

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2012

Published monthly by

Plymouth UCC
2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703
Phone: 715-835-5475
Web: pcucc.com

 PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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
Mimi Pederson in memory
of her mother, Hazel Bosley,
who was born New Year's
Eve, 1912.*

INSIDE

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

Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 24

5:00 P.M.

*A family-friendly
worship service of
praise for the birth of
our Savior with special
music, a time for
children, and a
beautiful candlelit
Silent Night.*



GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December Worship Notes

December 2

1st Sunday of Advent

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Dedication Sunday

Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:1–10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 21:25–36

December 9

2nd Sunday of Advent

Prayers for the People

Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79;
Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

December 16

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6;
Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

December 23

4th Sunday of Advent

Worship featuring the Youth

Christmas Fund offering

Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:46b–55;
Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45,
(46–55)

December 24

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

December 30

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: Gladys Green, Jeff & Lesa Green, Kathryn Hamilton, Bea (John) Hancock, Harlan & Charlene Hartwich, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Joyce Holmen, Paul Holmen, Peter Holmen

Food for Thought

Our Stewardship/Christmas potluck will be on December 2 following worship. Bring a favorite holiday dish and we will celebrate the end to a successful Stewardship Drive and the beginning of Advent.

We will collect our offering for St Francis Food Pantry on that Sunday as well.



Advent decorating

You are invited to come on December 1 to decorate the church for Advent. We'll begin at 9:00 A.M. Volunteers will be treated to lunch! Join us!

December Birthdays

- 4 Irma Shepler
- 5 Terri Gilbert
- 9 Aaron Adams
Pastor David
- 14 Sarah Hestekin
- 15 Isa Small
- 22 Cathy Stygar
- 31 Lorena Berge

Plymouth church wants you!

The Nominating Committee for 2012 is starting to work on the 2012 nominations for officers and commission members. If you would like to have your name placed in nomination for one of the commissions: Worship, Stewardship or Christian Education, or even for the Executive Council, please speak up! Chances are, if you do not call me, I will call you!

Barb Kleist, Moderator-Elect

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.

Thanks from the What If? Foundation

In a letter sent to the children of Plymouth UCC, the What If? Foundation has this to say, in part:

Thank you so much for your gift of \$225 to the What If? Foundation, given in support of the food program we fund in Port-au-Prince Haiti. We understand that you donated your weekly offerings for an entire year, and are touched by your generosity and caring.

On behalf of all of us, including our Haitian partners and the children we serve, thank you for your kindness. Your gift will truly make such a difference. And thank you to Pastor David and Kay Stecher for all their good work as well.

Pamela Keenan, Director of Communications and Donor Relations

Christmas Fund

For 110 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a means by which we, as members of the United Church of Christ, bring hope to those who have so faithfully and selflessly served. Your generous giving in 2011 enabled the Church to provide \$1,536,460 in assistance and “thank you” gifts to nearly 1,600 clergy and lay employees and their families. Please consider supporting the Christmas Fund Offering again this year. Watch for a mailing with a special envelope to make your gift. We will receive that offering on December 23.

PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

Advent will be upon us the first Sunday in December. That is also our stewardship Sunday when we will bring our pledges for next year. We will also receive our monthly offering for St. Francis Food Pantry and have a fellowship potluck after worship. A good way to begin the four week journey of patient waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Advent is our time of expectation. Four weeks of preparation, getting ourselves spiritually ready to again witness the birth of our savior and sing Joy to the World! Our worship during these four weeks will have liturgy and scripture related to our journey of waiting. Advent music tends to be in minor keys, giving a sense of longing or anticipation. We will light the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, awaiting completion with the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. It is a time to remember that we live in the in-between times: we are between Jesus' resurrection and the time that he will come again. We live in the Kingdom of God right now, but a Kingdom which has not been fully realized. One foot in, and one foot out. Yet every year Christmas spins around again, ready or not, and God once again comes to us in a miraculous incarnation of human flesh as the Prince of Peace, the Light of the

World, our Savior and Lord and a whole host of other titles. As we journey toward Christmas with the shopping, parties, baking, and other worldly preparations, may you also find time for the spiritual preparations to greet anew the Christ child.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor David".



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 14, 2012

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Charline Kozlowski, Rob Jaenke, Louise Partlow, and Pastor David

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:05. The October minutes were read and then approved.

