



# United Methodist Church

Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God

## November 2020

### Church Staff

**Rev. Rafael Cubilette**

Senior Pastor  
rcubilette@plattevilleumc.org

**April Richardson**

Communications Associate/  
Administrative Assistant  
churchoffice@plattevilleumc.org

**Dustin Nunn**

Director of Children, Youth and  
Young Adult Ministries  
dustin@plattevilleumc.org

**Lori Dye**

Finance Manager  
lori@plattevilleumc.org

**Tracy Harle**

Housekeeping/Event Planning/  
Outreach Coordinator

**John Mulcahy**

Maintenance

**Ellen Carnahan**

Sunday School Superintendent  
ellen.carnahan@yahoo.com

**Nancy Fairchild**

Organist  
nfairchild2@gmail.com

**Deb Putnam**

Mallow Ringers Director  
putnamd@uwplatt.edu

**Susan Schlager**

Parish Nurse  
smschlager@yahoo.com  
(608) 348-9575

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### November 1<sup>st</sup>

Holy Communion: Please Have  
Bread & Juice Ready

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### November 8<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### November 15<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### November 29<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### **BULLETIN & SERMONS**

We continue to not hold in person worship.  
If you would like a paper copy of the bulletin  
and sermon mailed to you each week,  
please call the office and request this.



"In everything give thanks." ~1 Thessalonians 5:18  
 "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." ~French Proverb  
 "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life..." ~Melodie Beattie

I prefer to think of November as the month of pumpkins, grateful people with grateful hearts, and Thanksgiving celebrations. Last year, I had the privilege to participate in an event where the speaker was Diana Butler Bass, the author of the book, *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks*. This was an extraordinary experience. Before and after that event, I had the opportunity to talk and write about generosity and gratefulness.

In a recent dialogue with one of my best friends, I was asked if I could write about, "What do I have to be thankful for?" So I'm going to write about why we should be grateful people with grateful hearts. According to Theologian Karl Barth, grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder and lightning." We can also add that gratefulness follows generosity and only generous people are capable of having a grateful heart.

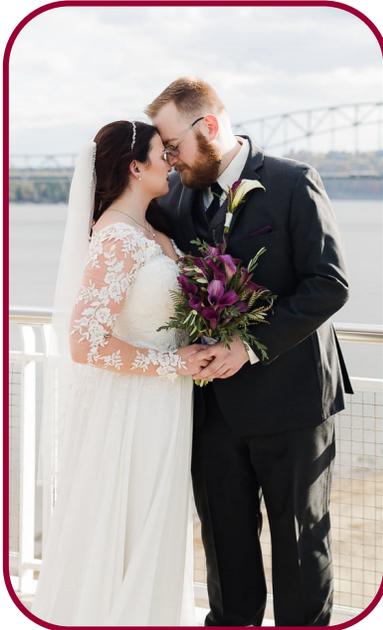
One of my favorite Peanuts comic strips is the one that came out several years ago, just a few days before Thanksgiving. Lucy's feeling sorry for herself, and she laments, "My life is a drag. I'm completely fed up. I've never felt so low in my life." Her little brother Linus tries to console her, and he says, "Lucy, when you're in a mood like this, you should try to think of things you have to be thankful for; in other words, count your blessings," especially in this challenging year of the COVID-19 pandemic. To that, Lucy says, "Ha! That's a good one! I could count my blessings on one finger! I've never had anything, and I will never have anything. I don't get half the breaks that other people do. Nothing ever goes right for me! And you talk about counting blessings! You talk about being thankful! What do I have to be thankful for?" Linus says, "Well, for one thing, you have a little brother who loves you." With that, Lucy runs and hugs little brother Linus as she cries tears of joy, and while she's hugging him tightly, Linus says, "Every now and then, I say the right thing."

Beloved Friends, we have a God who loves us deeply. This is such wonderful good news that it's a little hard to believe sometimes. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople an important Early Church Father, wrote, "And why is it so hard to learn that God loves us? Beloved, it is extremely hard. Let us strive, therefore, to understand it." In his striving, Clarence Jordan translated 2 Corinthians 5:17 as "God was in Christ hugging the world to Himself" (The Cotton Patch Gospel: Paul's Epistles; The Second Letter to the Atlanta Christians), and if that doesn't make us sing a song of Thanksgiving, I don't know what will.

November is the month of pumpkins, grateful people with grateful hearts, and Thanksgiving celebrations. Also it is the month for counting our blessings. Among my many blessings, my heart is thankful for you and your partnership in the gospel. By the grace of Jesus Christ, God's Spirit is at work, both within us and among us, and some of the fruit of that Spirit is love and joy and peace, but also patience and kindness and generosity/goodness, as well as faithfulness and gentleness and self-control. In fact, our life together is the fruit of God's Spirit, and my heart couldn't be more thankful.

