

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2015

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 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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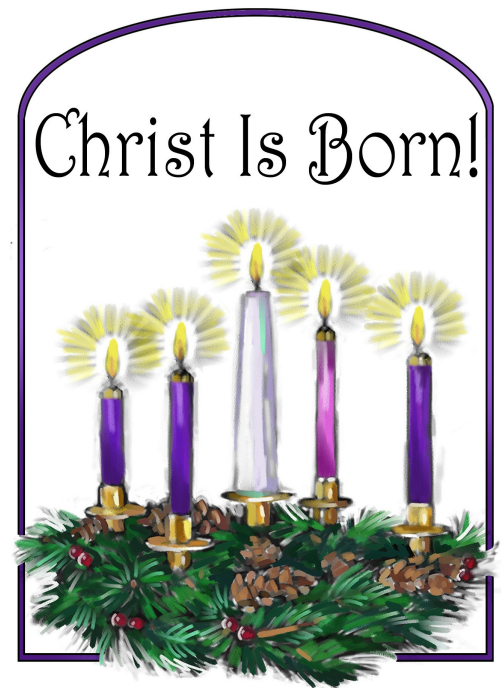
*Cross illumination is
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Candlelight Family Service of Lessons and Carols Thursday, December 24 5:00 P.M.

*A family-friendly
worship service of
praise for the birth of
our Savior with
special music and a
beautiful candlelit
Silent Night.*



Getting ready for church

December Worship Notes

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Sunday

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79;

Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prayers for the People

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6;

Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent

OCWM & Christmas Fund offering

Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm

80:1–7; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke

1:39–45 (46–55)

December 20

Blue Christmas Service of Healing and Wholeness at 6:00 P.M.

December 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Family Service of

Lessons and Carols at 5:00 P.M.

December 27

1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26; Psalm 148;

Colossians 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52

In December, we are praying for these individuals/families: Kathryn Hamilton (Allen Nall), Bea Hancock, Harlan & Charlene Hartwich, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Mike Henry, Kay Hestekin

Food for Thought

There will be a pot luck on December 6. Please join us and invite someone you know to come with you. Bring either your favorite Christmas dish or something made from your Thanksgiving leftovers to pass. We will collect our St Francis Food Pantry offering also on December 6.

Also, don't forget the Plymouth Street Ministry. Please contact Mike Henry if you would like to volunteer. Monetary donations and fast food gift cards are always appreciated. The nights are getting colder, so there is a need for warm clothing items. Please help however you can.

Blue Christmas

Join us on December 20. On this night, we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; they are experiencing depression and sadness and yet are often compelled to “put on a happy face” for others, denying their true feelings.

Our service of care will be held at 6:00 P.M. on December 20, and we welcome all who are in need of healing and hope in their time of loss.

December Birthdays

- 2 Richard Waltmire
- 4 Irma Shepler
- 5 Terri Gilbert
- 9 Aaron Adams
Pastor David
- 14 Sarah Hestekin Thearin
- 22 Cathy Stygar

Christmas Fund

For 110 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a means by which we, as members of the United Church of Christ, bring hope to those who have so faithfully and selflessly served. Your generous giving enabled the Church to provide \$1,536,460 in assistance and “thank you” gifts to nearly 1,600 clergy and lay employees and their families. Please consider supporting the Christmas Fund Offering again this year. Watch for a mailing with a special envelope to make your gift. We will receive that offering on December 20.

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.

Don't miss out!!

Get your Plymouth Church t-shirts!!! The Leadership Team thought it would be a great idea to have Plymouth t-shirts to wear at events like the thrift sale, Community Table, actually any activity for which we want to be easily identified as part of our amazing church. They will be blue, with our name on the front and our “motto” on the back. **If you would like to order a shirt, please fill out an order form from the table and send or drop it off to Mimi with the payment of \$10 per shirt. Checks can be written to Plymouth UCC.** What an excellent way to show the pride we have in our church!!



Hanging of the Greens



The Worship Team will be decorating the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 5. Please join us—the more help we have, the less time it takes! Then join us for a soup lunch. Pastor David is making his traditional peanut soup, plus there will also be chicken noodle soup available. Come around 10 A.M. and get into the Christmas spirit with us.

