



The Second Church of Plymouth, Manomet, MA

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Available by appointment M-F 9am-5pm

Food Pantry Hours: M - 10am - 12pm

The Bell

March 2026

Volume 20, Issue 3

Recap on What Happened at the Annual Meeting

Dear Friends -

Wanted to bring everyone up to speed and reflect for those who missed the Annual Meeting in February, what happened. As I came among you in November, we had a covenant/contract until early April. I have created and shared worship, visited members, and met with various boards and committees during my time so far. And it became clear to me that this congregation has done their own so called "interim" work by filling the pulpit each week after Rev. Bruce left a year ago February. Interim work is usually done between long term pastorates (usually 7 years or more) before another long-term pastorate. Something different was called for with Second Congregational to move forward.

During the diaconate meeting in January, I shared about a new concept in ministry and how it might be the right way forward for Second Congregational at this this particular time. There was unanimous consent. I talked about it again with heads of the trustees, deacons, and moderator, before it came to new business at the annual meeting. During the annual meeting it was approved to move Rev. Wendy Sue into a Designated Term Pastor. Here is a definition:

A **Designated Term Pastor** (DTP) is a minister called by a church for a specific, limited period (often 2-5 years) to achieve defined goals, such as guiding the church through major changes (revitalization, merger, conflict recovery) or specific projects, rather than for an indefinite, settled term, with the possibility of becoming a permanent pastor if both parties agree later. This arrangement allows churches to address unique seasons or challenges with focused leadership, distinct from an interim role which focuses solely on preparing for the next settled pastor.

Starting in February, I will be serving a 1 year term to be renewed annually for up to 5 years. This year we will focus on getting through the 200th Anniversary of the building, the renovation of the building and ensuring some consistency in the ministry. The search committee will go on hiatus for the time being as we need all hands-on deck for the anniversary. There will be a point while I am still with you, that we put the search committee back in place and start the

search for a new settled pastor. With all the transition ahead in the next 9-10 months, with the building renovation starting and the anniversary being celebrated in November, it is not the opportune time to start looking for someone new to "hit the ground running" and obviously not what the Spirit is calling us too right now.

We will all be feeling our way together as we enter this new season of ministry and pray for how it might unfold. I will be called the "Designated Term Pastor" and each year we will decide what the new direction will hold.

If you have any questions, please see me and we can explore together.

In Christ -

Rev. Wendy Sue Kissa

Designated Term Pastor

Pastor's Ponderings

Welcome to March Madness, March Memories, March to the foot of the cross. As we are in the midst of the Lenten marching to the cross it is a time for reflection of what Christ means to us. Ash Wednesday is a time to reflect on Genesis 3:19 - From dust you have come and from dust you will return. It is also the start of Lent, 40 days in advance of Easter minus Sunday's as those are all mini-Easter's. Some of us give things, some of us take on things. Let's hope all of us take time for reflection in advance of Easter.

We will celebrate Palm Sunday at 10am on March 29th, Maundy Thursday at 7pm on April 2nd, Good Friday at 12-1pm on April 2nd and Easter Sunrise service at 6:10am and 10am here in the Sanctuary on April 5th.

During this time we will look at the Bible Study Common Ground which will run for 4 weeks on Wednesday March 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 10-11am in the Parlor. Come to all, come to one, would enjoy seeing anyone who can get there.

The Anniversary committee will meet on March 11 from 11:15am-12:15pm and all are welcome to come and join in as we prepare for the November 8th 200th Anniversary of our church building.

As we go through this time of change, we will do our best to listen to what God is calling us to and open our hearts, minds and spirits in this time of reflection and following. I share Pope Leo XIV thoughts on lent as I find them compelling and worth thinking about. "I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not

present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

Make the journey with us as we reflect and look to the coming of a new day!

In Christ -

Rev. Wendy Sue Kissa

Designated Term Pastor

Lenten Book Study

Save the dates! We will be going through the book *Common Ground* by Amberly Neese on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 12-1pm. More details will come out next month.



200th Anniversary Celebration

Our current building dates from 1826 and will see its 200th Anniversary in 2026. We have continuously worshipped in our building since it was built making it the oldest structure in Plymouth to do so. During 2026, we plan to celebrate by looking monthly at our history and the events surrounding that history in 20-year increments during the third Sunday of each month. We will be inviting some of you to assist in presenting 3-5 minute vignettes. If you would like to present a part of that history, please contact Laurie Savery and she will help connect you with resources to aid you.

We plan to align our Church Anniversary Celebration with fund raising activities that share this with the broader Manomet/Plymouth communities via our website, Facebook page and other digital and social media as well as with our banner at the Four Corners intersection. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and participation.

Please help us to:

Rejoice in Our Past

Renew in The Present

Restore for our Future

This Second... Church!!

From your Life Deacon,
Deborah LaBreck

For with God nothing will be impossible.
Luke 1:37



The Food Pantry is open!
Mondays 10am-12pm

Gift of



If you want to honor or memorialize someone and aren't sure what to do, why not consider a Gift of Love. A Gift of Love is a donation made in someone's name, to the church. A letter is sent to the giver (these gifts are tax deductible) and an acknowledgement is sent to the honoree (or the family in the case of a memorial). If you are interested, please pick up a form in the narthex or contact the office.



We continue to have church in person and virtually on Sunday's at 10am. Come on in! Or check us out on Facebook via Second Church Virtual Services! If you have been watching, see you on Sunday! You can also watch the services on PACTV. Thursday at 8am and Sunday at 6pm. (Comcast channel 13 or Verizon channel 43)



Visit us at www.secondchurchofplymouth.org . Our goal with the website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about Second Church of Plymouth and what the church offers. The website contains our social media buttons. We are constantly updating our content with updated information on church events and announcements.



Birthdays

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

March 5 - Charlotte Luke

March 9 - Ted Ozelius - ooh, this is a good year!

March 11 - James Emo

March 16 - Denise Luke

March 25 - Violet Luke

April 3 - Matthew Walsh

*Happy
Anniversary*

Alas, no one gets married in March evidently.

Did you know - or ever think about?

Submitted by Ruthanne Gellar



This year the Post Office is 250 years old.



In 2026 there will be three Friday the 13ths, which is rare.
The next time it happens will be in 2037.



A 45 foot boat delivers mail to ships traveling the Detroit River.
It has the only floating zip code in America.

Church Signs

Welcome to a new section of the Bell!
For Christmas last year, the church office was gifted a daily calendar of Church signs.
Thank you, Jane! Here are some favorites from February:

God, if my lips don't know what to ask for in prayer, please listen to my heart.

If you pray for a hole, you can't just stand around leaning on the shovel.

Open your mind before your mouth.


Prayer is my love language!

Praying for someone may or may not change them, but it will always change you.

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

March 2026

Second Church of
Plymouth
188 State Road
Plymouth, MA
02360

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Church Service 7pm AA	2 10am Food Pantry 12pm Missions 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	4 12pm Lenten Book Study 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	5 7pm AA	6 7pm AA	7 9am AA
8 10am Church Service 7pm AA 	9 10am Food Pantry	10 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	11 12pm Lenten Book Study 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	12 1pm Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Trustees	13 7pm AA	14 9am AA
15 10am Church Service 7pm AA	16 10am Food Pantry	17 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	18 12pm Lenten Book Study 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	19 7pm AA	20 7pm AA	21 9am AA
22 10am Church Service 7pm AA	23 10am Food Pantry	24 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	25 12pm Lenten Book Study 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	26 7pm AA	27 7pm AA	28 9am AA
29 Palm Sunday 10am Church Service 7pm AA	30 10am Food Pantry	31 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA				