

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2012

Published monthly by

**Plymouth UCC**  
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 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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## *Worship February 22 at 7:00 P.M. with Communion and imposition of ashes*

Prior to worship we will gather at 6:00 P.M. to share a meal with the proceeds from the free-will offering going to OCWM. Sign up at the back table or call the church office.



Wednesday evenings we will gather at 6:00 P.M. for a soup supper followed by scripture study focusing on the Lord's Prayer.

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- February 29 *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
- March 7 *Give us this day our daily bread.*
- March 14 *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*
- March 21 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*
- March 28 *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

## GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

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**10:30 A.M. Worship**

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

### February Worship Notes

**February 5**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering*

Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20c;

1 Corinthians 9:16–23; Mark 1:29–39

**February 12**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*Prayers for the People*

2 Kings 5:1–14; Psalm 30;

1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Mark 1:40–45

**February 19**

*Transfiguration Sunday*

*OCWM offering*

2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6;

2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9

**February 22**

*Ash Wednesday*

Worship at 7:00 P.M.

**February 26**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10;

1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

**In February, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Stacy Kleist, Susie Kleist, Charline Kozlowski, Dorothy Kruschke, Tom & Arvilla Kruschke

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### Food for Thought

We will have pot luck on February 12 after church and we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day. Just a little fact I dug up about Valentine's Day: it was established in 496 AD by Pope Gelasius. There is no special food theme, just bring a favorite dish.

Don't forget those who are less fortunate than us. We will take our Food Pantry offering on February 5. As you travel, remember that the food pantry needs those travel size shampoos, etc that motels/hotels provide.

### 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.

## February Birthdays

- 3 Jerry Tubbs
- 5 Jean Phillips
- 12 Dick Gosbin
- 13 John Moore
- 16 Kristina Champion  
Charline Kozlowski
- 18 Joshua Champion  
Travis Eisberner
- 19 Jeff Green  
Gloria Polden
- 28 Kenny Polden

## Be a sponsor!

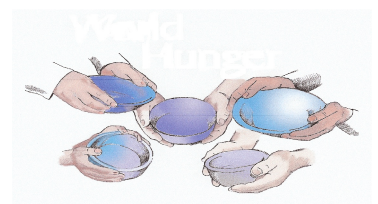
Sponsor an issue of the newsletter, a weekly bulletin, or the illumination of the cross on the front of our building in memory or in honor of someone or in honor of a special event, or even just because! Bulletin and newsletter sponsors will be recognized in the issue they sponsor. Cross sponsors will 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.

## Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega and Gordy's. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Here is how it works: On Sunday, you fill out a form requesting Scrip cards for \$25, \$50, and/or \$100. You pay for the cards when you order, with cash or check made out to Plymouth. We are able to keep 3% of the money that is paid for the cards, and pay Mega or Gordy's the remaining amount. So, if you buy a \$100 card, we pay \$97 and keep \$3 to help pay our bills. The next Sunday, your gift cards will be waiting for you at church to spend at Mega, Mega Holiday, Gordy's or Gordy's gas at their full value. They work just like cash, so if you use them to buy gas, you get that cash discount and help the church at the same time!

## Empty Bowls Benefit

This benefit for Feed My People Food Bank will take place Thursday, March 8 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 E Lexington Blvd. The meal includes choice of four soups, delicious breads, beverage and choice of dessert. The price for the meal and a hand-made pottery bowl is \$18; the meal alone is \$8. Children 10 and under may eat for free. Tickets are available from Barb Kleist. You can also order tickets online at [www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org)



## PASTOR'S PEN

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Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Four of your church leaders (George and Kay Stecher, Darrick Carter, and I) have begun a six-month process of reading, conversations, and guidance from a trained leader about church vitality and renewal. We and twelve other congregations began on January 21 with a seminar at our conference office in DeForest. Our team will meet with our trainer about once a month through June.

We are reading a book called “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” (Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity) and exploring how to integrate them into Plymouth’s life. You will hear more from us in the newsletter and sermons as we go through this process. We are not looking to make drastic or major changes. We have found ways that work very well for us and that fit us well. We will not do away with any of that. We do expect to learn how to do some things better and maybe add a few things that will enhance who we already are to make us a more vibrant congregation that people notice and want to be part of.

One practice we have added already I mentioned in my sermon on January 22 —praying for Plymouth in the Prayers of the People. I ask you to keep Plymouth in your daily prayers as well. Darrick will soon (probably starting in Lent) offer time on Sunday mornings for people to gather to pray for Plymouth, our leaders, and our ministry to Eau Claire and the world beyond. Stay tuned

on the church website, facebook page, and Sunday bulletin/announcements for more details on that and some sample prayers.

