



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2009

Published monthly by
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The July newsletter is sponsored by Dorothy Gilbertson.

Cross illumination for July is provided in memory of Angelo Poppe by aunt, uncles and Grandma Mary.

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"Flamingo Frenzy"

They're back!!! Flamingoes have congregated at our church in what is now the new "Confirmation Garden." Are you ready for some fun this summer to make some money for our church's General Fund and ward off the infamous "Red Letter" that we get when funds are tight?

Maybe you know of someone who is having a birthday, anniversary, or is in need of some cheering up. Linda Jaenke and Nancy Wendt will be happy to arrange a flamingo "migration" from the Confirmation Garden to that special someone's lawn for decoration for only \$5 per flamingo. Now remember, if a flamingo shows up in your lawn, in order to get it out, \$5 please!!! Or, you can wait and keep it there until someone else pays to have it removed or moved.

Linda and Nancy will take pictures of the "Flamingo Sightings" and post them periodically at church. To take part in the fun, please contact Nancy Wendt (874-6141) or Linda Jaenke (835-4879). They will take care of the removals and deliveries. You may pay with cash or check made payable to "Plymouth UCC Church" and earmark it for the General Fund.

Let's have some fun with our flock this summer!! Be creative!

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Since we are coming up on the time when all your beautiful gardens will be in bloom, why don't you share a bouquet with us on Sunday morning? We can have more than one bouquet a week. Just bring them in and find a member of the Worship Commission who will place them for you. Worship Commission members are Cyndi Bradbury, Louise Partlow, Christena Strandt, Barb Kleist, George Stecher and Gene Peissig. Let's make our sanctuary look like summer.

Getting ready for church

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

July Sunday Worship Notes

July 5

*5th Sunday after Pentecost,
St. Francis Food Pantry offering*
Cyndi Bradbury preaches on “Prince of Peace”

July 19

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor David preaches on “Lamb of God/Passover Lamb”

July 12

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Joint service with Truax UCC at Plymouth,
led by PastorDavid and Rev. Dave Stratton

June 26

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor David preaches on The Great “I AM”

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. We will continue to take our special offering for them on the first Sunday of the month.

Our monthly pot luck will be July 12, following the joint worship service here at Plymouth. So bring those awesome dishes you all make and don't forget the desserts, too! If there is anyone who would like to bring special flowers for the sanctuary and/or the serving table, please let either Barb Kleist or Linda Jaenke know. Also, since we are having a lot of visitors, is there a volunteer out there for the morning coffee?

We have set a date for serving at the Community Table. It is Saturday, August 29, so mark your calendars. More information and a sign up sheet will be coming soon.

Memorials

! Gifts to the **Memorial Fund (designated)**: *For the Lowrys' choice of use in honor of their birthdays and their 60th wedding anniversary*: Gordy & Audrey Heimstead
! Gifts to the **Memorial Fund (undesignated)**: *In memory of Buck & Babe Shepler*: Roger & Shirley Shepler

* * *

Dear “Camper Bag” Ladies,

Thank you so very much for putting together a bag of items for me to attend Moon Beach Camp. You always have such great and useful things in the bag. The camera will come in handy, the money will be used at the camp canteen, and the glow sticks can “light” my way at night. Your support for us campers is awesome. I thank each and everyone of you who is involved in making our experience fun and exciting. As many of you know, I LOVE camp! Thank you again.

Adam Wendt



In July, we are praying for these individuals/families:

Christena Strandt,
Steve & Jeanne Strassman, Benji & Cathy Stygar, Mary Stygar, Sue (Tom) Thompson, Jerry Tubbs, Gladys Ulry, Greg & Rianna Voss

July Birthdays

- 1 Tom Kruschke
- 2 Rhonda Cooke
Alice Noyes
Jakob Voss
- 9 Louise Partlow
- 10 Shelby Wille
- 11 Tiffany Beaström
Mel Rude
- 12 Maggie Leipnitz
- 18 Kayla Stygar
- 19 Megan Eisberner
- 26 Bill Leipnitz
- 27 Chelle Green
Michael Green

* * *

Moderator's memo ...

Summer fun is upon us all! The time has come for the beaches, relaxing in the sun, gathering with family and friends, and sharing the spirit with one another.

Thank you to the many people who came out to the church clean-up on May 30. Many hands made light work. The windows were washed, front entryway painted, flowers planted, flower beds weeded, patio cleaned and swept, and trees planted. Two new trees were given to us from the people who laid carpet in the sanctuary. Along the driveway is a Paulownia tree and by the fire pit is a new red oak sapling. Our church grounds look great!

Also on that day, a new confirmation garden was started along the side of the garage. The goal is to have each confirmand make a stepping stone to add to the garden in honor of their new "step" in the journey of their faith. Any past confirmand is welcome to make a stepping stone with their name and year of confirmation. Linda Jaenke and I will be happy to place the stone in the garden for you when you have it completed. Give us a call! To help earn money to continue adding things to the garden such as

landscape edging or solar lights, irises and lilies that were in excess were put out for members to take with a free will donation. I am happy to report that as of now \$34 was collected! Thank you also to the anonymous giver of additional plants that people can take. Your generosity is overwhelming.

I am so proud of everyone at Plymouth for pitching in to help us meet our monetary commitments. At the pie and ice cream social, so many of you donated pies, time, your energy, and talents in order to make that event a success. It paid off because we raised more money this year than last year, including \$13 from tips for the music provided! Thank you to all.

Another creative way to help our church monetarily is the re-creation of the migrating flamingoes. Yes, many of you have heard about the "Flamingo Frenzy" established by Linda Jaenke and me. We will be glad to deliver flamingoes to people's homes for special occasions. The charge is \$5.00 per flamingo. Read more about it in a separate article in this newsletter. So far flamingoes have been sighted at:

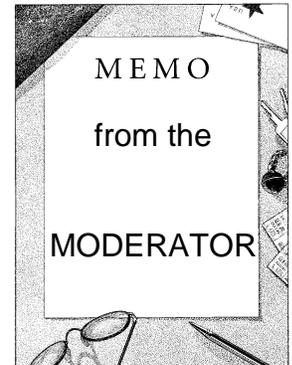
- Home of *Rob Jaenke* on June 8 in honor of his birthday
- Home of *Steven Gilbertson* on June 12 in honor of his high school graduation
- Home of *Adam Wendt* on June 13 in honor of his 15th birthday
- Moon Beach Camp on June 14–20 outside *Pastor David's* cabin

Keep the flamingoes moving, and let's have some fun this summer. So far we have made over \$100 that goes to our General Fund!

Our church took in another member on Sunday, June 7. Welcome to Christian Shufflin! We are glad to have you join our congregation.

Remember that we will be hosting a joint worship service and potluck with Truax UCC Church at Plymouth on July 12. See you all there!!

Nancy Wendt





Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,
Through the rest of the year, Plymouth is undergoing a listening process as part of an Association-led endeavor for congregational self-evaluation and relationship building. As with any organization or group of people (or even a single person), periodic self-evaluation is critical for health. The listening process is being done in conjunction with the Center for New Community, a faith-based organization committed to revitalizing and strengthening churches to meet the needs and realities of the 21st century. Our society now changes incredibly quickly, with ever-widening gaps between the generations. The need for the Gospel, especially the mainline churches' message of Jesus' love, tolerance, and inclusiveness, is higher than ever. Unfortunately, we have made ourselves increasingly irrelevant by acting as though nothing has changed since the middle of last century. The mainline churches (UCC, Presbyterian, ELCA, Catholic, and so on) have not adjusted or changed very well, which is one reason that mainline membership has decreased by half from 50 years ago. We are looking to reverse those trends, and make a church that is able to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel in this century while maintaining the integrity of our tradition and all that is good about the UCC. That's why the Wisconsin Conference is starting five new churches, and why we are doing this listening process.

Two church members, Kathryn Hamilton and Aurora Schoening-Bradbury, were trained as listeners by the Center. They will train a few others to help out as well. The listening process is quite simple. It's simply a friendly, half-hour one-on-one conversation between church members —no pastors or other staff

members are involved. The conversation is about you: your church history and faith journey; what is meaningful to you about Plymouth and what needs you see, and how those affect you personally; and what you like about and what concerns you have about (or needs you see in) the community of Eau Claire. All conversations are confidential, and all data we collate will be done so anonymously.

We are beginning the conversations this month with the Executive Council and their families, and will move through the rest of the congregation after that. Our hope is to have a good portion of the conversations done by early September, and finish up through the rest of the year.

Our goals in this process are to strengthen the relationships between our members, and also to assess your concerns, needs, and hopes, to help the commissions, Executive Council, and me to set directions and goals for the future of our ministry in Eau Claire.

This process has been done by congregations all over the country, with great and exciting results in their ministry and overall congregational health. I look forward to seeing what comes out of our process. As our trainer told us, even if nothing else happens, we will build new relationships and strengthen old ones, and a lot more people will know each other better in this congregation. And community is what being a Christian is all about. I'm positive, however, that we'll get a lot more benefit than that.

Blessings,

Executive Council Minutes

June 8, 2009

Members present: Jim Welk, Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Nancy Wendt, Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Char Kozlowski, Louise Partlow, Kay Stecher, Cyndi Bradbury and Pastor David.

\$27,778.23. We deposited another \$5000.00 into the savings account.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with a devotional reading. The May Council minutes were reviewed. There was one error, the check book balance for the end of April should have been a -\$3992.79. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Financial Reports:

As of May 31, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$45,091.73
Year to Date Expenses	\$46,974.40
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,882.67)
Building Fund Balance	\$27,778.23
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,696.59

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$10,779.45 and expenses were \$7530.38, leaving us with a May gain of 3269.07 and a check book balance of -\$723.72. Part of the income this month was a \$3000.00 transfer from the reserve fund and \$961.55 from the Thrift Sale. A large expense this month was the building insurance. The envelope giving is still down around \$2700, but our expenses for the year are also down around \$2400. Some of that is due to office supplies and postage. The Reserve Fund at the end of the month was \$4200.00.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$5696.59.

Building Fund Report:

Balance at the end of the month is

Christian Education Commission:

Children made and distributed Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts. May 17 was Confirmation and a reception following. May 24 was Teacher Appreciation day and all teachers, assistants and CE members were recognized. They also gave out camper bags to the Moon Beach Campers. "Family Movie Night" will be held three times in July and August. The schedule is in the summer brochure. Deb Zehms has resigned as music director due to her brother's illness. The Commission and Council send their prayers and thoughts to the Zehms family in the upcoming months.

Stewardship Commission:

The Thrift Sale results were \$961 for the general sale. The Pie & Ice Cream Social was June 3. The event raised about \$1700. It is truly an event that involves everyone at Plymouth and is enjoyed by all. The music was a great addition this year.

Worship Commission:

Discussed the upcoming summer services and schedule. The sermon topics will be some of the various names for Jesus/God. The summer schedule is out in the yellow brochures.

Service Commission:

There was a nice turn out for Dorothy Preston's 90th birthday on Sunday, June 7.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Building and Grounds:

Yard clean up day was May 30. A lot of work was done and the grounds look great. New ideas came out of the clean-up. We now have a Confirmation Garden along the garage and the flamingos have reappeared again. Nancy and Linda dug up the garage flower bed and thinned out the plants and replanted them. The extra plants were offered for a free will donation; so far \$34 has been raised for the Confirmation Garden.

Women of Plymouth:

Met today and worked on cards. October they are having a "Dinner Out." The quilt should be listed on EBay this week.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 34 visits in May. He will be at the WI Conference Annual Meeting from June 12–14, MADD Camp from June 14–20 and on vacation July 27–August 17. Rev. Stratton will cover any pastoral emergencies. The joint worship with Truax will be here on July 12. There will be a wedding here on June 20. Dorothy Kruschke will be here to take care of hospitality and Christian Shufflin will run the sound system and air conditioning. Rev. Jeanny House will be the minister.

Mission Committee:

We have signed up to serve the Community Table on August 29. The pot luck for July will be on July 12 and will be with Truax Congregational.

New Business:

- Kay reported she is turning the research on banners over to Aurora. They will meet after the meeting to go over how far along Kay was.

- Pastor David and Kathryn are meeting and the Listening Sessions process will start this summer.
- The fees and building use policies listed in the Leadership Manual are to remain the same this year.
- The flamingo flock is on the move. We have raised \$90 so far through this fun activity. The cost to move the flock is \$5 per flamingo; Nancy Wendt and Linda Jaenke are the contact people.
- June 14 worship service: Since this is Gene's possibly last time worshipping with us, Aurora will extend the Council's and congregation's blessing to him at the end of worship.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 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.