

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2014

Published monthly by  
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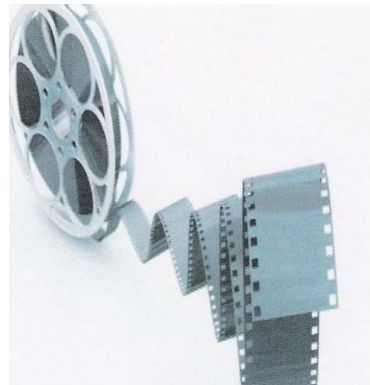
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*Cross illumination for February is sponsored by Paul & Gay Gilbertson honor of Dorothy Gilbertson and George & Kay Stecher.*

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*It's cold and snowy.*

*It's Oscar month.*

*It's time for the*

## February Film Festival!

What better way to beat the winter blahs than by watching a good movie?

Choose a video or DVD from the table in the Fellowship Hall, sign it out, make a donation to Christian Education (we suggest \$3.00 per movie, but we'll take anything you want to offer) take it home and enjoy! Then repeat the process over and over and over until February is all gone. Then we'll start watching for signs of Spring! Yay!

There will be a wide variety of films to choose from—many of them Academy Award winners. So plan a little time with the stars this month. Take home some movies in February.

All money raised helps send kids from Plymouth to Moon Beach Camp.

# GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

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

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

## February Worship Notes

### February 2

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

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering*

Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15;

1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

### February 16

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

Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 119:1–8;

1 Corinthians 3:1–9;

Matthew 5:21–37

### February 9

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

Isaiah 58:1–9a, (9b–12);

Psalm 112:1–9 (10); 1 Corinthians

2:1–12, (13–16); Matthew 5:13–20

### February 23

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

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18; Psalm

119:33–40; 1 Corinthians 3:10–11,

16–23; Matthew 5:38–48

**In February, we are praying for these**

**individuals/families:** Larry & Barb Kleist, Stacy (Peter) Gantner, Susie Kleist, Charline Kozlowski, Dorothy Kruschke, Tom & Arvilla Kruschke, Faye LaPean

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## Food for Thought

Our pot luck this month will be on February 9. The theme will be Valentine's Day! Bring a special dish for your Valentine.

Don't forget the hungry people in Eau Claire. We will take our St Francis Food Pantry offering on February 2.

## Memorials

● Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** directed to the General Fund: *In memory of Sophie Bliss:* James Urness and Dorothy Sorlie, Suzanne Thompson, Larry & Barb Kleist

## February Birthdays

- 5 Jean Phillips
- 13 John Moore
- 16 Kristina Champion  
Charline Kozlowski
- 18 Joshua Champion  
Travis Eisberner
- 19 Jeff Green  
Gloria Polden
- 28 Kenny Polden

## 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.

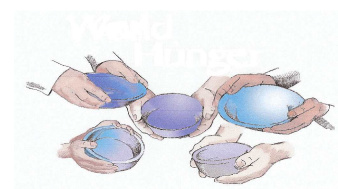
## Be a sponsor!

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.

## Empty Bowls Benefit

This benefit for Feed My People Food Bank will take place Thursday, March 6 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at The Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Avenue.

Enjoy delicious soups made by local restaurants, breads, beverage, and deserts. For a donation of \$18.00 you will receive your meal *and* take home a beautiful ceramic bowl, hand-crafted by UW-Eau Claire art students, area high school students, and other area potters. The meal without the bowl can be purchased for \$8.00. Children 10 and under are free. Tickets are available from Barb Kleist, UWEC Service Center, Feed My People ([www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org)), Gordy's county Market Eau Claire locations, or at the door the day of the event.



## 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.

## PASTOR'S PEN

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Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Christian Piatt, a leading thinker on the present and future of Christianity, wrote an article “Five Things that are Holding Christianity Back”

(<http://tinyurl.com/jvm3w2v>). He lists them as church buildings, denominations, worship, church boards, and fear. It is worth reading. I highlight here his words on fear:

“Too often, our actions in church are governed principally by a response to what we fear might happen, rather than faithfully discerning what God is calling us to do. We assume that the only way to tell if we’re being faithful is if the church buildings are full and the budgets are met. But this mandate is nowhere to be found in the Bible.”

