

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2023

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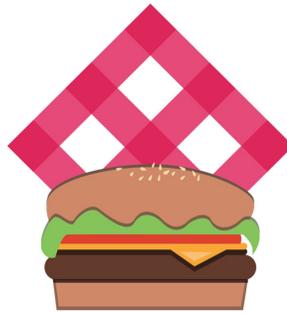
*This issue of the newsletter
is sponsored by an
anonymous donor.*

*Cross Illumination for May
is sponsored by Mike
Tschumperlin in memory of
his mother, Audrey
Tschumperlin.*

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Coming in May...



On May 7 we'll have a pot luck cookout complete with brats and burgers! Bring a dish to pass that goes with the theme of an early spring picnic.

Cookout

On May 14 we'll celebrate the Festival of the Christian Home as we honor mothers.



Mother's Day!



May 28 is Pentecost. We'll celebrate the birthday of the church. Remember to wear red that day.

May Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship
Communion the first Sunday of the month

May 7

5th Sunday of Easter

Hunger offering

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16;

1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

May 14

6th Sunday of Easter

Prayers for the People

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:18–20;

1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

May 21

7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday

OCWM offering

Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35;

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11; John 17:1–11

or

Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47;

Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53

May 28

Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;

1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 7:37–39

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
- Cate Reiter
- 18 Micah Adams
- 22 Ashley Mayer
- 30 Linda Jaenke

Prayer Ministry

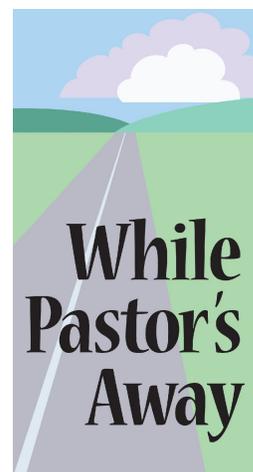
In May, we are praying for these individuals/families: Rob & Linda Jaenke, Carter, Morgan; Pat Kerr; Larry & Barb Kleist; Susie Kleist; Charline Kozlowski; Dorothy Kruschke

Inter-Faith Prayer Service

Our Jewish Friends will be hosting our next Inter-Faith Prayer Service on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 P.M. Temple Sholom is located at 1223 Emery Street, Eau Claire. We gather together to pray for Peace and Unity. A nice way to spend an evening with our human Family. Please spread the word. Humankind...be both.

Pastor David will be away

Pastor David will be gone from May 15–30. He'll be attending the Festival of Homiletics followed by a week of vacation. While he is gone, Rev. Kathryn Walker of First Presbyterian Church will cover any pastoral emergencies. Her contact information will be available by calling our church office. Our guest preachers will be Rev. Bill Sprouse and Rev. Eric Nielsen.



Food for Thought

Communion will be May 7. We will be serving communion or we will have the sealed cups for you. We will also take our offering for the Community Table. There will be a pot luck that day. We will hopefully be celebrating the end of winter with brats and burgers on the grill! Bring a dish to go along with that for an early spring picnic.

As mentioned, our Community Table offering will also be taken on May 7. Please be generous. Some of the federal funding for those on lower incomes has ended and they are finding it harder to afford food for their families. More and more people are using the Community Table for a daily source of good food.



We are still recording our worship service to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home or can't make it to worship. Please make sure you are vaccinated and boosted. This makes everyone feel safer and maybe we can get rid of COVID completely. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe.

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, hooded sweatshirts sizes L, XL, & 2XL; sweatpants sizes L & XL, large size backpacks; gas or food cards, fast food cards, and of course monetary donations. We have a drop off box at church and whatever is donated will be taken to Good Shepherd weekly. The mailing address for monetary donations 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. So May birthdays, it's your turn!

Come and visit our new libraries. We have one curbside for anyone to use and we've started one inside in Fellowship Hall.



Our friend Cathy Lee sang with the choir in their spring concert.

Used Tarps Needed

Have an old tarp you need to get rid of? Cindy Halfen and her group of volunteers will be using tarps to kill some of the invasive around the garage and fire pit area. It doesn't matter what shape they are in, they will be put to good use. Bring them to church and we will make sure Cindy gets them!

Dear friends and family of
Plymouth,

During May, I will be taking my week of continuing education to again attend the Festival of Homiletics, a week of listening to great preachers and learning about the art of preaching. I look forward to this event every year—it helps fill my bucket, and I always learn new methods and approaches. I am very much looking forward to this year’s because of that, but also because it will be the first I am attending in person since the pandemic. The last few years I’ve joined on-line, and it’s just not the same as being in the same sanctuary with 1500 other preachers. Especially when we sing! I’ll be away May 15–21 for that.

After the Festival I’m taking a week of vacation from May 22–29.

While I am gone, Rev. Bill Sprouse will lead worship on May 21 and Rev. Eric Nielsen will lead worship on May 28. In case of pastoral emergencies or needs (deaths, hospitalizations, etc.), Rev. Kathryn Walker from First Presbyterian Church is covering—you can contact Mimi and she can get a message to Kathy, or if you call outside of

office hours, our answering machine message will include Kathy’s phone number.

May 28 is also Pentecost Sunday (and Memorial Day Weekend), so wear your red clothes to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost!

With the pandemic dangers winding down, our activity level is going up, and now that we’re entering May I imagine many of you will be going to confirmation parties, graduation parties, weddings, and other trips. For you who will be traveling in May, I wish you safe travels, meaningful journeys, and God’s blessings in all your activities!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pastor David'.

Leadership Team Minutes

April 16, 2023

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Linda Oliver, Louise Partlow, Mimi Pederson, Mike Tschumperlin, Pete Spitt, Cindy Halfen, Rob Jaenke, and Pastor David

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called the meeting to order at 11:45 A.M.



Financial Reports:

As of March 31, 2023

Year to Date Income	\$44,082.79
Year to Date Expenses	\$35,794.39
Ahead (Behind)	\$8,288.40

Treasurer's Report:

Year to Date envelope income is still up. Payments to Community Table and OCWM were made in March, and the snow plowing bill was paid.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$11,097.88

Reserve Fund Balance: \$9,880.18

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

- A couple trees were cut down. Keith Zehms arranged and paid for this. We do have more to cut down/clean up.
- The Eau Claire Garden Club has approved a grant of \$175.
- Cindy will apply for another Creation Care grant from the Conference.
- We will schedule the playground removal and garage clean-up at the next Leadership Team meeting.

Worship:

- May 7 will be our next pot luck. It will be a cookout!
- May 14 is Mother's Day and we will hand out flowers to all the moms.

Pastor's Report:

- Easter went well
- George Stecher did a great job on the Wednesday lenten suppers. He's looking at doing a series on anti-racism in the future.

- We have been graced by the number of visitors we've been getting lately.
- The Northwest Association Annual Meeting will be April 22.
- The Conference Annual Meeting will be June 8–11. Cindy Halfen will be our delegate.

Old Business:

- Our libraries are doing fine. Linda Oliver will keep the "Little Free Library" stocked and will tend the library in the Fellowship Room.
- The funds from the closure of the Music Fund at Wells Fargo will be put in the Contingency Fund in Memorials.

New Business:

- Pastor David is asking for a salary adjustment to bring his salary up to Conference guidelines and cover the increased cost of living. He's also asking for a sabbatical. The Team were given guidelines from the Conference to study before the next meeting. Any changes to pastoral salary or approval of a sabbatical would require a congregational meeting, so the Team needs to have a plan to present to the congregation.
- We discussed fundraisers. We'd consider a Thrift Sale next spring, with strict rules regarding ticketing (having things priced and marked by the donors), when and where to bring donations, etc. We'd also be willing to do another Porch Pot event with the Eau Claire Garden Club, but we think it needs to be earlier than it was last year. Cindy will check with the club to see what their plans are.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M. Our next meeting will be May 21, 2023 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>May 2023</h1> 						
	1	2 10:00 A.M. Quilters	3	4	5	6
7 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	8	9 10:00 A.M. Quilters	10	11	12	13
14 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	15	16 10:00 A.M. Quilters	17	18	19	20
21 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	22	23 10:00 A.M. Quilters	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	29 Memorial Day Office closed	30 10:00 A.M. Quilters	31			

Empty Bowls event

On Thursday, May 18 Feed My People Food Bank will host the annual Empty Bowls event from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Food trucks will be onsite and hundreds of handcrafted bowls will be available for purchase. Cost is \$25 for one bowl and a meal or \$10 for just a bowl. Learn more and purchase tickets at

<https://give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowls> Volunteers are needed too. Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/emptybowlvolunteer> for more information.