



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2021

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Celebrate May Day

with us on Sunday, May 2 as we worship in person again!

Communion will be served. The Community Table offering will be taken. Coffee will not be served, but that will happen at some point in the future. Of course, masks will still be required along with social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be readily available.

A Message from the Conference Minister

This issue of the newsletter is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

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Rev. Franz Rigert sent us a letter thanking us for our pledge for OCWM Basic Support for 2021. This financial support enables the Wisconsin Conference connect, support, and resource local congregations and leaders as they creatively and vibrantly live out the values of Jesus in this time and place. Often this work involves connecting leaders as in our communities of practice or supporting congregations in the search and call process. But it also involves less visible ways to help leaders and congregations with thorny problems they cannot solve on their own. Over the last year, the conference has helped with legal assistance ranging from allegations of sexual misconduct to fixing a property tax issue to terminating a tenant lease. Resolving these issues mattered to the future success of these congregations. The Wisconsin Conference can strengthen congregations because of your generosity. Thank you!

May Worship Calendar

May 2

5th Sunday of Easter

Community Table offering

Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 22:25–31;

1 John 4:7–21; John 15:1–8

May 9

6th Sunday of Easter

Prayers for the People

Acts 10:44–48; Psalm 98;

1 John 5:1–6; John 15:9–17

May 16

7th Sunday of Easter

OCWM offering

Acts 1:15–17, 21–16; Psalm 1;

1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19

May 23

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;

Romans 8:22–27; John 15:26–27,

16:4b–15

May 30

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalm 29;

Romans 8:12–17; John 3:1–17

Prayer Ministry

In May, we are praying for these

individuals/families: Judy Insteness,

Rob & Linda Jaenke, Larry & Barb

Kleist, Susie Kleist, Charline Kozlowski

Moderator's Food for Thought

May 2 is the big day! We will worship together again! How great it will be to see everyone again!

The Leadership team feels the timing is right. The majority of our members will be vaccinated and hopefully the area's numbers will still be on the downward slide. Communion will be served. The Community Table offering will be taken. No coffee or snacks, for the time being. Hopefully soon though. Of course, masks will still be required along with social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be readily available. We will be recording our worship service live, to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home.

Please make sure your pledges are up to date. In March we barely had enough income to pay salaries. For April, we had to take money out of the PIP fund to make sure all the bills get paid. So bring your offerings with you or mail them. The office hours are 9–11 A.M., Monday through Friday. You could stop in and say "Hi" to Mimi when you drop off your offerings.

Hopefully everyone will be able to get a vaccine within a few months. Even after you receive it, make



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*Food for Thought
continued*

sure you stay safe—wear masks, wash hands frequently, and social distance.

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. If you prefer, you can go to the website, chippewavalleystreetministry.org, and donate through PayPal.

Also, don't forget our Birthday challenge. We are challenging you to make a donation in your birthday month corresponding to your age. The money will be put toward future capital improvements, such as parking lot resurfacing. May birthdays, it's your turn!

It's getting closer to the time we need to order the TV's for our AV system. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

See you in Church!

Attention All Bakers!!!!

We are having a bake sale May 22, outside! The Eau Claire Garden Club is having their annual plant sale in our parking lot Saturday, May 22, from noon to 3. The Leadership Team has decided it would be a great time to raise a little money, have some fun and camaraderie! The rain date for the event is Sunday, May 23.

So start thinking about what you want to bake! We need lots of stuff. This is a big event for the Eau Claire Garden Club, so there will be lots of people. Your baked items can be packaged and marked, or you can bring them in on Friday and our crew will do it for you. If you are packaging and marking your baked goods, you can bring them in Friday or Saturday before 9 A.M.

There will be a sign up sheet out on Sunday, May 2. We need to know if you are baking something, if you're willing to help on Friday to get things ready or on Saturday to help with the sale. We probably should have a good kitchen cleaning before that. That day will be Wednesday, May 19 at 10 A.M. It shouldn't take us more than a couple hours to get it all cleaned and sanitized.

