

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2018

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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Holy Week Schedule

March 25, *Palm/Passion Sunday*

10:30 A.M. Worship

March 29, *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

March 30, *Good Friday*

12:00 P.M. Worship

First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway

April 1, *Easter*

8:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffin Morning

9:30 A.M. Celebration Worship

March Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March 4

3rd Sunday in Lent

Community Table offering

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

March 11

4th Sunday in Lent

Prayers for the People

OGHS offering

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

March 18

5th Sunday in Lent

OCWM offering

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

March 25

Palm/Passion Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing offering

Palms: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29;

John 12:12–16

Passion: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16;

Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47

March 29

Maundy Thursday

7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

March 30

Good Friday

12:00 P.M. Worship at 1st Cong., 310
Broadway

Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck in March. Please join us for our Wednesday evening Soup & Scripture. Soup will be served at 6, followed by discussion while we use our artistic talents.

Our special offering to the Community Table will be taken on March 4. The Community Table is struggling to be able to provide daily meals. For many of those who come, this is their only meal of the day. 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.

Prayer Ministry

In March, we are praying for these **individuals/families:** Stacy (Peter) Gantner, Terri (Joe) Gilbert, Dorothy Gilbertson, Joe (Emily) Gilbertson, Paul (Gay) Gilbertson, Jeff & Lesa Green

Daylight Savings Time begins March 11

Remember to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before retiring on March 10.

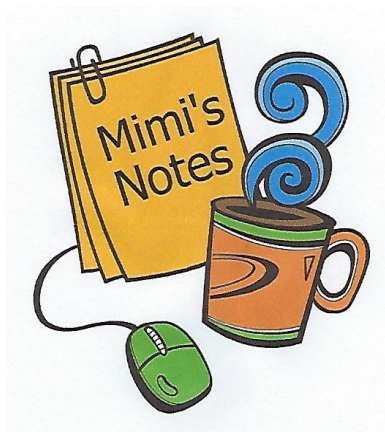
March Birthdays

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

Memorials

In honor of Dorothy Gilbertson's birthday: Joanne Miller

In memory of Joanne Lowry: Joanne Miller, Fred & Sandy Stroebel, Hope Goessling, Ann Lowry, Larry & Carol Clark, Donnelly Family, Gail Goede



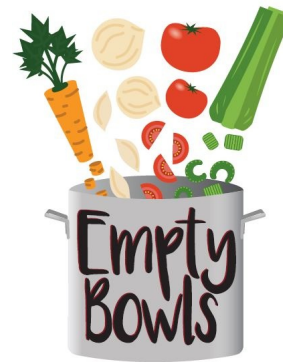
Just a word regarding office hours on Fridays...I frequently finish my work early and don't feel it's right to be paid to sit here, so I leave. If you plan to stop by on a Friday, please call to make sure I'm here and to let me know you're coming so I can wait for you!

Empty Bowls

Where soup, art, and hunger-relief meet

One out of every nine people living in the Chippewa Valley struggle to have enough food to feed their families. At Feed My People Food Bank, we are committed to ending hunger in our community, but we cannot do it alone!

Join us in supporting local children, families, and seniors by attending the Annual Empty Bowls event on Thursday, March 1 from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. at The Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Avenue. Enjoy delicious soups made by local restaurants, breads, beverages, and deserts. For a donation of \$20.00 you will receive your meal and take home a beautiful ceramic bowl, hand-crafted by UW-Eau Claire art students, area high school students, and other area potters. The meal without the bowl can be purchased for \$8.00. Children 10 and under are free (for the meal only).



Tickets are available at Feed My People (www.fmpfoodbank.org) or at the door the day of the event. Advanced purchase is recommended. We look forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget SCRIP cards!

We have SCRIP cards for Mega Holiday, Festival, Kwik Trip, Menard's, Shopko, Target, and Walmart on hand each week as well as the option to order pre-paid cards from many other businesses. It is a painless, cost-free fund raiser for our church!

