

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2012

Published monthly by

**Plymouth UCC**  
2010 Moholt Drive  
Eau Claire WI 54703  
**Phone:** 715-835-5475  
**Web:** pcucc.com



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

**Ministers:** All the people

**Pastor:** Rev. David Huber  
david@pcucc.com

**Church Secretary/Editor:**  
Mimi Pederson  
mimi@pcucc.com

## INSIDE

Birthdays. . . . .	Page 3
Calendar. . . . .	Page 7
Council Minutes. . . . .	Page 5
Pastor's Pen. . . . .	Page 4
Worship Notes. . . . .	Page 2

## Plymouth United Church of Christ welcomes . . .

### Dr. Eleazar Fernandez

Professor of Constructive Theology  
United Theological Seminary  
of the Twin Cities  
Sunday, July 22, 2012

10:30 A.M.      Worship service, Dr. Fernandez will give the sermon.  
The public is invited.

1:30 P.M.      Public talk: *Fundamentalists, Heretics, and Audacious  
Threshold Dwellers.*

Dr. Fernandez is the author of several books, including *Toward a Theology of Struggle, Reimagining the Human: Theological Anthropology in Response to Systemic Evil*, and *Burning Center, Porous Borders: The Church in a Globalized World*, the co-editor of *A Dream Unfinished: Theological Reflections on America from the Margins* and *Realizing the America of Our Hearts: Theological Voices of Asian Americans*, and the author of numerous articles and essays. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

\* \* \*

*Dear Members,*

*Thank you so much for the cake and celebration pot luck. Also, thank you for your donations during this transitional time for me. You are all my guardian angels, and I would not be who I am without you.*

*Cyndi*

If you have access to the Internet, please consider receiving this newsletter online. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at [mimi@pcucc.com](mailto:mimi@pcucc.com) to be put on the electronic mailing list. ***Otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.***

## GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

---

### July Worship Notes

**10:30 A.M. Worship**

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

**July 1**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering*

*The prophet Amos*

Amos 5 & 6; Acts 7:37–43, 51–54,  
58–60

**July 8**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Prayers for the People*

*The prophet Hosea*

Hosea 1, 6 & 11; Matthew 2:13–15;  
9:9–13

**July 15**

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*OCWM offering*

*The prophet Isaiah*

Isaiah 6 & 35; John 1:19–28; 9:35–41

**July 22**

*8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Eleazar Fernandez preaches*

*The prophet Micah*

Micah 5 & 7; Matthew 2:1–6; Luke  
12:49–53; John 7:40–44

**July 29**

*9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Mike Henry preaches*

*The prophet Habakkuk*

Habakkuk 1 & 2; Romans 1:16–17;  
Galatians 3:6–11

**In July, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Christena Strandt, Steve & Jeanne Strassman, Benji & Cathy Stygar, Mary Stygar, Sue (Tom) Thompson, Jerry Tubbs, Gladys Ulry

---

### Food for Thought

On July 8, we will have our 4<sup>th</sup> of July pot luck. Bring a picnic dish to pass. Ice cream will be provided for dessert.

As you travel, remember that the food pantry needs those travel size shampoos, etc. that motels/hotels provide.

**Mark your calendars: we will be serving at the Community Table on Saturday, October 20!**

### Pastor David (and Mimi) will be away

Pastor David will be away from July 23 to July 28. Rev. Dave Stratton can be contacted at 715-874-5422 if you have a pastoral emergency.

Mimi will be out of the office from July 26 to August 7.

### Congrats!

Congratulations to Joanne Miller who was honored by Volunteer Wisconsin as the June Volunteer of the Month for her work at the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center.

## July Birthdays

- 1 Tom Kruschke
- 2 Alice Noyes
- 9 Louise Partlow
- 11 Mel Rude
- 12 Maggie Leipnitz
- 18 Kayla Stygar
- 19 Megan Eisberner
- 26 Bill Liepnitz
- 27 Chelle Green  
Michael Green
- 30 Faye LaPean

## Lawn mowers wanted ... the people, not the machines!

Plymouth has a new (to us) riding lawn mower and we need volunteers to come and drive it around the yard when the grass gets long. Sign up on the calendar on the table. Questions? Ask Larry Kleist.

## “Want” list

Each month we have been giving you a “Need List.” Your response to that has been excellent. So now the Executive Council has come up with a “Want List.” These are items that will eventually be on the “Need List” but right now are things that we want and that are financially out of our reach. The list is pretty short, but it will get longer!

- Driveway and parking lot sealed and striped.
- New roof for the older section of the building.
- Gas weed trimmer for the lawn.
- Shelving for closet in Sanctuary

## Take me out to the ball game!

We are getting tickets to the Eau Claire Express baseball game at Carson Park on July 18. The game starts at 6:35 P.M. and we’ll meet at the Hank Aaron Statue between 6 and 6:15 P.M. The cost of the tickets is \$7.00 for grand stand seating. A sign up sheet will be at church. We need to have everyone signed up by Sunday, July 15. Payment can be sent to the church office or given to Barb Kleist or Pastor David at church.



