

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2016

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Plymouth UCC
2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703
Phone: 715-835-5475
Web: pcucc.com



PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

Ministers: All the people

Pastor: Rev. David Huber
david@pcucc.com

Church Secretary/Editor:
Mimi Pederson
mimi@pcucc.com

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February 10

12:00 P.M. "Soup and Scripture"
with Communion and imposition of ashes
and

6:00 P.M. Soup supper with free-will offering for OCWM
7:00 P.M. Worship with Communion and imposition of ashes

Invite a friend!

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Lenten Wednesdays starting February 17

In addition to our regular "Soup and Scripture" suppers at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays in Lent, we will also have "Soup and

Scripture" lunches at noon for folks who prefer not to drive or be out at night. Join us for this faith and fellowship opportunity, and bring a friend!

Getting ready for church

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

February Worship Notes

February 7

Transfiguration Sunday

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28–36
(37–43)

February 10

Ash Wednesday

(See page 1 for details)

February 14

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1–11; Psalm 91:1–2,
9–16; Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13

February 21

2nd Sunday in Lent

OCWM offering

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35 or
Luke 9:28–36 (37–43a)

February 28

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1–9; Psalm 63:1–8;
1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9

In February, we are praying for these individuals/families: Gerry & Julie Johnson, Larry & Barb Kleist, Susie Kleist, Charline Kozlowski, Dorothy Kruschke, Tom & Arvilla Kruschke

Food for Thought

We will have a pot luck on February 7. Bring your favorite dish to pass. Our Food Pantry offering will also be taken on that day.

As the weather gets colder, please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money or gas cards.

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

Lenten soup meals

We will once again be serving soup before our Lenten Services starting with Ash Wednesday, February 10. This year we are asking for volunteers to bring a pot of soup, bread or cookies for a meal. There will be a sign up sheet at church or you can call the church office to sign up. We are serving both lunch and supper, so there are many opportunities for you to volunteer!

February Birthdays

- 5 Jean Phillips
- 13 John Moore
- 16 Kristina Champion
Charline Kozlowski
- 18 Joshua Champion
Travis Eisberner
- 19 Jeff Green
Gloria Polden
- 22 Jens Nielsen
- 28 Kenny Polden

Festival Foods Scrip cards

Now that Mega Foods and Gordy's are merging to become Gordy's, Mega is no longer selling scrip cards for groceries. (The Mega Holiday gas cards are still for sale. There is no change there.) Plans are in the works to add scrip cards for Festival Foods to our program. At this point we don't know exactly when we will have them to sell, so watch the Sunday bulletins for more information as it becomes available.

Guest preacher February 14

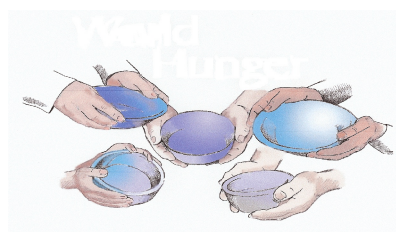
February 14 marks the 11th "Evolution Weekend," a time when we look to examine the relationship between religion and science. This year, Plymouth UCC is one of 344 participating congregations—that includes 48 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eleven countries!

Our special guest speaker in worship, Dr. Kate Hale Wilson, retired from UWEC's English Department at the end of 2011 after 24 years of teaching. Since July of 2012, Kate has served as the group leader for the Eau Claire chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan, grassroots organization committed to creating the political will for a livable world.

Kate will talk about her spiritual journey as it has evolved since her Church of Christ upbringing, and her gradual realization that the work she does on behalf of creation is a spiritual practice.

Mark your calendars

The Empty Bowls Benefit for Feed My People will be on March 3. They will be serving from 11 A.M.–7 P.M. at the Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave.



Tickets are available from Barb Kleist starting on February 7. The cost is \$18 for a meal and a bowl, \$8 for a meal only and children under 10 are free.

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.

Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Easter is early this year, which means Ash Wednesday and our Lenten Wednesday gatherings start soon, too!

Lent is the span of the 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), beginning with Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting, penitence, and preparation for Jesus' glorious resurrection that we celebrate on Easter morning.

