



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

October 2020

Published monthly by  
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*Cross illumination for  
October is sponsored by the  
Shepler Family.*

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## Virtual Holiday Bake Sale

Well, it's not really, but kind of. We would like to have a Bake Sale for the holidays. It would be advertised on Facebook and by your letting friends and relatives know. We would take orders on Facebook or by calling the church office. It would not be for just anything, but for specific items. We would like each baker to decide what they want to make and how much of that item they are willing to make. Prior to November 1, the bakers (our members) will be contacted by Joanne Miller to see what you would like to bake. It doesn't have to be a lot, one or two things would be great. Then we'll list items on our Facebook page along with how many items will be available and the price. For instance if someone said they would bake five loaves of white bread, we would list that and not sell any more than that. We will ask for orders from customers from November 1 to November 10. After that time, the bakers will be contacted and told how much they need to bake. It could very well be less than what was offered.



Baking must be done under sanitary conditions with gloves and masks worn while preparing and handling. All items should be bagged or plated as the customer wants. We don't want to handle them twice. If needed, we will provide you with masks and gloves.

Drop off for the baked goods will be Thursday, November 19 from 9-4. The customers will pick up November 20, 21, & 22. When the customers order, they will be given a pick up time so we don't have everyone coming at once.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Kleist at 715-834-8130 or via email at [bkleist04@gmail.com](mailto:bkleist04@gmail.com).

## October Worship Calendar

### 10:30 A.M. Worship

#### October 4

*18th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Community Table offering*

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 or Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 19 or Psalm 80:7–15; Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46

#### October 11

*19th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Prayers for the People*

Exodus 32:1–14 or Isaiah 25:1–9; Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 or Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1–9; Matthew 22:1–14

#### October 18

*20th Sunday after Pentecost*

*OCWM offering*

Exodus 33:12–23 or Isaiah 45:1–7; Psalm 99 or Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22

#### October 25

*21st Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 34:1–12 or Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18; Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 or Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

Our on-site worship services will be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook for those who are not able to attend in person.

## Food for Thought

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on October 4. We will also be doing Communion on October 4, but it will not be your normal service. We have purchased sealed wine/juice and wafer sets and you will be serving yourselves. All the details aren't quite worked out yet, but we will have Communion.

Please make sure you keep up to date on your pledges. We still have bills to pay. We won't be doing any of our fund raisers this year, so it's really important to keep our offerings coming in.

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](http://chippewavalleystreetministry.org), and donate through PayPal.

## Prayer Ministry

**In October, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Louise Sanders, Lil Savage, Pat Sexter, Denny & Rose Shepler, Larry & Irma Shepler, Christian Shufflin

## Leadership Musings

Come join us for worship on Sundays at 10:30! Wear your mask, and physical distancing is encouraged. If you feel you'd prefer not to come, join us live on our Facebook or YouTube page at 10:30 A.M., or you can go those pages later and watch the recording.

In these times of uncertainty, it is important that we all stay connected. Let's check on each other. Also, don't forget the video chats via Zoom with Pastor David on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

A couple reminders: We are still collecting empty prescription bottles, with the labels removed. And those of you who have September birthdays are challenged to make a donation to the Birthday Challenge.

Also, don't forget our new A/V system. We are upgrading to make us move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We still need money for 3 TV's. We want to be able to have the ability to handle overflow, and to do different programming in the sanctuary, once we are meeting in "normal" circumstances.

