

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2013

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



## ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 27 following worship. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 20. Report submissions need to be in the church office *no later than January 15.*

### Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2013 are as follows: 22 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$53,570 (last year at this time we had 26 giving units pledge \$48,596) for the coming year.

For this faith response, for your commitment to the Lord and his church, and for your trust that what we do in the name of Christ is important both here at home and to the far corners of the globe where we witness ... *thank you!*

*Pastor David is on vacation from December 25 to January 3. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Pastor Dave Stratton (715-874-5422).*

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## GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

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### January Worship Notes

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

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

**January 6**

*Epiphany Sunday*

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering*

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;  
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

**January 13**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/  
Baptism of the Lord*

*Prayers for the People*

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;  
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

**January 20**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*OCWM offering*

Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;  
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

**January 27**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

**In January, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Sadie (Jacob) Hulke, Judy Insteness, Nicole (Sonny) Ivkovich, Rob & Linda Jaenke, Gerry & Julie Johnson, Larry & Barb Kleist

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### Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck in January. We will have snacks before the Annual Meeting on January 27, so please come for that.

We will gather our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry on Sunday, January 6.

In the months of March and April we will once again participate in the “Feinstein Challenge.” This is where any food or monetary donations made to St. Francis in that time period will help St. Francis Food Pantry receive an extra donation from the Feinstein Foundation.



## January Birthdays

- 4 Barb Kleist  
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 9 Donald Blake
- 10 Dorothy Gilbertson  
George Stecher
- 12 Paul Holmen
- 18 Edmund Noyes
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 22 Brayden Ivkovich
- 24 Ron Wendt
- 27 Nancy Champion  
Larry Kleist
- 31 Steve Champion

### ***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 to the **Memorial Fund** for the baby grand piano: Lynn McFadyen in memory of her piano teacher Kvetá Voldrich; Mimi Pederson in memory of her piano teacher Bea Boggs; Pastor David Huber in honor of God.

### **Quilters please note ...**

The quilters will not meet during the month of January.

### **Don't forget your SCRIP cards!**

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega, Gordy's, and Kwik Trip. It is a painless, cost-free fundraiser for our church. Here is how it works: They are available for \$25, \$50, and/or \$100. We keep 3% of the money that is paid for Mega and Gordy's cards, and 10% for Kwik Trip cards. So, for example, if you buy a \$100 card, we pay \$97 and keep \$3 to help pay our bills. This is a great way to add to our income without feeling the pinch.

### **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.

## PASTOR'S PEN

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Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

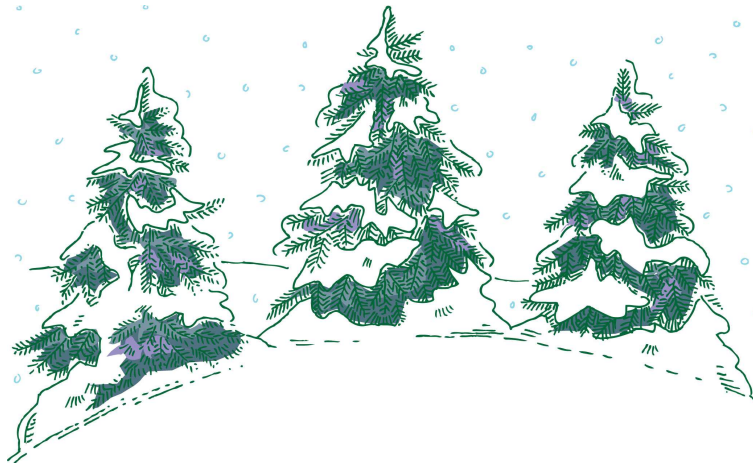
We are now in the middle of the Christmas season. I hope and pray that you all had a blessed and a very Merry Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Some of you were with us for a very moving and meaningful Christmas Eve worship service. I thank all of our many talented people who provided their voice through readings and their voice through song and for our many musicians who helped to make it such a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth.

Although the gift giving part of the season is over, I do ask you all to please remember that the St. Francis Food Pantry continues to be in need. We also have many people living on the streets. We do not have enough shelter for everyone here in Eau Claire, nor in so many other places around the state and in the country. Living in freezing temperatures is not easy. For some it is

deadly. As I write this, LaCrosse has already had two homeless people die from the cold. And so I ask please for you all to remember the homeless and hungry and those who go without even during this season of generosity. Please do what you can to help. Joseph and Mary could find no room at the inn 2000 years ago, and we continue to have too many people who do not have a room to call their own.

As we enter a new calendar year, I offer my prayers to you all for newness of life and newness of being. May your 2013 be better than your 2012 in faithfulness, sacredness, joy, peace, hope, and especially in love.

Blessings,

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

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 10, 2012

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

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00. The November minutes were read and then approved.

### Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2012

Year to Date Income	\$96,921.14
Year to Date Expenses	\$96,928.09
Ahead (Behind)	(\$6.95)

### Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$5,705.23; expenses were \$5,832.38 for a loss of (\$1.68). Giving was down in November. Scrip card income is approximately \$1,000. Nut sales were approximately \$1,100. Pledges received so far compare with last year at this time.

### Reserve Fund Report:

The balance at the end of November was \$300.49.

### Memorial Fund Report:

The Memorial Fund balance is \$4,802.10 at the end of November. Monies were spent for the dishwasher and piano moving and tuning.

### Building Fund Report:

The balance remains \$5,882.96.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### Building and Grounds:

The new cleaning couple are doing a great job. Jim says we may not need heat tapes on the building because of increased insulating that has been done.

### Christian Education Commission:

Our Sunday school kids did a great job making items and helping at the bazaar. Thanks to them and their moms for all their hard work. We continue to help in many ways with the Plymouth Street Ministry program. There will be no "regular" Christmas Pageant this year; our youth will be featured in worship on December 23.

### Stewardship Commission:

Met on December 9. Rob and Larry were the only members at the meeting. They discussed the same issues as listed in the Financial Reports: scrip cards, nut sales, and pledges.

### Worship Commission:

Poinsettias will be delivered and arranged on the weekend of December 16. Christmas Eve worship is at 5:00 P.M.

### Service Commission:

No report. Visits ongoing.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes  
continued ...*

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report.

**Pastor's Report:**

Thanksgiving Eve worship at Truax went well. Pastor David thanked everyone who decorated. He will be on vacation December 25–January 3.

**Old Business:**

- Building policy—Barb is still working on this.
- Nominating Committee—going pretty well. Still working on it.

**New Business:**

- Annual Meeting will be January 27. Reports for the Annual Report are due no later than January 15. Rob and Larry are putting the 2013 budget together.
- There may be a concert on February 10 after worship to feature the new piano.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Louise Partlow

***EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
December 16, 2012***

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

The Council met after worship on December 16 at 11:40 A.M.


The Street Ministry has applied for a grant of approximately \$1,600 from Religious Organizations. This is to be used for Christmas gifts for the homeless and others in need.

Helpers may assemble gifts here at Plymouth for about 100 people. This may be done shortly after Christmas.

We should have a separate checking account to handle these monies.

Kay moved to allow Mike Henry and Mimi Pederson to set up an account at RCU to be used for Street Ministry. Larry seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2013</h1> 						
<i>Pastor David on vacation until 1/3</i>		1 <b>Office closed</b>	2	3	4	5
<b>6 Epiphany</b> <b>St Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>13 Prayers for the People</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship	14  7:00 P.M. Executive Council	15  <b>Annual Report Deadline</b>	16	17	18	19
<b>20 OCWM offering</b>  9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	21  7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship  <b>Annual Meeting follows worship</b>	28	29	30	31		