



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2010

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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

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

*Cross illumination for
December is sponsored by
Sam Zehms.*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Throughout the history of Plymouth UCC, its congregation has welcomed all people into its community. The Executive Council proposes that, as a church, we make our inclusive beliefs and practices official by voting to become an Open and Affirming congregation at our Annual Meeting. The proposal is included below. Please read it and direct any questions concerning the wording or intentions to the following members of the Executive Council: Deb Zehms, Kay Stecher, and Aurora Bradbury Schoening.

Plymouth UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic background, marital status and faith background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, humor, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

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Christmas Eve
Lessons
and
Carols

5:00 P.M.

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December Worship Notes

December 5

2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19;

Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

December 12

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 146:5–10;

James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11

December 19

4th Sunday of Advent

OCWM offering

Christmas Fund offering



December 24

Christmas Eve

Worship at 5:00 P.M.

December 28

1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7–9; Psalm 148;

Hebrews 2:10–18; Matthew 2:13–23

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

Food for Thought

Again this year, we will collect Christmas items for the children served by St. Francis Food Pantry. School supplies are a great stocking-stuffer. Small toys would also be a good idea, as are mittens and hats. A collection box will be available in Fellowship Hall.

The pot luck will be December 5 and is sponsored by the Stewardship Commission.

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.

October Financial Summary

Income: \$7723.04
 Expenses: \$7695.82
 October gain: \$ 27.22
 \$1000.00 was taken out of the Reserve Fund
 \$400.00 was paid for August and September lawn mowing
 \$227.00 was paid to St. Francis
 \$201.00 was paid for Neighbors In Need
 \$ 95.00 was paid to OCWM

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 Quilting Ministry in honor of Gladys Ulry's 90th birthday: Ken & Rosemary Bauer*
- Gifts to the **General Fund:** *In memory of Dorie E. Smith: John Smith*
- Undesignated gifts to the **Memorial Fund:** *In memory of Jerry Lowry: Myron & Dorothy Rossow, Floyd & Pat Sexter, Terri Gilbert*

December Birthdays

4 Irma Shepler
 5 Terri Gilbert
 9 Pastor David
 14 Sarah Hestekin
 15 Isa Small
 19 Bill Knight
 22 Cathy Stygar
 31 Lorena Berge

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.



Advent Decorating

Advent decorating will be done Saturday, December 4 beginning at 10:00 A.M. Stop by the church and lend a hand. Lunch will be served. Also, don't forget to order your poinsettias before December 2!

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends of Plymouth,

Another Christmas is soon upon us. How the years seem to whoosh by more quickly as I pile up birthdays. Easter still feels recent, and last Christmas only a few months gone... but by the time you receive this, we'll be in Advent, awaiting again the birth of our savior, Jesus. Snow is falling as I write this. A delightful sight it is, bringing memories and anticipation of dark evenings, warming myself in front of the fireplace reading a good book. Anticipation of visiting others' cheerily decorated homes, holiday meals shared with friends and family, warm slippers and heavy blankets to fend off the chill, and a cup or two of hot chocolate while watching a holiday special on TV.



Hopefully we'll all experience more of those times, and fewer times of stress from shopping, baking, cooking, running around, and attending too many parties, concerts, and other things. Take time to slow down and breath. Awaiting the birth of our messiah is best done with slightly held breath and focused attention, so that when it happens we don't miss it because we're too busy to slow down long enough to notice.

Have a cheery and warm Advent leading into Christmas, and may we all remember to take time to stop and listen for our savior's birth cries, to remind us again that it is real.

Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR David". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Send Cyndi to Guatemala

As mentioned before and talked about at our October 31 worship service, our seminarian, Cyndi, is heading to Guatemala on a mission trip in January. We are raising, as her host church, at least \$500 to help her defray costs of the trip. Many thanks to all who have given already—we are close, but not yet there, and it would be wonderful to go above and beyond the \$500. It's an exciting time for us to help send an even better

pastor into the church by allowing her some meaningful life experiences learning about social justice issues and matters of faith in another country. If you have not yet made a gift, please prayerfully consider making one, and if you have, please consider making an additional one. Make sure to mark your gifts for Cyndi's mission trip. You can place them in the offering plate on Sunday, or send or bring them to the church office.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 8, 2010

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Kay Stecher, Char Kozlowski, Deb Zehms, Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Jim Welk, Rob Jaenke and Pastor David Huber

Larry called the meeting to order. The October Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2010

Year to Date Income	\$95,824.70
Year to Date Expenses	\$95,845.40
Ahead (Behind)	(\$20.70)
Building Fund Balance	\$26,583.25
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,653.34

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$7723.04; expenses were \$7695.82 leaving us with an October gain of \$27.22 and a check book balance of \$35.50. Envelope giving is still up \$5865 as of last September. Bills paid this month were the August and September lawn mowing \$400.00. We also paid St. Francis \$227.00 and the Neighbors in Need offering of \$201.00. Part of the income for this month was a \$1000.00 withdrawal from the Reserve Fund.

Reserve Fund Report:

The Reserve Fund has a balance of \$688.70 at the end of October. There will be a deposit in November of about \$1275.00.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$5653.34.

Building Fund Report:

The balance at the end of September was \$26,583.25. Since there were no further deposits or interest in October, the balance remains the same.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

The All Church Halloween party was Wednesday, October 27. There were 23 people in attendance. The children have been making crafts for the Bazaar in November. This is their Stewardship lesson. They will also make center pieces for the Thanksgiving Eve reception after the service.

Stewardship Commission:

They are putting the Stewardship campaign together; it will have the same format as last year. We should have the Advent banner in time to decorate for Advent. The nuts are here and will be sold at the Bazaar. They have found someone to build the artifact case. Younkers Coupon books for Community Days on the 13th of November are for sale for \$5, all proceeds go to Plymouth from those we sell.

Service Commission:

The Commission is making visits and keeping up with the progress of members who are recovering from illness.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Worship Commission:

All Saints Day was November 7, as was communion. Thanksgiving Eve, the Worship committee will provide the dessert. Advent decorating will be December 4. The Advent wreath will go up on November 28. December 5 will be Stewardship Sunday.

Building and Grounds:

Someone will be coming soon to take down the dead pine tree in the front and the one that fell over in back of the kitchen area. The front lights and driveway lights should be on at night now. BJ Stygar is working on fixing the lawn mower and has volunteered to cut the grass next summer. Rob's Dad has volunteered to paint the Fellowship Hall for the cost of the supplies needed.

Women of Plymouth:

The bake sale was successful. The Bazaar is November 13. They will be paying for the carpet to be cleaned in Fellowship Hall and the balance of the bill due for the Pot Luck Cook Book.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 34 visits in October. He officiated at two weddings, Gina Javrek & Kyle Smith, and Randy Shepler & Nancy Kollwitz. He led worship at Heatherwood on October 20. Our facebook fan page is up and running, thanks to George Stecher. The Thanksgiving Eve Service is here on November 24 at 7 P.M. The choir from First Congregational will sing. Moon Beach suffered a 4-day loss of power in the late October storms. They are up and running again, but

lost a lot of trees. The UCC Communications office is putting together a musical Christmas special that will air on NBC in December.

Other Business:

- The committee is getting together to work on the All Inclusive proposal.
- We have collected about \$265 for Cyndi Bradbury's trip; Pastor David will make another announcement in December and put something in the newsletter. We also have the \$50 we voted on from the church and the Women of Plymouth stated that they will make up whatever the difference is.
- Deb is working on the nominating committee.

Pastor David closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Kleist



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2010</h1> 						
			1	2	3	4 10:00–2:00 Advent decorating
5 St. Francis Pantry Stewardship Commitment 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	6	7 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	8	9	10	11
12 Prayers for the People 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	13 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	14 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters Service Comm.	15	16	17	18
19 Christmas Pageant Christmas Fund offering 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Rehearsal for Christmas Eve	20 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Commission	21 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	22	23	24 5:00 P.M. Lessons & Carols	25 Pastor David on vacation till Jan 2
26 10:30 A.M. Worship	27	28	29	30	31	