

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2015

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Ministers: All the people

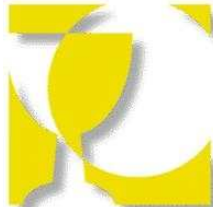
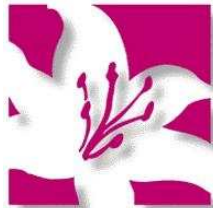
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INSIDE

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



March 29 Palm Sunday
10:30 A.M. Worship and Celebration

April 2 Maundy Thursday
7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

April 3 Good Friday
12:10 P.M. Worship
First Congregational UCC

April 5 Easter Sunday
8:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffin Morning
9:30 A.M. Celebration Worship
10:30 A.M. Muffin Sale

Daylight savings begins March 8. Be sure to set your clocks *ahead* before retiring on March 7.



GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March Worship Notes

March 1

2nd Sunday in Lent

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm
22:23–31; Romans 4:13–25;
Mark 8:31–38 or Mark 9:2–9

March 8

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

March 15

4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3,
17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

March 22

5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12 or
Psalm 119:9–16; Hebrews 5:5–10; John
12:20–33

March 29

Palm/Passion Sunday

Mark 11:1–11; Mark 14:1–15:47

In March, we are praying for these individuals/families: Faye LaPean, Catherine Lee, Bill & Julie Leipnitz, Steve & Ann Leipnitz, Joanne Lowry, Joanne (Sharon) Miller, John & Sandy Moore

Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck in March. Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent for our soup and discussions at noon or 6 P.M. We will take our St Francis Food Pantry offering on March 1 so make sure you show your support for those in need of food with your offering.

Also, don't forget the Plymouth Street Ministry. Winter is still here and those nights are very cold out there. Hats, gloves, mittens, hand warmers and money are needed. Also large size hooded sweatshirts and winter jackets. Please contact Mike Henry if you would like to help. As always there is a need for water and gas cards!

Memorials

● Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** directed to the General Fund: *In memory of Christian Hotchkiss:* Lyle Shepler Family; *In memory of Gladys Green:* Glen Olson

Empty Bowls benefit for Feed My People will be Thursday, March 5 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire. \$18 for a bowl and soup meal, \$8 soup meal only, kids 10 and under free. Dine in or carry out. Tickets available here.

March Birthdays

- 2 Doug Salter
- 3 Stacy Kleist Gantner
- 4 Claire Cramblit
- 5 Judy Insteness
- 6 Erma Phephles
- 8 Aurora Robison
Steven Gilbertson
Joyce Holmen
Dakota Stygar
- 10 Jeremy Green
- 11 Andrew Salter
- 24 Peter Holmen
- 29 Dorothy Kruschke

Grant Received

Plymouth has received a Wildflower Restoration Grant of \$125.00 from the Eau Claire Garden Club. This grant money will enable us to sow wildflowers on the hill on the east side of the building which will be visible from the fellowship room and the sanctuary. The Club's annual plant sale will be May 16 at First Baptist Church, 416 Niagara Street. Proceeds from this sale make grants like the one we received possible. Please support them.

Order Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary and then take them home and plant them in your own yard after Easter. The flowers may be placed in memory or in honor of a loved one. Our supplier would like a "ballpark" order by **March 16**, so please fill out the information below and return it with your payment to the church office by then if you can. Checks should be made out to Plymouth United Church of Christ.

Your name(s): _____

In memory/honor of (Please circle one) _____

- _____ Lily plants at \$8.25 each \$ _____
- _____ Daffodils at \$8.25 each \$ _____
- _____ Tulips at \$8.25 each \$ _____
- _____ Hyacinths at \$8.25 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,



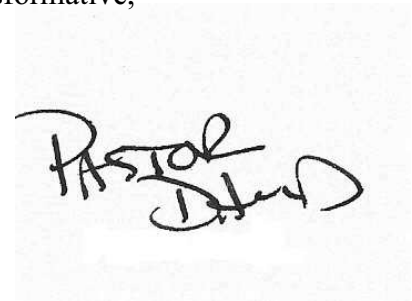
Seems like we just celebrated Christmas not too long ago, and here we are already into Lent. Lent is the 40-day journey leading into Easter, a time set aside for contemplation of our faith and how we follow Jesus. A time to let go of anything we do which is not godly, and take up new practices that are. Some people give things up for Lent, such as chocolate, alcohol, going out to eat, swearing... many creative possibilities! Others take opportunity to make Lent a time to take something on: buying a lunch for someone each day, taking money they might spend on their daily coffee and give it to the church or a food pantry, being more cheerful, reading scripture. Lots of room for creativity there, too! It's a time for transformation. I'm less a fan of giving something up than I am a fan of taking on a new habit, but whatever leads to a personal transformation is good for me.

We have Wednesday meals at noon and 6 P.M., offering soup and bread and treats, and also time for discussion and faith talk. Talking and fellowship with other Jesus followers is a great way to build faith. Sunday worship is great and important, but fellowship around a meal allows for a lot more dialogue, exchange of ideas, seeing life in new ways, and also building relationships with your fellow travelers.

Might I also suggest that you accept the challenge to take on the spiritual discipline of being invitational? Nothing fancy, nothing complicated. Simply to extend an invitation to someone to join

us at a Wednesday meal (a safe thing to invite people to, because it's food!). You can invite someone to a Sunday worship. We have some special things coming up that can also be attractive invitations. On March 8, we will have Madison Lovelein speaking in worship. She went to Thailand in January to work and be with women and children affected by human trafficking, and will be talking about her experience and transformation seeing their lives and witnessing their struggle as well as their hopes. On March 29, we will have a special dramatic presentation of the Passion story done by a group of dedicated thespians from the community and the church. And then Easter is April 5, to celebrate the risen Lord with lots of great music!

May your Lent be blessed and transformative,



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2015

Members present: Pastor David, Deb Zehms, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, and Louise Partlow

Deb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The January Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$5,153.04
Year to Date Expenses	\$7,567.41
Ahead (Behind)	(\$2,414.37)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for January was \$5,153.04. Total expenses for the month were \$7,567.41, leaving us with a January loss of (\$2,414.37). Income was slightly higher than last year [+ \$28.00]. Bills paid in January were the usual for that month. Profits from Nut Fund and Scrip will be deposited in February. Those funds should cover our loss in January.

Reserve Fund Report:

January balance is \$413.19.

Memorial Fund Report:

January balance is \$8,995.16.

Street Ministry Report:

January balance is \$442.29.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Nothing to report at this time. Maintenance is being done as needed.

Christian Education Commission:

The account at Bank Mutual needs to be updated—new signer, etc. Rob will be the signer. This is the campers' fund for our youth. February Film Festival is going on and will be extended through March as it was started a little late.

Stewardship Commission:

Thrift Sale is tentatively set for April 25 if this works for us.

Service Commission:

Visits are ongoing by Pastor David and other church members. Please remember to fill out a visitation card—even for phone visits. Sending cards would be appreciated also.

Worship Commission:

Ash Wednesday is next week, February 18. We will be meeting at noon and in the evening for Soup and Scripture. The theme for this Lenten season is transformation.

Women of Plymouth:

We had our Game Day on February 7. We were a small group, but it was a good time with good food and fun just playing games.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David has re-designed Plymouth's website with added pictures, etc. Please check it out.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We had a good turnout on Sunday, February 8 for our guest speaker Jim Boulter, chemistry professor and Watershed Institute director at UW Eau Claire.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on camps for Youth and new plans for financing.
- Barb and Deb have made a tentative rewrite to our constitution for the congregation's review. Members will be informed and special vote will be taken on March 8 regarding committees instead of commissions.

Next meeting of the Council will be Monday, March 16 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow

Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega, Mega Holiday, Gordy's, and Kwik Trip. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Here is how it works: They are available for \$25, \$50, and/or \$100. We keep 5% of the money that is paid for Mega, Gordy's, and Kwik Trip cards, and 10% for Mega Holiday cards. And at Kwik Trip, when the card is used *inside* the store (with some restrictions like tobacco, alcohol, stamps) they will deposit a 10% rebate into our bank account. So, for example, if you buy a \$100 Mega card, we pay \$95 and keep \$5 to help pay our bills. This is a great way to add to our income without feeling the pinch.

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.

Greetings to you all!

Outside the temperatures are frigid...but I want you to think spring planting! In conjunction with the Pie and Ice Cream Social, we will be having the second annual plant sale. Last year, despite being a new and unpublicized idea, we made a nice amount of money to add to our general fund. This year, we are hoping for bigger and better...with some advertisement and your help.

Last year, fellow gardeners and I were frantically digging out chunks of perennials just before the P & I Social and feverishly repotting them. This year, as I wake up my flower gardens, I am going to do my digging, splitting, and repotting. It will give me more time to get it done and give the emerging plants more time to adapt to their temporary life in a pot.

So please think of Plymouth's Plant Sale this spring as you wake up your flower beds. I will even help you out with this by collecting the plants you have dug out or split and doing the repotting for you. I promise to take good care of them until the sale in June. Including bulbs or tubers from spring bloomers would also be a great addition to the sale. If you could also provide any or all of the following information, it would be very helpful to the buyer: type of plant, potential size, color of bloom (if applicable), shade loving/sun loving, hardiness, does it spread readily.

If you have any plastic pots stored away from your previous plant purchases, please consider donating them for this year's plant sale. Last year, I had to get pretty creative...I had my plants in cut off milk jugs, plastic gelato jars...and

thankfully, we had some pots donated just as my supply ran out. Others who donated plants did a great job of potting and adding descriptions of their plants. However, depending on how many pots are collected, I may be asking for you to help us be creative potters by saving milk jugs to supplement our supply of pots.

This year, we would like to include houseplants. I have spider plants to root and peace plants to split...and a plant or two that I am simply tired of watering. So, if you have any that you can donate to the sale, it would be great! Again, I will be happy to help with that in any way. Any plant related items like tools, clay pots, planters etc. would be a welcome addition to our sale.

Gee, I feel warmer just thinking about our plant sale!! So, think ahead about what you can add to the plant sale. What a great way to THINK SPRING!
Thank you!!

Deb Zehms, Co-moderator



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2015</h1>						
1 St Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	2	3 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:30 P.M. Dartball (Our Redeemer at Plymouth)	4 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	5	6	7
8 Prayers for the People 10:30 A.M. Worship DST begins	9	10 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:30 P.M. Dartball (Plymouth at Chapel Heights)	11 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	12	13	14
15 OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	16 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	17 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:30 P.M. Dartball (St Mark at Plymouth)	18 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	19	20	21
22 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 10:00 A.M. Quilters	25 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:30 A.M. Worship	30	31 10:00 A.M. Quilters				