

Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

January 2024

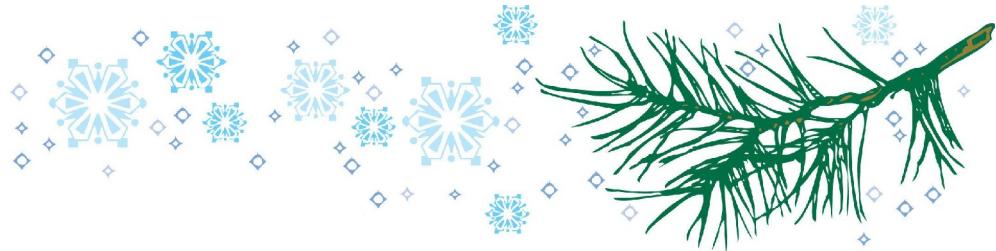
Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703
Phone: 715-835-5475
Web: pcucc.com

Ministers: All the people

Pastor: Rev. David Huber
david@pcucc.com

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

*Cross Illumination for
January is sponsored by
Dorothy Kruschke in honor
of the Quilters.*



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 28 following worship. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 21. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 15**. If anyone would like to join our Leadership Team, please let Barb Kleist know. You can contact her via phone at 715-834-8130 or email @bkleist04@gmail.com or in person at church. We are always looking for new people to help us lead our Congregation.

We are also looking for a Moderator-Elect. We need someone who would like to step forward and learn what is involved in leading our Congregation. The Moderator, Barb Kleist, has been doing it for a long time and it's now time for someone else to step forward. It's not something that requires any special skills, just faith in God and a desire to help Plymouth Church.

Stewardship Update

Inside

Worship Calendar . . .	Page 2
Birthdays	Page 2
Pastor's Pen	Page 4
Leadership Team	
Minutes	Page 5
Calendar	Page 7

Our Stewardship Sunday was December 10. We've collected 14 pledges for a total of \$47,270. That's a lot less than last year at this time. It's extremely difficult to plan a budget when you don't have a good idea of what your income will be, so it is urgent that you return your pledge card as soon as possible so that the Leadership Team can present a realistic 2024 budget at the Annual Meeting. If you've misplaced your pledge card, you can call the church office (715-825-5475) and we'll be happy to send you another one, or if you're comfortable doing so, you can give your pledge to Mimi over the phone. In any case, if we haven't received your pledge yet, please make it a priority. Thank you!

January Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

January 7

Epiphany Sunday

Community Table offering

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

January 14

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20); Psalm
139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20;
John 1:43–51

January 21

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12;
1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

January 28

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Meeting

Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28



We will take down our Christmas decorations on Wednesday, January 3 at 2 P.M. All help will be appreciated. If we have enough people to help, it should take less than an hour!

Inter-faith Prayer Service

Please mark your calendars. Inter-Faith Prayer Service will be January 24 at 6:30 P.M. at Hope United Methodist Church, 2233 Golf Road. We give thanks to Pastor Jen Barnett and all the good people at Hope Methodist for hosting us and bringing people together to pray for “Peace and Unity for All People.”

Prayer Ministry

In January, we are praying for these individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Aaron, Caleb; Jackie Andersen; Pat (Gary) Burnam; Kay Bussing; Lyle & Sylvia Carlson; Meghan (Austin) Cartmill, Gracie, Harrison

January Birthdays

- 3 Caleb Adams
- 4 Barb Kleist
- Susie Kleist
- 10 George Stecher
- 18 Beck Sprouse
- 19 Dorothy Ann Divine
- 20 Lorin Divine
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 24 Ron Wendt
- Lil Savage
- 27 Nancy Champion
- Larry Kleist

Food for Thought

Communion will be January 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.

We won't be having a pot luck in January, but the Leadership Team will be providing light snacks after worship on January 28 prior to our Annual Meeting. Please join us on this important day.

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. COVID and the flu are showing an increase in our community, but the new booster is now out! Make sure you get a booster and also your flu shot. Masks are always available at church if you feel you need one.

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. We have a collection box in the Gathering area.

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. January birthdays, it's your turn!

Come and visit our libraries. We have one curbside for anyone to use and we've started one inside in Fellowship Hall. Different books are added frequently.

If anyone knows of a family member or member of this congregation who is in the hospital, please let the church office

know. Unless someone tells us, we don't know if you're in the hospital.

Make sure you turn in your pledges for next year, our treasurer, Rob Jaenke is trying to prepare a budget and he needs a good understanding of what money we will be receiving.

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money for our December Food Drive.

Volunteers Needed!

The Stand in the Light Memory Choir needs your help! Plymouth members are known for their baked goods. The Choir's spring semester starts January 11. Part of their time together is a social hour. There are dates available for providing baked goods. Here is a list of dates available: January 11, February 15 & 28, March 14 & 28, April 4 & 11. If you would like to help out, please contact Barb Kleist at 715-834-8130 or bkleist04@gmail.com. There will also be a sign up sheet near the office at the church.

This is a wonderful nonprofit organization that fills a big need in our communities. Having churches, organizations and individuals providing the food for the social hours is a big way to help them out and ease some of the financial burden.

Scrip cards and Nuts

Your purchases of these items really help our fund raising efforts. In 2023, our profit from nut sales was \$886.43, and our profit from scrip cards was \$2,278.62!



Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

2023 has run its course and we are facing down another year. The steady march of time moves ever forward. And as I get older, the march of time feels more like “accelerating” than it feels “steady”! With that forward movement comes change, which leaves us always with the choice of either adapting to the change and making it work for us, or resisting it and trying to keep it from happening. That latter choice is never going to work, but it’s so easy to fall into wanting things to remain the same, isn’t it?

But change happens. Even in the church, including Plymouth. This past year, we welcomed new members and new children into our congregation; we said goodbye to members who moved away; and we said our final farewells to a few who died. We have said goodbye to our long tradition of the Holiday Bazaar, and said hello to a new version in conjunction with the Eau Claire Garden Club, now back in residence at Plymouth.

Many of us experience changes in our own lives, too: a sickness, a loss of job, death of a spouse or child, a graduation, a new job, a new child, upgrading to a larger home or downsizing to a smaller one in retirement.

Who knows what 2024 will bring? I imagine that like most years, it will be a mix of blessings and things we wish wouldn’t happen. So much is in flux, but I always approach a new year with great hope that God is present, and that blessings are abundant if we are present to the moment and are willing to notice them; and that God is present in the downturns and the rough times, holding us through them, and that there is nothing we can’t get through with God at our side. That’s good news to carry into a new year!

May God be with you—and may you be with God—as we journey into a new year filled with possibility and held in God’s loving hands!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Pastor" on top and "David" below it.

Leadership Team Minutes

December 3, 2023

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Linda Oliver, Mimi Pederson, Louise Partlow, Deb Zehms, Rob Jaenke, and Pastor David

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called the meeting to order at 11:50 A.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2023

Year to Date Income	\$121,297.05
Year to Date Expenses	\$131,437.07
Ahead (Behind)	(\$10,140.02)

Treasurer's Report:

Year to date Envelope income is \$7,145 less than last year at this time, but \$16,081 over the average going back to 2009. There was a \$3,500 transfer from the Reserve Account and \$2,853.81 profit from the 'Tis the Season sale. We will have to catch up OCWM and Community Table for the year end.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$19,607.12

Reserve Fund Balance: \$16,927.18

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Worship:

- Barb will be gone Christmas Eve. Other members of the Leadership Team will fill in for her at the worship services.
- We will "undecorate" on Wednesday, January 3 at 2:00 P.M.

Stewardship:

- A letter and pledge forms were mailed out December 1 along with contribution statements through November 26.

Pastor's Report:

- Thanksgiving Eve service went well
- Christmas Eve readers and musicians are set

Old Business:

- The wind chimes in memory of Pete Spitt will be installed in the porte cochère next spring.
- Envelopes will be put in the bulletins for Dec 10 and 17 for folks to donate cash to the Christmas Food Drive

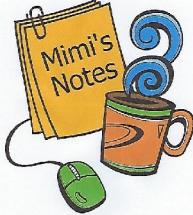
New Business:

- The Leadership Team was given some information regarding a sabbatical for Pastor David along with a tentative budget for 2024. The Team was encouraged to study the handouts in preparation for our next meeting.
- The Annual Meeting date has been set for January 28. Annual Report information is due by January 15



Meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M. Our next meeting will be January 14, 2024 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Keep in mind that we now handle offering envelopes differently. In the past we have given everyone a new box of envelopes each year.

Now we issue new envelopes on an as-needed basis. Many folks use only one envelope a month as they contribute once for an entire month. We feel it's a better use of our resources to let people use the envelopes they already have. When you need more envelopes, you can call, email, or stop in the office and get a new box.

Please use the green attendance slips in the bulletins. If you're a member, you don't have to fill out all the information, just put your name. This is important so that my database records are accurate.

Kolache Baking Class

Lynn McFadyen will be teaching a kolache baking class on January 18, 2024. This class will be held in the church kitchen and can accommodate 8 participants. The cost of the class is \$10. Class will begin at 9:00 A.M. Lunch will be shared at the church while the dough is rising. Class will conclude when the baking and clean-up are complete. Call the church office for your reservation at **715-835-5475**. **Registration is on a first come, first serve basis, so please sign up by January 15, 2024.** Specific details will be sent to participants in January.

Chippewa Valley Street Ministry Needs List

We accept new or gently used items in good repair. Please make sure any zippers are in working order and the items are clean.

We are in need of the following items.
XXL Gloves

Mittens

Handwarmers (2 per pack)

Hoodies

Jeans, especially sizes 30,32,34

Thermals

Gas Cards

Food Cards

Monetary Donations

Checks and gift cards can be mailed to:

CVSM
PO Box 51
Eau Claire, WI 54702

Donations can be dropped off
Monday–Thursday 9:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
at:

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1120 Cedar Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 2024						
	1 2:00 P.M. Undecorate	2	3	4	5	6
7 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	8	9 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at St. Mark	10	11	12	13
14 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	15 Deadline for Annual Report	16 7:00 P.M. Dartball PB&J at Plym	17	18 9:00 A.M. Kolache class	19	20
21 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth bye	24	25	26	27
28 Annual Meeting 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Mtg	29	30 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at Hope Gospel	31			



Please note:
The quilters
do not meet
in January.