\* \* \*

*Dear Friends and Families of Plymouth,*

*Thank you so very much for your loyal support throughout my educational career. The service, cake, and fellowship on Sunday, May 20 was greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Mrs. Stecher and Mrs. Gilbertson for the camper bag. The items you provide for us to attend camp are fabulous and much needed. The kindness you show is truly appreciated. To all the members of Plymouth, a huge thank you for all the fund raisers and muffins you have donated to in order to raise money for our camping experience. I thoroughly enjoy my time and experience at Moon Beach Camp each year. With your help I have learned about myself, my faith, and extended my friendships throughout the state. Thank you again for everything! I am proud to be a part of the Plymouth family.*

*~Adam Wendt*



Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

I write this to you from the front porch of my cabin at beautiful Moon Beach on a sunny Monday morning with a glorious view of the lake. I am here with six of our children and youth—together we make a bit more than ten percent of this week's camp attendance! I am so very thankful that you all support our children and youth to go to camp and have some life changing and faith building experiences, and that you also are willing to send your pastor out to do ministry within the greater church by taking part in the camping ministry. I also want to say thank you for all your giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)—about half of our OCWM giving stays in the Wisconsin Conference, and a portion of that giving (about \$100,000 each year) goes directly to our two camps.

The following are some random bits of news and information.

Our seminarian, Cyndi Bradbury, graduated from United Theological Seminary in May, and we had a celebration party for her in early June. Her next step is to write her ordination paper and when that is approved (I will write more on that another time), she can search for a call and then be ordained! So please send your congratulations to Cyndi.

Last Tuesday, when it was blisteringly hot out, Mike Henry, George Stecher, and I went out to do some street ministry handing out bottled water and snacks to homeless folks and others who needed it. We spent some time at Community Table and then headed downtown, and gave away about two cases of water and many bags of cookies and candy. But even more importantly, we listened to people's stories. Everyone has a story, but many of the mentally ill, homeless, or poor don't have much opportunity to tell theirs. And the people who need to hear those stories too often ignore them or are not in a place to

hear them. It was one of those things that truly make us the church, and we (as a congregation) will do more of this. If you are interested in doing something like this, please talk to Mike or me. To use some of the phrases we have learned from our Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregational, street ministry like we did last Tuesday is intentional faith development through risk taking mission and service. Plymouth was very well served last week, as were many of God's children, including a woman we found who was severely dehydrated and malnourished.

Our very own Charline Kozlowski is heading off for another trip to Germany to offer her ministry of song as part of the Wisconsin Conference Gospel Choir. She did this a few years ago, and they are going again this August for almost two weeks of sharing their music in many churches, and singing with other Gospel choirs in the area. For some reason, American Gospel Music is incredibly popular in Germany, which they sing in English to keep it authentic. Please offer your prayers for safe travel and fruitful ministry as Charline and the rest of the choir act as ambassadors of Wisconsin and of the Wisconsin Conference UCC! The trip is August 7–22.

Lastly, our pianist Lynn and I are going to Pilgrim Center (our other camp) at the end of July for a retreat about church music. We attended this last year and learned a lot about contemporary music, worship, and liturgy in the progressive church. We came back very energized last year, and expect to return this year having learned even more with more new music to offer to you all!

Many blessings

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

June 11, 2012

Members present: Pastor David Huber, Rob Jaenke, Barb Kleist, Louise Partlow, Kay Stecher, Jim Welk, and Larry Kleist. Guests for this meeting were George Stecher, Darrick & Joy Carter, and Mike Henry.

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor David opened the meeting with a prayer. The May minutes were approved.

The Five Practices Group reported on the results of their study. The committee members were Pastor David, George & Kay Stecher, Darrick & Joy Carter, and Barb Kleist. They discussed the following subjects: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Extravagant Generosity, Risk-taking Mission and Service, Mission Statement and some miscellaneous thoughts. There were some ideas we would like to try and some already implemented. You will hear more about this later.

Mike Henry spoke about his ministry and some ideas he has that could help us.

We will have an event at our church on July 22. Eleazar S. Fernandez, an ordained minister from the UCC in the Philippines, will speak at church and give a lecture after a lunch which the Executive Council will help with. More info on this will be coming.

**Financial Reports:**

As of May 31, 2012

Year to Date Income	\$46,353.48
Year to Date Expenses	\$46,217.80
Ahead (Behind)	\$135.68
Building Fund Balance	\$10,847.91
Memorial Fund Balance	\$4,191.23

**Treasurer's Report:**

Income for May was \$9,579.16; expenses were \$9,281.37 leaving us with a May gain of \$297.79.

**Reserve Fund Report:**

Balance of \$491.00 after \$3,000.00 was withdrawn for the General Fund

**Memorial Fund Report:**

The balance for the end of is May \$4,191.23.

**Building Fund Report:**

The balance remains \$10,847.91.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Christian Education Commission:**

No report – summer break.

**Stewardship Commission:**

No report.

**Worship Commission:**

No report.

**Service Commission:**

No report.



