

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2014

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Plymouth UCC
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INSIDE

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



Worship March 5 at 7:00 P.M.

with Communion and imposition of ashes

Prior to worship we will gather at 6:00 P.M. to share a meal with the proceeds from the free-will offering going to OCWM. Sign up at the back table or call the church office.



**Lenten Wednesdays
starting March 12**

We're offering something new this year! In addition to our regular "Soup and Scripture" suppers at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays in Lent, we will also have "Soup and Scripture" lunches at noon for folks who prefer not to drive or be out at

night. Our scripture this year will be some of Jesus' parables on the "Kingdom of God/Heaven." Join us for this faith and fellowship opportunity, and bring a friend!

Daylight savings begins March 9. Be sure to set your clocks *ahead* before retiring on March 8.



GETTING READY FOR CHURCH

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March Worship Notes

March 2

Transfiguration Sunday

St. Francis Food Pantry offering

Exodus 24:12–18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9

March 9

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

March 16

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17 or
Matthew 17:1–9

March 23

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

March 30

4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

In March, we are praying for these individuals/families: Catherine Lee, Bill & Julie Leipnitz, Steve & Ann Leipnitz, Joanne Lowry, Joanne (Sharon) Miller, John & Sandy Moore

Food for Thought

Our pot luck this month will be on March 2. The theme will be an early St Patrick's Day! Bring a special dish to celebrate.

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

Memorials

● Gifts to the **Memorial Fund** directed to the General Fund: *In memory of Sophie Bliss:* Joanne Lowry, Carole Wisehart, Jim & Mina Bliss, Omer & Janice Gunem, Bea Hancock, LaVerne & Kathy Schellfeffer, Jane Van Gorden, Karilyn Allen, Hope Goessling, Dorothy Kruschke, George & Kay Stecher, Dorothy Gilbertson, Brian & Mary Blakeley, James & Elaine Clark, Annamae Anderson, Richard Arnold, Family and Friends, Gordon & Audrey Heimstead, The Lyle Shepler Family, Donald & Meredith Brill, Jim & Mary Lou Anderson

March Birthdays

- 2 Doug Salter
- 3 Stacy Kleist Gantner
- 4 Claire Cramblit
- 5 Kay Stecher
Judy Insteness
- 6 Erma Phephles
- 8 Aurora Robison
Steven Gilbertson
Joyce Holmen
Dakota Stygar
- 10 Jeremy Green
- 11 Andrew Salter
- 20 Loraine Berg
- 24 Peter Holmen
- 29 Dorothy Kruschke
- 31 Gladys Green

The Spring Thrift Sale is coming up April 12.

Now is the time to check your closets, attics and garages for all the extra items you no longer want or need.



Pre-priced items should be brought to church beginning April 1 for this all-important money raising event. Please watch for the sign-up to help at the sale too!

Order Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary and then take them home and plant them in your own yard after Easter. The flowers may be placed in memory or in honor of a loved one. Our supplier would like a "ballpark" order by **March 12**, so please fill out the information below and return it with your payment to the church office by then if you can. Checks should be made out to Plymouth United Church of Christ.

Your name(s): _____

In memory/honor of (Please circle one) _____

_____ Lily plants at \$7.25 each \$ _____

_____ Daffodils at \$8.25 each \$ _____

_____ Tulips at \$8.25 each \$ _____

_____ Hyacinths at \$8.25 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,



March 5 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent which is the 40 days of preparation for Easter. Easter is quite late this year, and yet it still feels like the season has snuck up on us! I think it's the deplorable weather we've had. This cold and snow has been hard on my spirit. I know from talking to many of you, it's getting you down as well.

So to help relieve the doldrums (and increase your faith!), we have some fellowship and faith times planned for the Lenten season. And as we have been talking about adding more people to our church family, these are wonderful gatherings to bring a friend or two since they involve food and fellowship and not the formality of inviting them to "worship."

We continue our tradition of Ash Wednesday worship with Communion and imposition of ashes and a soup supper starting at 6:00 P.M. (March 5)

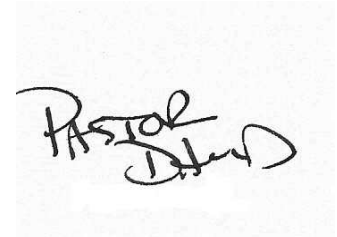
Then the following Wednesdays we will have Soup and Scripture fellowship times. But this year we have something new: we are offering the Soup and Scripture at noon as well as at supper time! We know many of you don't like to drive or be out at night, so you have another option this year.

Our Soup and Scripture will be looking at some of Jesus' parables on the "Kingdom of God/Heaven." Parables like the lost coin and the lost sheep; the parable of the Vineyard Workers, and so on.

These are wonderful opportunities to increase your faith and connect with your church friends. They are also an informal and easy entry point to invite someone new to be part of the life of your church, and they get a meal. It is difficult to refuse an invitation to lunch or supper!

We often talk in Lent about giving something up. This year, I challenge you instead to take something up: be an inviter. Invite someone to your church. Invite them to know God's love and the love of the fellowship of Plymouth. Make it your Lent challenge this year to invite someone to a Wednesday Soup and Scripture, or to a Sunday worship service.

Lenten blessings as you begin your journey to Easter,



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 10, 2014

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

Deb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The January Council minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2014

Year to Date Income	\$10,695.02
Year to Date Expenses	\$9,657.96
Ahead (Behind)	\$1,037.06

Treasurer's Report:

Income this month was \$10,695.02 and expenses were \$9,657.96, leaving us with a January gain of \$1,037.36 and a check book balance of (\$331.65.)

Reserve Fund Report:

January balance is \$5,858.24.

Memorial Fund Report:

January balance is \$644.31.

Street Ministry Report:

December balance is \$233.04.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

Heat tapes are on, light bulbs have been replaced, and furnace repaired. Thanks to all who made these things happen.

Christian Education Commission:

Adult education is meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:15 A.M. We are discussing the weekly liturgy. Join us! The confirmands made valentines for everyone and distributed them during worship on February 9. They will have an evening of fun and study on Friday, March 14 at the church. Confirmation Sunday is set for May 4! Keep Travis, John, Carter, and Morgan in your prayers as they finish the final stretch of this journey. The February Film Festival fund raiser is under way in the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Commission:

Discussed the Financial Report. Pie & Ice Cream Social is tentatively scheduled for June 11. The Thrift Sale will be April 12 if okayed by all involved. They will not need to meet every month—maybe every other.

Service Commission:

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

Worship Commission:

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5 with communion worship at 7:00 P.M. The theme for Wednesday night soup suppers is "The Kingdom of God and What It All Means."



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes
continued ...*

Women of Plymouth:

They will have a bake sale at the thrift sale and for the election in April.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David made 53 visits in January. He has been working on updating the web site. He and Deb attended a seminar in DeForest in January.

Deb spoke on this event and many ideas they discussed about evangelism and rental of the church facilities. We need our members to realize how important these things are as our financial situation is very serious. Anyone who has ideas of ways we can rent out some of our space or get outside groups to meet in our building is asked to share those ideas with any Council member. You can help by sharing information about our facility (size, parking lot, handicap accessibility, etc.). It is very important.

Other Business:

- The Empty Bowls event will be March 6 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. If you haven't gone, it is a very nice event at Florian Gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow

Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega, Mega Holiday, 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2014</h1> 						1
2 St Francis Food Pantry offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	3	4 10:00 A.M. Quilters	5 Ash Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Supper 7:00 P.M. Worship	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 DST begins	10 7:00 P.M. Executive Council	11 10:00 A.M. Quilters	12 Noon & 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	13	14 6:00–11:00 P.M. "Retreat Evening"	15
16 OCWM offering 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	17 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Comm.	18 10:00 A.M. Quilters	19 Noon & 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	20	21	22
23 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship	24	25 10:00 A.M. Quilters	26 Noon & 6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	27	28	29
30 9:15 A.M. Sun Sch & Adult Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Worship Commission	31					

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