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

There is power in small. I recently read a devotional from Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and the head of the

Center for Action and Contemplation. He writes and teaches about the emergent church and Christian mysticism. In his devotional, he quoted from Brian McLaren, one of our great thinkers about how to be the Church in the modern age and what needs to change in order to reform and reshape the church to be meaningful, faithful, and inviting to people with little or no church background, or hold hostility to the old institutional church that they see as boring, hypocritical, or irrelevant.



McLaren's words about the power of small particularly struck me because we are a small congregation, and even though small, we also have power. As our t-shirts say, "We are a small church with a big heart."

McLaren writes, "We need to start small and celebrate small gains. One of the curses of late modernity was the belief that unless something was big and well-publicized, it didn't count. . . . [Jesus] spoke of tiny mustard seeds, of a little yeast in a lot of dough, of a little flock, of the greatness of smallness, of a secret good deed and a simple cup of cold water given to one in need."

As we process our pain, manage our idealism, do what's doable, and celebrate the small and beautiful, we discover that all around us, new forms and

expressions of Christian faith are emerging. Through a better how, a better where is possible."

I preached in a sermon recently about how, with the new building under construction, we could (and should) consider ourselves in many ways to be a new church start—a Plymouth 2.0 as I called it in the sermon—building on the legacy and gifts we have, but moving into this new age of the church with the power of small. How can we be the mustard seed or the yeast in our neighborhood? In what ways can our doors be always open to the needs of our neighborhood and the Eau Claire community? What new forms of ministry, worship, and fellowship will emerge with the new building we will soon move into? How do we tap the power of the small as we emerge from our temporary downtown gig into the possibilities of our new (old) home?

I'd like to hear your thoughts about this—please share them with me, and also share them with each other. This is a perfect time to think about who we are and who God is calling us to be as we start a new chapter in the 133-year history of faithful witness in this city.

Blessings,

Handwritten signature of Pastor David

Leadership Team Minutes

February 2018

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

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2018

Year to Date Income	\$11,538.18
Year to Date Expenses	\$11,543.89
Ahead (Behind)	(\$5.52)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for January was \$11,538.37. Envelope income includes \$3,712.50 from stock sale and \$1,305.55 nut sales profits. Interest of \$1,284.87 includes \$793.56 from fire loss account and \$491.31 interest from Pacific Life. Expenses for January were \$11,543.89 and included first quarter insurance payment, health insurance, and retirement.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$315.26

Memorial Fund Balance: \$10,361.05

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

A fruit tree close to the new building needs to be taken down. Jim Welk will take a look at that.

Stewardship:

Pledges are down approximately \$10,000. A reminder will be mailed or information will be in the

bulletin. Please remember to purchase scrip cards.

Worship:

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Soup suppers will begin.

Service:

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

Pastor's Report:

He and Lynn spent a day at Heatherwood Assisted Living for music and pastoral services. There are several upcoming meetings: NW Association Annual Meeting at First Congregational on April 21; Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting June 8–10 at Green Lake. More info on these and in upcoming newsletters.

New Business:

- Construction Report: Barb is working very hard at picking out chairs for our new sanctuary. Church furniture people from Appleton will be coming here on February 23 during the day to meet with available members of the Leadership Team and any interested members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M. Next meeting is March 12, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



Photo Gallery...



Preview of the fellowship room.



This is looking out the front entrance from the back of the building—offices are to the left in the background, sanctuary to the immediate left, kitchen to the immediate right (no walls up for that yet), and bathrooms and maintenance room in the back on the right.

Order Easter flowers to decorate the chapel 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 order must be placed by March 12 to guarantee availability. 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 \$7.00 each \$ _____


_____ Daffodils at \$8.25 each \$ _____

_____ Tulips at \$8.25 each \$ _____

_____ Hyacinths at \$8.25 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2018</h1> 						
				1 Empty Bowls 11 A.M.— 7 P.M.	2	3
4 Community Table offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	5	6 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Plymouth—bye	7 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	8	9	10
11 Prayers for the People OGHS offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship DST Begins	12 Easter flower ordering deadline 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	13 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Concordia at Plymouth	14 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	15	16	17
18 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	19	20 10:00 A.M. Quilters	21 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	26	27 10:00 A.M. Quilters	28	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service	30 Good Friday 12:00 P.M. Service at First Cong	31