*Minutes continued on page 6*

*Council Minutes  
continued ...*

**Building and Grounds:**

Working on a schedule for mowing. Jim, Keith, Rob, Darrick, and George have volunteered so far. They are still trying to get the downed tree removed. Still no one wants to do it. The sign is not ready yet—too many other things to work on right now.

**Women of Plymouth:**

The Bake Sale went very well. They made a little over \$300.00.

**Pastor's Report:**

The Conference Annual Meeting was good. Rev. Dave Moyer will retire at the end of next year when his term is up. Mimi will be on vacation starting July 26 and will be back in the office August 8. We need to send our best wishes to Char Kozlowski and Choir on their trip to Germany.

**Old Business:**

- Building Use Policy is still being revised
- Express game: July 18 we will probably meet at Hand Aaron statue. If someone needs a ride, they should let the Council know
- Updated membership list is almost finished

**New Business:**

- Regarding a photo directory, it was decided not to go with a professional company. Maybe we can see if Micah would help us.

The next meeting is July 9, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Louise Partlow

**The Need List**

The following is a list of items that are needed by the church. Next time you are in the grocery store and see these items, pick one up and donate it!

1. Paper towels
2. Kleenex
3. Hand soap
4. Toilet paper
5. Garbage Bags-XL
6. "The Works" toilet bowl cleaner
7. Pledge Wipes
8. Pine Sol
9. Lemonade
10. Napkins
11. Hand sanitizer

Here is another way to help: Instead of donating these items, buy a SCRIP Card from Mega Foods and then someone can buy the items as needed. The church will get the items needed plus make a little money on it!

**A message  
from Rev. Geoffrey Black**

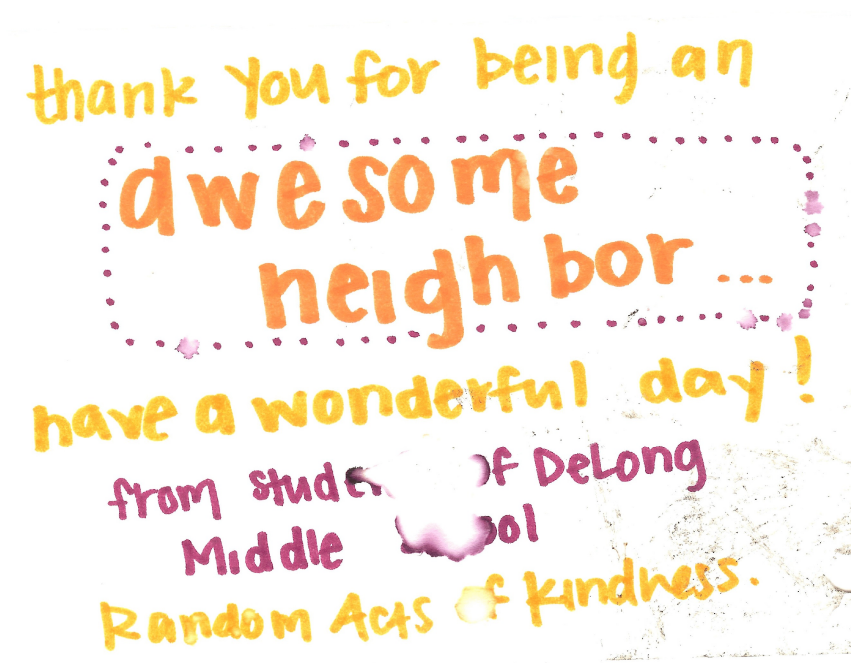
This is a portion of the letter we received from the UCC General Minister and President:

*"With great joy, we share the good news that your church is a 'Five for Five' congregation of the United Church of Christ. Your Conference reports that in 2011 you gave to Our Church's Wider Mission basic support and all four of the special mission offerings.*

*"Through your generous giving, you are changing lives in your own neighborhood and in places far away. Thank you for your commitment to the gospel as it is lived out in the United Church of Christ."*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>July 2012</h1> 						
<b>1 St. Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	2	3  9:00 A.M. Bible study  10:00 A.M. Quilters	4 Independence Day   Office closed	5	6	7
<b>8 Prayers for the People</b>  9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot Luck	9   7:00 P.M. Executive Council	10  9:00 A.M. Bible study  10:00 A.M. Quilters	11	12	13	14
<b>15 OCWM offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Worship	16   7:00 P.M. Christian Education Commission	17  9:00 A.M. Bible study  10:00 A.M. Quilters	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Philippines Feast 1:00 P.M. Prof. Eleazar Fernandez lecture	23  Pastor David gone 7/23-7/28	24  9:00 A.M. Bible study  10:00 A.M. Quilters	25	26  Mimi gone 7/26-8/7	27	28
29  10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	30	31  9:00 A.M. Bible study  10:00 A.M. Quilters				

GOOD NEWS



This little postcard, slightly rain spattered and attached to a packet of seeds, was left at our door by the students at DeLong Middle School. What a wonderful way to reach out to the folks in their neighborhood! And what an example to set for the rest of us!