



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

October 2013

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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Cross Illumination for October is sponsored by the Shepler Family in memory of Dave, Don, Gretchen and Nancy.

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Important Strategic Planning

Plymouth Church is fast approaching a significant turning point in its life. The Executive Council wants to make plans to “renew and energize” our church. At our next monthly meeting, October 14, we will have a planning session. We need to come up with a plan for the future. How are we going to grow our church? How are we going to come up with extra money in the meantime? If we cannot grow, how long are we going to survive, without going bankrupt?

All members are welcome to come to this meeting. If you have any ideas, but cannot make it to the meeting, let one of the Council members or Pastor David know about your idea. The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. Please come. We need good ideas so that we will be able to survive and hopefully grow.

Barb Kleist
Moderator



The CROP Walk will be held October 13 at 2 P.M. in Carson Park. The Walk is for 1–3 or 5 miles. All participants will walk the “Mighty Mile Loop” in Carson Park. After that, those who will be doing the 3 and 5 mile walk will go on. This is a major fund raiser for the Feed My People Food Bank in

Eau Claire. Twenty-five percent of what is raised in the Walk stays here and goes to the food bank. The rest goes to help people around the world and in the USA.

Last year the money raised on the Walk bought over 23,000 meals in the Eau Claire area. Feed My People supplies food to the area food banks, including St. Francis Food Pantry. The demand for food in our troubled economy is growing every day. Please donate generously to our walkers.

If you have access to the Internet, please consider receiving this newsletter online. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. Contact Mimi at mimi@pcucc.com to be put on the electronic mailing list. *Otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.*

GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

October Worship Notes

October 6

20th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4; Psalm 37:1–9;

2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10

October 13

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Prayers for the People

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7; Psalm 66:1–12; 2

Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19

October 20

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27–34; Psalm 119:97–104

or Genesis 32:22–31; Psalm 121; 2

Timothy 3:14–4:5; Luke 18:1–8

October 27

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

Joel 2:23–32; Psalm 84:1–7; 2 Timothy

4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14

In October, we are praying for these individuals/families: Aurora (Matt) Robison, Bonnie Carter, Darrick Carter & Joy Lobo-Carter, Kevin & Kristina Champion, Steve & Nancy Champion, Claire Cramblit, Jean Dean

Food for Thought

There will be a pot luck on October 6 following worship. The theme will be “German Fest.” Since October has many OctoberFest celebrations, Plymouth will also celebrate, so bring a German dish to pass.

We will take our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry also on Sunday, October 6.

Support our CROP Walkers with a donation for their walk. The Walk is October 13.

Memorials

● Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** designated for the General Fund

In memory of Loraine Berg:

Lucille Smith, Mary Birschbach, Patsy Phillips, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Gladys Ulry

**Open Volunteer Day
Thursday, October 10
Feed My People Food Bank
2610 Alpine Road, Eau Claire**

Come volunteer and learn more about your area food bank! Volunteers can expect to help repack bulk food items such as pasta or cereal or help label cans. Activities are kid-friendly and children as young as 5 are welcome to volunteer with a parent. Volunteer for an hour or more—whatever works best for you. For more information or to sign up, contact Sara at sara@fmpfoodbank.org or 715-835-9415.

Fall clean-up

Clean-up Day at *your* church is Saturday, October 5, 9:00 A.M. until ??? *Lunch will be provided.* Projects to be completed include raking, cleaning out flower beds, cleaning off patio, washing windows inside and out, cleaning out gutters, and trimming shrubs. This can be a fun day and full of family fellowship. There will be something for all members to do, whatever your age.

**Planning for the Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 23**

- We want to expand our **Craft Area**, so be thinking of new or old craft ideas that you could make
- Be on the lookout for things to sell at the **Treasure Trove**. The supply from last year is just about depleted.

- We would encourage you to find your old recipes for **Scandinavian Baking**. We would like to advertise this as our specialty. Plymouth bakers are wonderful! If you have any creative ideas we could use, please contact a member of the committee (the same as last year).



We are brewing up another cauldron of Halloween High-jinks for Sunday, October 27! Join us for dinner and a movie as we have a little fall fun! Put together a costume, or come as you are... sometimes reality is scarier than fiction. Doors open at 4:30 P.M. and dinner will be served at 5:00 P.M. We will have some frightfully good soup and lots of extra goodies that will surely lift your spirits! Following dinner, the kids have requested the annual showing of “It’s The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!” We hope to wrap things up by 7:00 P.M. so everyone has the chance to get home to watch the Packers beat the Vikings. (We’ve heard that Minnesota doesn’t have a ghost of a chance at winning!) We may even scare up a few door prizes! The fee is \$3.00 per person—sign up on the sheet by the sanctuary so we know how many boys and ghouls we will be feeding.

Mark your calendars! Sunday, October 27—4:30 to 7:00 P.M.—\$3.00 per person!

Boo!



PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

When I was on vacation in Japan this last time, I had a chance to spend a few days in the area of Sendai, part of the NE coastline of Japan that was hit by the tsunami after the earthquake in March of 2011. The amount of damage and destruction was amazing. I had seen videos on the news and on the Internet, but they never captured the scale of it. The tsunami wave came inland about three or four miles, and affected a number of regions. In the Sendai area, miles of coastline had been planted with a strip of trees a hundred or so yards deep to act as a wind barrier. On the other side of that tree line were a few miles of houses and farmland, then a raised highway, and then the city proper. The wave tore down all those trees and drove them inland, smashing thousands of homes and other buildings, stopping finally when it hit the raised highway. I saw pictures of what it looked like before, and saw with my own eyes what it looks like now, and it is heartbreaking. It is a new landscape. So many homes are gone. Japan has decided not to allow construction near the coast, and so hundreds of those homes will not be rebuilt. Many of the former residents are still in emergency housing elsewhere.

After the tsunami, the United Church of Christ in Japan set up Emmaus House in Sendai to help in disaster relief, mostly providing help to farmers. This is the group I worked with.

The farmers could not plant in 2011 because fields were full of debris. In 2012 they were still cleaning and much

of the land still had too much salinity from the sea water. The farm I worked at was owned by a man whose family had farmed in that area for a few generations. His land was under about ten feet of water. One of his neighbors told us about watching dolphins play in the water above his fields. It is amazing to me to think that even a wealthy, industrialized nation like Japan is still suffering 2.5 years after that event. Tens of thousands of people are still living in temporary shelters, waiting for a new home. Many of the young people have left their family farms to seek employment elsewhere, which has left the families shorthanded for doing the farm labor. But thanks to organizations like Emmaus House, created by the church to minister to people (few of whom are Christian, or have even had much contact with Christians), recovery is happening and new life is being brought to an area devastated by a horrible natural disaster. Wherever there is tragedy or human need, the Church has a long history of showing up to help and provide relief to the suffering, and I thank God for all who follow Jesus' call to love our neighbors.



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

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 9, 2013

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

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The August minutes were read and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of August 31, 2013

Year to Date Income	\$70,808.56
Year to Date Expenses	\$71,094.48
Ahead (Behind)	(\$285.92)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for August was \$7,269.43 (includes \$1,000 from WOP and \$909.41 from closing of Building Fund account); expenses were \$8,022.26 for a loss of \$752.83. Bank balance on August 31, 2013 was (\$732.88). Envelope giving is down about \$3,500 from last year and \$4,500 monthly average from last year.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$323.97.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$2,425.71.

Building Fund Report:

The balance is 0.00. Account closed.

Street Ministry:

The balance is \$478.66

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

October 5 is Fall Clean-up.

Christian Education Commission:

Christian education will resume for the confirmation class and adults on September 15. The confirmands will be participating in serving at the Community Table on September 21 and the CROP Walk on October 13. We are also working in some new craft ideas for the Bazaar on November 23.

Stewardship Commission:

Their meeting was a working meeting as they set up for the Thrift & Bake Sale on September 14.

Worship Commission:

Outdoor worship went well on August 14 with music and s'mores. Small turnout, but a lot of fun.

Service Commission:

Visits are ongoing. Remember to fill out visitation cards—even for phone visits. Thank you!

Women of Plymouth:

There will be a meeting at 9:15 A.M. on Sunday, September 22. Bazaar plans will continue to be the focus.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor David has been on vacation in Japan. Saw and helped with some tsunami damage. He thanked everyone for helping to fill in for him and for allowing him to go.



Continued on page 6

Council *continued*

OLD BUSINESS:

- Evangelism—still on the agenda for further thought and discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Community Table September 21 at 9:00 A.M.
- CROP Walk October 13. See Barb if you need more info.
- We discussed use of our church to other groups.

The next meeting is October 14. It will be a planning meeting for Plymouth’s future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



The following is a list of items that are needed by the church. Next time you are in the grocery store and see these items, pick one up and donate it! This is one way to help out with the church budget!

1. Toilet paper
2. Paper towels
3. Garbage Bags-XL

Here is another way to help: Instead of donating these items, buy a SCRIP Card from Mega Foods and then someone can buy the items as needed. The church will get the items needed plus make a little money on it!

October Birthdays

- 1 Larry Shepler
- 2 Jen Adams
- 3 Joy Lobo-Carter
- 4 Gladys Ulry
Hannah Zehms
- 5 Jamie Stafford
- 7 Len Weisfeld
- 9 Maria Patton
- 14 Kayla Leipnitz
- 18 Sadie Hulke
- 20 Ardith Starr
- 22 Kay Hestekin
Denice Shepler
Nathan Stygar
- 23 Joe Gilbertson
- 24 Cyndi Bradbury
- 26 Justin Champion
- 28 Bobbie Rude
- 29 Nancy Wendt
- 30 Audrey Heimstead
- 31 Lindsey Phillips
Lori Phillips

Bingo Night!

The Chippewa Valley LGBT group is holding another Bingo night at Plymouth on October 9, from 6–8 P.M., with food, drinks, and many prizes! \$3 per board, or \$10 for three of them.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>October 2013</h1> 						
		<p>1</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Clean-up Day</p> <p>Starts at 9:00 A.M.</p>
<p>6 St Francis Food Pantry and Neighbors in Need offerings</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. Bingo Night</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Prayers for the People</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Everyone is invited to the Executive Council meeting for strategic planning.</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Executive Council</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 OCWM offering</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission</p> <p>4:30 P.M. Halloween High-jinks</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		