

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

April 2009

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Plymouth UCC
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*Cross illumination for
April is sponsored by
Mel Rude in memory
of Pluma Biesecker*

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HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 9 Maundy Thursday
7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

April 10 Good Friday
12:10 P.M. Worship
First Congregational UCC

April 12 Easter Sunday
8:30 A.M. Sunrise Worship led by Plymouth Youth
9:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffins and coffee
10:30 A.M. Celebration Worship

The cost of a first-class stamp is going up ... again!

Yes, the cost of a piece of first-class mail is going up to 44 cents in May 2009. That means extra cost for Plymouth to mail out the newsletter. If you have access to the Internet, please consider receiving this newsletter via email. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at mimi@pcucc.com to be put on the electronic mailing list. ***Otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.***

Getting ready for church

April Sunday Worship Notes

10:30 a.m. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

April 5

Palm/Passion Sunday,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering
Dramatic reading of the Passion

April 12

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34–43, Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24,
1 Corinthians 15:1–11, Mark 16:1–8

April 19

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32–35, Psalm 133,
1 John 1:1–2:2, John 20:19–31

April 26

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12–19, Psalm 4,
1 John 3:1–7, Luke 24:36b–48

In April, we are praying for these

individuals/families: Joanne and Sharon Miller, John & Sandy Moore, Jim Nelson, Edmund & Alice Noyes, Louise Partlow, Maria Patton, Gene (Jean) Peissig, Erma Phephles, Kevin & Jean Phillips

St. Francis Feinstein Challenge

In March and April, monetary donations to the St. Francis Food Pantry will generate a contribution by philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein. Basically, the more money they collect, the more money he will contribute to the food pantry. We can make the most of this opportunity by giving a generous donation at our “First Sunday Food Pantry Offering” on Sunday, April 5. The Sunday School Kids will include the offering money they have been collecting since September. Let’s support the food pantry through participation in the Feinstein Challenge. This will generate money desperately needed to keep the food pantry shelves filled for our friends and neighbors in need. For more information on the Feinstein Challenge, call (715) 839-7706.

Food for Thought

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. Don’t forget for the month of April, the money we give will be matched!

The theme of our April 5 pot luck is “Get Rid of Winter.” Bring your favorite picnic food. Brats, burgers and hot dogs and buns will be provided. On May 3, the potluck will be Mexican. Let’s bring our favorite Mexican food!

We have set a tentative date for serving at the Community Table. The date is Saturday, July 25. Mark your calendars—more information and a sign-up sheet will follow.

April Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Robert Beastron |
| 5 | Rose Shepler |
| 13 | Pat Sexter |
| 14 | Steve Leipnitz |
| 21 | Joanne Miller |
| 25 | TC Boyd |
| 29 | Cindy Konsella |

Memorials

! Gifts to the **General Fund**: *In memory of Dorie Smith*: John Smith; *In memory of Irene Bolles*: Bob & Sandy Bolles

Wish List

Paper towels, Soft Scrub, SOS pads, dish soap, “Chore Boy” scouring pads and dish cloths

Missing something??

Are you missing a cake pan or some other item from your kitchen?? If so, check the church kitchen—it may be there. There is a large electric roaster, and we have no idea to whom it belongs. Items which are not claimed will go in the thrift sale.

Habitat for Humanity Application Fair

A Christian, non-profit, Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity builds affordable houses alongside partner families who are in need of a safe, decent place to call home and for whom the dream of homeownership would have otherwise been out of reach. Do you know such a family? Low-income families interested in applying are invited to attend the Habitat for Humanity Application Fair to be held Thursday, April 16 at 4:30 p. .m. at Hope United Methodist Church, 2233 Golf Road in Eau Claire. For more information contact our local office at 833-8993 or www.cvh4h.org.

UCC colleges and universities in top 100

Thirteen UCC and historically UCC-related colleges and universities have received “U.S. News and World Report’s” top 100 rankings for 2009, out of more than 1,400 colleges and universities. National liberal arts top 100 rankings included Carleton College (MN), 8; Grinnell College (IA), 14; and Beloit College (WI), 60. The full report is available online at <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/college>. Money from Our Church’s Wider Mission helps support these colleges through scholarships for students and direct funding. Thank you for your OCWM support!

Items needed for Thrift Sale

The Annual Thrift Sale is scheduled for May 1–2. As you begin your spring cleaning, please be mindful of collecting items for the sale. We ask that *you price them* and bring them to church as soon as you can.

Calling all past confirmands of Plymouth and Second Congregational!

Sunday, May 17, is confirmation Sunday. Our confirmands will confirm their baptismal vows and become members of the church. Along with that celebration, this year we wish to include all who have confirmed their baptismal vows at Plymouth or Second Congregational, or who were baptized as adults here (and thus didn’t need confirmation). We’ll have a special litany and recognition for all you who have gone through the confirmation process here (and some special recognition for those who said their confirmation elsewhere). Please do make a special effort to be with us on May 17, and celebrate with our youth and our church!

Good News



Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

Easter is upon us again! We hear the story every year of how the disciples and the women found Jesus' tomb empty on Easter morning. I hope the story has not become routine to you, but that it fills you with more amazement and joy on each rehearing! Christians have told this story for almost 2000 years, because Easter is the root of our faith: Jesus raised from the dead for our salvation!

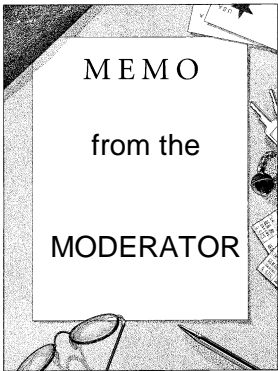
A favorite old hymn perhaps says it best:
*I love to tell the story
for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.*

*I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.*

An old story, but still fresh and wondrous. The creator of the universe came to us as one of us, allowed himself to be crucified, and then defeated death, all for our benefit. All because of God's love.

I invite you all to join us for one or both of our Easter worship services. Our wonderful youth are leading an 8:30 sunrise service, and then we have our regular service at 10:30. Come celebrate the Good News with your church family this Easter, and keep the old, old story alive. May you all find new life and resurrection this Easter!

Blessings,



Thank you to all the members of Plymouth that give of their time freely to help out at church in so many ways. So many of you do the smallest and quietest things, but the payoff is huge for our church and congregation. At a time of economic low, having everyone pitch in to help is a great asset to us. Thank you again for being servants of God.

It has been great to see some new faces in our congregation on Sunday mornings. We have had quite a few visitors to our church, and I encourage you to get to know some of these new people in order to make connections and welcome them to worship. Pastor David has also reported that our website is attracting many people as well. Thank you, Pastor David, for your help with the website and conducting the New Member Inquiry Session on March 22.

There are still some great opportunities for members of our congregation to represent Plymouth in the near future.

The Northwest Association meeting will be held on Sunday, April 26, in Neillsville, WI. Our church will need one person to attend this meeting as a representative. Also, the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting will be held in Green Lake, WI, on June 12-14. Cyndi Bradbury has volunteered to attend this conference, but we will need one other delegate to go along. If you are willing to serve as a representative of our church for either of these meetings, please let Pastor David, me, or anyone on the council know.

As you are aware, our church is still without a Moderator-Elect. Therefore, if anyone in our congregation feels called by God to serve as Moderator-Elect this year and move up to Moderator the following year, please contact a council member. If you are unsure of the responsibilities for these two positions, please feel free to call me, and I will be happy to share information with you.

Blessings to all! Nancy Wendt

Executive Council Minutes

March 9, 2009

Members present: Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Nancy Wendt, Louise Partlow, and Pastor David.

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with devotions. The February Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of February 28, 2009

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date Income | \$16,286.84 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$19,285.05 |
| Ahead (Behind) | (\$2,998.21) |
| Building Fund Balance | \$25,495.74 |
| Memorial Fund Balance | \$4,407.72 |

Financial Secretary Report/ Treasurer:

Income this month was \$10,793.74 expenses were \$12,031.19 leaving us with a February loss of \$1237.45 and a check book balance of -\$1839.26. The quarterly payment for health insurance and retirement were paid, along with the property insurance. Part of the income was this year's \$5000.00 allotment from the building fund. Rob transferred \$2000, the first week in March, from the reserve fund to offset our negative bank balance. He also has paid in March the money collected for St Francis Food Pantry so far this year, \$901.15. We had a good deposit the first week of March. Rob has compared the envelope giving, year to date and we are down about \$1375 in envelope giving. He reported that after taking the \$2000 out of the reserve fund it has a balance of \$4786. Larry reported that interest from PIP funds is periodically deposited in the account throughout the year.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$4407.72. Jerry Tubbs has requested that some of Lenore's memorial money be used for new banners in front of the sanctuary. Bill McLeod's money will be

used for a display case for some of our historical items.

Building Fund Report:

At the end of February the balance was \$25,495.74. The \$5000 was distributed to the general fund.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The Magnificent Muffins will again be the Easter Morning breakfast. The Youth are putting together the early service. There will be three campers going to Moon Beach.

Stewardship Commission:

May 1 and 2 will be the annual Thrift Sale. Members may bring their marked goods any time. Joanne Miller will be organizing the event. The Pie & Ice Cream Social will be June 3. Truax is having theirs on June 17. Rob is going to check on the Mega Foods savings program. It would be an additional income for us. It was something that at one time we did receive, but haven't for a while. Nancy checked on the quilted piano cover, the cost is approximately \$180-\$220. She also found out that it will not do anything to help the warmth or maintain the piano in tune. The item will not be placed on the Memorial List.

Worship Commission:

Lenten Services are going on Wednesday evenings; the theme of the discussions are the Seven Deadly Sins. March 15 after worship, Pastor David will be training anyone who is interested in learning about the sound system. March 22 there will be a new member class after worship. The new members will be received on April 5.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

Service Commission:

No report. Pastor David reported that they are visiting regularly.

Building and Grounds:

Balts Construction has not been over to fix the problem in the foyer. Ron will be cleaning all the filters. He has unplugged the heat tapes. Jim reported that he has put a piece of tape on the master switch in fellowship hall, so that the lights can not be turned up on high. The light bulbs seem to burn out when it is up too high.

Women of Plymouth:

Cabin Fever Breakout was well attended. They will be having a bake sale along with the Thrift Sale.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 34 visits in February. The Listening Process is still being organized. He sent out invitations to the people who have been visiting for the new members class. He will attend the WI Conference meeting June 12–14 and then will again be doing the MADD Camp June 14–20. The Northwest Association meeting is April 26. In the Wisconsin Conference, they will be looking at restructuring during the annual meeting. Rev. Geoffrey Black, the New York Conference minister, has been nominated as the next UCC General Minister and President.

Mission Committee:

They will meet to confirm another date for the Community Table for this summer.

NWA Meeting:

The Association meeting will be Sunday, April 26 and we need a delegate to go to the meeting in Neillsville.

WI Conference Meeting:

The annual meeting is June 12–14 in Green Lake and we need one more representative.

New Members:

An informational meeting will be Sunday, March 22 after church. A light lunch of barbeques, chips and bars will

be served. Barb will bring the barbeques and chips, Louise and Nancy will bring bars. Pastor David would like several members of Council to attend.

Moderator-elect:

At this time we still have no one for this position. It needs to be filled soon.

New Business:

- A joint service with Truax this summer was discussed. Pastor David and Nancy will come up with some dates and talk to them.
- Pastor David and Mimi are trying out new coffees for the coffee pot.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M.
Respectfully Submitted, Barb Kleist

Be a sponsor!

Sponsor an issue of the newsletter, a weekly bulletin, or the illumination of the cross on the front of our building in memory or in honor of someone or in honor of a special event, or even just because! Bulletin and newsletter sponsors will be recognized in the issue they sponsor. Cross sponsors will be listed in all publications for the month of sponsorship. Support a bulletin for \$15, a newsletter for \$50, or illuminate the cross for \$50. Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the sanctuary.

**Hear Joe Gilbertson and
Pastor David sing**

The Master Singers are offering their spring concert April 5 at 2:00 P.M. at First Congregational UCC. Experience an afternoon of 500 years of Christendom's greatest music. Tickets are available from Joe or Pastor David, or at Schmitt Music, Morgan Music, or First Congregational. The Master Singers are also holding a food drive, and ask attendees to bring food to donate to Feed My People Food Bank.