I always recommend that we spend our Lenten time thinking about and working on our discipleship. How can we be better followers of Jesus this year than we were last year? That's the question. To help us answer that, we have a few offerings that will be coming up. On Wednesdays during Lent, we will continue our tradition of hosting noon lunches and 6 P.M. dinners of soup and bread, with discussion about scripture. On Ash Wednesday, February 10, the lunch will include a short Communion service and imposition of ashes; in the evening, after we eat we have a full Ash Wednesday worship with Communion and ashes. These are great opportunities to work on your discipleship and your faith as we share a meal, and share conversation—we grow in faith when we connect with our neighbors in communities of love!

Some time to serve others is also coming up, and they also provide a chance for you to wear your new Plymouth t-shirts! We are serving at Community Table on Saturday, March 19. Sign up on the sheet outside the sanctuary, or by email or phone. We grow in faith when we do acts of love in service to our neighbors.

The annual Empty Bowls event is Thursday, March 3, at the Florian Gardens. I've been serving at that meal for the past few years, and thought that this year I will invite you to

join in! They require a very large number of people throughout the day, and I think it would be great to have Plymouth well-represented there (and you can wear your new t-shirt!). This is a fund-raiser for Feed My People Food Bank. Last year's event raised over \$56,000—enough money to provide over \$560,000 in food. I will be serving in the afternoon/evening, but you can choose any time. The main shifts are 10:30–2:30 and 4:00–8:00, but they can also use some people from 9:00–1:00 and 1:00–5:00. You can sign up at church, or by calling/emailing the office. We'll give your information to the coordinators of the event. If you can't serve, I very much urge you to attend the event: we have tickets in the church office!

We have talked before of a faithful life of following Jesus to be a trajectory of Connect, Grow, Love. We connect with our community, we grow through fellowship and learning, and then show our growth through doing acts of love, such as serving at Empty Bowls or Community Table, or our street ministry, joining our quilters, visiting the sick, and so on.

May your time of Lent be a time of connecting, growing, and loving!



Leadership Team Minutes

January 11, 2016

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

Plymouth's Leadership Team met on Monday, January 11 at Culver's on Folsom Street at 7:00 P.M. The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of December 31, 2015

Year to Date Income	\$113,022.91
Year to Date Expenses	\$114,533.04
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,510.13)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for December was \$10,604.20. Total expenses for the month were \$12,373.15, leaving us with a December loss of \$1,768.95. Envelope income was down about \$3,000.00 from last year. Income includes \$2,675.00 transferred from PIP, Memorial, and Reserve Funds to cover our bills. Our Food Pantry and OCWM payments have been made.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$313.57.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$934.81.

Street Ministry:

The balance is \$3,377.04.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Furnace repairs have been made. We have several to maintain. Our outlet problems have been solved. Now all are working.

Christian Education Commission:

Our youth had a special Christmas dinner at Pastor David's home. For Easter morning, they will again host our Muffin Morning.

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.

Stewardship Commission:

Pledges received for this year are approximately \$3,000 more than last year. Still less than we need, however several members do not wish to pledge and still give offerings. Income from mixed nuts was approximately \$700.

Worship Commission:

The Christmas decor will be taken down on Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday will be on February 10.

Women of Plymouth:

Nothing going on at this time. A tentative date for the Spring Thrift Sale is May 14.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

Good News

Leadership Team Minutes continued ...

Pastor's Report:

Christmas Eve service went great. We had about 60 people attend this candlelight service. December services went well.

Old Business:

- Tee shirts are being ordered from Gator Garb—should be arriving soon.

New Business:

- Rob prepared the new budget numbers for 2016 Budget Consensus. Leadership Team approved.

Next meeting of the Team will be Monday, February 8 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow

Say cheese, Johnny

A mother was driving to a grocery store with her 5-year-old son, Johnny. They soon found themselves in a thunderstorm. Flashes of lightning and rolls of thunder came one after another.

The mother looked down at Johnny, thinking perhaps he might be afraid. Instead he was smiling.

“Johnny, why are you smiling?” she asked.

“Because God keeps taking my picture,” he answered.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2016</h1>						
	1	2 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball (Rock Creek at Plymouth)	3	4	5	6
7 St Francis Food Pantry offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	8 5:30 P.M. EC Garden Club 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	9 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball (Baptist Ev. at Plymouth)	10 Ash Wednesday 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup Supper 7:00 P.M. Worship	11	12	13
14 Prayers for the People 10:30 A.M. Worship	15	16 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball (Plymouth at Concordia)	17 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	18	19	20
21 OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball (Bethesda at Plymouth)	24 12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	25	26	27
28 10:30 A.M. Worship	29					