



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2021

Candlelight Family Service of Lessons and Carols Friday, December 24 6:00 P.M.

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703
Phone: 715-835-5475
Web: pcucc.com

Ministers: All the people

Pastor: Rev. David Huber
david@pcucc.com

Church Secretary/Editor:
Mimi Pederson
mimi@pcucc.com

*Cross illumination for
December is sponsored by
John & Sandy Moore in
honor of their 54th wedding
anniversary.*

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



Christmas Eve

A family-friendly worship service of praise for the birth of our Savior with special music and a beautiful candlelit Silent Night.

Inside

Birthdays	Page 2
Calendar	Page 7
Food for Thought . . .	Page 3
Leadership Team	
Meeting Minutes .	Pages 5–6
Memorials	Page 3
Pastor's Pen	Page 4
Worship Calendar . . .	Page 2

Advent decorating

We will decorate our worship area on Saturday, December 4 starting at 10:00 A.M. A soup lunch will be served (including Pastor David's famous peanut soup!!). Join us for this special day!

December Worship Calendar

December 5

2nd Sunday of Advent

Community Table offering

Luke 1:68–79; Isaiah 10:1–11;

Luke 1:5–25, 39–45

December 12

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prayers for the People

Communion

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6;

Luke 1:46–56

December 19

4th Sunday of Advent

OCWM offering

Micah 5:2–5a; Psalm 80:1–7;

Matthew 1:18–24

December 24

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

6:00 P.M.

December 26

1st Sunday after Christmas

Luke 1:26–2:20

***Online worship only on
Facebook and website***

Prayer Ministry

In December, we are praying for these individuals/families: Dana Wachs (Beverly Wickstrom), Len Weisfeld, Adam (Alyssa) Wendt, Ron & Nancy Wendt, Mike Wolfe (Tobey), Keith & Deb Zehms

December Birthdays

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

Food Drive

Advent is a time for preparing for the birth of Jesus. Let's celebrate the season by giving to others. Starting November 28 we will be collecting non-perishable food for St Francis Food Pantry. We will collect through December. If you would rather donate money, you can do that also. Please be generous with your donations, there are a lot of people in need this year.

Please Help!

We need some new members for our Leadership Team! We have lost a couple members this year and really are in need of a few new members. There is no experience necessary, just a willingness to help your church. There are no term limits and all ideas are considered seriously. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at church. If you don't feel comfortable doing that we can provide a Zoom link. Your term starts after the Annual Meeting in January. For more information or to volunteer, please contact either Barb Kleist or the church office. Please consider helping.

Our Quilters Make a Difference!

Ever wonder what happens to the quilts made here at Plymouth? Well, they are given to Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council. In a recent letter, the CEO of Western Dairyland wrote: “Our agency wants to thank you so very much for your donation of beautiful and warm quilts... They will be given to families in our homeless shelters and will be used in our Birthday Box project to keep children warm. We **GREATLY** appreciate your generosity. *You are making a difference* to those folks that we serve who are in need.” Way to go!

Food for Thought

Communion for December will be December 12. It’s also our Commitment Sunday. (You will be receiving your pledge card soon.) Also on that date, we will have our first pot luck! We have also invited our Mennonite friends. So bring your favorite pot luck food and join us in fellowship.

We are still recording our worship service live, to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home or can’t make it to worship on Sunday.

Hopefully everyone will be able to get a vaccine or your booster shot soon. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe, wear your masks in a public place, wash your hands often, and use hand sanitizer.

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. December birthdays, it’s your turn!

They have started to install the rest of our AV system. Watch for more information.

We have changed our garbage carrier. We are now with Earthbound Environmental Services. Which means we will be having three types of trash cans. We will have a regular trash can, a recycling trash can, and a compost trash can. Each will be clearly marked with what can go in them. This will be starting very soon.

See you in Church this Advent Season!

Memorials

A/V System

In memory of Paul Holmen: Chris Kensmoe, Joyce Holmen

In memory of Trudy Brewer: Mimi Pederson

Birthday Challenge

JoAnn Smith



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the end of 2020, there were 82.4 million displaced people around the world, which includes 48.0 million internally displaced, 26.4 million refugees, and 4.1 million asylum seekers. About half of



the refugees are under 18. Those numbers mean 1 in 95 people around the world is currently displaced because of violence, conflict, persecution, or famine/land loss due to climate change. That's 1 in 95 people around the world knocking on the doors of their neighbors asking for a room in their inn. Here in Wisconsin, we have just received over 13,000 refugees from Afghanistan, fleeing violence and danger from the Taliban, poverty, and food insecurity.

Before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door of an inn. It had no rooms left, but a quick-thinking innkeeper—perhaps noticing how pregnant Mary was—offered them the barn, and that night Mary gave birth. Then after being warned in a dream, Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt as refugees from Herod's violent machinations, where they stayed until Herod died.

