



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2011

Published monthly by

Plymouth UCC

2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703

Phone: 715-835-5475

Web: pcucc.com



Plymouth United Church of Christ

Ministers: All the people

Pastor: Rev. David Huber
david@pcucc.com

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

Cross illumination for May is sponsored by the Zehms Family in memory of Jeanne Zehms.

The May issue of Good News is sponsored by Dorothy Gilbertson.

INSIDE

Birthdays.	Page 3
Calendar.	Page 7
Council Minutes.	Page 5
Financial Summary.	Page 6
Memorials.	Page 3
Pastor's Pen.	Page 4
Worship Notes.	Page 2

Magnificent Muffin Morning

Our "Fifth Annual Magnificent Muffin Morning" on Easter Sunday was another huge success! So many thanks go out to our Moon Beach campers and their families, the muffin bakers, and everyone who came to enjoy muffins and donate money to support our campers. You gave over \$550.00 to help cover camper fees for Adam, Sam, Hannah, Travis, and John! This response was truly heartwarming. With about 270 delicious muffins to choose from, we all enjoyed a wonderful morning of good food and fellowship.

The following people deserve special thanks for providing the muffins and beverages: Aurora Bradbury-Schoening, Tami Eisberner, Dorothy Gilbertson, David Huber, Linda Jaenke, Dorothy Kruschke, Faye LaPean, Joanne Miller, Louise Partlow, Lil Savage, Kay Stecher, Nancy Wendt, and Deb Zehms. Thank you all so much!!!

Again, thanks to the campers and their families for all of their help in presenting this fun event. Happy Easter to all from Christian Education!

May 8

Festival of the Christian Home

The Festival of the Christian Home is a celebration of family and a fitting way to also honor mothers on Mother's Day. As part of the celebration here at Plymouth, the Sunday School kids will present a special gift to folks who are here for worship on Sunday, May 8.

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

May Worship Notes

May 1

2nd Sunday of Easter

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16;

1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

May 8

3rd Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4,

12–19; 1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

May 15

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23;

1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

May 22

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16;

1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

May 29

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20;

1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

In May, we are praying for these individuals/families: Eileen Polden, Kenny (Annette) Polden, Gloria Polden, Dorothy Preston, Jim & Linda Ross, Mel & Bobbie Rude, Doug & Nancy Salter

Food for Thought

The next pot luck will be May 1. Let's have a cookout to celebrate Spring—we hope! Bring a dish that will go with brats & hamburgers.

During the months of March and April, all of our monetary donations to St. Francis Food Pantry were matched as they were last year. Our goal was \$900. We collected \$917! Great job! Pastels really do look good on Pastor David!

Don't forget May 1 we will also be taking our monthly offering for St. Francis—can we keep up the \$450 a month?

Teacher Recognition

May 22 is the last day of Sunday School and we will recognize and honor our Christian Education teachers for their service this year. We would like a lot of people here for this important occasion, so please plan to join us that Sunday.

May Birthdays

1	Tami Eisberner
6	Tyrone Stygar
7	Eileen Polden Sandy Moore
8	Rita Gosbin John Stecher
11	Ann Leipnitz Tony Shepler
15	Azariah Ivkovich
16	Lilah Eastzman Paul Gilbertson Ericka leipnitz
30	Linda Jaenke

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.

Shut-in visits

The Service Commission has been expanded to include all members of Plymouth. If you visit, call, or even send a card to one of our shut-ins or another member of the congregation, we'd like to know (so that no one "falls through the cracks"). Visitation Report cards are available on the table and are easy to fill out. If you feel that something should be brought to the pastor's attention, there's even space to jot it down on the back of the card. Completed cards can be dropped into the manila envelope marked for them.

Memorials

- Gifts designated for the **General Fund**: *In memory of Dorie E. Smith*: John Smith
- Gifts (undesignated) for the **Memorial Fund**: *In memory of Lenore Tubbs and Jane Retallick*: Lila Johnson

The Birth of Mother's Day

Anna M. Jarvis (1864–1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Miss Jarvis who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Easter! The journey through Lent is finished, and again it ended with an empty tomb and a risen Jesus. Resurrection from the dead is a remarkable thing! But for those in the early church, and their surrounding Roman and other Gentile communities, it wasn't quite as remarkable. They had many stories, going back for centuries and millennia, of people rising from death. And so maybe the story of a risen Christ wasn't as difficult to believe as it might be for us today. Especially given that in the Easter story, it is God who rises from the dead. For the ancients, this was probably a no-brainer. Of course gods can raise from the dead—they're gods! They can do what they want.

What they probably found much difficulty with wasn't that a god came to earth in human form—just looking at Greek mythology alone, we see many stories of the gods doing that, and sometimes even having children with the humans—but that a god would voluntarily suffer for our sake, for humanity. What was shocking, even scandalous, to them was strength willing to become weakness, a god willing to risk its reputation as an all-powerful being by dying on a cross at the hands of those made in that god's image. What is so radical about Christianity is that we are made precisely in the image of this God. The God who voluntarily gives without asking anything in return. Who loves us and creation selflessly, even recklessly. And that by being made in God's image, we have the capacity for reckless love and unselfish giving that

can have effects that are resurrectional, a word coined by Rev. Phil Washburn, a minister I served under at Scarsdale UCC.

The power of Easter isn't just that our creator came as one of us to die as one of us then rise from the dead to bring us new life. The power is that we, too, can be resurrectional if we follow God's lead of letting go of our strength to become weak; to give up our ego-need for good reputation in favor of vulnerability; and to love without any expectation of return. The kind of attitude that can raise people from too often deadened lives, and which so often has. And may the ministry of the church continue.

Have a blessed Easter season!

Handwritten signature of Pastor David.

Pastor David will be attending the Festival of Homeletics May 16–20. Rev. Dave Stratton will cover any pastoral emergencies.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 11, 2011

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

Deb called the meeting to order. The March Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of March 31, 2011

Year to Date Income	\$31,219.86
Year to Date Expenses	\$31,205.87
Ahead (Behind)	\$13.99
Building Fund Balance	\$21,650.25
Memorial Fund Balance	\$4,923.95

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$11,373.37, expenses were \$10,969.11; leaving us with a March gain of \$404.26 and a check book balance of \$48.02.

\$481.00 was paid to St. Francis Food Pantry. \$742.75 and \$2053.10 were also paid for quarterly insurance.

Reserve Fund Report:

\$5,000 was transferred to the General Fund, leaving a balance of \$407.96 at the end of March.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance for the end of the month is \$4,923.95. \$1,120.22 was paid for the Nursery floor. \$595 from the McLeod Memorial and \$402.00 from Undesignated-Zehms was paid for the display case. \$250.00 for Undesignated-General Fund was applied to the borrowed funds, which was reduced to \$122.35.

Building Fund Report:

The balance at the end of February was \$21,650.25.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Christian Education Commission:

Kay reported that we are preparing to host the Magnificent Muffin Morning breakfast 8:30 Easter morning. All donations for this event help send our campers to Moon Beach Camp. (Donations for the campers may be made anytime!) We are sending 5 kids to camp this year: Travis Eisberner, John Stecher, Adam Wendt, Hannah and Sam Zehms. The elementary youth have been studying the lectionary stories on Sunday mornings.

Stewardship Commission:

Larry reported that the new historical artifact case has arrived, and we are looking in to lighting for the shelves. We also need new ideas for memorial items, possibly an Easter banner for next year. Wanda is updating the Advent banner. The Plymouth Annual Thrift Sale will be held April 29 and 30. We need people to work the sale and bring product in pre-priced. The Ice Cream Social will be June 1.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Worship Commission:

Barb reported that the Wednesday “Soup and Scripture” services went very well. They continue preparations for the Holy Week and Easter services.

(Mon-Fri) and MADD camp June 19–25 (Sun-Sat).

Commission reports were accepted as given.

Service Commission:

We will continue to announce the new cards for the Service Commission record keeping. This helps us keep track of which shut-ins are being visited by members of the congregation, so that we can be sure no one is missed.

Other Business:

- The final copy of the wedding/funeral policy has been approved by the Women of Plymouth.
- Discussed changes that need to be made to the bylaws and the Covenant when the Northwest Association is restructured.

Building and Grounds:

Larry reported that there will be a meeting with the builder regarding the roof, windows and some cracks. Discussed the conditions of current outdoor signs. We need possible suggestions for lawn mowing options for the spring. Some of the heat tapes on the roof need to be replaced before next fall. The dishwasher is currently being fixed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Aurora Bradbury-Schoening

Women of Plymouth:

\$200 check was written to Cyndi as a donation for her Guatemala mission trip.

Income:	\$11,373.37
Expenses:	\$10,696.11

March gain: \$ 404.26

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor David has been preparing for the Holy Week services; including participating in the ecumenical Good Friday service planning. Our ad in the Leader-Telegram has been changed; we would like to know if there are any comments. The WI Conference Annual Meeting is Friday, June 10–Sunday, June 12. We can send two delegates. He will be attending the Festival of Homiletics May 16–20

\$5000 transferred from Reserve Fund

Bills paid in March

\$742.75 for quarterly building insurance
 \$2,053.10 for quarterly health insurance
 \$481.00 for St. Francis Food Pantry

**March
Financial Summary**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>May 2011</h1> 						
1 St. Francis Food Pantry offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	2	3 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	4	5	6	7
8 Prayers for the People 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship Mother's Day	9 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	10 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	11	12	13	14
15 OCWM offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	16 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm. <i>Pastor David gone May 16-20</i>	17 9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	18	19	20	21
22 Teacher Recognition 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 10:00 A.M. Quilters	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	30 Memorial Day Office closed  Memorial Day Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives	31 10:00 A.M. Quilters				