So this month, when you wonder, "what do I have to be thankful for?" may you remember God's hug and hear the reply, "Well, for one thing, you have a God who loves you!" Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Servant in Christ,  
**Pastor Rafael**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO APRIL & TUCKER**

They finally got married! A huge congratulations to the new Mr. & Mrs. Tucker and April Richardson! They would like to thank each and every one of you who reached out with your kind words and supporting prayers. The day was perfect and they are so excited to start this next chapter together as husband and wife! We will host a Wedding Shower for April once we are meeting again in person.

**NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR SMALL GROUPS**

We have 5 different Small Groups meeting! All classes are held via Zoom and each person will need their own book to participate. All meetings will be held from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

**Monday**

**Living Your Strengths:** Discover your God given talents and inspire your community.

**Facilitator:** Jim Wells     **Dates:** November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday**

**Anxious for Nothing:** Finding calm in a chaotic world

**Facilitator:** Tom Lindahl     **Dates:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday**

**Life Together in Christ:** Experiencing transformation in community

**Facilitator:** Jan Hollaway     **Dates:** November 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday**

**Invitation to Solitude and Silence:** Experiencing God's transforming presence.

**Facilitator:** Susan Schlager     **Dates:** November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

**Friday**

**Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership:** Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry.

**Facilitators:** Dave Carnahan & Lynn Schlager     **Dates:** November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>,  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>, & January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to participate in any of these groups, please contact the Church Office.



Our Capital Campaign Kickoff Event was a big success! Thank you to all that coordinated and helped out during the evening of celebration. We served 60+ meals and had a wonderful concert that was live streamed on Facebook and the FM radio. The band sounded amazing! We have such a talented congregation. It was so wonderful to see everyone. Thank you for coming and helping us to "Raise the Roof!" Please keep an eye out for a letter coming soon with more information about the Capital Campaign.

---

## **CARES ACT – 2020 CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

### **Save \$\$\$ While Saving God's House**

The CARES Act allows for increased tax deductions for charitable donations made in 2020.

**Standard Deduction:** If you take the standard deduction, you can deduct an ADDITIONAL \$300.00 (individual) or \$600.00 (Head of Household/Married). This is above the standard deduction amounts.

**Itemized Deduction:** If you itemize, you can deduct up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in 2020. Yes, you could pay \$-0- Federal income taxes for 2020. Businesses can deduct up to 25% of their AGI in charitable contributions.

If you contribute more than you can deduct in 2020, both individuals and businesses can continue to deduct the extra for up to 5 years. Normally, anything you can't deduct in the tax year is lost.

Take greater advantage of this and donate all or a portion of your 2021 tithe or Capital Campaign pledge in December 2020. What matters is that the donation is postmarked or processed online by Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Make an even bigger impact by donating the tax savings as well. Some members of our congregation are planning to donate \$600.00 in December, then the additional \$72.00 (12% tax rate) in tax savings when they get their returns in 2021. That is \$672.00 to support our missions and God's church for only \$600.00 out of pocket!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The church building may be closed, but the work of the Church continues. We are still holding Sunday School each week, between our two worship services, for children from Preschool through Grade 6. Older children are logging on Wednesday evenings for Youth Group and Confirmation.

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> was Bible Sunday, and we gave out the "Hands On Youth Bible" to our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Those who received Bibles this year are: Kayla Buttles, Allison Hilfer, James Harle, Michael NeCollins, Lily Rayo, and Ty Simmons. We are privileged as a Church to be able to share God's word with our young members.

---

## YOUTH

Attention all youth! The Youth Group (grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) are meeting online each week on Wednesday except on Food & Fellowship Community Meal. We play a game, catch up with those we don't get to see during the week and mix in a little of Jesus's love. Dustin would love to see you all there so email him at [dustin@plattevilleumc.org](mailto:dustin@plattevilleumc.org) so he can email you the link.

We are looking for every opportunity to get off the computer and doing something in the real world. In October, we were able to help at the Capital Campaign Kickoff by having youth entries into an I-Spy game for the younger kids who were there. There isn't anything planned for November so Dustin is open to ideas. Be sure you're on the email list so you don't miss out, just email Dustin.

---

## HELPING OUR ADOPTED FAMILIES

In light of the pandemic, the Mission Committee has new plans to help our eight Adopted Families. These changes are taking the place of asking the congregation to donate food and products at Thanksgiving and Christmas and collecting Christmas presents for the families. Instead, we plan to donate two Walmart gift cards to each Adopted Family - one for food and products and one for family Christmas presents.

The amounts of the gift cards will be based on the sizes of the families.