Looking ahead to 2016

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 19. We will serve at the **Community Table** on that day. Please join us. It is a great experience!

Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

We're in an important holiday season, so I won't say much, just highlight some of the great things coming up at Plymouth this month.

Perhaps the most significant day, next to Christmas Eve, is that on Sunday, Dec. 6, we welcome three new members, Pat, Meghan, and Donald, into our church family! It's also our pledge Sunday with Communion, and a celebration potluck lunch after worship. Spend time with your church family, welcome its newest members, and offer your support for the coming year.

The day before, on Saturday, Dec. 5 is our annual Christmas decorating day. Always a fun time of fellowship and making our church building beautiful for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll be serving lunch, too! This is from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. or whenever we finish.

Dec. 20 is our second annual Blue Christmas worship service at 6:00 P.M. Blue Christmas is a tradition that began a few years ago and is gaining popularity. The worship service is for those who feel down, depressed, lonely, or otherwise blue at Christmas. With the social and media pressure to be joyous at Christmas, plus images of happy families and perfect lives, and it sets an unrealistic expectation. Some people don't have happy families, or grieve the death of a loved one, are fed up with the consumerism or the pressure to have a "perfect" Christmas. This worship is a prayerful affirmation of these feelings.

We did this last year for the first time and it was a meaningful experience for all of us. We'll have some special music from Lynn, guest speakers, prayer, and time for sharing by anyone who wishes to do so.

Dec. 24 is our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols at 5 P.M., with our wonderful readers offering the Christmas story of Jesus' birth, and lots of special music from our church musicians. I find this service makes me really feel like Christmas has come. It's also a perfect worship service to invite people to hear the message of hope and love that is the Christmas story. Bring someone with you and share our message with others.

As December is a time of high pressure for perfect Christmases, parties, concerts and events, and plenty of opportunities to get lost in the busy-ness, please be sure to take some time each day to relax, slow down, and stay in touch with God. Don't lose the meaning of the season by getting caught up in its trappings. It's all about Jesus being born to us, the light of the world, the prince of peace. May you know the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas!

Blessings,



Leadership Team Minutes

November 16, 2014

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

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$86,331.98
Year to Date Expenses	\$87,780.52
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,448.54)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for October was \$7,365.76. Total expenses for the month were \$7,482.42, leaving us with an October loss of \$116.66. Envelope income was down \$5,953 from last year and down \$6,275 from previous 6 years average. Monies needed to be transferred from Memorial and PIP Reserve funds to cover our bill payments. We need to catch up on Food Pantry, OCWM, and OGHS.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$391.50.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$4,419.90.

Street Ministry Balance: \$2,148.81.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

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

Christian Education Commission:

Nothing to report at this time.

Stewardship Commission:

2016 campaign will start late November/early December. Letters and pledge cards will be sent soon.

Worship Commission:

Poinsettias need to be ordered by November 30. Tree decorating and sanctuary decorating on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome.

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. Barb will pick a new date to serve the Community Table as the first one is already filled.

Women of Plymouth:

Annual Bazaar was a huge success. Income was a little over \$2,400.00
Good job everyone!

Pastor's Report:

We will meet on Sunday, November 22 after church with those wishing to join our congregation—Pat and Meghan Cartmill and Don Erickson

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tee shirt order forms will be put in bulletins as not everyone checks our back table.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Blue Christmas service will be December 20 in the evening.

Next meeting of the Team will be Monday, December 14 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow



Good News

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2015</h1>						
		1 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth at Eagles	2	3	4	5 10:00 A.M. Advent decorating (with lunch!)
6 Stewardship Sunday St Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 Pot luck	7	8 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Rock Creek at Plymouth	9	10	11	12
13 Prayers for the People 10:30 A.M. Worship	14 5:30 P.M. EC Garden Club	15 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Baptist Ev. at Plymouth	16	17	18	19
20 OCWM and Christmas Fund offerings 10:30 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Blue Christmas	21	22	23	24 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office Closed	26
27 10:30 A.M. Worship	28	29	30	31		