



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

April 2024

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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*Cross Illumination for April
is sponsored by Mike
Tschumperlin in memory of
Marybeth Tschumperlin.*

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Emergency Contacts and Hospitalizations

The following paragraphs were originally printed in the February 2024 "Pastor's Pen." The Leadership Team and Pastor David felt that this was so important that we should repeat this information for the congregation.

Over the years, we've had several occasions of not being able to visit church members in the hospital, a rehab facility, or other location simply because we weren't informed where they were, and had no one to call to ask. I've had a number of times of visiting someone in the hospital, then they were released to a rehabilitation facility or to family without us being told, then I go to the hospital to see them and they're gone. The hospital can only tell me you aren't there; they cannot tell me where you have gone, or even if, God forbid, you died while there.

In a previous church, a member died of a heart attack during a meeting. His wife was a member so we knew who to contact, but if we hadn't known her, we would not have had any knowledge of who to contact. That's not a good situation.

To help us avoid this, we are asking you for two things. First, please give us emergency contact information (especially if you have no family involved in this congregation). Then if something were to happen to you, we have someone to contact to either let them know that you had an issue while at church, or we can ask them where you are if we lose track.

Second, please also let your children or guardian know that you would like Plymouth church to be contacted if something happens to you, and give them our church's name and phone number (Plymouth UCC, Eau Claire, 715-835-5475).

Of course, you never have to give us more information than you are comfortable giving, but this would be very helpful to have.

I always hope that nothing happens to any of you, but unfortunately, most of us will go through it at least once in our lifetime. It's comforting to know that when we do go through it, the bonds of community will not be broken.

April Worship Calendar

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

April 7

2nd Sunday of Easter

Hunger offering

Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133;

1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

OCWM offering

Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23;

1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

April 14

3rd Sunday of Easter

Prayers for the People

Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4;

1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 22:25–31;

1 John 4:7–21; John 15:1–8

Sabbatical Progress

Our Congregation is working toward providing Pastor David with a much earned and needed sabbatical. This summer he will have been with us 20 years! We are working toward a sabbatical for him the summer of 2025.

In preparation, our Leadership team has met with two different churches which have recently gone through sabbaticals, First Presbyterian in Eau Claire and Ladysmith UCC. We also received information from Cedar creek Community Church in Eau Claire. Summaries of what these three congregations did are available at church for our members to read.

The Leadership team feels that because the Ladysmith Church is closer to our size and structure, the way they handled services, events and caring for their congregation is closest to what we envision happening. We would like everyone to pick up a copy of the summaries, so that you know where we are coming from.

We will have two basic goals during this time: Keep our attendance the same and have a positive outlook on what we all need to accomplish. All members will be called upon to make this a successful endeavor.

Prayer Ministry

In April, we are praying for these individuals/families: Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Joyce Holmen, Judy Insteness, Rob & Linda Jaenke, Carter, Morgan, Pat Kerr, Larry & Barb Kleist

Food for Thought

Communion will be April 7. We will be serving communion or we will have the sealed cups for you. We will also be taking our offering for the Community Table.



We will also have a pot luck April 7. It will be our first brat & burger cookout to celebrate spring. Bring your favorite dish to pass to go with the brats & burgers. Just a reminder, even if you don't have a dish to pass, please join us anyway. We always have more than enough food to share!

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, RSV and the flu are showing an increase in our community. 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 for winter clothing, or else you can send a check to CVSM, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0051.

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 and sign repair. April 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. Also, make sure the hospital knows you belong to Plymouth UCC.

On the same subject, we would like emergency contacts for all our members. We have forms on the counter next to the office or you can contact Mimi to give her that information

Mark your calendars for the upcoming event this Spring: Garden Club Plant Sale and Plymouth Bake Sale, Saturday, May 18. Joanne Miller will be calling everyone to bring something for the sale. Our baked goods always sell, so try to bake lots of goodies!

April Birthdays

- 1 Eleanor Robison
Harrison Cartmill
- 5 Rose Shepler
- 13 Pat Sexter
Shawn Barnhardt
- 16 Anori Divine
- 21 Joanne Miller

Memorials

Birthday Challenge:

Lorin & Dorothy Ann Divine
Joyce Holmen



Spring Thrift Sale & Bake Sale has been postponed!