Joanne Miller will be contacting those of you who aren't able to get to church on May 2 to sign up.

This is another sign we're returning to some kind of new normal!

Leadership Team Minutes

April 12, 2021

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

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of March 31, 2021

Year to Date Income	\$27,824.51
Year to Date Expenses	\$28,548.84
Ahead (Behind)	(\$724.33)

Treasurer's Report:

Envelope income for March was down from last year. Rob transferred \$3,700 from the Reserve Fund to help cover costs. All normal monthly bills were paid.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$1,352.52

Memorial Fund Balance: \$8,257.67

PPP loan: Our loan has been forgiven.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to transfer \$15,000 from PIP to the Reserve Fund to give Rob a safety net to cover expenses.

Worship:

- We will resume in-person worship on Sunday, May 2. Communion will be served with pre-packaged wine/juice and bread kits.
- Sanctuary chairs will need to be reset and prepared so that physical distancing is maintained. There will be no coffee served before worship.
- There was discussion regarding brush removal from the parking lot before May 2. The tree service will

be contacted to do that and will be paid for by a gift to the Memorial Fund.

Pastor's Report:

- Easter went well. The music was great!
- NW Association Annual Meeting this weekend. David and Ben will attend the virtual meeting.
- The Conference Annual Meeting is in May and will also be virtual.
- Pastor David is planning to attend the Festival of Homiletics. Jim Oliver will be the guest preacher May 23.

Old Business:

- The Eau Claire Garden Club will have their spring plant sale in our parking lot on May 22. We will have a bake sale (also outside) that day as well. Barb will enlist the help of Joanne Miller to line up donors for baked goods and people to work the sale.

New Business:

- The Leadership Team voted unanimously to accept as members JoAnn Smith and Rev. Mike Slagenweit-Coffman (Mayo chaplain). Barb will send them a special invitation to join us for in-person worship May 2.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48.

Our next meeting will be May 10, probably in person at church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,



Greetings to you all in this Easter season! We have a newsletter full of information, so this month a short Pastor's Pen.

First is the most exciting: we're worshipping in person again starting May 2! We will celebrate with Communion that day and have a special vocal solo from Hannah Zehms. Seeing each other again is going to be wonderful. I look forward to speaking and preaching to an actual congregation, and our musicians look forward to singing for people, instead of for a camera. We're all very excited to be in person again! We will continue to livestream our worship for those who cannot be here physically because of health or distance or whatever reason, so even if you normally come in person, on the Sundays that you are traveling or not feeling well, you'll still be able to worship with us via our Facebook page. Our equipment upgrades during the pandemic will serve us very well post-pandemic, too.

I'm on study leave the week of May 17–23 to attend the Festival of Homiletics. Jim Oliver will lead worship on May 23—thank you in advance, Jim!

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference is May 11–15. Please keep the Conference in your prayers during that time. The meeting is online this year, and it's been spread over many days so that each day has fewer hours. I will be participating in the meeting as a delegate.

Much work has been done in our woods to clean out weeds, brush, and other things to make it more beautiful and to prepare for some new plants. Many thanks to Keith Zehms and Cindy Halfen for taking up that initiative.

Blessings,

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

Memorials

General Fund

In memory of Michael Shepler:
Lyle Shepler Family

Landscape:

Tree service and brush clearing:
Keith & Deb Zehms, Mimi Pederson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>May 2021</h1>						1
2 Community Table offering 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	3	4 9:00 A.M. C & C	5	6 3:30 P.M. C & C	7	8
9 Prayers for the People 10:30 A.M. Worship	10 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	11 9:00 A.M. C & C	12	13 3:30 P.M. C & C	14	15
16 OCWM offering 10:30 A.M. Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22 Noon–3:00 P.M. Plant/Bake Sale
23 10:30 A.M. Worship	24	25 9:00 A.M. C & C	26	27 3:30 P.M. C & C	28	29
30 10:30 A.M. Worship	31 Memorial Day Office closed					

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/y2e87nrm>