

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2018

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 28 following worship. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 21. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 15.**

Stewardship Update

Our Stewardship Sunday was December 17. We've collected only 12 pledges for a total of \$37,275. That's about half of the total number of pledges we received last year. It's extremely difficult to plan a budget when you don't have a good idea of what your income will be, so it is urgent that you return your pledge card as soon as possible so that the Leadership Team can present a realistic 2018 budget at the Annual Meeting. If you've misplaced your pledge card, you can call the church office (715-825-5475) and we'll be happy to send you another one, or if you're comfortable doing so, you can give your pledge to Mimi over the phone. In any case, if we haven't received your pledge yet, please make it a priority. Thank you!

January Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship
Communion the first Sunday of the month

January 7

Epiphany Sunday

Community Table offering

Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20;
Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:(1–9) 10–18

January 14

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20); Psalm
139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20;
John 1:43–51

January 21

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12;
1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

January 28

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Meeting

Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28

Food for Thought

Our first pot luck of 2018 will be on January 14. Bring a dish to pass and we will celebrate the new year with fellowship. Remember, we don't have ovens or stove tops, but you can bring crock pots.

Our special offering to the Community Table begins on January 7. They are struggling to provide daily meals. This is an important community service. For many of those who come, this is their only meal of the day. The Leadership Team decided to switch our support to help them out.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money or gas cards. Check with Pastor Mike for other needs for our street ministry.

Memorials

Gifts to the General Fund

In memory of Jane Ingles: Charlene Mears, Ken & Mary Ingles

Prayer Ministry

In January, we are praying for these individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Jackie Andersen, Jim (Mina) Bliss, Pat (Gary) Burnam, Kay Bussing, Mary Burns, Bonnie Carter, Darrick & Joy (Lobo) Carter, Meghan Cartmill

January Birthdays

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

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

Two-thousand eighteen! It sure has come quickly, even though 2017 often felt like it dragged on and on while we designed our new building and waited and waited for construction to begin. But as you know, construction has begun, and is going quickly! See photos elsewhere in this newsletter. 2018 will be the year we move into a brand new home!

We will celebrate the new year during our December 31 worship service, saying goodbye to the old and welcoming the new. For many of us, 2017 will be a year happily bid farewell. It seems like this year has been a rougher year than normal for a lot of us. I have heard your stories in the past twelve months, and there has been death, health issues, anxieties about jobs and finances, worries about children and parents, and so on.

At our Blue Christmas Service, we read a prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book which contained these words about God's grace which I think are absolutely helpful in coming into the new year—or even at the beginning of any new day:

“It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.”

Jesus' story is one of constant renewal. We don't have to hold on to the pain or guilt because we have the freedom to let it go. May we all grow each passing year to be more faithful in letting go of the things that we should or shouldn't have done, the things that we had no control over, and the things that we wish did or didn't happen, so that we may walk confidently into the new dawn with no baggage from the past. May we all enter the new year with confidence in the clean slate that Jesus offers us through his grace so we may keep our eyes focused forward on Christ's eternal light.

New year blessings to you all!



You are invited to celebrate the 95th birthday of Dorothy Gilbertson at an open house in her honor. The party will be Sunday, January 14 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at Heritage Assisted Living, 3706 Damon St in Eau Claire. No gifts please, but cards are welcomed!

Leadership Team Minutes

December 11, 2017

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

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2017

Year to Date Income	\$97,396.92
Year to Date Expenses	\$92,064.45
Ahead (Behind)	\$5,332.47

Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$17,153.85. Expenses for November were \$11,455.71. The large bank balance is due to some year end expenses (pension, etc.) that still need to be paid.

Bank balance October 31: \$5,691.62

Reserve Fund Balance: \$1,217.40

Memorial Fund Balance: \$8,106.86

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Pastor David is taking many pictures of the building's progress.

Stewardship:

The 2018 pledges will be collected on Sunday, December 17 or as soon as you can mail them.

Worship:

Blue Christmas service will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 P.M. Christmas decorating went well and we had a nice lunch and good fellowship. Thanks to all who helped. There will not be morning worship on Sunday, December 24,

but we will have Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 P.M. Christmas undecorating will be done Wednesday, January 10 at 6:30 P.M.

Service:

Keep calling and visiting members and let Mimi know if you have contacted someone. Thank you.

Pastor's Report:

The Thanksgiving service at First Congregational was very nice. Turn-out from Plymouth was small. Pastor David attended the recent Interfaith Prayer Service and said it was a good experience. This group is going to serve at Community Table on December 28.

Old Business:

- A checking account has been opened for Stand in the Light Choir.

New Business:

- Construction Report: Leadership Team suggested that we select or sign up for committees to work on furnishing and planning different areas in our new church. Please sign up for what you would be interested in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

The next meeting is Monday, January 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



Photo Gallery ...



Plymouth Brass Trio: Morgan, John, and Carter offered music on December 10.



The roof takes shape.




The front of the building



View of the front door from outside.



View of the front door from inside.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
	1	2 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Baptist Evang. at Plymouth	3	4	5	6
7 Community Table offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	8 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	9 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Plymouth at Rock Creek	10 6:30 P.M. Undecorate the Chapel	11	12	13
14 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	15 Deadline for Annual Report	16 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Plymouth at Hope	17	18	19	20
21 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Plymouth—bye	24	25	26	27
28 Annual Meeting 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Mtg.	29	30 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Concordia at Plymouth	31			



Please note: The quilters do not meet in January.