



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

April 2013

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Plymouth UCC
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 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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INSIDE

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

The Spring Thrift Sale is coming up April 27

Now is the time to check your closets, attics and garages for all the extra items you no longer want or need.



Pre-priced items should be brought to church beginning April 15 for this all-important money raising event. Please watch for the sign-up to help at the sale too!

Opportunity to Serve the Greater Church

The Northwest Association and the Wisconsin Conference both have annual meetings coming up, and Plymouth is allowed delegates to each. The Northwest Association meeting is Saturday, May 4, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. in River Falls. We are allowed one voting delegate to that meeting, though anyone who wishes to attend is allowed. The only cost is \$8 for the meal that will be provided.

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting is June 7–9 at the Green Lake Conference Center (formerly the Baptist Assembly Grounds, across the lake from our own Pilgrim Center). Plymouth is allowed two voting delegates to this meeting, though anyone who wishes to attend is free to do so. This year the program will focus on worship and music, and will be led by Bryan Sirchio and his friends who have been leading the Music and Worship workshops that Lynn and Pastor David have attended. These meetings are far more than just business—they are more like a big family reunion filled with worship, singing, workshops, great food, and laughter, all happening at a beautiful retreat center. The cost is normally in the \$35–40 range to attend, as well as the cost of lodging and food. Those of you who have gone know that this really is a fun weekend to make connections and learn an awful lot about our denomination and the incredible ministries we have happening in the Wisconsin Conference.

If you would like to represent your Plymouth family as a delegate to either or both, please talk to Pastor David.

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

April Worship Notes

April 7
2nd Sunday of Easter
St. Francis Food Pantry offering
Acts 5:27–32; Psalm 150 or Psalm 118:14–29; Revelation 1:4–8; John 20:19–31

April 14
3rd Sunday of Easter
Prayers for the People
Klezmazel!
Acts 9:1–6 (7–20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

April 21
4th Sunday of Easter
OCWM offering
Acts 9:36–43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30

April 28
5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1–6; John 13:31–35

In April, we are praying for these individuals/families: Joanne and Sharon Miller, John & Sandy Moore, Jim Nelson, Edmund & Alice Noyes, Louise Partlow, Maria Patton, Erma Phephles, Kevin & Jean Phillips

Food for Thought

We will have a pot luck on Sunday, April 14 to celebrate ... SPRING???? There will be brats and hot dogs, so please bring a dish to pass that will go with them.

Our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry will be collected on Sunday, April 7.

In the month of April we are still participating in the “Feinstein Challenge.” During the challenge, any food or monetary donations made to St. Francis will help St. Francis Food Pantry receive an extra donation from the Feinstein Foundation. Please be generous this month.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 5 | Rose Shepler |
| 13 | Pat Sexter |
| 14 | Steve Leipnitz |
| 21 | Joanne Miller |

Plymouth Street Ministry Journal

Friday, March 15, 2013

I met Mike at Plymouth at 5:20 P.M. We drove to our usual spot—the municipal lot on Barstow—in Mike’s van. The temperature was right around the freezing point and a light, wet snow was falling. Thanks to Daylight Saving Time and the lengthening days it was still light out when we arrived. For the last few months we’ve been talking with people in the dark and it was nice to see their faces and expressions again.

Not much happened for the first 20 minutes or so—a few people were gathered at the Sojourner House homeless shelter across the street from us. A man walked past us down Barstow Street. He was a former shelter resident. Mike informed me that he had finally found housing. Another man came over and asked us if we could get him housing. He wasn’t happy that we didn’t have any and didn’t want to listen to Mike’s suggestions—he just walked away. A couple Mike had been counseling for some time came over. They are both young, in their late teens or very early 20’s. They recently had a baby girl. A friend of theirs was taking care of the baby so we did get to see her, but the father showed us pictures. They asked if we had any diapers or onesies or baby supplies. We didn’t, but Mike said he would do his best to come up with

some. Neither the mother nor the father were dressed well for the cold—we did give the mother a hat and gloves and gave the father a pair of work gloves. Winter gloves would have been better but work gloves was all we had that would fit his large hands.

A few minutes later other folks came to see us. We distributed a half-dozen or so pairs of gloves, several water bottles and small bags of candies, and one hygiene kit. It was great that we could meet many needs, but it was very hectic since they all came at the same time. One of our regulars dropped by. He had had a good day. When there is work available, he works in a scrap yard taking apart appliances. Today the work was indoors and not out in the cold and that had him in a good mood. We hope he can find better housing soon. Mike has been working with him to find something affordable but hasn’t succeeded yet. By this time the crowd in the shelter lot had grown quite large. There were many new faces. Usually I recognize a majority of those waiting, but not today. Many of the new folks appeared to be very young—I would guess in their late teens. I wonder why there are suddenly so many very young homeless in Eau Claire.

The shelter opened a few minutes after 7 P.M. and the crowd went inside. Mike and I left at about 7:20 P.M.

Please keep the poor in your prayers. We can always use more help, especially people who can go out with us. No experience is necessary.

George Stecher

PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

I wish you all a very happy Easter, and I pray that you all know and feel the spirit of new life, rebirth, and resurrection joy in your hearts and lives! He is risen!

I know from talking with some of you that Easter seems to have snuck up because of its early appearance, but also because we still have a foot and a half of snow on the ground. When I think of Easter, I think Spring. But it doesn't feel very springy, does it? It is difficult to believe we are at a time of rebirth. But perhaps the snow on the ground is a lesson in how God works whether we're ready or not, whether we feel the time is right or not. Whether it fits in our calendars or not.

And so Easter is the time to remember that our savior rose from death and left behind an empty tomb so that we might have abundant life, and as a promise—on some level—that spring will come. The flowers will break through the ground and bloom, the crops will be planted and grow, the trees will burst in leafy green goodness, and we will be able once again to go outside without wondering how many layers of clothing we need to pull out of our closets.

Have a blessed Easter season!

Church trip to Washington, DC

Rev. Phil Schneider and the people of St. Paul's UCC Wausau invite members of the Wisconsin Conference to join them on a trip to Washington, DC, June 23-30, 2013. Travel is by bus, and includes stop at the UCC National Offices in Cleveland, Gettysburg, a tour of the Hershey factory, Annapolis, and all the typical things one would expect to see in DC itself. Cost is from \$1250 to \$1750. For more information, we have brochures available in the narthex, or contact Phil at 715-842-3733, admin1@stpaulsuccwausau.org, or check their website.

Empty Bowls Report

The Empty Bowls Benefit for Feed My People was held on Thursday, March 7. They served over 1,800 people and 1,400 bowls were donated.

The benefit raised over \$50,000 for Feed My People's hunger relief programs.

Thanks to all who bought tickets for this great event!

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 11, 2013

Members present: Deb Zehms, Kay Stecher, Louise Partlow, Mike Henry, Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, and Pastor David

Deb called the meeting to order at 7:00. The February minutes were read and then approved.

Financial Reports:

As of February 28, 2013

Year to Date Income	\$19,139.65
Year to Date Expenses	\$18,706.77
Ahead (Behind)	\$432.88

Treasurer's Report:

Income for February was \$10,110.04; expenses were \$10,109.36 for a gain of \$.68. Income includes \$2,475.00 from Memorials designated for General Fund and \$3,000.00 borrowed from Memorial Fund. Income was down for February. Expenses completed first quarter payments.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance at the end of February was \$309.38.

Memorial Fund Report:

The Memorial Fund balance is \$3,250.09 at the end of February.

Building Fund Report:

The balance remains \$5,893.34.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Tree will be removed when snow is gone.

Christian Education Commission:

We are planning a fun "lock-in" night on Friday, March 22. We'll work on some fundraiser crafts, watch a movie, and have breakfast together. the confirmation kids and their moms will have a good time! We are having our annual Magnificent Muffin Morning on Easter Sunday at 8:30 A.M. Take outs are available after worship as well. All donations go to help our Moon Beach Campers. the confirmands are doing "commercials" during worship announcements for SCRIP cards, the April 27 Thrift Sale, and the Muffin Breakfast. Thanks to them for their creativity!



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

Stewardship Commission:

They have not met in February.

Worship Commission:

Planning Easter events. Good Friday at First Congregational—usually a very good turnout. Additional churches now joining in this worship. Will be a very special program per Pastor David.

Service Commission:

Some visits going on. Weather makes it difficult.

Women of Plymouth:

Met to work on funeral lunches and changes to policy. Will let Council know soon. Working on Bazaar plans. We will encourage people to get into more crafts.

Council Minutes continued ...

Pastor's Report:

Preparing for Easter. Pastor David got Council approval to go to Madd Camp June 9–15. Annual NW Association Meeting will be May 4.

New Business:

- Mike Henry will give a report in the newsletter each month to make members more aware. They will need to find a way to raise funds. Want to form an Evangelism Committee.

**Next meeting: Monday, April 8, 2013
at 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow

* * *

The beautiful spring flowers that adorned the sanctuary Easter morning were given by the following people:

Tami, Chris, Megan, and Travis Eisberner in memory of Vera Abramovich, **Dorothy Gilbertson, Gordon & Audrey Heimstead** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Heimstead and Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bratzman, **Rev. David Huber, Larry & Barb Kleist** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. August Kleist and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hinz, **Charline Kozlowski** in memory of Chester Kozlowski and Ed& Lillian Mueller, **Catherine Lee & Family** in memory of Loren & Ester Lee, **Joanne Lowry** in memory of Jerry Lowry, **Louise Partlow** in memory of Leol Partlow and in honor of Christena Strandt, **The Stecher Family** in memory and honor of their parents



Philippine Immersion Trip

Date: June 10–24, 2013

Prof. Eleazar Fernandez, who preached here last summer, is offering a trip to the Philippines to broaden global understanding and deepen commitment to greater well-being in a globalized world. Participants will live with the Filipino people, listen to their stories, learn about people's movements, share their faith and hopes, engage in dialogue about global issues, and explore ways of global solidarity, and also be exposed to ministry of churches in the Philippines.

Cost: \$3,199.00. This includes air fare, lodging, meals, transportation in the Philippines, and other expenses directly related to the partnership/immersion trip.

If interested, please contact Eleazar S. Fernandez Professor of Constructive Theology United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, Minnesota 55112
Email: efernandez@unitedseminary.edu
Phone: 651-255-6131

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2013						
	1	2 <i>Spring Election</i> 10:00 A.M. Quilters	3	4	5	6
7 <i>St Francis Food Pantry offering</i> 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	8 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	9 10:00 A.M. Quilters	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Prayers for the People</i> 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	15 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	16 10:00 A.M. Quilters	17	18	19	20
21 <i>OCWM offering</i> 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23 10:00 A.M. Quilters	24	25	26	27 <i>Spring Thrift Sale</i> 7:30 A.M.—4:00 P.M.
28 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	29	30 10:00 A.M. Quilters				