The Thrift Sale & Bake Sale we had scheduled for April 20 has been postponed. Due to a number of events happening around this date, we are moving the sale to September 14. Mark your calendars! The May 18 Bake Sale and Plant Sale, in conjunction with the Eau Claire Garden Club, will be going on as planned.

Offering envelopes

Running short of your offering envelopes? Let Mimi know and she will give you a fresh supply.

Emergency Contacts and Hospitalizations

(See Feb Pastor's Pen)

Sofas for Service is an organization run solely by volunteers providing new, gently used, and good furniture to veterans in need throughout Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota. It is entirely dependent on community support donating household furnishings and monetary contributions.

Veterans are typically equipped with living room and bedroom furniture, kitchen items, and miscellaneous items sufficient to completely furnish an entire household.

Find out how you can help support our nation's veterans. Your donation can provide vital assistance and resources to those who have bravely served our country.

Info and donation guidelines can be found at:

- Sofasforservice.org
 - facebook.com/sofasforservice.inc
- or you can call 715-309-9663.

Leadership Team Minutes

March 17, 2024

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Cindy Halfen, Mike Tschumperlin,, Bill Sprouse, Louise Partlow, Rob Jaenke, Dorothy Ann Divine, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 A.M. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of February 29, 2024	
Year to Date Income	\$50,428.81
Year to Date Expenses	\$24,605.47
Ahead (Behind)	\$25,823.34

Treasurer's Report:

Paid bills include \$473.70 for maintenance of the coffee maker and \$290 for snow removal for January and February. *Continued on page 6*



Continued from page 5

Memorial Fund Balance: \$18,337.25

Reserve Fund Balance: \$10,440.70

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Worship:

- Maundy Thursday worship will be March 28 at 2:00 P.M.
- Easter Sunday we will have “Magnificent Muffins” at 9:30 A.M. and worship will be at 10:30 A.M.

Building and Grounds:

- Barb will check with the housekeeper this week to see when she will be back. Meanwhile, the members of the congregation have been doing a great job filling in.
- Cindy will apply for more grants (from the Conference and the Eau Claire Garden club). She also shared plans for planting this spring which includes shrubs and grasses.
- Larry contacted Senn Blacktop to come and check out our parking lot. Their opinion was that the lot (other than the new part near the building) is in such bad shape that it’s not worth “fixing.” Replacement estimate for the lot and driveway was approximately \$80,000. Crack filling the newer part estimated at \$1200. To re-stripe estimated at \$1400. Larry will discuss options with the Senn representative further and also get a second opinion from another company.
- The doors on our sign (by the street) are difficult to open and close. The one on the west side is also out of alignment. The sign company contacted would charge \$240 just to come and look at it. We will check out another sign company.

Pastor’s Report:

- Good Friday service at First Congregational has been planned. The theme is “The Seven Last Words of Christ.”
- The Northwest Association Annual Meeting is April 20 at First Congregational in Eau Claire. We get one delegate. Bill volunteered for that.
- WI Conference Annual Meeting will be in June (date to be determined) at Green Lake Conference Center. We get two delegates. Cindy may be interested in being a delegate again.

Old Business:

- Lil Savage and Linda Oliver will both look after the libraries in the Fellowship Room and at the street.
- We still need to make a plan to hang the wind chimes that were given in memory of Pete Spitt.
- We need to consider what our next steps are in regard to Pastor David’s sabbatical. Our two goals in planning are (1) no decrease in attendance and (2) make it fun and easy. Deb prepared summaries of what we learned from the two churches who shared their sabbatical experiences with us to help us in planning.

New Business:

- May 18 will be the Eau Claire Garden Club Plant Sale (indoor)/Plymouth Bake Sale. We will share the expense of an ad in Volume One.
- There will be a pot luck April 7

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M. Our next meeting will be March 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>April 2024</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 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	15	16 10:00 A.M. Quilters	17	18	19	20
21 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	22	23 10:00 A.M. Quilters	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	29	30 10:00 A.M. Quilters				