



**Springtime is the  
land awaking.  
March winds are the  
morning yawns.**

# *Where did you see God Today?*

Any alumnus of VBS or church mission trips knows this question. It's usually asked at the end of the day or the time together in order to name the blessings all around. The question is a portal into exploring how God is at work in the world and whether (or not) we are able to see it. These "God-sightings" can be almost anything – a seeming coincidence, an encounter, a bit of 'good luck' or even a miracle in your midst. God-sightings don't only occur in mission settings or during big events, but they happen all day all around us. Unfortunately, we are often distracted and busy, or distracted and bored, and we mistakenly assume we'll only encounter God in church. And let's face it – we are often much better at complaining than at finding beauty. We are often better at pointing out what is wrong than in seeing all that is right. The exercise of looking for God in our everyday places and ordinary moments stretches us. It is a call to prayer, a nudge to notice and to pay attention.

And of course, we don't just see where God is at work, but join in with what God is doing.

In our adult classes this week, I shared a video called "The Hand that Steadies the Plate." A man was volunteering at a shelter in the very worst part of town. Many of the people who came for the evening meal were filthy dirty. They were homeless and many hadn't had a good meal in days. He noticed one particular man who received his plate of food and sat down on a chair to eat. But the man was so high, his hands were shaking, and slowly the plate of food began to tip. The volunteers watched as baked beans and sausages slid off of the plate and covered the man's clothes. A young 17-year old woman who was on the volunteer team did not hesitate, but went to the man, took a towel and tried to wipe him off. She took his plate and refilled it and returned to him. She sat kneeling before him, covered in food herself now, and helped steady the plate as he ate. The man who observed this and was telling the story said simply: "And I saw Jesus." He saw Jesus, God with us, the one who enters into our mess, cleans us off, and provides a hand that steadies the plate.

You, beloved PUMC people, are the eyes on the ground. Open yourselves to seeing how God is active in your life, in your community, and in the world. Name where you see God. Tell someone – or better yet, show someone! – how God has entered into your everyday, ordinary world, and invite them to see it too. May we all learn to see clearly this Lenten season!

Peace,

Pastor Sherry



# MARCH 7th

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!



## EASTER SATURDAY CELEBRATION

**April 3, 2021**

Join us for an egg hunt like nothing you've tried before! For toddlers through 5th graders. Watch your e-mail and Facebook for more information!

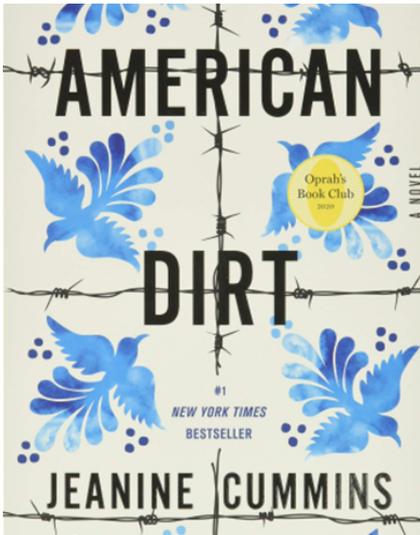
## SAVE THE DATE

**Youth ZOOM-Lock-In, Friday March 26th, 2021**



Look for more information to follow.  
Text (with your name) to Roger or MickeySue to register.



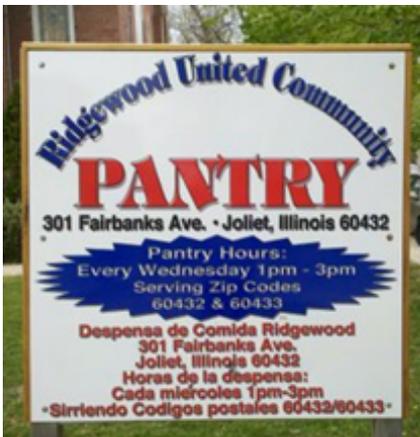


## Women's Book Group

Love to read and want a way to connect with others, even while we're apart? 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](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com)). Below our books for the next couple of months. Hope you can join us!

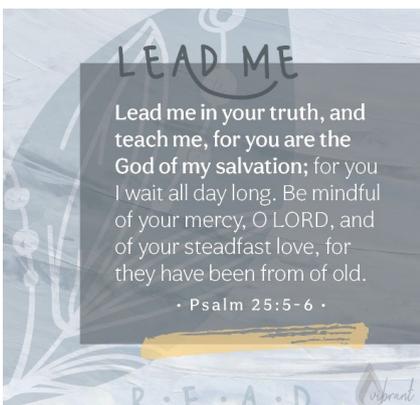
**March 18** – American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

**April 15** – The Book of Longing by Sue Monk Kidd



## Want to Help?

PUMC is scheduled to serve at the Ridgewood Pantry in Joliet on Wednesday, March 24th. 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](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com).



## Adult Education

Lent is the perfect season to move deeper in our faith. This year we will be exploring several different themes such as temptation, humility, and confession as we engage scripture and reflect together. You are invited to join us for the six weeks via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:45am beginning Monday lunchtime at 11:30am. No preparation for class is necessary. Just bring a bible, something to write on, and an open heart. For questions or to receive the Zoom link, contact Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com).



## GET READY KIDS

# WHAM! is going Virtual!

All kindergarteners-fifth graders are invited to join us for WHAM! (We Have A Mission!). This is our mid-week program where kids learn about an issue or challenge facing humanity and engage in hands-on projects to serve others and learn how to be change-makers. We will have three upcoming projects this spring that can be done safely at home. We will provide materials. Instructions, support, and fellowship will occur via Zoom on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: March 3 and 17, April 7 and 21, and May 5 and 19. The Zoom meeting will start at 6:30pm and will last from 30-60 min. Kids must be registered to receive the Zoom link and the project materials. Register by emailing Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com).

## Helping Youth Cope with Anxiety

It seems anxiety is at an all-time high these days. We have so many factors in our world that contribute to us feeling anxious. And that was before the COVID shutdown! Going to school on Zoom, not being able to see our friends and family, and a general lack of being able to socialize have all contributed to more people experiencing even more anxiety. Ugh!

Recently, in our Youth Chats, we have been focusing on having Faith in an Anxious World. This series helps people explore what causes anxiety and how our faith can help us cope with it and move through it, rather than being stuck in an emotional funk. The Faith in an Anxious World program offers handouts for youth and parents. Youth Ministries will soon be mailing those handouts to every youth in the church. Watch your mail for a large envelope from the church, and be sure to take some time to look through the contents to find some strategies that will work for you.

Of course, our faith is only one means of coping with anxiety. In some cases, folks may need additional help from a medical or mental health professional. If you are struggling with anxiety, and you're not sure where to get help, contact Pastor Dick, Pastor Sherry, or Roger Beitzel, and they will be more than happy to help you find resources.

## Youth Summer of Service

There will be lots of opportunities for youth to connect and serve safely in the local area. Dates and other details will be announced soon!

## Youth Chats

Youth Chats for March will be:  
7:00 Sunday **March 14**  
7:00 Sunday **March 28**

We'll continue our discussion about how faith can help us cope with anxiety, and, we'll play some new and exciting games!

# January Prayer List

---

- Alise Anderson's parents, Jim & Missy Whitlock - COVID related
- Fern Angelos' friend, Barb Hunckler; her nephew, Ken Vallrugo
- George (Fern) Angelos' goddaughters, Jeri Graham - COVID ; Beth White - COVID
- Mary Boedeker, prayers for her health, her family remains healthy, and that her eyesight returns
- Melanie Dale's brother
- Carolyn (Jeff) Dement's on the passing of her friend Charlotte Powell, niece, Kelsey
- Jennifer Garcia's friend's daughter, Gabby
- Ali Glodoski's dad, Curt Heise
- Patty Habersberger's friend, Erica Roberts
- Karyn Holstead's friend, Mary Ellen
- Sharon (Don) Kinley's brother, Jem Duffin passed away 2/17/21. Prayers for the Kinley & Duffin families
- Ron & Margie Lee - Ron had gall bladder surgery in January; Margie had a stroke on January 29. She will be coming home from Marion Joy on February 20th
- Holli Long's friend's daughter currently in the ICU with pediatric heart failure
- Laura (Mackley) Marrero
- Carol Markwell's family upon the passing of her daughter-in-law, Mary Markwell
- Misty Martin
- Karen (Ron) Mizwicki's Uncle Tommie Meeks' son, my cousin Eric Meeks and his family upon the passing of Tommie from COVID; Aunt Margie Watson's family upon her passing
- Sandi Reader's mom, Deloris Mesik
- Diane Roberts' sister's friend, Cindy; her friend, Stacy - who lost her son, father and daughter
- June Salen requesting thoughts and prayers for all of those having difficulties in Texas, OK, and other states
- Angie Sullivan's Aunt Beth
- MickeySue Traver's family and friends on 6 Nation Reserve in Canada - on Black alert for COVID
- Marnie Vidad's friend, Gloria Moya's family upon Gloria's passing
- Georgia Whitley
- Nancy Ziech's mother, Violetta passed away 2/8/21; her Aunt Amy passed away 1/28/21

## A JOY

Don & Sharon Kinley are the proud great-grandparents of a new baby girl!  
Congratulations!!

## New Address for Helen Wheeler

Tabor Hills Healthcare, 1347 Crystal Avenue,  
Naperville, IL 60563

# MARCH

## 3-01-2021

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

**6:30pm** Staff Parish

## 3-03-2021

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

**6:30 pm** WHAM! (*via ZOOM*)

## 3-07-2021

COMMUNION 11-12:30

**9:00am** Confirmation

**9:15am** Sunday School

**10:00am** Online Worship

## 3-08-2021

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

## 3-09-2021

**6:30pm** YMAP (*via ZOOM*)

## 3-10-2021

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

**6:30pm** Charge Conference

## 3-14-2021

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS

**9:00am** Confirmation

**9:15am** Sunday School

**10:00am** Online Worship

**10:45am** Adult Sunday School

## 3-15-2021

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

## 3-17-2021

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

**6:30pm** WHAM! (*via ZOOM*)

## 3-18-2021

**7:00pm** Women's Book Group

## 3-21-2021

**9:00am** Confirmation

**9:15am** Sunday School

**10:00am** Online Worship

**10:45am** Adult Sunday School

## 3-22-2021

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

## 3-24-2021

**11:30am** Trinity Food Pantry

**12:00pm** Widows Group

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

## 3-28-2021

PALM SUNDAY

**9:00am** Confirmation

**9:15am** Sunday School

**10:00am** Online Worship

**10:45am** Adult Sunday School

## 3-29-2021

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch



ALL GROUP CLASSES ARE HELD VIA ZOOM

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

## Plainfield UMC Staff

**Cheryl Henbest**  
**Director of Administrative Ministries**  
*pumc@plainfieldumc.com*

**Karen Koziol, Bookkeeper**  
*accounting@plainfieldumc.com*

**Beth Best, Chancel Choir Director**  
*525beth@gmail.com*

**Karyn Holstead, Children's Choir**  
*kholstead@hotmail.com*

**Megan Marconi, Worship Band Director  
and Bellissimo Handbell Choir Director**  
*mamarconi1029@gmail.com*

**Kathy Hermansen, Organist**  
*kathleenhermansen@comcast.net*

**Katherine Martinez,  
Communications Coordinator**  
*kathy.martinez@plainfieldumc.com*

## Pastoral Staff

**Rev. Dick Wisdom, Senior Pastor**  
*dick.wisdom@plainfieldumc.com*

**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