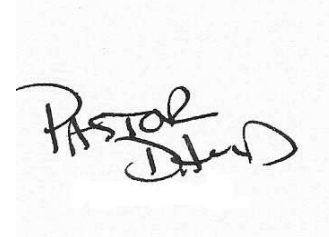
The mandate is to serve and love our neighbors. Piatt offers some good news that though church membership has long been declining, people’s yearning for meaning has not: “there are an increasing number of people who either identify as Christian or ‘other’ who feel some connection to God, but who don’t see the value of using Church to explore that connection. This is not necessarily an indictment of us as individuals, but rather a wake-up call to help us recognize what’s really important.”

Our gospel lesson on January 19 told of John of the Baptist, who was with his disciples one day. But when he saw Jesus, he stopped what he was doing to point and say to his disciples, “There is the Messiah!” John was one of those “wake-up call” types who helps us

recognize what is really important: Jesus. I said in the sermon that it is easy to get caught up and spend energy on worrying about our beliefs, traditions, buildings, how we do this or how we do that, and then lose sight of the reason that we are here. John calls us (as does Piatt) to remember, “There is the Messiah!” We do this because Jesus wants people to know his love for them.

Piatt continues, with words I deeply resonate with, “relationships matter so much more than our religion, and Jesus’ call is to go out among the people, not wait until they come to us.” Jesus calls us out among the people in service (which we are doing through our ministries), but also among the people to invite them into this relational life we share. People come to churches because they have been invited. It sounds intimidating and new and strange to do so, yes, but remember, God is with us, so it can be done!

Piatt’s final words in his article are, “Sure, it’s scary, because it’s vulnerable and a little bit risky. But Jesus never promised us a risk-free faith. Rather, he offered us a life filled with meaning, provided we would embrace the perfect love he offered that promised to cast out such fear.”



Pastor John D.



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 13, 2014

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Deb Zehms, Rob Jaenke, and Kay Stecher

Barb called the meeting to order. The December Council minutes were reviewed. Deb moved we accept the minutes with a change regarding the PIP guidelines. It should read “that are bequests, rather than weekly giving.” Larry seconded, motion approved

**Financial Reports:**

As of December 31, 2014

Year to Date Income	\$108,663.89
Year to Date Expenses	\$109,585.64
Ahead (Behind)	(\$921.75)

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Income this month was \$11,021.18 and expenses were \$12,317.02 leaving us with a December loss of \$1295.84 and a check book balance of -\$1368.71. Envelope giving is down \$8000 as of last December. Bills needing to be paid yet for 2013 are about \$4000. We need to pay OCWM, the Special offerings, Food Pantry, Snow Plowing, Kurth Heating, Pastor David’s expenses, Telephone Specialists and NW Association dues. The reserve account was used help with bills, also \$1250 from the Memorial Fund and \$790 from Scrip cards.

**Reserve Fund Report:**

December balance is \$393.00.

**Memorial Fund Report:**

December balance is \$644.31.

**Street Ministry Report:**

December balance is \$34.42

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

**Building and Grounds:**

No report.

**Christian Education Commission:**

Kay reported that Adult Education will resume on February 2. Confirmation started on January 12 after a well deserved break.

**Stewardship Commission:**

Will be meeting on January 19.

**Service Commission:**

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

**Worship Commission:**

Barb reported Advent & Christmas Eve services went well. They took down the Christmas tree and decorations on January 9.

**Women of Plymouth:**

No report.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor David was on his way to Madison to give the invocation at the Capitol on Tuesday. He gave us some information on Cathy Townley's visit on January 19 and also information on another email from Kerri Parker on evangelism, regarding knowing your Mission field.

***Council Minutes  
continued ...***

**Other Business:**

- Deb asked if we are going to have a new member meeting soon since we have several interested. Barb said she had not heard anything.
- The Annual Meeting is January 25. There was discussion on what to present at the meeting, besides the usual. We do not have a Moderator Elect again. We need to vote on taking money out of the PIP fund. Our suggestion would be \$17,000. Deb is also going to talk about our dire situation and what we need to do to reverse our downward trend.



Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Barb Kleist

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2014</h1> 						
						1
<b>2 St Francis Food Pantry offering</b> 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
<b>9 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	10 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	11 10:00 A.M. Quilters	12 6:00 P.M. BINGO	13	14	15
<b>16 OCWM offering</b> 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	17 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	18 (No election this year) 10:00 A.M. Quilters	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	24	25 10:00 A.M. Quilters	26	27	28	