



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2019

Published monthly by
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*Cross illumination for
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Candlelight Family Service of Lessons and Carols Tuesday, 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.



Hanging of the Greens

We will decorate our worship area on Saturday, December 7. We will start at 10 A.M. and have lunch following the decorating. Join us for this special day.

December Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

Community Table offering

Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122;

Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:36–44

December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Fund offering

Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7,17–19;

Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7,18–19;

Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

December 24

5:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols

December 29

1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7–9; Psalm 148; Hebrews

2:10–18; Matthew 2:13–23

December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

OCWM offering

Isaiah 35:1–10; Luke 1:47–55;

James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11

Prayer Ministry

In December, we are praying for these individuals/families: Sue (Tom)

Thompson, Len Weisfeld, Jim Welk,

Ron & Nancy Wendt, Keith & Deb

Zehms

Food for Thought

Our pot luck for December will be on the 15th. We will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday. Bring your favorite foods and enjoy fellowship with your Plymouth family. Invite a friend to come and share a meal with us.

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on December 1. The Community Table is struggling to be able to provide daily meals, and for many of those who come, this is their only meal of the day. You can also volunteer as an individual or family to serve. They can always use more help.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money or gas cards. They have needs right now of water, large backpacks, hand warmers, candy and granola bars. Winter coats in good condition and with working zippers are also needed. We have a donation box available for you to drop off your items.

December Birthdays

2	Pete Spitt
4	Irma Shepler
5	Terri Gilbert
9	Pastor David Aaron Adams
22	Cathy Stygar

Leadership Musings

Our Holiday Bazaar was a great success! Thanks to everyone who helped set up, baked, made soup and salad and worked that day. It wouldn't have happened without everyone pulling together!

December 3 is the Day of Giving. We are once again helping the Community Table. Bring in your coffee, sugar, and spices by December 3 so that we can turn in everything. You can also make a monetary donation on the Community Table website.

Advent begins December 1st!

Are you caught up with your pledge for 2019? Financial statements were printed out in November. Check them out and make sure you are up to date! Stewardship Sunday is December 15. In the days before that, watch for a mailing containing information and your pledge card for 2020 pledges!

Look for information coming on our Diaper Drive for the Apple Pregnancy Center which will be in February.

Anyone need a ride to church? We want to make sure everyone gets to come to our Sunday morning services. If you

need a ride, please call the church office at 715-835-5475. We will arrange for someone to pick you up.

Remember the Birthday Challenge? We revived the Birthday challenge in April. In your birthday month, we are suggesting you make a donation to the church corresponding to your age or some amount you feel appropriate. The money will go to future capital improvements, such as resurfacing the parking lot. We want to be proactive in raising funds for future needs. So those of you who have December birthdays, we challenge you to make a donation!

Volunteers are needed to light up the candles, read the liturgy, take the offering and hand out bulletins on Sunday mornings. Sign up if this is something you'd like to do. Also, a sign-up sheet is out for flowers to brighten up the Sanctuary. Please sign up if you are interested.

What do you do with those empty prescription bottles?

We have found an organization, Matthew 25: Ministries, that uses them to ship medical supplies to developing countries and those in need. It's a win-win, helping our environment and other people. All you have to do is take the label off, as best you can, and bring the empty bottles in to church. We will have a basket in the Gathering/Bistro area.

Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

We had a wonderful Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale! Thank you all for your help and your donations of food and trinkets for the sale. So good to see the congregation come together to make something happen for our neighbors and for ourselves. I heard a lot of laughter and saw many smiles from satisfied

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

customers happy with their purchases and with their lunches.

We'll gather again to decorate our building for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 am. We'll put up the trees and wreaths and nativity scenes and other decorations, and then have some lunch of soup and other goodies. We're usually finished in a few hours.

Our Advent worship this season will revolve

around the Christmas Carol "Joy to the World." Last year we celebrated the 200th anniversary of Silent Night, and this year it's the 300th anniversary of Isaac Watts' interpretation of Psalm 98. Rather than joy being a synonym for happiness, I think of joy as deeper (and less liminal) than happiness. Happiness is for specific moments in which life is going well for us; joy is a kind of hope, a feeling of contentment, a sense of peacefulness, that can bring us through the dark times when we are not at all happy. To invite Jesus into the inns of

our hearts is to invite a holy joy into our lives that can sustain us in grief, and can fill us with exuberance in the times of wonder and awe. We will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world so desperately needs.

We finish Advent with our beautiful Christmas Eve worship service of lessons and carols, singing Silent Night by candlelight, to welcome Emmanuel, God incarnate, into our world and into our lives.

May you find room this Advent for some quiet time in the midst of the busyness, and find room in your hearts for the holy to dwell in you with joy, and hope, peace, and love as well.

Blessings,

Leadership Team Minutes

November 2019

Members present: Pastor David, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Linda Oliver, Barb Kleist, and Louise Partlow

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2019
 Year to Date Income \$100,730.87
 Year to Date Expenses \$100,596.44
 Ahead (Behind) \$134.43

Treasurer's Report:

Income for October was \$5,908.58. Expenses were \$7,507.65. Envelope giving for the month was up approximately \$800 from 2018. Scrip card income for October was \$900.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$6,901.56

Reserve Fund Balance: \$4,063.41

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

Mixed nuts have arrived and will be at the Bazaar. Stewardship Sunday will be December 15 with a pot luck. We will collect pledge cards on that day.

Worship:

Decorating the church for Christmas will be on December 7 at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Women of Plymouth:

All focus has been on the November 16 Annual Holiday Bazaar.

Building and Grounds:

Snow removal will be done by the same person we have had.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David will submit information on the Bazaar to the Leader-Telegram Religion Page and post it on Facebook. He will be having oral surgery early in December and will be out December 4-7.

Old Business:

- All insurance monies from the fire have been received. \$18,500 is in our Fire Account. We still have some things to take care of. Linda Oliver moved to put Fire Account monies into the Reserve Fund and close the Fire Account so we can access it for expenses with the building as they come up. Larry Kleist seconded. Motioned passed.
- Building Use Policy is still in progress. The Leadership Team is still working on this.
- Baby Shower: May change to Diaper Shower in February—more information later. This is to help new mothers on assistance.



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Good News

*Leadership Team
Minutes continued...*

New Business:

- Pill Bottle donations—more information later.
- A Memorial Garden at our church is still being contemplated—more on this later also. Linda Oliver will check on rules, etc.
- Community Table Fundraiser (tentatively Dec. 3): This is in progress. More information later.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. Our next meeting will be December 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow

Photo Gallery...

Some highlights from the Annual Holiday Bazaar...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2019</h1>						
1 Community Table offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	2	3 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Saving Grace at Plym	4	5	6	7 10:00 A.M. Christmas decorating
8 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	9 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	10 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Rock Creek at Plym	11	12	13	14
15 OCWM offering Stewardship Sunday 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot Luck	16	17 10:00 A.M. Quilters	18	19	20	21
22 Christmas Fund offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 Office closed 5:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols	25 Office closed	26	27	28
29 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	30	31				