

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2024

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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Cross Illumination for May is sponsored by the Zehms Family (Keith, Deb, Hannah, Sam, and Craig) in honor of Jeanne Zehms whose birthday was May 6, 1919.

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Plant Sale

Indoors

perennials, annuals and native plants

May 18

Garden Art & Crafts

9am - 1pm

Presented by the Eau Claire Garden Club

2010 W Moholt Drive , Eau Claire

Bake Sale

Presented by
Plymouth United Church of Christ

We are coming up on our bake sale in conjunction with the Eau Claire Garden Club's spring plant sale. We will have an ad in the May 2 issue of Volume One magazine.

Besides baking for the sale, we will be needing help as cashiers, help marking, and filling in the bakery. Then of course there will be clean up afterwards. Sign-up sheets will be out the first week of May.

The sale runs from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. on Saturday, May 18. Bakery can be brought to the church on Friday, May 17 from 9 A.M. until noon and 4–6 P.M. If necessary, it may be brought in Saturday morning before the sale. Just make sure we have enough time to package it and price it. Joanne Miller will be calling people to ask you to bake. Please say yes!

Pastor David has created a Facebook event: <https://tinyurl.com/2dosjc35>
Please share/invite others.

Sabbatical Information - Part 2

At the last Leadership Team meeting, we went over different ideas on what we could do to make it fun and interesting for the congregation. Some of the ideas were: hymn sings, volunteers from the congregation speaking on a theme or experience they would like to share, reading of a prepared sermon, guest speakers from some of our outreach missions (Community Table, Street Ministry, Stand in the Light Memory Choir, Western Dairyland, JONAH, and more), outdoor worship, and of course, pulpit supply. We also started to make a list of responsibilities and who would be assume them.

Last, but certainly most important, what should be our goal as a congregation to make this an enjoyable, creative experience and help us to grow spiritually? What do you think that goal should be? Please contact Barb Kleist with your ideas. Talk to her at church or email her at bkleist04@gmail.com.

May Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

Hunger offering

Acts 10:44–48; Psalm 98;
1 John 5:1–6; John 15:9–17

May 12

7th Sunday of Easter

Prayers for the People

Acts 1:15–17, 21–16; Psalm 1;
1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19

May 19

Pentecost

OCWM offering

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;
Romans 8:22–27; John 15:26–27,
16:4b–15

May 26

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: Susie Kleist,
Charline Kozlowski, Dorothy Kruschke,
Arvilla Kruschke, Peggy Larson, Cathy
Lawler

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

Inter-Faith Prayer Service

You are invited to gather with our neighbors to pray for “Peace and Unity for All People.” The service will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 22 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1120 Cedar Street.

Memorials

Birthday Challenge:

Lorin & Dorothy Ann Divine
Joyce Holmen
Joanne Miller

In memory of Gordy Heimstead:

George Stecher and Sue Falch
Maria Patton

Food for Thought

Communion will be May 5. 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 May 5. Since Mother's Day is almost here, do you have a favorite dish of hers you could bring? 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. Here are a few things they are looking for now: sleeping bags with working zippers; hoodies sizes L-XXL or larger; tennis shoes in good condition, women's sizes 7-11 and men's sizes 8-13. We have a collection box in the Gathering area for 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. May 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 month, the Garden Club Plant Sale and Plymouth Bake Sale! More info in this newsletter.

A Thank You from Our Housekeeper

Dear Plymouth Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and all your prayers for my family. It sure helps to comfort us at a time like this. Your kindness will always be appreciated and remembered.

Andrea Strand and Family

Leadership Team Minutes

April 14, 2024

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:46 A.M. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of March 31, 2024

Year to Date Income	\$58,393.62
Year to Date Expenses	\$35,241.96
Ahead (Behind)	\$23,151.66

Treasurer's Report:

The quarterly water bill was paid, and payments to OCWM and the Community Table will get caught up in April.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$17,827.35

Reserve Fund Balance: \$10,444.25

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Worship:

- We will provide a "neutral pulpit" for a pastoral candidate to preach and be observed by the search committee of his prospective church.
- Pastor David will be on study leave for Pentecost, so Rev. Eric Nielsen will again fill in.

