

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2020

Published monthly by
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*Cross illumination for July
is sponsored by Larry &
Barb Kleist in honor of their
anniversary.*

*This issue of the newsletter
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Come worship with us *at church*
starting on July 5 at 10:30 A.M.!
(as long things keep improving with Covid-19)

Worship time will be much different from what we are used to. We will all wear masks. When entering the building, there will be a hand sanitizer station for you to use. There will be no coffee or snack time. Social distancing will be enforced at all times in the building. There will be no singing or recitation of liturgy/prayers by the congregation. We will, however, have music! Once the service is over we ask that you leave immediately. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available in the sanctuary. As things improve, hopefully we can gradually return to “normal.” In case you can’t join us, there will still be a virtual service.

July Worship Calendar

July 5

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Community Table offering

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 or
Zechariah 9:9–12; Psalm 45:10–17 or
Psalm 145:8–14; Romans 7:15–25a;
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 12

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayers for the People

Genesis 25:19–34 or Isaiah 55:10–13;
Psalm 119:105–112 or Psalm 65:(1–8),
9–13; Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9,
18–23

July 19

7th Sunday after Pentecost

OCWM offering

Genesis 28:10–19a or Isaiah 44:6–8;
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 or Psalm
86:11–17; Romans 8:12–25; Matthew
13:24–30, 36–43

July 26

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15–28 or 1 Kings 3:5–12;
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or Psalm
119:129–136; Romans 8:26–39; Matthew
13:31–33, 44–52

Our on-site worship services will be live streamed on Facebook for those who are not able to attend in person. The service will also be posted on YouTube by noon on Sundays.

Food for Thought

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on July 5. It is most important we keep up this offering now. In this time of high unemployment, there are more people using the Community Table now than ever before.

Please make sure you keep up to date on your pledges also. We still have bills to pay! We have received the PPP loan through RCU. It has helped with our payroll. We won't be doing any of our fund raisers this year, so it's really important for you to keep your pledges up to date.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. Mike and his crew are out checking on the homeless to make sure they are okay. 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, and donate through PayPal.

Leadership Musings

Come join us for worship on July 5!
Wear your mask!

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. We challenge those of you who have July birthdays to make a donation.

A sign up sheet will be out for flowers to brighten up the Sanctuary. Please sign up if you are interested.

July Birthdays

9	Louise Partlow
10	Gracie Cartmill
11	Mel Rude
18	Kayla Stygar
19	Megan Eisberner
30	Faye LaPean

Prayer Ministry

In July, we are praying for these individuals/families: Cathy Lee, Ashley (Nick) Mayer, Joanne Miller, John & Sandy Moore, Peggy Norris

Audio/Visual System

We need your help! The Leadership Team has decided to go ahead with the completion of the audio/visual system in our building. We have enough extra money left over from our fire insurance money to pay for all the cables, labor, parts, one TV screen, a computer and a camera. What we need help with is money for the three remaining TVs to complete the system, two for the Sanctuary and one for the Gathering Area. We need about \$4,000 to complete everything.

This will enable us to broadcast our worship service virtually. We will be able to project our service to the Gathering Area and Fellowship Hall in case we have an overflow. It will also allow us to post announcements on the screens in the Sanctuary and occasionally put song words up and even the bulletins if we choose to do that.

We would finally be in the 21st century!

Make your checks payable to Plymouth Church and designate it for the audio/visual system. Let's get enough money to get the system completed!

Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

As you have likely noticed on the front page of this newsletter, we are worshipping in person again starting July 5—our county health department has lessened some of the restrictions about gathering, and we feel pretty confident that we can provide reasonable safety.

However, there are no guarantees here, and if you are in an at-risk demographic or are immune-compromised, we do not expect you to be present. And if you are sick—at all, with anything—we ask that you please stay home and join us on-line for worship.

When we meet in person, we will livestream the worship service on Facebook and also post on YouTube.

It will be good to see some of you again! And we look forward to the time when we can meet safely without masks, without physical distancing, and with song, handshakes, hugs, and coffee time! We have no idea when that will be, but it will come. The Hebrew people waited forty years in the wilderness before they arrived in the Promised Land, we can wait for a few more months— which I say partly to convince myself, because I, too, and am tiring of the distancing and of not being out and about. But we endure it because maintaining the safety of our neighbors is the right thing to do.

In the meantime, even as we have been physically distancing and dealing with a pandemic, the natural world around us has gone on as normal. See the photos elsewhere in this newsletter of the many flowers and plants that have bloomed in the past months on our property. Many thanks to our landscape designers and maintainers who created a truly beautiful plan of plants and flowers around our building!

Blessings,



Leadership Team Minutes

June 8, 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 May meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of May 31, 2020
 Year to Date Income \$56,719.56
 Year to Date Expenses \$52,484.26
 Ahead (Behind) \$4,235.30

Treasurer's Report:

Income for May was \$8,616.79.
 Expenses were \$7,793.07. Envelope giving is strong. We will catch up on Community Table and OCWM disbursements in June.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$11,533.50

Memorial Fund Balance: \$6,927.56

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

No report

Worship:

No report

Women of Plymouth:

No report

Building and Grounds:

Jim Welk has been cutting the grass. Larry has done trimming and has fertilized. Larry says we need a new push mower—nothing fancy (in the price range of \$160–180). He has

been authorized to purchase one for \$250 or less.

Pastor's Report:

His participation in the Festival of Homiletics online was a good experience. The group "Communities of Practice," to which Pastor David belongs will meet all summer, a real help to the pastors who gather to network and share ideas. Pastor David has turned off the furnace/air conditioning to the sanctuary (air exchange is still on) until such time as it is really needed. Last Saturday was the Conference Annual Meeting via Zoom. One of the major things presented was the Kairos Call to Climate Action, a 10-year plan to help reduce our carbon footprint.

Old Business:

- Barb reminded everyone to stay in touch.

New Business:

- Discussion about opening the building for worship in July. It was tentatively decided to return to worship in the building on Sunday, July 5 provided the county health department doesn't tighten restrictions. Masks will be mandatory (we'll have some available if you forget) and there will be no fellowship time. Social distancing will be used and there will be no singing of hymns and no Communion.



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Minutes continued

- The Team was presented with a \$9,035 quote from Sound Installations to complete the audio-visual equipment installation for our building, which includes wall mounts and 4 large screen TVs and running all the wires needed. We would still have to purchase a video camera and a laptop to control the

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system. It was decided to do everything on the quote except purchase the 3 TVs for the sanctuary and gathering space, including the purchase of the camera and laptop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02. Our next meeting will be July 13 at church!


Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

Photo Gallery



So nice to see things blooming!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">July 2020</h1>						
			1	2	3	4
5 Community Table offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	6	7 9:00 A.M. C & C	8	9 3:30 P.M. C & C	10	11
12 Prayers for the People 10:30 A.M. Worship	13 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	14 9:00 A.M. C & C	15	16 3:30 P.M. C & C	17	18
19 OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	20	21 9:00 A.M. C & C	22	23 3:30 P.M. C & C	24	25
26 10:30 A.M. Worship	27	28 9:00 A.M. C & C	29	30 3:30 P.M. C & C	31	

What's C & C??

It's *Coffee and Conversation*, a virtual gathering via Zoom for folks who miss the Sunday morning coffee time at church. There is no set topic of conversation, and it's a nice way to keep in touch while we have to maintain social distance. Pastor David hosts the gatherings and posts the link on the church Facebook page. Check it out!

<https://tinyurl.com/ybmkvmf7>