Two practices we can begin immediately relate to hospitality (which we do very well already, by the way). The first is to be more intentional about wearing our name tags on Sunday mornings. The second is cookies. Our presenter on Saturday told us how important they are. Many of you remember the importance of someone coming to your door with a plate full of cookies. If you would like to make cookies or would enjoy taking them to the homes of our visitors, please let me know, and we’ll start that as soon as possible.

Lastly, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday supper and worship on February 22. On the following Wednesday night we will continue our tradition of a soup supper followed by a worship/discussion time. This year we are exploring the Lord’s Prayer. It should be quite enjoyable and spiritually enriching! Our discussions are always lively, and I know that I learn much from them. Please plan to join us.

Many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Darrick Carter".

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 9, 2012

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Louise Partlow, Kay Stecher, Deb Zehms and Pastor David Huber

Deb called the meeting to order. The December Council minutes were approved as written.

**Financial Reports:**

As of December 31, 2011

Year to Date Income	\$116,323.38
Year to Date Expenses	\$116,352.14
Ahead (Behind)	(\$28.76)
Building Fund Balance	\$10,827.58
Memorial Fund Balance	\$5,859.98

**Treasurer's Report:**

Income this month was \$9,018.72, expenses were \$10,236.99; leaving us with a December loss of \$1,218.27 and a check book balance of \$5.27. \$1,300.00 was transferred from the Reserve Fund to end the year with a positive balance in the checking account. Monies for the Food Pantry and OCWM were paid out.

**Reserve Fund Report:**

Balance of \$2,265.50 at the end of 2011.

**Memorial Fund Report:**

The balance for the end of November is \$5,859.98.

**Building Fund Report:**

The balance at the end of November was \$10,827.58.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Christian Education Commission:**

The annual Christmas pageant, on December 18, went very well! Many thanks to Travis Eisberner, John Stecher, Carter Jaenke, and Morgan Jaenke for their beautiful recreation of the nativity. Camp registration is online. Plymouth kids will go the last week in June.

**Stewardship Commission:**

Pledges for 2012 are \$6,000 more than last year. Last year was \$54,000 and this year is approximately \$60,000. Hopefully we will be able to repay the Building Fund.

**Worship Commission:**

Christmas decorating and Christmas Eve went well. Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 P.M. we will take down decorations. February 22 is Ash Wednesday and a decision will be made as to whether to do the Baked Potato Dinner or just soup and salad that evening.

**Service Commission:**

We need more cards for the Service Commission record keeping.

**Building and Grounds:**

No report. It was mentioned that we might want to consider motion-sensor lights for the back door. Someone will talk to Jim Welk.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes  
continued ...*

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report.

**Pastor's Report:**

Many thanks to our readers and musicians for a splendid and meaningful Christmas Eve worship service! The recording will be on the website this week. The Children's Pageant was creative and well written, and read/spoken beautifully by the children. The recording is on the website. Thanks to George and Cyndi for filling in for me while I was on vacation. Christmas dinner for the youth was a big success—thanks to Sous Chef Cyndi. We received our official certificate for being Open and Affirming. The UCCI Board will be voting on a possible interim Managing Director for Pilgrim Center this Thursday.

**Old Business:**

- The Church Renewal Program will be held January 21 and three Plymouth members will attend with Pastor David.

**New Business:**

- We still don't have a Moderator Elect so we will still be working on this.
- There was discussion about trying to get another church to share our space to earn more monies. Maybe send a letter to a congregation who are meeting in another type of building. This will be brought up at the Annual Meeting.
- Barb talked to Mimi about the secretary's job. Mimi would be willing to work fewer hours (8:30–11:30).
- We need a note in the newsletter regarding supplies needed for janitorial and office.

- We got a call from the City Manager's office to see if we would be willing to allow use of our building for community forums. Pastor David will call back to get more details.

The next meeting is February 13, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Larry moved to adjourn and Kay seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted  
Louise Partlow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2012</h1> 						
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 St. Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	6	7  9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	8	9	10	11
<b>12 Prayers for the People</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	13  7:00 P.M. Executive Council	14  9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	15	16	17	18
<b>19 OCWM offering</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	20  7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	<b>21 Spring Primary Election</b>  9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b>  6:00 P.M. Supper 7:00 P.M. Worship	23	24	25
26  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	27	28  9:00 A.M. Bible study 10:00 A.M. Quilters	29  6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture			