

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2016

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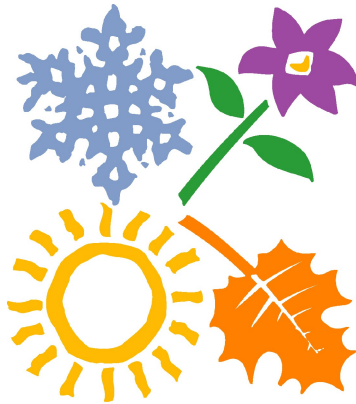
 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 31 following worship. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 24. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 18.**

Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2016 are as follows: 20 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$53,306 (last year at this time we had 22 giving units pledge \$50,981) for the coming year.

For this faith response, for your commitment to the Lord and his church, and for your trust that what we do in the name of Christ is important both here at home and to the far corners of the globe where we witness ... *thank you!*

Pastor David is on vacation through January 2. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Pastor Dave Stratton (715-874-5422).

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Getting ready for church

January Worship Notes

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

January 3

Epiphany Sunday

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering
(No communion this Sunday)*

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

January 10

*1st Sunday after Epiphany/
Baptism of the Lord*

*Prayers for the People
Communion will be celebrated*

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

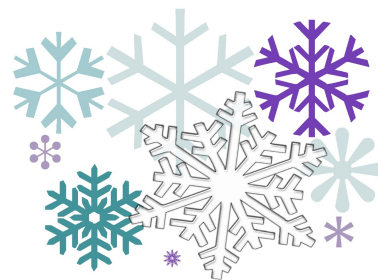
Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

January 24

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

In January, we are praying for these individuals/families: Joyce Holmen, Paul Holmen, Peter Holmen, Sadie (Jacob) Hulke, Judy Insteness, Nicole (Sonny) Ivkovich, Rob & Linda Jaenke



Food for Thought

We will gather our St Francis Food Pantry offering on January 3. There will be no pot luck in January.

Don't forget the Plymouth Street Ministry. Winter is here and those nights are very cold out there. Hats, gloves, mittens and hand warmers are needed, as well as 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, food and gas cards!

Reminder, March 19 will be the next time we serve at the Community Table!

Memorials

● **Street Ministry**

In memory of Sally, who always helped those in need: Cindy Halfen

January Birthdays

- 3 Caleb Adams
- 4 Barb Kleist
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 10 Dorothy Gilbertson
George Stecher
- 12 Paul Holmen
- 18 Edmund Noyes
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 22 Brayden Ivkovich
- 24 Ron Wendt
- 27 Nancy Champion
Larry Kleist
- 31 Steve Champion

Undecorate the church

We will be taking down the Christmas and Advent decorations in the church and fellowship hall on Thursday evening, January 14 starting at 7 P.M. Please join us for this evening of fellowship.

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.

Quilters please note ...

The quilters will not meet during the month of January.

Inter-Faith Prayer Service

There will be an inter-faith prayer service for peace and unity for all people on January 6 at 6:30 P.M. at the UW-Eau Claire Ecumenical Center. Prayer leaders will be pastors, ministers, priests, and people from the following faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Islam, Buddhists, Baha'i. Hospitality will follow the prayer service. All people and faiths are invited. For more information, call Bob Lesniewski at 715-878-4900.

Leadership Team

Are you interested in serving your church? The Leadership Team is looking for new members. Join us to learn more about what is happening with your church and also help us to make good decisions about our future! Or if you really want to be involved, become the Moderator or co-Moderator, the Secretary or even the Treasurer in training! We generally meet the second Monday of the month. Please contact Deb Zehms or Barb Kleist if you are interested.

Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

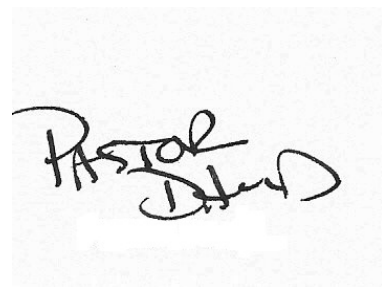
Plymouth has enjoyed another year of ministry, discipleship, and fellowship. Many successes and good things happened this year: our quilters made many quilts, our street ministry served hundreds of people and expanded in the number of volunteers and ways that we serve, we served at Community table, and our weekly Sunday morning prayers were added to the prayers of our special worship services and lifted up to God. We grew closer together through our parties and gatherings, from the winter blahs game day in February, to Lenten Wednesday soup and scripture gatherings, pie and ice cream social, holiday bazaar, thrift sales, Halloween party, and Christmas decorating. We increased our worship attendance, added new members, and have had a lot of visitors. Our work about getting known by and being recognized in the community is showing some good fruit. Plymouth is becoming a church known for living out the Gospel in our community. Even if non-churched people might not use that language, more people are becoming aware that we are being a church that lives beyond our walls by serving the community that we share. That's a very good thing, and a very good start and I find it exciting! But it is only a start. My hope for Plymouth is that this trend continues, that we become a growing presence of God's hope, peace, joy, and love in Eau Claire.

As we come into a new year, my prayer is that Plymouth continue to grow in number of people involved in our

fellowship and our ministry, in outreach into the community, and that we all grow in faith and discipleship. I'm not one for making new years' resolutions, but I offer the challenge for all of us to be make a commitment to find more ways to grow in faith. Make 2016 a year in which you invite someone (or someones!) to come with you to join in worship, or to come with you to one of our special events. Introduce at least one person to Plymouth this year. Let 2016 be a year that you increase your time spent reading scripture and time you spend in prayer. Go into 2016 with an attitude of abundance and generosity to your God, to your neighbors, and to your church.

The message that we offer the world is the message that comes through our Advent wreath candles: hope, peace, joy, and love. There are too many around us who don't experience those, but who would find them here because that's who we are.

Have a blessed rest of 2015, and an even more blessed 2016!



PASTOR
David



Executive Council Minutes

December 14, 2015

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

Plymouth's Leadership Team met on Monday, December 14 at Culver's on Folsom Street at 7:00 P.M. The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$102,418.71
Year to Date Expenses	\$102,159.89
Ahead (Behind)	\$258.82

Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$16,086.73. Total expenses for the month were \$14,379.37, leaving us with a November gain of \$1,707.36. November income includes \$3,455.11 transferred from Memorial Fund, \$2,000 from Edward Jones, and \$4,837.58 from Women of Plymouth. November YTD envelope income was down from last year and down \$6,569 from the previous 6-year average.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$1,813.38.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$949.80.

Street Ministry:

The balance is \$1,438.93.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

We are having some problems with electrical outlets in Fellowship Hall. Electrician will check this out on Wednesday, December 16.

Christian Education Commission:

No report. Our new Brass Trio is wonderful.

Stewardship Commission:

Pledges not all received yet. Another reminder letter will be sent before Christmas.

Worship Commission:

Church decorating is done and looks great. The day was fun, and a nice lunch was served. Blue Christmas will be Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 P.M.

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.

Women of Plymouth:

A donation of \$4,837.58 was made to our General Fund from Bazaar income and a closed savings account. Thank you Women of Plymouth!



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

Good News

Pastor's Report:

Three new members have joined us. We're very happy to have them with us. Pastor David will be on vacation the week after Christmas. Will return on January 3.

Leadership Team Minutes continued ...

Old Business:

- Tee shirt being worked on and more info soon.

New Business:

- Fellowship electrical outlets being worked on. Outcome later.

Next meeting of the Team will be Monday, January 11 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2016</h1>					1 <i>Office closed</i>	2
3 <i>St Francis Food Pantry offering</i> 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Prayers for the People</i> 10:30 A.M. Worship	11 5:30 P.M. EC Garden Club	12 7:00 P.M. Dartball Concordia at Plymouth	13	14 7:00 P.M. Holiday Undecorating	15	16
17 <i>OCWM offering</i> 10:30 A.M. Worship	18 <i>Deadline for Annual Report</i>	19 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth at Bethesda	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 A.M. Worship <i>Annual Reports available</i>	25	26 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth at Eagles	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Meeting						