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

## Memorials

### General Fund

*In memory of Faye LaPean:* Steven & Dianna Brantner, Leonard & Merna Frank, Roger & Roz Klanderma

*In memory of Leota Rasmussen:* Leota Rasmussen Family, Robert & Marjorie Erickson

### Contingency Fund

*Birthday Challenge:* Jim Oliver, Linda Oliver, Cindy Halfen

### A/V System

Louise Partlow, Keith & Deb Zehms, Pete Spitt

## October Birthdays

1	Larry Shepler
2	Jen Adams
4	Hannah Zehms
5	Jamie Stafford
7	Len Weisfeld
9	Maria Patton
22	Kay Bussing Nathan Stygar
23	Joe Gilbertson
28	Bobbie Rude
29	Nancy Wendt
30	Audrey Heimstead

## All Souls Remembrance

Would you like to honor someone who has died? Our November 1 worship service will be our annual All Souls Day Remembrance of the Dead. This year we remember the lives of Bonnie Carter and Faye LaPean. We also like to honor those in your family or circle of friends/mentors/loved ones who have died. If you have someone that you would like to have remembered, please give their name and date of death (if you know) to Pastor David or to Mimi by October 28 so we can print their names in the bulletin.



## Nuts for sale!!

Prices are: 14 oz. for \$15.00, 28 oz. for \$26.00, 14oz. cashews for \$16.00. Order sheet is on the counter in the hallway alcove.

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Linda Oliver, Lil Savage, Mimi Pederson, Cindy Halfen, and Pastor David. Ben Bechle joined via Zoom.

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

**Financial Reports:**

As of August 31, 2020	
Year to Date Income	\$91,042.80
Year to Date Expenses	\$82,217.87
Ahead (Behind)	\$8,894.41

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Income for August was \$19,836.26. (Two gifts of stock were received in August.) Expenses were \$10,901.63. All expenses were paid and up to date, including OCWM and Community Table.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$8,541.00

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$7,330.58  
Monies from the A/V System line were used to pay for wiring the building for internet and video capability.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Stewardship:**

There was some discussion of doing a virtual Bake Sale since there will be no Thrift Sale or Bazaar this year. Barb will speak to Joanne Miller about how this might be done and report back to the Leadership Team. The Stewardship Campaign for 2020 will be conducted in October with

dedication of pledges the second Sunday in November.

**Worship:**

In person and live streaming going well.

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report

**Building and Grounds:**

Cindy Halfen brought up planting near the retaining wall behind the building. She wants to remove invasive plants and put in things that attract pollinators. We may be able to get a Creation Care grant from the NW Association to help with the cost.

**Pastor’s Report:**

We received a “care” package from the NW Association that included a “flat” Jesus, some prayers, and a box of disposable face coverings. These things are possible because of our per capita dues paid to the Association. Eau Claire is looking at a new ordinance regarding Covid 19, but we are not sure the exact wording of it and do not know if or how it could impact in-person worship. Further study is ongoing. Online Vespers will resume September 15.

**Old Business:**

- The Tuesday Morning Book Group is taking all necessary precautions at this time.
- Barb reminded everyone to stay in touch

*(Minutes continued on Page 5)*



**Old Business (continued)**

- Barb shared an estimate from Sound Installations to upgrade the Wifi in the building. It includes four access points, but Pastor David thinks we need only two, one for the sanctuary and one for the fellowship room. It was decided to move ahead with this using funds from the A/V System line and the Fire Donations line in the Memorial Fund.

**New Business:**

- We are looking at resuming coffee time on Sunday mornings. We think it can be done if we use bio-degradable, disposable cups and store-bought, individually wrapped treats. We would need to sit in the fellowship room to be sure to maintain physical distance since eating and drinking cannot be done without removing masks.
- We are also looking into having Communion. Barb will order “kits” that contain wine or grape juice and a wafer in a single serve, pre-packaged container. Communion would be done at the very end of the worship service.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50. Our next meeting will be October 5 at church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



**A letter from  
Nannette Stroebel**

We have received a letter from Nannette Stroebel, daughter of Rev. Fred Stroebel, informing us of his passing. In the letter, she recalls their time here as a family from 1957 to 1962 and highlights their fond memories of Eau Claire. She also mentioned her mother, Grace Stroebel, who passed away in 2019, in the hope that some of the congregation would remember her. Nannette’s letter and the obituaries of her parents are available for you to look at in the hallway alcove.

