

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2015

Published monthly by

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PlymouthUnitedChurchOfChrist

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## ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 25 following worship. The Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 18. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 9.**

### Stewardship update

The stewardship emphasis is now complete. The final results of the appeal for 2015 are as follows: 21 households of Plymouth United Church of Christ have committed a total of \$51,021 (last year at this time we had 21 giving units pledge \$50,057) 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 until January 5. 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 4**

*Epiphany Sunday*

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

Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20;  
Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:(1–9) 10–18

**January 11**

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

*Prayers for the People  
Communion will be celebrated*

Genesis 1:1–5; Psalm 29;  
Acts 19:1–7; Mark 1:4–11

**January 18**

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

*OCWM offering*

1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20); Psalm  
139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20;  
John 1:43–51

**January 25**

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

Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12; 1  
Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

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



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### Food for Thought

We will gather our St Francis Food Pantry offering on January 4. There will be a pot luck, Sunday, January 11 to celebrate the New Year. Bring your favorite dish to pass.

Also, don't forget the Plymouth Street Ministry. Winter is here and those nights are very cold out there. Hats, gloves, mittens and hand warmers are needed, as well as large size hooded sweatshirts and winter jackets. Please contact Mike Henry if you would like to help. As always there is a need for water, food and gas cards!

### Moon Beach Thanks

Our Youth sent a donation of \$116 to Moon Beach. Here is a portion of the thank-you letter: "We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$166.00. Friends like you help keep our camping program strong and are vital in fulfilling our mission ... This is an amazing gift! Thank you all!!" Glenn Svetnicka, Director of Outdoor Ministry

## January Birthdays

- 4 Barb Kleist  
Susie Kleist
- 7 Bonnie Carter
- 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

### ***Undecorate the church***

We will be taking down the Christmas and Advent decorations in the church and fellowship hall on Thursday evening, January 8 starting at 7 P.M. Please come and join us. The more help we have, the less time it will take.

### ***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.

### **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.

Beginning January 1, 2015, Kwik Trip will reduce the percentage of our discount to 5% for gas. However, we will receive an additional 10% rebate for anything purchased in-store with the exception of cigarettes, gift cards, lottery/lotto, and stamps. That means merchandise purchased in-store will net us 15% discount!

### **Volunteer Companions Needed**

Dove Healthcare-West is in need of compassionate adults to provide a reassuring presence to dying residents who do not have family close by or family is in need of a break. Whether it is a willingness to hold a hand, fluff a pillow, or just be present, Volunteer Companions perform a variety of comfort care measures. Shifts are flexible and training is provided. Contact Kris Metcalf at 715-552-1030, ext. 122.

## PASTOR'S PEN

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Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

We have come to the end of another year. In the circle of life, and the circle of the changing seasons, we say goodbye to this year and hello to the next. My prayer for you in the coming year is that your pains will be left behind in 2014, never to trouble you again, and that 2015 replaces them with blessings and joy.

We just welcomed the baby Jesus on Christmas. May your 2015 be filled with the aspirations represented by the Advent Candles we light: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Have a blessed and bountiful new year,

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

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### Moral Mondays Gathering

The Chippewa Valley Moral Mondays group, which gathers occasionally to organize around a number of issues, will be holding a gathering at Plymouth to talk about wages and economic stability for workers on Wednesday night, January 14, at 6 P.M. Featured speaker will be Diana Tastad, the Minnesota organizer for the Our Walmart campaign (For Respect). Our Walmart is a project funded by the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, and is a grassroots group from within the ranks of WalMart Associates. It seeks to help Walmart workers get \$15.00 an hour starting wage, full-time hours, affordable health insurance, and gender equity in opportunity to advance.



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 8, 2014

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

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

### Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2014

Year to Date Income	\$109,732.81
Year to Date Expenses	\$108,114.45
Ahead (Behind)	\$1,618.36

### Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$6,714.29. Total expenses for the month were \$6,475.46, leaving us with a November gain of \$238.83. Funds were transferred from other accounts and the Reserve Fund. Expenses were normal for November. One snow plowing bill just received for five plowings.

### Reserve Fund Report:

The balance is \$373.40.

### Memorial Fund Report:

The balance is \$9,074.38.

### Street Ministry:

The balance is \$12.19

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### Building and Grounds:

No report. Having vacuum problems. WOP will make a decision on repair or purchase or both.

### Christian Education Commission:

No report.

### Stewardship Commission:

They are in the middle of the 2015 campaign. Letters will be sent out soon. Net profits of about \$1,500 will be received soon.

Council recommended we continue to have \$20,000 available for General Fund from PIP. We won't need that much hopefully. We just need to be prepared in case. Motion was passed.

### Worship Commission:

Pot luck this Sunday, December 14. December 21 we will have a regular service in the morning and a Blue Christmas service at 6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve service is at 5:00 P.M. as usual.

### Service Commission:

Visits are ongoing by Pastor David and other church members. Please remember to fill out a visitation card—even for phone visits. Thank you!

### Women of Plymouth:

No meeting this month.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

*Council Minutes  
continued ...*

**Pastor's Report:**

We will have a larger ad in the newspaper for Christmas Eve. David and Mike Henry spoke at the Kiwanis lunch and it went very well. There are a few people interested in joining our church: Pat Burnam and Amber Liebe and her child. Amber wants to have her child baptized on Dec. 21. Pastor David will be on vacation from December 29 to January 4.


**Old Business:**

- Commissions for the new year: At the Annual Meeting an amendment needs to be made to change the structure of Council to operate with fewer Commissions.
- Budget will be on next month's agenda

Next meeting of the Council will be Monday, January 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Louise Partlow

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2015</h1>						
				1 Office closed	2	3
4 <b>St Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Worship	5	6	7	8  7:00 P.M. Undecorate the church	9  <b>Annual Report Deadline</b>	10
11 <b>Prayers for the People</b>  10:30 A.M. Communion Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	12  7:00 P.M. Executive Council	13	14  7:00 P.M. Moral Mondays Event	15	16	17
18 <b>OCWM offering</b>  10:30 A.M. Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  10:30 A.M. Worship  <b>Annual Meeting follows worship</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31