



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2013

Published monthly by

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 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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## An Evening with the Eau Claire Express

The Executive Council thinks it would be a good idea to have another Plymouth night at an Eau Claire Express baseball game this summer. The game we would attend is Thursday, July 25. The game is against the Wisconsin Woodchucks. The cost of the tickets is \$8 and starts at 6:35 P.M. We would have reserved Grand Stand seats.



There will be a sign up sheet at church if you are interested. You will need to sign up by July 21 so that tickets can be ordered. We will meet at the park by the Henry Aaron statue at 6 P.M.

## Volunteers Needed!

Due to the extremely rainy and snowy spring we had, some of our church's yard work did not get done. The Executive Council is asking for your help. Some of the things that still need to be done are: the windows washed inside and out, weeds pulled out of the flower beds around the church and the garage, brush hauled away and anything else that you can see needs to be done.

We are asking that if you have some free time during the summer if you could help out and work on one of these projects. There are no sign up sheets for this, just come and do what you can. We need to keep up our property so that we add value to the neighborhood, not detract from it. Do not expect someone else to take care of this. **YOU** volunteer and help out your church.

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

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

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

### July Worship Notes

**July 7**

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

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering*

2 Kings 5:1–14; Psalm 30;

Galatians 6:(1–6) 7–16; Luke 10:1–11,  
16–20

**July 14**

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

*Prayers for the People*

Amos 7:7–17; Psalm 82;

Colossians 1:1–14; Luke 10:25–37

**July 21**

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

Amos 8:1–12; Psalm 52;

Colossians 1:15–28; Luke 10:38–42

**July 28**

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

Hosea 1:2–10; Psalm 85;

Colossians 2:6–15 (16–19); Luke  
11:1–13

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

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### Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck in July, but join us for the Eau Claire Express game on July 25. There's a sign-up sheet for that on the table outside the sanctuary.

We will take our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry on Sunday, July 7.

Mark your calendars: We will serve at the Community Table on Saturday, September 21. About a dozen volunteers are needed along with \$100 for our donation. Watch for a sign-up sheet later this summer.

### Sunday morning Summer Bible Study

Bob Cizek and Lilly Savage are leading a Bible Study on "God is a Good God!" on alternate Sunday mornings this summer. It will begin on July 14, looking at John 3:16, and will meet every other week into September. Come early, grab a cup of coffee and a sweet treat, and join Bob and Lil in the library! Bob will also have some multimedia to help the discussions. July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25, and September 8.

## 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

## Interim Conference Minister

At the Annual Meeting of the Conference, it was announced that the Rev. Michael Obenauer will be our Interim Conference Minister, beginning his ministry among us August 15. Michael comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills that are uniquely suited to the needs of our Conference at this time.

He is eager to visit our churches to meet our pastors and lay leaders. A number of clergy from our Conference have known Michael as a pastor in Kansas and Illinois, or they were pastors in Montana when he was on the Conference staff there. Every one of them expressed delight in learning that Michael will be serving among us, knowing him as an experienced, skilled, and caring pastor carrying out his ministry with confidence and humility. We look forward to greeting and welcoming Michael to our community of faith!

## A Note of Greeting

My spouse, Bobbie, and I are eager to live in Wisconsin among you in the near future. I look forward to working in

Conference leadership with the Board of Directors and many of you. I love the United Church of Christ and its circles of communities—1 churches; associations; the Conference; the larger, wider church. I am so glad it is my community of faith! The Conference Board of Directors has defined the work of the interim period in the Wisconsin Conference to be focused on three priorities:

- Navigating this transitional time with a sense of hope;
- Nurturing the Conference' relationship with the local churches;
- Finding new and meaningful ways to be the Body of Christ.

This is work and ministry I find to be both intriguing and meaningful. I relish the opportunity to be in leadership among and with you, and to meet as many of you as possible during my time with the Wisconsin Conference.

In Deep Hope,  
Michael E. Obenauer

## Planning for the Fall Bazaar Saturday, November 23

The planning committee has met and needs your help.

- We want to expand our **Craft Area**, so be thinking of new or old craft ideas that you could make
- Be on the lookout for things to sell at the **Treasure Trove**. The supply from last year is just about depleted.
- We would encourage you to find your old recipes for **Scandinavian Baking**. We would like to advertise this as our specialty. Plymouth bakers are wonderful!

If you have any creative ideas we could use, please contact a member of the committee (the same as last year).

## PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Back in 1990 as the Voyager I spacecraft was 3.7 billion miles from earth and leaving the solar system, the NASA scientists had it spin around and take one last photo of earth. In it, the earth is a blue dot smaller than a pixel. It inspired Carl Sagan to write in "The Pale Blue Dot":



*From this distant vantage point, the Earth might not seem of any particular interest. But for us, it's different. Consider again that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there...The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena.*

Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor. Consider just how small our planet is in the vastness that we call "everything," and all our jockeying for power or resource hogging at the expense of our neighbor seems pretty silly. Sagan continues:

*Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all*

*those generals and emperors so that in glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner. How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light.*

Seeing earth as the pale blue finite dot makes me see more vibrantly the infinite value of the lives inhabiting it. The writer of Psalm 8 wrote to God, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" We are a people who matter to the God who made it all. How staggering is that good news! Sagan continues:

*...The Earth is the only world known, so far, to harbor life ... Like it or not, for the moment, the Earth is where we make our stand. It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.*

Indeed.

*Pastor [Signature]*

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

June 10, 2013

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Kay Stecher, Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, and Louise Partlow

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00. The May minutes were read and approved.

**Financial Reports:**

As of May 31, 2013

Year to Date Income	\$45,042.99
Year to Date Expenses	\$45,401.41
Ahead (Behind)	(\$358.42)

**Treasurer's Report:**

Income for May was \$8,479.08 (includes \$1,800 transferred from Reserve Fund); expenses were \$9,183.96 for a loss of (\$704.88)

**Reserve Fund Report:**

The balance is \$598.38.

**Memorial Fund Report:**

The balance is \$2,300.41.

**Building Fund Report:**

The balance is \$902.22 after a \$5,000 transfer to General Fund.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Building and Grounds:**

The lawn mower has been fixed. The door to the patio in the fellowship room needs to be repaired. Larry and Jim will follow up on this. Yard clean-up—members will work when they can.

**Christian Education Commission:**

Kay asked that we all remember to thank our teachers for their caring and dedication. Teacher Appreciation Sunday was held on May 19. Thanks to our Christian Ed leadership: Pastor David, Tami Eisberner, Linda Jaenke, and George Stecher. Our campers are at Moon Beach the week of June 9–15. Thanks to all for supporting our youth members and helping them have this wonderful experience! Sunday School is done meeting until September.

**Stewardship Commission:**

Pie & Ice Cream Social income was \$1,234.95.

**Worship Commission:**

No report. Haven't met. Hymn Sing on June 9 went very well and was fun.

**Service Commission:**

No report—contacts ongoing.

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report. They have not met.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- May go to an Eau Claire Express game again this summer. Tentative date is Thursday, July 25.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Partlow





## WISH 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! This is one way to help out with the church budget!

1. Paper towels
2. Toilet paper
3. Garbage Bags-XL

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 word of thanks ...

Plymouth Congregation,

Thank you so much for sending me to camp this year. Moon Beach and MADD camp mean a lot to me, and I am very grateful to be able to go again! I can hardly believe that this will be my seventh year at camp ... thank you for supporting me this whole time!

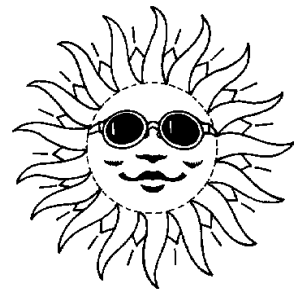
Hannah Zehms

### Be a sponsor!

Sponsor an issue of the newsletter, a weekly bulletin, or the illumination of the cross on the front of our building in memory or in honor of someone or in honor of a special event, or even just because! Bulletin and newsletter sponsors will be recognized in the issue they sponsor. Cross sponsors will be listed in all publications for the month of sponsorship. Support a bulletin for \$15, a newsletter for \$50, or illuminate the cross for \$50. Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the sanctuary

### Great time to get SCRIP cards this summer!

As you probably know, SCRIP cards are available for Mega, Gordy's, and Kwik Trip. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Right now we make a 10% profit on Kwik Trip cards, a 5% profit at Mega grocery, and a 10% profit at Mega Holiday convenience stores. *Now, for the months of June–August, Gordy's will also offer a 5% discount on their cards.* Through June 16, 2013 we have made \$672.50 in profits.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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# July 2013

	1	2 10:00 A.M. Quilters	3	4 Office closed	5	6
7 <b>St Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	8  7:00 P.M. Executive Council	9  10:00 A.M. Quilters	10	11	12	13
14 <b>Prayers for the People</b>  9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	15  7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	16  10:00 A.M. Quilters	17	18	19	20
21 <b>OCWM offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23  10:00 A.M. Quilters	24	25  EC Express Game	26	27
28  10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	29	30  10:00 A.M. Quilters	31			