**Flat Jesus**

Do you remember the children’s book about Flat Stanley? He is a fictional boy who is squashed flat by a bulletin board in his sleep. He somehow survives and decides to make the best of his condition. He discovers he can be sent in the mail to different places, can be packed in a suitcase, or easily go on different adventures with a little help.

Plymouth has been given our own Flat Jesus! The Northwest Association has presented each church with one. What adventures can we have our Flat Jesus go on? We can take pictures and get them in our newsletter. It’s a cute reminder that Jesus is always with us, wherever we are. Whenever you want him to go on an adventure, an outing with friends or family, mail him to someone to give them a smile (must be returned), or just hang out with you, just call the church office and Mimi will make arrangements for you to either pick him up or mail it.

Where do you think his first adventure will take him?

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

October 4 is World Communion Sunday, when we who are the church, in our many tens of thousands of varying traditions, remember our common sacramental heritage by celebrating Communion together. We will be celebrating Communion this Sunday as well. We are still in the midst of a pandemic, so we continue to need to be careful. To that end, your Leadership Team has been studying best practices for sharing Communion as safely as possible. We'll be using travel communion cups. They are a small plastic cup of juice (about the size of a creamer that you'd have on your table at a diner), sealed tight. A communion wafer is placed on top of the cup, and then both are sealed in plastic. They were designed to easily offer communion to people in hospital, nursing homes, in street/homeless ministries. They are convenient and sterile, and so helpful for sharing communion with people with compromised immune systems or who otherwise need a sterile, safe way of sharing while reducing germ transfer as much as possible. Like so much of 2020, this way of being church will be different, but it will be no less sacramental. I will be very glad to share in the Lord's Supper with you again!

Starting September 30, those of you who join our worship on-line may come to the office and get cups to use at home; or you may also use your own bread and juice (or wine).

Speaking of on-line, we have been having great success with our live streaming over YouTube and Facebook. Having this capability is extending our reach. The number of people worshipping

in person plus the people watching online is greater than our average worship numbers when we were only in-person pre-Covid. Thank you for your financial support that has helped make this possible! Many thanks also to our tech people running the system on Sundays.

When this pandemic first began, we thought it might be half a year at most before being able to gather again like we did before the pandemic. Unfortunately, as groups of people ignore or deny the science and continue unsafe practices, the pandemic drags on with no sign of ending any time soon. It has been a very clear lesson that what we think are personal choices are very rarely solely personal. More often than not they are actually communal, affecting our neighbors close and far away. Jesus tells us to take care of our neighbors. I really miss our potlucks, thrift sales, Soup and Scripture nights, and other church fellowship times, and I pray that those times will be back as soon as possible. If we all work together, if we follow sound science and show neighborly love, we will get us to that day much more quickly. As I've said occasionally in vespers and in sermons, there are many things we have the right to do; but Jesus calls us to be more mindful about doing what is right. This is why your Leadership Team is being cautious and deliberate as we open our building and do the ministry we are called to do.

We continue to have a supply of cloth face masks thanks to our quilters—you may come to the office and get some, or send us a note and we can mail them to you.

Blessings,




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>October 2020</h1> 						
				1	2	3
<b>4 Community Table offering</b> 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	5 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	6 9:00 A.M. C & C	7	8 3:30 P.M. C & C	9	10
<b>11 Prayers for the People</b> 10:30 A.M. Worship	12	13 9:00 A.M. C & C	14	15 3:30 P.M. C & C	16	17
<b>18 OCWM offering</b> 10:30 A.M. Worship	19	20 9:00 A.M. C & C	21	22 3:30 P.M. C & C	23	24
25 10:30 A.M. Worship	26	27 9:00 A.M. C & C	28	29 3:30 P.M. C & C	30	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://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017582390?pwd=eUZsRnkWMTVha3F1MVdQVFZQYXdxQT09>