



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2009

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

**Director of Music Ministry:**  
Cyndi Bradbury

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

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## Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2009 are as follows: 29 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$51,167 (last year at this time we had 44 giving units pledge \$61,813) for the coming year.

For this faith response, for your commitment to the Lord and his church, and for your trust that what we do in the name of Christ is important both here at home and to the far corners of the globe where we witness ... *thank you!*

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 25 following worship. The Executive Council will provide refreshments. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 18. Report submissions need to be in the church office ***no later than Monday, January 12.***

### ***Do you have access to the internet?***

If so, please consider receiving this newsletter via email. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at [mimi@pcucc.com](mailto:mimi@pcucc.com) to be put on the electronic mailing list.

# Getting ready for church

## January Worship Notes

### 10:30 a.m. Worship

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

#### January 4

*Second Sunday after Christmas,  
St. Francis Food Pantry offering*  
Jeremiah 31:7–14, Psalm 147:12–20,  
Ephesians 2:3–14, John 1:(1–9), 10–18

#### January 11

*Baptism of Christ  
(First Sunday after Epiphany)*  
Genesis 1:1–5, Psalm 29,  
Acts 19:1–7, Mark 1:4–11

#### January 18

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*  
1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20),  
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18,  
1 Corinthians 6:12–20, John 1:43–51

#### January 25

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*  
Johan 3:1–5, 10, Psalm 62:5–12,  
1 Corinthians 7:29–31, Mark 1:14–20

### In January, we are praying for these families:

Sadie (Jacob) Hulke  
Judy Insteness  
Nicole (Sonny) Ivkovich  
Rob & Linda Jaenke  
Gerry & Julie Johnson  
Onita Jorgensen  
Ruth Kavanagh  
Larry & Barb Kleist

### Be a sponsor!

Sponsor an issue of the newsletter or a weekly bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or in honor of a special event, or even just because! All sponsors will be recognized in the issue. Sponsorship for the bulletin is \$15 and for the newsletter, it's \$50.

Cross illumination for January  
is provided in memory of  
**Nancy Shepler**  
by her family

### Food for Thought

Thanks to your donations, our Youth delivered 26 Christmas bags for the children of St. Francis Food Pantry. They were really appreciated!

St. Francis Food Pantry can still use money and basic food items, grocery bags (plastic and paper), motel-size soaps, lotions, shampoos and body wash, and jars with lids (pint or quart size—washed and cleaned of course). We will continue to take our special offering for them on the first Sunday of the month.

Our monthly pot luck returns January 4. January's theme is "Italian," so bring your favorite Italian food to share!

## January Birthdays

- 4 Barb Kleist  
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 9 Donald Blake
- 10 Dorothy Gilbertson  
George Stecher
- 12 Paul Holmen
- 17 Rod Cooke
- 18 Edmund Noyes
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 22 Brayden Ivkovich
- 24 Ron Wendt
- 26 Tom Leuck
- 27 Carmen Bernhagen  
Nancy Champion  
Larry Kleist
- 31 Steve Champion

## A Golden Opportunity

In March of 1999, a combined chorus of church choirs and community members presented the first performance of *The Psalms, A Liturgy of Prayer and Praise*, a complete choral program written by Warren Hermodson who is a local musician. After ten years, the program will be performed again on March 8, 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church to benefit Feed My People Food Bank. This community chorus will be directed by Gary Rambo and is open to all singers of all denominations. No audition is required. Rehearsals will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. beginning on January 18. (No rehearsal February 1, Super Bowl Sunday) If you would like more details about this opportunity, or would like to participate, contact Mimi in the church office.

Thank you to these people who provided the beautiful Christmas greens and plants adorning our sanctuary and church exterior:

### \**Christmas tree:*

Given by Joe & Terri Gilbert in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Curry Sr.

### \**Donations for wreaths:*

Given by Dorothy Gilbertson, Chris, Tami, Megan and Travis Eisberner in memory of Vera Abramovich, the Zehms Family in memory of Marcia Dahl and Patrick Quinn,

### \**Donations for poinsettias:*

Chris, Tami, Megan and Travis Eisberner in memory of Vera Abramovich, Larry & Barb Kleist in honor of Stacy and Susie Kleist and Barb's Sunday School Kids, Christena Strandt in memory of Carl and Robert Strandt, Louise Partlow in memory of Leol Partlow, Dorothy Gilbertson, Charline Kozlowski in memory of Chet Kozlowski, anonymously in honor of the Plymouth Sunday School teachers and students, the Zehms Family in memory of Carl Zehms and Doris Jung, the Zehms Family in memory of Marcia Dahl and Patrick Quinn, Gordon & Audrey Heimstead in memory of Glenn and Geraldine Heimstead and Victor and Priscilla Brotzman, Aurora and Cyndi Bradbury in memory of Maxine Bradbury, the Stecher Family in honor of Dorothy Gilbertson and Vera Stecher and in memory of Les Gilbertson and Chuck Stecher, John Smith in memory of Dorie Smith, Dorothy Kruschke in memory of Paul Kruschke



## Pastor's Pen

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New Year's Blessings to you all—

I write this message as my last act of the year before taking some vacation to spend time with my family and with myself. Rest time and play time, which are practically the same thing, are important for our souls. God made us to work, but also made us to play, to have fun, and to simply enjoy the world God made for us. Play could be a good theme for the new year. Did you get enough play time in 2008? Could you use more in 2009? If we think of our lives as prayer, in which work is prayer, taking care of family is prayer, and helping

Thursday, January 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 others is prayer, then play and rest also become prayer, because taking care of yourself is taking care of something God created in God's image. It is prayer that honors God by honoring what God has made. And if we think of play and rest as prayer, we might convince ourselves more easily to make time for it. May you have a more playful, and prayerful, 2009, filled with all goodness and blessings!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR DAN".

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### Ragtime Festival

Plan now to attend Eau Claire's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ragtime Festival, January 9–11 at First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway Street. Proceeds from the weekend will be donated to the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic. The Festival brings world-renowned musicians to Eau Claire to offer historical American jazz and ragtime music in four unique concerts. Other activities of the weekend include silent movies, symposia, vaudeville show and dinner, and floor show and dinner. For information and tickets, call 834-2668. "An Introduction to Community Organizing"

### Workshop slated

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1300 Mansfield St, Chippewa Falls, is hosting an ecumenical workshop in honor of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on

P.M. You are invited to come to an Introduction to Community Organizing as it is practiced by JONAH in the Chippewa Valley. JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope) is a congregation-based organization that works for social justice.

The workshop will cover both the philosophy and the practice of community organizing. Organizing is about intentionally forming community, and it is about joining the voices of diverse people of faith to bring about real change. The workshop will include information about JONAH and its state umbrella organization, WISDOM. It will also include many opportunities for participants to interact and to share your hopes and visions with each other. The session will be led by David Liners, state director of WISDOM.

# Executive Council Minutes

December 8, 2008

Members present: Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Char Kozlowski, Kay Stecher and Pastor David. Larry called the meeting to order.

The November Council minutes and Special Congregational Meeting minutes were reviewed. Rob noted that in the financial report, the \$6500 transfer to General Fund and \$3000 WOP donation, were actually part of the November report. Kay moved we accept the minutes as amended, Char seconded, approved.

## Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2008

Year to Date Income	\$107,096.54
Year to Date Expenses	\$107,325.48
Ahead (Behind)	(\$228.94)
Building Fund Balance	\$31,468.18
Memorial Fund Balance	\$3,714.67

## Financial Secretary Report/ Treasurer:

Income this month was \$17,202.49 expenses were \$11,063.77 leaving us with a November gain of \$6,138.72 and a check book balance of \$486.55. \$6500 of the reserve fund was transferred into the General Fund, along with a donation from the Women of Plymouth of \$3000.00. The lawn mowing bill was paid this month. \$998 was sent to St. Francis Food Pantry.

## Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$3,714.67. We have \$765.00 in the Mission Fund, which we will transfer over to OCWM, since it appears we

will be short of our OCWM goal. That money was originally set aside for Care Link, which we are no longer doing.

## Building Fund Report:

There was no report.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Christian Education Commission:

The kids sold \$40 worth of their craft items at the Bazaar. They have the curriculum set for the rest of the school year. The Christmas Pageant is Dec 21. The Council will host a punch and cookies reception for them after the service. There will be no Sunday School Dec 28 or Jan 4. They are sponsoring the confirmation trip to the Jesus Core Retreat at Pilgrim Center Jan 9-11.

## Stewardship Commission:

The Stewardship campaign was an excellent program. Pledges seemed to be up a little.

## Worship Commission:

We decorated the tree Dec 6. Christmas Eve service will be at 5 P.M. this year. The poinsettias will be coming in time for the Christmas Eve service.

## Service Commission:

No report.



*Minutes continued  
on page 6 ...*

*Council Minutes  
continued ...*

**Building and Grounds:**

Eau Claire Installation is set to start the repair work after Thanksgiving. Ron got bids from three different services. Since we needed the parking lot plowed before the council meeting he chose the least expensive, which was also a private party. He will be doing the snow removal of the drive way and parking lot only. Any shoveling or salting will have to be done by us. Jim changed the eye on the outside lights and now they are working properly.

**Women of Plymouth:**

They are giving Cyndi a \$1000 scholarship for her schooling. The Bazaar made a profit of around \$2500. They also funded the remaining portion of the money needed for the Gospellers who sang during worship.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor David made 36 visits in November and had one funeral, for Bill Adams. Our website is finally listed in the ad in the Leader-Telegram. He purchased 2 more microphones and 3 mic stands from the Memorial Fund. Stewardship Sunday totals were \$48,347 from 21 pledges. The ecumenical worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Monday, January 19 at 7 P.M at Lake Street Methodist Church. Pastor David will be on vacation from Dec 25 thru January 2. Cyndi will lead worship on the 28. He will be with the confirmation class January 9-11 at the Jesus Core Retreat. Cyndi will also lead worship that Sunday. He also checked on the pledges still coming in for the

Building Fund, and there is approximately \$12,000 coming in yet from the pledges.

**Nominating Committee Report:**

The slate is full for next year, except for Moderator Elect. Larry will make an announcement next Sunday. Hopefully we will have a volunteer, and if not the spot will be open when it is brought to the annual meeting.

**Mission Committee:**

We served about 150 meals at the Community Table on November 29. Everyone agreed we should do again this summer. There will be pot luck January 4 and February 1. Kay will present her Cemetery talk during the February pot luck.

**Listening Sessions:**

Pastor David mentioned that Kathryn Hamilton is interested in working on this committee, so we decided to go forward with it, providing we can find a few more people interested in the idea.

**New Business:**

- The Personnel Committee still needs to meet for reviews. The annual meeting will be January 25.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Kleist