Building and Grounds:

- Larry will get an estimate from Bluecoat for cleaning up the pine cones in a couple areas of the lawn. Mike will get the mowers ready for the coming season.
- Larry is trying to get a second estimate for the parking lot. He

has spoken further with Senn and they have made a modified offer that would cost \$9,100.

- Andrea Strand, our housekeeper, will be back in May.
- Cindy brought us up to date on planting privacy screen (120 red twig dogwood bushes) this year.

Pastor's Report:

- We have a wedding May 11 here at Plymouth, and Pastor David will perform a wedding in Chippewa Falls in June.
- May 13–19 is the annual Festival of Homiletics which Pastor David attends every year.
- The Association Annual Meeting is coming up at First Congregational in Eau Claire. Bill Sprouse will be our delegate.
- The Conference Annual Meeting will be the second week of June.



Old Business:

- The Plant Sale/Bake Sale will be May 18. There will be a sign-up sheet for help setting up the bake sale on Friday, May 17 and for help the day of the sale.
- We discussed planning for Pastor David's sabbatical. This will be an ongoing effort.
- Larry showed us a sturdy hanger for the Pete Spitt memorial wind chimes and discussed how they would be hung.

Meeting adjourned at 1:09 P.M. Our next meeting will be May 13, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

I hope you are all having a good springtime, watching the trees bud and the flowers start to pop out of the ground, the birds making nests and singing their love songs looking for a mate, and warmer weather. April showers bring May flowers they say, and while we didn't seem to get much in the way of April showers, I'm hoping that we'll still get many May flowers! It is fitting that Easter happens in the Spring (in the Northern Hemisphere, anyway). Celebrating Easter's promise of new life and new possibilities seems easier while we can look out the window and see signs of new life and possibilities. May you find new life and new hope in this season of spring, and this season of Easter.



Here's something interesting that I just learned (or maybe better said, "finally realized"!): Pentecost, which is on May 19 this year, is actually the last day of Easter. All these years I thought it was its own thing, marking the beginning of the long season that we call Ordinary Time, which goes until Advent. But no, it marks the end of the Easter season.

I don't know if there's any deep theological insight to be gained by knowing this, but maybe you can think of something. And either way, I thought you might find it interesting.

The week of May 12–19 I'm taking my week of continuing education to attend the Festival of Homiletics. Rev. Kathryn Walker from First Presbyterian will offer coverage in case of emergencies, and Rev. Bill Sprouse will lead and preach the good news on the Sunday I'm away, which also happens to be Pentecost Sunday. Enjoy your last day of the Easter season with Bill, and I will rejoin you in Ordinary Time when I'm back in the office on May 20!

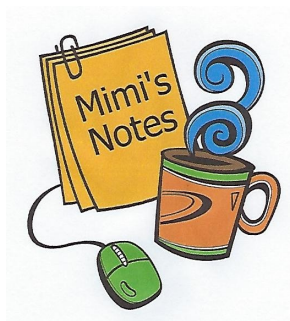
Easter blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bill Sprouse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



This month we are transplanting 120 Red Osier Dogwood shrubs along the northern edge of the church property, thanks to a grant from the Eau Claire Garden Club. The shrubs are bare root plants, about two feet tall, so we can use a garden shovel to dig the holes. We need some help and are flexible with dates and time. We don't have to finish the project in one day. Any help you can provide is appreciated. Cindy Halfen is leading the project. See the sign-up in the alcove if you're interested in helping

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>May 2024</h1>						
			1	2	3	4
5 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	6	7 10:00 A.M. Quilters	8	9	10	11
12 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14 10:00 A.M. Quilters	15	16	17	18 Plant & Bake Sale 9 A.M.— 5 P.M.
19 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	20	21 10:00 A.M. Quilters	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28 10:00 A.M. Quilters	29	30	31	



- Running short of your offering envelopes? Let me know and I will give you a fresh supply.
- I sometimes leave early on Fridays if I have all my work done for the week. If you need to stop by the church office on Fridays, it's best to call first to make sure I'm there. (*I will* be in the office until noon on Friday, May 17!)