

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2014

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Plymouth UCC
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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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Cross Illumination for January is sponsored by Maria Patton in memory of Richard Patton.



ANNUAL MEETING

of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 26 following worship. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 19. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 6.**

Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2014 are as follows: 19 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$49,757 (last year at this time we had 22 giving units pledge \$53,570) 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 January 2–8. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can call Pastor Dave Stratton (715-874-5422).

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GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

January Worship Notes

January 5

Epiphany Sunday

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering
(No communion this Sunday)*

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

January 12

*1st Sunday after Epiphany/
Baptism of the Lord*

*Prayers for the People
Communion will be celebrated*

Isaiah 42:1–9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34–43; Matthew 3:13–17

January 19

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11;
1 Corinthians 1:1–9; John 1:29–42

January 26

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9;
1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew
4:12–23

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

Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck in January. We will have snacks before the Annual Meeting on January 26, so please come for that.

Don't forget the hungry people in Eau Claire. We will gather our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry on Sunday, January 5.



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.

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 5% of the money that is paid for Mega and Gordy's cards, and 10% for Mega Holiday and Kwik Trip cards. So, for example, if you buy a \$100 card, we pay \$95 and keep \$5 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



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

Another year ends and a new one comes upon us, wiped clean of all past mistakes, a fresh slate ripe with opportunity in our personal lives, our family lives, and our church life. I offer you a prayer that whatever resolutions you might make for 2014, the Holy Spirit will strengthen you to keep them. I pray that your hopes will be fulfilled by God. And I pray that whatever you might fear, Jesus will walk with you through it and that you greater faith in God's ever-loving presence.

2014 for Plymouth will see us continuing to talk about evangelism and church strength. We have seen an increase in guests, we have welcomed new members, and have some ready to join us. That is exciting, and we will continue in that direction! Our future is open. I recently read an article that says that the church of the future will be a church that fits four words: nimble, lean, collaborative, and leadership.

Nimble, able to respond quickly and nimbly to opportunities. Lengthy deliberation and slowness to change giving way to responding to needs and opportunities as they happen.

Lean, "pancaking" their organizational structures and simplifying their decision-making life into leaner models in which teams, committees, and task groups are empowered to act.

Collaborative, the gifts of the entire congregation are required to fulfill the church's mission, with staff including

laity as partners in ministry, and laity engaging their call.

Leadership, allowing leaders to lead.

We basically run this way already, but will do more. Our nimble, lean, collaborative, leadership skills set has already allowed us to welcome the Chippewa Valley LGBT Bingo nights here, to begin and excel at our street ministry, to form partnerships with other congregations and organizations in Eau Claire, and to evolve our worship into a very wonderful mix of the best of our past traditions (including music) with the best of the new.

How can you help? Continue to support your leaders. Thank them. Tell them they are doing a great job (they are!!), lend them a hand. They are God's leaders in our midst. And pray for them. Do not forget the real power of prayer. Pray for wisdom and faithful stewardship.

Worship with your congregation on Sunday morning, and feed your spirit on scripture, moving music, prayers, and fellowship. You can also help by telling people what your church is doing, and inviting them to join us in our mission to feed our community with real food for stomachs and spiritual food for our souls..

I hope you all had a blessed and wonderful Christmas, and I pray for you to know all God's blessings in the new year!

Blessings,

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 9, 2013

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

Barb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor David led us in prayer. The November minutes were read and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2013

Year to Date Income	\$97,642.71
Year to Date Expenses	\$97,268.62
Ahead (Behind)	\$374.09

Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$7,374.03; expenses were \$7,527.96 for a loss of (\$153.93). Bank balance on November 30, 2013 was (\$72.87). Income includes \$1,400 from the Reserve Fund. Income was down about \$2,500 from last year.

Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$451.00.

Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$7,376.15.

Street Ministry:

The balance is \$280.27

Council will check with PIP board members and Stewardship Commission to change the PIP guidelines regarding distribution of donations that are not regular weekly giving. The Council approved 75% to PIP and 25% to General Fund (instead of 15% to General Fund and 10% to Missions).

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Snow plowing got done. Jim or Larry will make sure we have this taken care of.

Christian Education Commission:

The Confirmation class made items for the bazaar and worked hard at the event. We held an "intergenerational Sunday School" class on December 8. We invited the Confirmation class, the Adult Ed. group, and anyone who wanted to attend to have some Christmas goodies, share stories and memories, and make some ornaments. Lots of fun. Adult Ed. continues discussing "Women in the Bible." All are welcome to join in any week. They meet in the library at 9:15 A.M.

Stewardship Commission:

Nut sales were approximately \$1,000. Actual numbers not available yet. Pledges now are about \$47,500, about \$9,000 less than last year at this time. Not all pledges are in.

Worship Commission:

We decorated for Advent last Saturday and had a great lunch and was fun as usual. Christmas pot luck and cookie exchange will be December 15.

Service Commission:

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



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Women of Plymouth:

The bazaar went well. Everyone helped and enjoyed the event.

Pastor's Report:

Thanksgiving Eve service was wonderful. Many thanks to Sam and his awesome version of the Lord's Prayer. Bars and coffee were served after the service. Christmas Eve 5:00 P.M. service will be changed slightly. Communion was given by Pastor David in addition to street ministry with Mike Henry and other members of our church.

New Business:


- A few people have shown interest in joining our congregation
- Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26. Reports for the Annual Report are due January 6.
- Nominating Committee is still working on filling positions
- The proposed budget for 2014 was reviewed and approved as presented by Rob, but is still subject to approval by the congregation.
- Kay presented an updated version of our Covenant. It was approved with a couple of changes.

The next meeting is January 13, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2014</h1>						
5 St Francis Food Pantry offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	6 Annual Report Deadline	7	8 6:00 P.M. BINGO	9 7:00 P.M. "Un-decorate" the church	10	11
12 Prayers for the People 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 9:30 A.M. Stewardship Commission 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	13 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	14	15	16	17	18
19 OCWM offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	20 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship Annual Meeting follows worship	27	28	29	30	31	