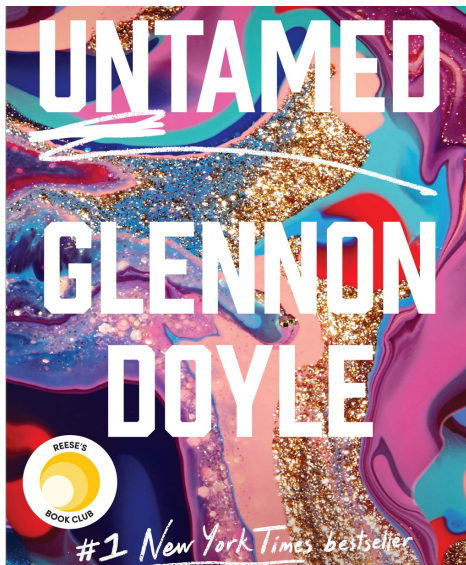
Ways You Can Bless Others This Season

Donate to the Ridgewood United Community Pantry – Our teams serve at the pantry each month and the need has never been greater! We are especially in need of paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels) as well as baby diapers (all sizes except newborn) and baby wipes. If you have a donation, you can bring it to the church office Mon-Thurs between 9:30-3:30 or (EVEN EASIER!) bring it with you to Communion on Sunday, Dec. 6th. You won't even have to get out of your car! Thank you for your generosity!

Help Keep People Warm – Each year we decorate the Mitten Tree with hats, scarves, and gloves to help keep our neighbors warm as the weather turns cold. We will be collecting these warm items throughout the winter to be distributed through our ministry partners and at the Food Pantry. All sizes are welcome! If you have a donation, you can bring it to the church office Mon-Thurs between 9:30-3:30 or (EVEN EASIER!) bring it with you to Communion on Sunday, Dec. 6th. You won't even have to get out of your car!

No tags, just love – PUMC has committed to sponsoring Christmas for several families in need, affiliated with the Del Valle Head Start School. In conversation with them, we have determined that the best approach this year is to provide gift cards for the families. Our Mission elves will be doing the shopping and wrapping this year, but we need YOUR financial support to make it happen. Please send in your donations for this Christmas Adopt-A-Family mission to PUMC. You can write a check (please put in memo line that it is for Christmas mission) and mail it in, drop off a donation, or give through our Church App. The need is great, but our collective generosity can meet that need in Jesus' name!

For any questions regarding these giving opportunities, please contact the church office at 815-436-9651



Women's Book Group

Looking for a way to connect with others this season? Try out the Women's Book Group! Pop in any month you can for a great discussion via Zoom. Links are sent via email, so contact Pastor Sherry to be added to the email list (sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com). Our December book is *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle. We will discuss on Dec. 17th at 7pm. Hope you can join us!



Volunteers Needed!

PUMC is scheduled to serve at the Ridgewood Pantry in Joliet on Wednesday, December 23rd.

We need helpers in the afternoon who can lift boxes and load them into client's cars. Strong arms and backs required; social distancing measures must be followed. Can you help?

Contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com.



December Youth Activities

Dec. 2 Wednesday at 7:00 Zoom Chat

Dec. 16 Wednesday at 7:00

Christmas Games on Zoom



Sunday School

There will be NO Zoom Sunday School Meetings on Dec. 27th or January 3. Videos and activities may still be posted. Thank you SO MUCH to our dedicated Sunday School staff who have pulled together wonderful experiences for our kids and families via delivered activity kits and Zoom gatherings. They have done an amazing job with great love! We'll resume our Zoom gatherings on January 10th. If you have not registered or would like to join us and need more information, please contact Pastor Sherry at sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com.

November Prayer List

- Karyn Holstead – friend/teacher at my school, Rey Cervantes – COVID
- Karyn Holstead's friend, Mary Ellen
- Chad (Karyn) Holstead's brother, Cory and sister-in-law, Amy
- Betty & Tom Sacco's step-grandson, Pat Kelly
- George Adolfson
- Mary Sears
- Lonny Bodie
- Carolyn & Jeff Dement's nephew, Shawn; friend, Lynette Wilson and family
- Greg Hill
- Margie & Ron Lee
- Misty Martin
- Nancy Ziech's mother Violetta ; Aunt Amy; daughter Danielle (Police Officer)
- Carol May's, father-in-law, Joe May
- Diane Robert's sister's friend, Cindy
- Bob Snyder's friend, Joel Swartz
- Georgia Whitley
- Ron (Karen) Mizwicki's uncle, David Colby, & Family; friend, Marie
- Jennifer & David Garcia's friend's 15 year old son
- Jennifer Garcia's mom, Sharon-COVID
- Rena (Bob) Snyder's brother, Mike and sister-in-law, Lisa-COVID
- Judy (Fritz) Bartels' mother, Carolyn Schaeffer
- Shirley Rouse's niece, Elaine (had surgery on the 3rd. Lives in Anchorage. No family nearby.)
- Jerry (Kelley) Pennington's niece's husband, Kyle Countryman-COVID
- Carole Holloway's niece, Lauri Blatnicky, (daughter of late Wayne and Nancy Richie), passed away from COVID
- Sue Hasenyager & Anne Anderson's friend & daughter, Rita and Ritaraye Yahnke
- Roger (Kathy) Beitzel's brother, Ed, and sisiter-in-law Pam (hospitalized with COVID)
- Laura (Mackley) Marrero
- Sharon Frink
- Debbie & Ed Thompson
- Miranda Wolf – grandpa, Ed Solomon – infection-COVID; grandma, Sylvia Solomon – while grandpa is in hospital; cousin, Sydney – COVID
- George (Fern) Angelos' Goddaughters, Jeri Graham – COVID ; Beth White-COVID

DECEMBER

12-02-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

7:00pm Youth Group (*Zoom*)

12-06-2020

9:00am Confirmation

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Online Worship

10:45am Adult Sunday School

12-07-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

12-09-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

12-13-2020

9:00am Confirmation

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Online Worship

10:45am Adult Sunday School

12-14-2020

9:30am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

11:30am Lunch Bunch

12-16-2020

12:00pm Widows Group

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

7:00pm Youth Group (*Zoom*)

12-17-2020

7:00pm Women's Book Group (*Zoom*)

12-20-2020

9:00am Confirmation

9:15am Sunday School

10:00am Online Worship

10:45am Adult Sunday School

12-21-2020

11:30am Lunch Bunch

12-23-2020

11:30am Trinity Food Pantry

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

12-24-2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:30PM

4:30pm Christmas Eve Online Worship Premier

12-25-2020

CHRISTMAS

12-27-2020

9:00am Confirmation

10:00am Online Worship

12-30-2020

3:00pm Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

12-31-2020

NEW YEARS EVE

OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:30PM



Plainfield United Methodist Church
15114 S. Illinois Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

Plainfield UMC Staff

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Karen Koziol, Bookkeeper
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Beth Best, Chancel Choir Director
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**Megan Marconi, Worship Band Director
and Bellissimo Handbell Choir Director**
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**Katherine Martinez,
Communications Coordinator**
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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dick Wisdom, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Sherry Steele, Minister of Faith Formation
sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com

Roger Beitzel, Youth Director
roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com

Worship Services

10am Sunday Online Worship

3pm Wednesday Online Chat, Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry