

CIRCUIT RIDER  
NEWSLETTER

**PlainfieldUMC**   
*a growing faith community*

**April 2019**

# WORDS OF WISDOM



It was 1992 when I was “dragged” into the Sycamore United Methodist Church. I didn’t want any part of it! I’d had enough of organized church. Shockingly, it wasn’t so bad. The folks seemed “normal,” whatever that is. Maybe it was that they seemed real to me. Nobody was trying to force feed me theology or asking me what I believed so they could tell me if I was “right” or “wrong.” They were just real folks, kind and friendly with no agenda other than being welcoming. Looking back upon those days, I realize who they were as Christians and real people is what was contagious about them and that place.

Now, 27 years later, I am so grateful for them, for that faith community, for the United Methodist denomination, and for my opportunity to serve within it as an ordained minister, even in the swirling

anxiety and conflict the Church is going through at the moment.

I believe that in a healthy United Methodist Church today, when a person enters the church for the first time, checking it out, they are taking a big risk in their own minds. They’ve already checked out our website from corner to corner. And they have physically driven by the building checking it out, trying to get a feel as to whether or not it is a safe place to enter. So, when they finally “visit” they are risking. They risk being judged and rejected for what they are wearing, for what they believe about God, for their sexual orientation, for their race, or for their political beliefs. Let’s face it, our biggest fear in life is fear of the unknown. And, truth be told, there are many churches one can enter today that will judge and reject someone on those things and even do it with a smile.

One of the things I’m passionate about in a healthy United Methodist Church is that, in effect, we ask someone what they believe, and we do not tell them if they are “right or wrong.” We ask, How did you come to believe that? What is your faith journey? Share with us, please? And we ask how they are growing in their journey. Because, at the end of the day, God is the one who moves hearts and minds and always in a safe place. I am deeply and profoundly grateful that Plainfield UMC is a safe place for me, for you, and for all those who enter here, just wanting to be part of a vibrant and challenging congregation but want to be safe in the midst.

In the recent General Conference, which was called for the sole purpose of addressing homosexuality as “incompatible” with Christian teaching (this precludes self-avowed, practicing, homosexuals from being ordained, as well as not allowing other clergy to conduct same sex weddings or to have same sex weddings in local UM churches) divisions in the church were on display to all the world. By a small vote margin of the 860 delegates, the majority vote was to retain the above language in the Book of Discipline. The vote, and the very narrow margin, devastated almost literally 50% of the church. What is unusual for United Methodism is that it is a worldwide denomination, unlike Presbyterians, Lutherans and others.

As is customary in highly passionate and principled issues that affect people, the emotions on both sides of this disagreement are on “fire.” LGBTQIA folks are experiencing devastation and feel rejection in a denomination that defines itself as having a large “umbrella” of people who populate it. Many feel unsafe. There are others, about 1/3 of the US and most of Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Philippines who feel the opposite. There is talk of the UMC splitting. In the US in particular, this is outright disobedience of the church laws currently in effect related to sexual orientation.

For the next year though, until General Conference 2020, it appears this will be a time of many conversations as to how United Methodism can rebirth itself into vitality and inclusiveness. One frequent writer on the subject of the overall church is Rev. Bob Phillips who just retired as Sr. Pastor of Peoria 1st United Methodist Church. He recently wrote: “Both liberal and conservative playmakers are having their own version of a Great Awakening insofar as a re-booted future for the denomination is concerned. Without getting dramatic about particulars, suffice to say that liberals realize ballot victory is unlikely in 2020, and pyrrhic if achieved, with major schism happening almost immediately. Conservatives probably can grind out another ground game victory on the General Conference gridiron in Minneapolis, but would face insouciant and vigorously disobedient bishops, to say nothing of thousands of clergy and others who will not obey the BOD at the price of discarding conscience.”

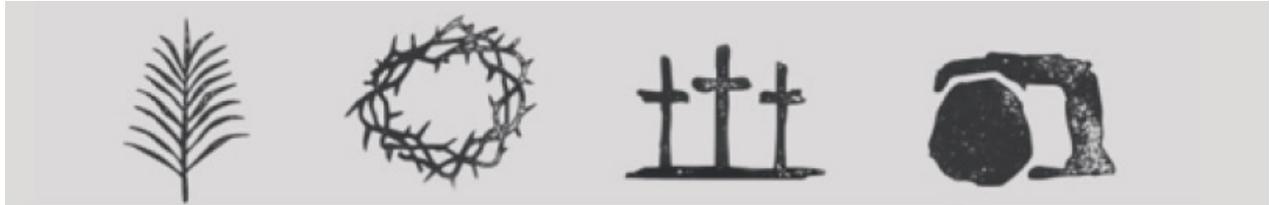
What does this all mean for Plainfield UMC? It means that today, tomorrow, and the next day we will be the presence of Christ in this community through our faith and our actions. It means that as far as I and Pastor Sherry are concerned, PUMC is a safe place for every single person who enters our doors, no matter their sexual orientation, race, gender, politics, theology, no matter what. Because at PUMC, relationship with each other means we treat every person with the love of Christ, not according to what we feel about any issue.

May God immerse us all in the heart of Christ and may we live that each day!

*Pastor Dick*

**Coming  
Soon!**  
Vacation Bible  
School  
July 7-11  
6:30 - 8:30pm





# Holy Week Schedule

Join us this April for Holy Week. We will be having services on;

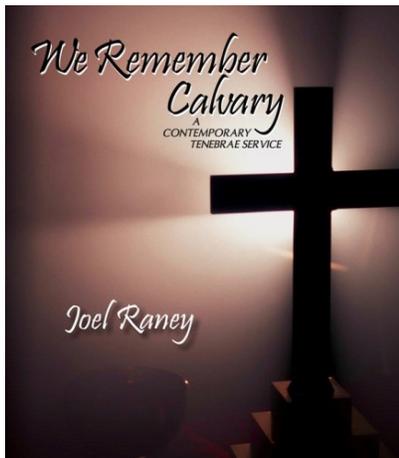
**April 14** Palm Sunday - 8:30am and 11am

**April 18** Holy Thursday- 7pm

**April 19** Good Friday - 7pm

**April 20** Easter Saturday - 10:00am we will have an Easter Saturday Celebration. Come join us as we create, play, and hunt for eggs! We'll remember the hope and joy of Easter, all while sharing in the fun with other families. The morning will culminate with the hunt for the hidden prize eggs. We'll also reveal our 2019 VBS theme.

**April 21** Easter Sunday - 8:30am and 11am Easter Sunday. At 9:45am Easter Breakfast.



## Spring Cantata

April 7

The Chancel Choir of Plainfield United Methodist Church is excited to share its Lenten Cantata.

We Remember Calvary by Joel Raney is a blend of traditional hymns, worship songs, congregational singing, narration, and scripture. It all combines to paint a vivid and moving picture of Christ's last days and His journey to the cross.



## Easter Saturday Celebration

Saturday,  
April 20, 10am

Come join us as we create, play, and hunt for eggs! We'll remember the hope and joy of Easter, all while sharing in the fun with other families.

The morning will culminate with the hunt for the hidden prize eggs. We'll also reveal our 2019 VBS theme. Everyone is welcome! Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!



## Women's Book Group

Women's Book Group – Join us in May as we read and discuss Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie. This book, the winner of the 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction, is the suspenseful and heartbreaking story of an immigrant family driven to pit love against loyalty, with devastating consequences. We will meet together on April 25th (note different date) at 7pm. Contact Pastor Sherry with questions.



## Garden Group

April 9, 10am

The PUMC Garden Group will be holding their spring brunch on Tuesday, April 9th at 10 am at Patty Habersberger's home. We will be making plans for the year, and sharing our dreams for our own gardens! Everyone is welcome. Please let Patty know whether you can come at 630 885 9752 or at [dsh01@comcast.net](mailto:dsh01@comcast.net).



## Your Child has a mission

Help your child learn that they can make a difference in the world. All kids in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us for WHAM! (We Have A Mission!). Participants will be going to Feed My Starving Children on Wednesday, April 3rd, from 6-7:30pm to package meals. Registration is required. Contact Pastor Sherry for availability. There will be no WHAM! on Wednesday April 17th due to Holy Week events.

## The Big Serve

May 4 and 5

PUMC, along with the Village of Plainfield, Community Christian Church, Al Aqsa Mosque, Hope UMC, St. Mary Immaculate Church, and many community organizations come together to serve! Projects will occur on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Many of our beloved projects such as Planning, Ready, Set, Ride, and the Food Pantry are back! We will also have new projects that will work for all ages and abilities. Registration opens soon at [thebigserve.info](http://thebigserve.info) More information will be coming soon. Contact Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com) or see Scott Long with any questions.



## *Easter Breakfast*



PUMC's Annual Easter Breakfast will be served at 9:45 on April 21st, as a fundraiser for our Annual Yotuh Mission Trip. We need Parents and Youth to prepare dishes for our meal that morning, as well as Youth to help set up and clean up. Our menu includes breakfast casseroles, along with breakfast breads, muffins, fruit, donuts, milk, coffee, and juice. We ask you to bring casseroles in disposable pans. Crock pots are welcome as well. Families are welcome to bring items such as pancakes, eggs, or breakfast meats, as long as they are pre-cooked. We will not be cooking anything on site. We will have people at

the church early that day to put food in the warmers as needed. Please contact Youth Director Roger Beitzel ([roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com), 630.338.2692) or Youth Coordinator MickeySue Traver ([mickysue.t@hotmail.com](mailto:mickysue.t@hotmail.com), 815.585.0889) to sign up to bring food or to help.



## *PUMC Bids Winter a Fond Farewell*

In collaboration with the Faith in Place organization, PUMC Fellowship hall was transformed into a winter cornucopia of yummy delights. Arnold's Farm had the meats! Salad Bowl Creations offered a "Tro" sauce; Nal's Kitchen "unleashed the gourmet chef in you" with her honey infused sauces and marinades; and European Homemade Goodies sweet and savory pastries, clearly made a lip-smacking impression. Our very own Janine Valkema and Karen Mizwicki presented their tables with crafts and beauty items to round out the event.

Faith in Place coordinator Liam Fraser made all attendees feel welcome, including kids with the activities table; and Karen Winters put together a special attraction of Women History Month Display.

PUMC volunteerism & hospitality was stellar- big shout out to Anna & Wendy Proulx, Cheryl & Suzy Henbest, Elizabeth Rush, Ethan Lenning, Ginny Alberini, Jayne Jessen, Linda Bodie, Mary & Jeff Kelly, MickeySue Traver, Patty & Don Habersberger, Sandy Krzywanos, Shirley Rouse, Di & Kinsey Thompson, and of course, our illustrious Pastor Dick and Pastor Sherry. In total, over 50 hours of service time was given by our congregation to help support local crafters and vendors and make this event a success. Almost 100 shoppers came out to sample the wares & shop for goodies. Thank you again for your support in this event & Happy Spring!

# Greeters List

**April 7, 2019**

**8:30:** Jim & Kay Schimpf

**11:00:** Chrissy Santerelli

**April 14, 2019**

**8:30:** Annette Szobar

**11:00:** Don & Patty Habersberger

**April 21, 2019**

**8:30:** Lonny & Linda

Bodie  
**11:00:** DiChiara Family

**April 28, 2019**

**8:30:** Jeff & Erika Harrison

**11:00:** Vidad Family



## Preparing for Uncertainty

What Families Need to Know When You or a Loved

One Passes Away – You are invited to this practical and informational learning opportunity led by Charlotte Baker. In a 45-minute presentation, Char will share how you can help your loved ones now to feel prepared and know your wishes. She will share her personal experience and the lessons she's learned. Each participant will receive a hand out that they can put to use immediately. The presentation will be given twice: Sunday, April 7, at 9:45am in the conference room and Wednesday, April 10th, at 6:30pm in the conference room. Please RSVP to Charlotte Baker at [cbaker151@ameritech.net](mailto:cbaker151@ameritech.net) so we know how many to prepare for. There will also be a clip board sign up sheet in the church office.

## Prayer List

WE PRAYED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

- Lolly Adolfson
- Louise Corey
- Debby DeGroot
- Ali Glodoski's friend, Jelena
- Patty Habersberger's friend, Jan York
- Ron Lee
- Misty Martin
- Donna Morrow's friends, Jerry Dean & Philip Myer
- Rick & Harriett Nelson's mother, Harriett Crismon & friend, Sandi
- Cheryl Reichert's friend, Laura Zeilenski
- Ellen Sterrett's son, Michael Sterrett
- Steve Wyland's brother, Alan Wyland
- Cherie Chan's son, Alex; & her parents
- Carole Holloway's dad, Tom Morris; & her friend, Sam Madia & the family of Tom Rieter (husband's cousin)
- Mary Boedeker
- Maria Lyons
- Carolyn Martens' neighbor's daughter, Debbie Gregorash
- **Those who are homeless, hungry, and cold.**
- **Those who have suffered from natural disasters.**
- **Those serving in the military, our fire fighters and police officers.**
- **Victims of war, violence, and oppression around the world.**
- **Missionaries & aid workers around the World**

Plainfield United Methodist Church  
15114 S. Illinois Street  
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## Plainfield UMC Staff

**Cheryl Henbest** Director of  
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**Kathy Hermansen**, Organist  
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**Katherine Martinez**,  
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kathy.martinez@plainfieldumc.com

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dick Wisdom, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Sherry Steele,  
Minister of Faith Formation  
Roger Beitzel, Youth Director

## Sunday

### Worship Services

8:30a Worship with Chancel Choir  
9:45a Sunday School and Confirmation Class  
11:00a Worship with Worship Band