



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2020

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Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

Our time of physical distancing continues, but even so, we continue our spiritual and virtual connections! For the members with computers, our Sunday bulletins are being posted on our website (pcucc.com). I've been recording Evening Vespers and Sunday sermons and prayers to YouTube, and am posting links to the videos on our website and our Facebook page. We have virtual Coffee and Conversations by Zoom videoconference on Tuesday mornings at 9 A.M. and Thursday afternoons at 3:30 P.M. (join us at <https://zoom.us/j/172811136>. [That is a lower-case j between the //].



Beyond the whizbang of modern technology, there is that previous marvel of modern technology, the telephone: I've been calling to check in on people, and many of you are doing that as well. Thank you for doing so!

There is also the amazingly wonderful gift of the US Postal Service keeping us connected. We are mailing our Sunday bulletins to the members who don't have computers and can't access them online, along with the newsletters and occasional other letters.

Many of you have also been using the US Mail to send in your donations, and to send cards and letters to each other, and even some cheery notes to the office!

I've seen a few of you as you've come into the office to pick up or drop off masks, do some chores, drop off your offerings or pill bottles or thrift sale items, and I've really enjoyed those moments. Being apart has been difficult! Any chance to talk face to face has really become quite precious. I miss our Sunday mornings together to worship and have some fellowship time and the chance to hear your voices and see your faces and catch up on what's happening in your lives.

In the meantime, though, we need to continue the virtual experiences, for the safety of ourselves and especially for the safety of our neighbors. We are under a Safer at Home order through May 27, just after Memorial Day. This means that as of now we're looking at the first possibility to gather in person will be sometime in June. Assuming nothing else changes, and I sincerely

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## May Lectionary

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### May 3

#### *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23;  
1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

### May 10

#### *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16;  
1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

### May 17

#### *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:18–20;  
1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

### May 24

#### *Ascension Sunday*

Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47;  
Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53

### May 31

#### *Pentecost Sunday*

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;  
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 7:37–39

Going forward, the church website will have links to the weekly messages and liturgy, and they will be up and online by early Sunday morning. Links to the video and to the liturgy will be posted on our Facebook page early on Sunday morning.



Our first big box of pill bottles for folks who need them. Thanks to you for bringing them in and thanks to Linda Oliver for shipping them out!

## Prayer Ministry

In May, we are praying for these **individuals/families**: Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Judy Insteness, Rob & Linda Jaenke, Larry & Barb Kleist, Susie Kleist

## May Birthdays

- 1 Tami Eisberner
- 3 Mimi Pederson
- 6 Tyrone Stygar
- 7 Sandy Moore
- 8 John Stecher  
Joseph Norris
- 16 Lilah Eastzman  
Paul Gilbertson
- 17 Cathy Lawler
- 18 Micah Adams
- 22 Ashley Mayer
- 30 Linda Jaenke

## Leadership Musings

In these times of uncertainty and isolation, it is important that we all stay connected. I'm challenging all our members to contact someone in the congregation at least once during the week. We all need to hear a familiar voice! Let's check on each other.

We are still collecting empty prescription bottles, with the labels removed. We can also take over the counter pain reliever bottles, also without the labels. Save your bottles and bring them in the next time we meet.

Remember the Birthday Challenge? We revived the Birthday Challenge last year. 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 we challenge those of you who have May birthdays to make a donation!

Once we are able to gather for worship again, volunteers will be 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 will be out for flowers to brighten up the Sanctuary. Please sign up if you are interested.

The Leadership Team is thinking about combining our Thrift and Bake Sale with the Pie & Ice Cream Social. If you have any thoughts or ideas about this, talk to someone from the Leadership Team.

## Food for Thought

Hope you have been watching the many videos that Pastor David has been posting. He does Vespers about five times a week and a Sunday morning service. He also has been hosting coffee & conversations on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Although it's not the same as worshipping together, it does help us put everything in perspective and, for me at least, takes away some of the stress, gives us HOPE. Watch your emails, newsletter and Facebook for updates on our gatherings once the Safer at Home Ban is lifted. There will be a pot luck the first time we worship together.

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on May 4. It is most important we keep up this offering now. In this time of high unemployment, there are many people using the Community Table for the first time now. Please make sure you keep up to date on your pledges also. We still have bills to pay! We have applied for one of the government loans for non-profits, but have not received the money, yet. It is important to keep our pledges up to date, so we don't have to go into our reserve account.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. Even though Mike and his crew have suspended going out on the street, the homeless are still out there. Please keep them in your prayers. They especially need donations of money at this time. Their drop off centers are closed, so they need to purchase some things for the homeless. The mailing address is Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702. If you prefer, you can go to the website, [chippewavalleystreetministry.org](http://chippewavalleystreetministry.org), and donate through PayPal.

# Leadership Team Minutes

April 13, 2020

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Ben Bechle, Linda Oliver, Lil Savage, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Rob said the Reserve Fund balance was incorrect and should be changed to \$12,521.95. Following that correction, the minutes were approved.

**Financial Reports:**

As of March 31, 2020

Year to Date Income	\$34,413.71
Year to Date Expenses	\$34,503.59
Ahead (Behind)	(\$89.88)

**Treasurer's Report:**

Income for March was \$11,604.50.  
 Expenses were \$11,355.89.  
 Envelope income was \$8,160.00.  
 Year to date, we are \$3,000 over last year and \$6,000 over the 5-year average. We transferred \$1,000.00 from the Reserve Fund. Missions are all paid through March and all bills are caught up.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$11,526.74

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$7,068.56

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Stewardship:**

No report

**Worship:**

No report

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report

**Building and Grounds:**

The carpet has been fixed and looks good. Larry will check on the cracked wall. We will have the housekeeper come in and clean before the first worship service after the ban is lifted.

**Pastor's Report:**

He has been posting short vespers messages on Facebook during the lockdown. He thought it might be nice to have someone else to read scripture and offer a short message. His video of his Easter message was watched 36 times. The May continuing education week that he reported last month has been postponed until the week of August 17. The Northwest Association Annual Meeting will take place on Zoom and be a business meeting only. The Conference Annual Meeting has been rescheduled until fall. Volunteers have been making masks and leaving them at church if anyone needs one.

**Old Business:**

- Pill bottle donations have been very good.
- Rob is still working on setting up Lynn McFadyen as a W2 employee of the church.

**New Business:**

- Barb reminded everyone to stay in touch.
- Thanks to Joanne Miller who has made telephone contact with just about everyone in the congregation.



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## Good News

*Minutes continued  
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- Following our first worship service after the lockdown, there will be a celebration pot luck.
- There was some discussion about the feasibility of holding the Thrift Sale and the Pie & Ice Cream Social at the same time.
- The Eau Claire Garden Club is interested in using our building for their meetings again. The Leadership Team okayed letting them do so for the same fee that we charged them for the old building.
- Larry has applied for a federal government loan of \$10,000 to cover payroll and utilities. If we receive it and use it for those purposes, we don't have to repay it, so it works as a grant.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38. Our next meeting will be May 11.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson

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*Pastor's Pen  
continued from  
page 1*

hope that June will see the end of our Safer at Home. Whatever that time may be, we will continue to faithfully live out Jesus' command to love our neighbors by not gathering until the medical experts have determined that we can do so safely. To do otherwise would be unkind to you and to the community we are here to serve.

I alluded earlier to face masks. Some of our people have been making face masks for the hospitals and for our neighbors. Many thanks to them for their service! We have a bag of masks in the office that we are giving away to members and neighbors, so if you would like one, please contact the office. We can mail one to you, deliver it, or set it out for you

to pick up—whatever your preference is. We ask only that you don't come to the office without calling first to a) make sure someone is here, b) there aren't other people here already. We want to keep contact to the barest minimum.

In 1527, during the Bubonic Plague (Black Death) Martin Luther was asked if one should flee from the plague; his answer "no" is really long, but within the pages are these faithful words:

"Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor need me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God." (read his whole letter here: <https://tinyurl.com/w3hqnoy>).

We will see each other again, and we will have a grand celebration on our first Sunday back! Until then, we remain the church, even as we are in our homes. As pastor A. W. Tozer wrote in the mid-20th century, "Keep a Christian from entering the church sanctuary, and you have not in the least bit hindered her or his worship. We carry our sanctuary with us. We never leave it."

Blessings,



# Photo Gallery

During this time of social distancing, some people are putting teddy bears in their windows to cheer up families with young children who may be out for a bit of exercise. We decided to participate in that gesture, so we have posted hearts, rainbows, butterflies, and of course a teddy bear in our sanctuary windows.



Thanks to Barb Kleist for changing the paraments to white for Easter and for adding a bit of color to the sanctuary with some silk flowers.