The Mission Committee realizes that at this time, you are already being asked to contribute a lot to our church causes - the Capital Campaign plus the Stewardship pledges. We also know that as part of holiday traditions, many families look forward to donating to our Adopted Family Project before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Donations to our Adopted Families make a much needed, positive impact on their lives. Your past generous outpouring of kindness has been much appreciated!

To donate to this cause, send a check to the Platteville United Church at 1065 Lancaster St. **Please write "Mission - Adopted Families" on the memo line.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project.

**THINK GREATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Our “**Think Greater**” Stewardship program is helping us to do our very best. We believe that if every one of us makes a commitment – not just to do a little, not just to do “good”, but to do and give the very best we can – we can think greater, do greater and be greater than we have ever been before. You will soon be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Committee that will talk more about the 2021 Stewardship Commitment as well as a commitment card.

Please pray over your past giving as well as what you think will be your “greater” giving for 2021. Fill out the pledge card and please mail is back to the Church office, no later than **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNUAL COMMITMENT PLEDGE**

**Are you willing to “Take One Step Up”?**

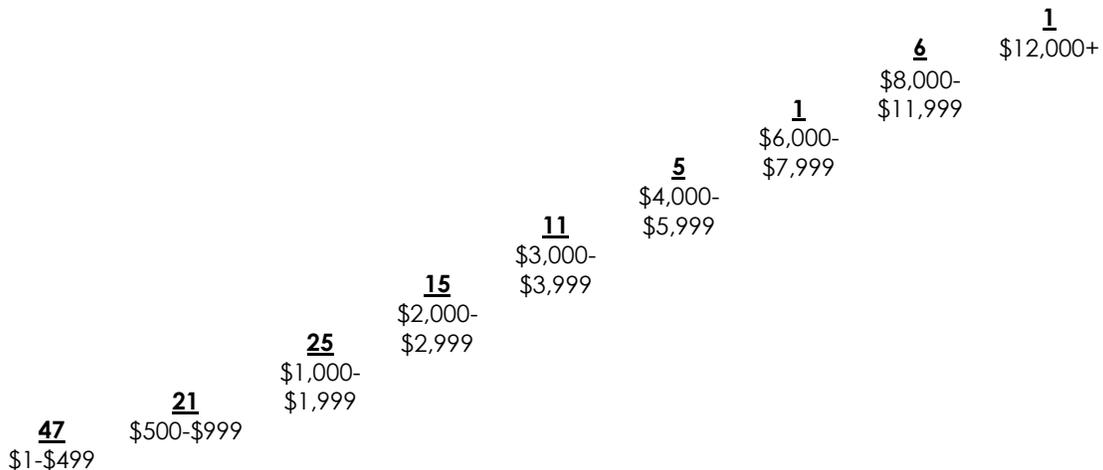
Prayerfully consider where you are on the chart below and commit to “take one step up” for 2021. Platteville UMC has had many very generous members retire or enter their eternal home. Our younger members and families can “step up” to higher levels of commitment to maintain and grow our mission.

As we seek to fulfill our mission together and set the priorities for our resources, we trust that God has already provided the resources needed to give generously to the work of the church.

Become an intentional giver by committing a percentage of your income instead of a flat amount. We challenge you to “tithe” by giving **10%** of your income. Or maybe try giving **1% more** than you currently give to get closer to the 10% amount. Try to take “one step up” for the sake of the mission of Platteville UMC. Do so with a glad and prayerful heart. Please watch for your pledge card coming in the mail soon.

**Prayerfully consider “Taking One Step Up”.**

-From the Stewardship Committee



The underlined numbers are the number of people in the congregation that give at the level indicated directly below them.

**WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**OCTOBER**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
342 Shares

**Food & Fellowship:**  
250 Meals Served

**SWCAP Food Giveaway:**  
240 Shares Given

**NOVEMBER**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup>

**Food & Fellowship:**  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>

**Family Promise:** Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
to Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>

**DECEMBER**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Food & Fellowship:**  
Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>



In October, volunteers distributed 342 bundles during periods of sun and light rain. Thank you so much volunteers! Our coordinators recently decided to make a financial commitment to the Capital Campaign. We have also donated to Family Promise. Our next Ruby's Pantry date is **Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. The truck arrives around 1:00 pm and volunteers are needed until about 6:30 pm. Come any time you can! Contact Deb Putnam for more information on volunteering at [putnamd@uwplatt.edu](mailto:putnamd@uwplatt.edu).



Our next rotation for hosting Family Promise is **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**. Make a difference by providing housing, food, and Christian support. Please keep an eye out for an email to sign up or please contact Bob Plourde at (608) 642-1018 with any questions.

**SUPPORT THE MISSION**

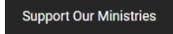
**ENVELOPE**

- Write the mission on a church or personal envelope.
- Write the mission on the memo line of your check.

**DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK**

- Call your bank or go online to your bank's website to setup your contribution.  
*This service is normally provided free of charge.*

**E-GIVING**

- Visit the church website.
- Click on 
- Click on the Create Profile button, follow the instructions to create an online profile and schedule your support.  
*You can choose which mission you want to support.*



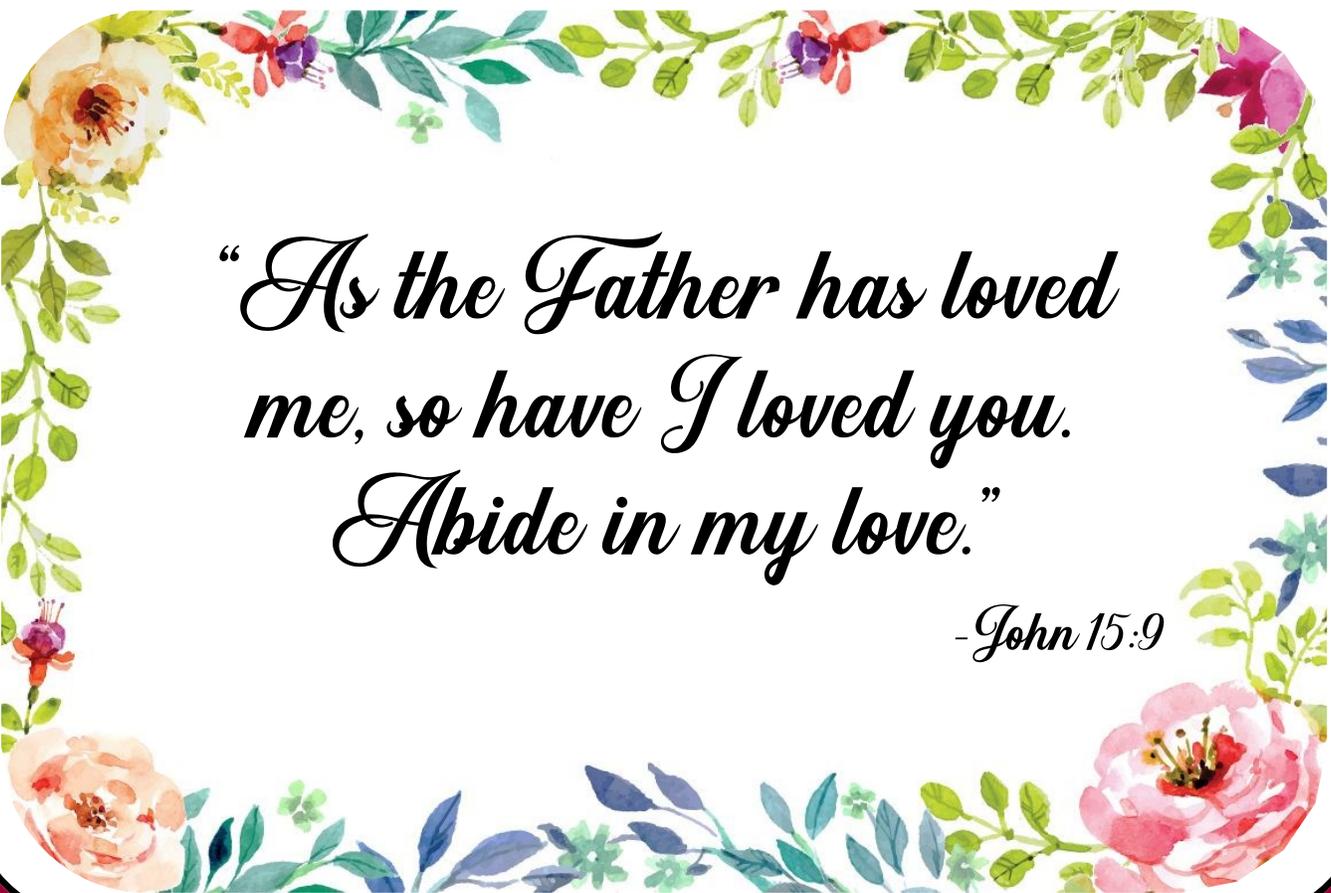
Platteville United  
Methodist Church  
1065 Lancaster Street  
Platteville WI 53818

Phone: (608) 348-9508  
churchoffice@plattevilleumc.org  
plattevilleumc.org  
www.facebook.com/PlattevilleUMC

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S Postage  
Paid  
Platteville, WI  
Permit No. 97

Return Service Requested

If you would no longer  
like to receive this  
newsletter, please  
contact the church  
office to take your  
name off the mailing  
list. Thank you!



*“As the Father has loved  
me, so have I loved you.  
Abide in my love.”*

*-John 15:9*