Financial Reports:

As of October 31, 2012

Year to Date Income	\$91,215.91
Year to Date Expenses	\$91,095.71
Ahead (Behind)	\$120.20
Building Fund Balance	\$5,882.96
Memorial Fund Balance	\$7,043.25

Treasurer's Report:

Income for October was \$11,225.73; expenses were \$11,129.22 for a gain of \$125.47.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance at the end of October was \$789.45.

Memorial Fund Report:

The Memorial Fund balance is \$7,043.25 at the end of October.

Building Fund Report:

The balance remains the same at \$5,882.96.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

We discussed our cleaning person resignation. She will stay until we find someone. We believe we have a new person for that position.

Christian Education Commission:

No report. Our children are preparing for the bazaar and continue selling SCRIP cards.

Stewardship Commission:

Campaign is ongoing. Devotional booklets have been mailed. We will turn in pledge cards on December 2 during worship. Nut sales are ongoing and they will be available at the bazaar.

Worship Commission:

December 1 is tree decorating and hanging of the greens. Advent begins December 2. Poinsettia orders are due by November 27.

Service Commission:

Visitations and phone calls ongoing.

Women of Plymouth:

Char reported the election bake sale netted over \$353.00. Everyone is working on bazaar preparations.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David attended a clergy retreat in October and wrote articles for the Leader/Telegram for October and November.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Building use ideas are still being discussed.
- Nominating Committee—Deb Zehms has agreed to be Moderator-Elect. Mike Henry will be a Member-at-Large.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Our Christmas service ad for the newspaper will remain the same.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



Memorials

- Designated for the Dishwasher Fund
In memory of Ruth Kavanagh: Family and Friends;
In memory of Onita Jorgensen: Family and Friends
- Designated for the General Fund
In memory of Ruth Kavanagh: Dorothy Kruschke;
In memory of Doris E. Smith: John Smith

“Want” list

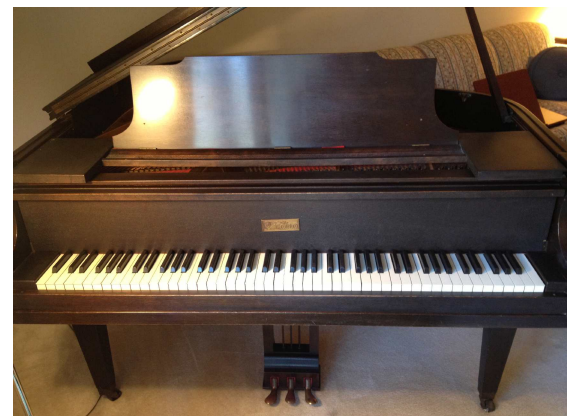
Each month we have been giving you a “Need List.” Your response to that has been excellent. So now the Executive Council has come up with a “Want List.” These are items that will eventually be on the “Need List” but right now are things that we want and that are financially out of our reach. The list is pretty short, but it will get longer!

- Driveway and parking lot sealed and striped.
- New roof for the older section of the building.
- Gas weed trimmer for the lawn.
- Shelving for closet in Sanctuary

New Piano

Plymouth has been blessed with the donation of a baby grand piano. A gentleman named Orv Quale, long time member of First congregational UCC, is giving us the piano which belonged to his beloved wife Lois. It is an Apollo, at least 70 years old, with a beautiful mahogany case and real ivory keys and it has been totally refurbished. Pastor David and Lynn McFadyen found it to be beautifully maintained with a lovely sound and felt it would enhance our worship experience.

Even though the piano is a gift, there are still expenses associated with getting it set up in our sanctuary. These expenses include moving costs, the purchase and installation of a humidifier (like we have in our upright piano), and a dolly so that it will be easily movable and not leave marks in the sanctuary carpet. We are asking for your help to cover these expenses. Your donations will be placed in a special designation in the Memorial Fund and can be made in memory or in honor of someone or “just because.”



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2012</h1>						1 Christmas Decorating 9:00 A.M.
2 St. Francis Food Pantry offering Stewardship Sunday 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	3	4 10:00 A.M. Quilters	5	6	7	8
9 Prayers for the People 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	10 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	11 10:00 A.M. Quilters	12	13	14	15
16 OCWM offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	17	18 10:00 A.M. Quilters	19	20	21	22
23 Christmas Fund offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Christmas Program	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 P.M. Lessons & Carols	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28	29
30 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	31					