



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 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

*The December 2009
newsletter is sponsored by
Dorothy Gilbertson.*

*Cross illumination for
December 2009 is provided
by the Bill Knight Family in
memory of Carole Knight.*

INSIDE

Birthdays.	Page 6
Calendar.	Page 7
Council Minutes.	Page 5
Financial Update.	Page 5
Pastor's Pen.	Page 4
Worship Notes.	Page 2

Health and worship at Plymouth

Plymouth is doing some things to help out in the current flu and cold environment. We already serve Communion as individual pieces of bread and cups, so we don't need to alter how we do that. Starting in November, we put hand sanitizers in the sanctuary for you to use as you enter. Some members have very real concerns about their immune systems and health risks, so we ask that all of us be sensitive to the needs of others: make sure our hands are clean, shake hands only with those who offer to do so, and be considerate of those who do not wish to shake hands. The Executive Council feels that the Passing of the Peace is too important a part of our Sunday worship experience and Christian fellowship to cease doing it, so we ask that we all work together to make it as safe and free of anxiety as possible. And of course, no one is obligated to make heroic efforts to be at worship if they feel sick or under the weather (or in the winter, if the roads are dangerous)—please make sure to also take care of yourselves!

Moderator's Message

Season's Greetings to all of Plymouth Congregation! I wish all of you and your families a warm, blessed, and happy holiday season. May you gather with friends and family to welcome the birth of our dear savior, Jesus Christ.

Wow, what a fantastic bazaar we had this year! Thank you to the many who gave service, help, or goodies for this event to be successful. A special thank you to the children of Plymouth for your exquisite crafts you donated for sale. I am so proud of your efforts to be involved in the stewardship of the church. The bazaar was a huge undertaking, but well worth it for our church and a great way to keep Plymouth's name in the community. Thanks again to all!

There are many opportunities available in the month of December to come out and show your support for Plymouth. There will be decorating the church for the Christmas season, Stewardship Sunday, Christmas Eve service, and of course, the children's pageant. Certainly you don't want to miss that event!

Continued on page 4

Getting ready for church

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December Sunday Worship Notes

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent

Pot luck

Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79;

Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6;

Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent



December 24

Christmas Eve

Worship at 6:00 P.M.

December 27

1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26; Psalm 148;

Colossians 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52

In December, we are praying for these individuals/families: Dick & Rita Gosbin, Gladys Green, Jeff & Lesa Green, Kathryn Hamilton, Bea (John) Hancock, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Joyce Holmen, Paul Holmen, Peter Holmen

Weather cancellation policy

In the interest of conserving life by stopping members from risking their lives when weather conditions make travel dangerous, and to also help emergency vehicles, plows, etc., by keeping unnecessary traffic off the roads, the Executive Council adopts the following policy on canceling worship services due to inclement weather:

For Sunday morning worship services, the Moderator and Pastor shall consult and make a decision by 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. For other worship services or events, the Moderator and Pastor will decide via consultation within four hours of the starting time. If a decision is made to cancel, notification shall be put on the church website, announced by email, radio and television, and on our church's answering machine.

Memorials

The Stewardship Commission has determined the following items/projects to which memorials may be designated: new flooring for the nursery, a lighting upgrade, on-demand water heater, the General Fund.

! Designated gifts to the **Memorial Fund:** *For the Youth in memory of Mary Lou Welk:* Roger & Shirley Shepler, Jeff & Mary Mattice, Christena Strandt, Louise Partlow, Joanne Miller, Larry & Barb Kleist, Ron & Nancy Wendt, David & Mary Hoffe, Rick & Tracy Bauer, Mary Stygar, Dorothy Gilbertson, Gladys Ulry, George & Kay Stecher, Leota Rasmussen, Dale & Julie Anderson, Maria Patton, Erma Phephles, Todd & Cindy Konsella, Floyd & Pat Sexter, Gerald Ritsch, Dorothy Kruschke, Helen Knight, Gregg Bohlig, Ernest & Janice Korpela, Jerry Tubbs, Marvin & Audrey Samplawski, Thomas & Suzanne Thompson, Bea Hancock, Carol Paulson, Leota Rasmussen, Troy & Sheila Isaacson, Jill Olson, Randall & Renee Simpson, Kevin & Jennifer Garnett, Mark & Carol Brazzale, Nanstad Chiropractic, RW Scobie Inc, Allan & Janet Ussery, Kenny & Annette Polden
For oil candles in memory of Nancy Shepler: Roger & Shirley Shepler, Terry & Sandi Shepler, Larry & Irma Shepler

! Gifts to the **General Fund:** *In memory of Mary Lou Welk:* Charline Kozlowski, Jerry & Joanne Lowry; *In memory of David Hash:* Larry & Barb Kleist

Buy nuts now!

Prices are as follows:

\$12 for a 14 oz. box

\$20 for a 28 oz. box

\$22 for a 28 oz. tin

Food for Thought

We are getting ready to pack the Christmas bags for some of the children at St. Francis Food Pantry. We still can use some of these items: washable markers, little notepads, puzzle books, water paints, stickers, little stampers, play doh. We also could use mittens. Kids never have enough mittens in the winter. We will have a box set out in the fellowship hall to collect all the goodies. Please bring your items in by December 6. We would like to send over 25 Christmas Bags.

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 pot luck this month will be on December 6. We will be celebrating the end of the Stewardship Campaign and the beginning of the Advent Season. The theme this month will be "Happy Foods." Bring a dish to pass that makes you happy and feeling like celebrating.



Good News



Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Christmas is soon upon us! I know it doesn't feel like it. November has been warmer, sunnier, and less snowy than October. But we are nearing our savior's birthday and all the holiday activities that come with it.

This is my favorite time of the year. Christmas parties with friends and family, sharing gifts and food and stories. Snuggling in on cold snowy days to read in front of the fireplace. Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, and playing in the snow. And above it all, the joyous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But we know this season is not joyful for everyone. Many will be lonely, depressed, economically hurt, or hopeless.

As believers in the hope of Christmas, we can provide balm for those who suffer during the holidays. We are collecting toys, games, and art supplies

to give to children through the St. Francis Food Pantry. We will receive the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund on Dec. 20 (to provide help to financially-strapped retired clergy and church workers). You can write cards to our shut-ins, or visit them in person. You might consider making an extra-special donation to the food pantry or other helping organizations this month (such as Heifer Project International or Habitat for Humanity). And we can all pray on their behalf, as we also pray for the fullness of the world of Jesus' promise: peace and goodwill for all, where none suffer from need of necessities or want of love.

May your Christmas be free of stress, filled with joy, and abundant in the hope and love of Jesus!

Blessings,

*Pastor
Dan*

Moderator Memo continued

Plymouth Church's Annual Meeting for all congregational members will be on Sunday, January 31, following our regularly scheduled worship service.

Mark it on your calendars so you can attend and give voice to the workings of your church. Just a reminder to all commission chairs that your annual reports are due to Mimi by January 10.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!!!!

God bless!

Nancy Wendt



Executive Council Minutes

November 12, 2009

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Nancy Wendt, Kay Stecher, Rob Jaenke, Jim Welk and Pastor David Huber

Nancy called the meeting to order and opened with devotional reading. The October Council minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2009

Year to Date Income	\$93,833.03
Year to Date Expenses	\$95,035.55
Ahead (Behind)	(\$1,206.52)
Building Fund Balance	\$30,214.25
Memorial Fund Balance	\$6,884.93

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$10,660.37 expenses were \$10,768.18 leaving us with October loss of \$107.81 and a check book balance of -\$47.57. Some larger expenses were the payment of the lawn mowing of \$1,100.00, \$959.70 of the Food Pantry offering and quarterly pension payment of \$1,716.63. The lawn mowing and Food Pantry are now caught up. Part of the income this month was \$4,600 from the Reserve Fund. We still have not paid any of our OCWM or special offerings to the Conference.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$6,884.93. We still owe the Memorial Fund \$1,697.35 from the General Fund.

Building Fund Report:

The balance for the end of October is \$30,214.25.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The commission thanks the Welk family for the Memorial Money. They think it will be used to send the kids to camp for

the next several years. The Halloween Spooktacular was a big success. There were 28 "kids" that came out for the event. The Sunday School kids have spent 3 weeks making crafts for the bazaar as part of a lesson on Stewardship.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry and Pastor David showed us a revised design for the banner and also a second design. The committee will now meet to recommend a design. They met with the curator at the Chippewa Valley Museum, to get more information about an artifact case. The Stewardship campaign starts the week of Nov. 16. Only a couple of mailings will go out. Since the Building Fund pledge is over, they are hoping those people will put that additional amount into the General Fund. The pot luck on December 6 will be the Stewardship dinner. The mixed nuts are here and will be available at the Bazaar. Only 14 to 16 of the Younkers books were sold. They are having another event in spring, so we may try again. They will have a proposed budget for the next meeting. When asked who would return on the committee for this coming year, only Keith Zehms agreed.

Worship Commission:

Barb reported that the new oil candles are in and look good. Thank you to the Stygar family for that memorial money. Advent decorating will be Dec 5. Poinsettias and wreaths can be ordered through December 2. There was an order form in the last newsletter. Cyndi has resigned as chair person; Barb will fill out her term and next year. Christmas Eve service was moved to 6 P.M this year so that Cyndi would be able to be there, as she has to be in Bloomer for the 4:30 service.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Building & Grounds:

A new snow plowing service has been found. This service will also do the sidewalks.

Women of Plymouth:

The Bazaar is November 14. They are looking for someone to chair the funerals and the election of officers.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 41 visits in October. Attended the second part of a church growth seminar with Charlene on October 22. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be November 25 at Truax. He reprogrammed all the thermostats and put in new batteries. He will take vacation December 25 thru Jan 2. The annual meeting for the Northwest Association will be at First Congregational on April 25. A proposed restructuring of the Conference is on the website, wcucc.org. Anyone that is interested can look at that. Pastor David also came up with a bad weather policy and the council reviewed it and okayed it. He will publish it in the newsletter and on the website. There have been some concerns about the flu season and the Passing of the Peace during the service. It was decided that aspect of the service is very important. We will provide hand sanitizers in the sanctuary for those who would like to use them.

Nominating Committee:

Larry will get a meeting together for the Nominating Committee.

Annual Reviews:

The annual reviews for Mimi, David and Cyndi will be scheduled.

Annual Reports:

The annual reports are due to Mimi by January 10. The annual meeting is January 31.

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.

December Birthdays

- 2 Parker Beastro
- 4 Irma Shepler
- 5 Terri Gilbert
- 9 Pastor David
- 14 Sarah Hestekin
- 15 Isa Small
- 19 Bill Knight
- 21 Becca Cooke
- 22 Cathy Stygar
- 28 Rianna Voss
- 31 Lorena Berge



Advent Decorating

The Worship Commission invites you to help decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 6 at 10 A.M. We will be decorating the tree and putting up all our other decorations. Join us for a fun day. A light lunch of soup by Pastor David will be served. Also make sure you order your poinsettias by December 2. Let's make our sanctuary really colorful!