We enter Advent on Sunday, November 28. Advent is the four-week period of looking toward Jesus' coming birth and preparing ourselves for his entry into the world. It is a time to ask ourselves, "Do I have room in the inn of my heart for Jesus?" And more broadly, "Do I have room for those who are the image of Jesus?" Which is to say, all our neighbors, for we are all the image of Jesus.

"Room in the inn" is our theme for this Advent. Jesus is knocking on our doors and we must ask ourselves if we will answer. If we will make room. We are going off our usual Advent scripture lessons, and will be reading through the birth narrative from Luke and Matthew, leading up to Jesus' birth on Christmas. We have some wonderful music planned for our Advent journey and for Christmas Eve, too!

Please note that this year we have moved our Christmas Eve service to 6 P.M. instead of the usual 5 P.M. Worship on Sunday, December 26 will be on-line only, and available on our Facebook page and website. We'll be doing a lot of our favorite Christmas carols and read the birth story.

Join us for decorating for Christmas on Saturday, December 4! We missed last year, but we feel confident that we can do so this year, and we will also provide lunch.

In other news, we have invited the Mennonites to use our sanctuary on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 A.M. for their worship. We're quite excited to be able to offer them a home: room in the inn, so to speak. Especially after Grace Lutheran offered us room in their inn after our fire, extending the same generosity to others is faithful hospitality.

Have a blessed Advent season of preparation and expectation of the birth of Jesus!

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Cindy Halfen, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David

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

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2021

Year to Date Income \$104,994.54

Year to Date Expenses \$103,262.04

Ahead (Behind) \$1,732.50

Treasurer's Report:

Income YTD is now \$2,006.00 more than last year and \$18,351.03 more than previous year's average. Normal monthly bills were paid. We need to catch up Community Table and OCWM.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$7,362.78

Memorial Fund Balance: \$13,238.74

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- Pledge Commitment Sunday will be December 12. Letters with pledge cards will go out the week following Thanksgiving.

Worship:

- Barb will put out the Advent wreath for Sunday, November 28, the first Sunday of Advent.
- Christmas decorating will be done Saturday, December 4 starting at 10:00 A.M. A soup lunch will be served (including Pastor David's famous peanut soup!!).

Building and Grounds:

- Last year's snow plowing provider will plow ½ of our lot for snowfalls 2" or more for the same price as last year. He will also clean sidewalks, stairs, etc. for snowfall of 1" or more for an added fee.
- Larry will put up driveway markers before the snow flies.
- Cindy has applied for another grant from the Creation Care Team of the WI Conference for our prairie restoration project. She will also apply for a \$200 grant from the Eau Claire Garden Club.

Pastor's Report:

- Thanksgiving Eve worship will be at First Congregational at 7:00 P.M. November 24. Pastor David will preach.
- He and Lynn are doing worship services at Good Shepherd Apartments every other month.
- He has been music planning with Lynn, Lorin Divine, and John Moore.
- His pastoral retreat was good.
- Worship the first Sunday after Christmas, December 26, will be online only.

Old Business:

- Belatedly, the Team voted unanimously to accept into membership Dana Wachs and Mike and Marybeth Tschumperlin.
- We have switched our garbage service to Earthbound Environmental Services. We will now be separating our garbage into compostable, recycleable, and regular trash. Watch for specially marked bins for each category coming soon.



Continued on page 6

*Leadership Team
Minutes continued*

- We got a new quote for the final phase of our A/V project (monitors in the sanctuary and gathering space, etc.) and the price has gone down. We have ample funds to cover the cost, so we will proceed. We will also have the gathering space sound problem looked into.
- Lil Savage has resigned from the Leadership Team. We thank her for her service. We will need 4–5 new members for 2022. If you are interested, please speak to any Team member or Pastor David.
- We will collect non-perishable pantry items during the month of December to be donated to St. Francis Food Pantry.

New Business:

- As part of our Commitment Sunday, we will have a pot luck following worship that day. We discussed our Covid protocols and decided it was best to keep wearing masks in worship for now.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14 in person at church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant to decorate our worship spaces for Christmas, you can do so in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please fill out the information below and return it with your payment to the church office by November 30. Checks should be made out to Plymouth UCC. Please note “poinsettia” on your check. Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas.



Your name(s) _____

Given in memory/honor (circle one) of: _____

I/We would like to donate _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$9.00 each

_____ Red _____ White _____ Pink

Total enclosed \$ _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2021</h1> 						
			1	2	3	4 10:00 A.M. Christmas Decorating and lunch
5 Community Table offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	6	7 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball: Plymouth at Bethesda Gold	8	9	10	11
12 Prayers for the People and Commitment Sunday 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	13	14 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team and Dartball: Rock Creek at Plymouth	15	16	17	18
19 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	20	21 10:00 A.M. Quilters	22	23	24 Office closed 6:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols	25
26 10:30 A.M. Worship <i>Online only</i>	27	28 10:00 A.M. Quilters	29	30	31 Office closed	

Please note the time change for Christmas Eve worship and that worship on Sunday, December 26 is online only.