



Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

March 2016

Published monthly by
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March 20 Palm Sunday
10:30 A.M. Worship and Celebration

March 24 Maundy Thursday
7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

March 25 Good Friday
12:10 P.M. Worship
First Congregational UCC

March 27 Easter Sunday
8:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffin Morning
9:30 A.M. Celebration Worship
10:30 A.M. Muffin Sale

Daylight savings begins March 13. Be sure to set your clocks *ahead* before retiring on March 12.



Getting ready for church

March Worship Notes

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March 6

4th Sunday in Lent

*St. Francis Food Pantry offering
One Great Hour of Sharing offering*

Joshua 5:9–12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16–21; Luke 15:1–3,
11b–32

March 13

5th Sunday in Lent

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126;
Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8

March 20

Palm/Passion Sunday

OCWM offering

Palm: Luke 19:28–40; Psalm 118:1–2,
19–29 Passion: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm
31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Luke
22:14–23:56 or 23:1–49

March 24

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service at Plymouth 7:00 P.M.

March 25

Good Friday

Service at First Cong. 12:10 P.M.

March 27

Easter

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25;
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians
15:19–26 or Acts 10:34–43; John
20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

In March, we are praying for these

individuals/families: Faye LaPean,
Catherine Lee, Bill & Julie Leipnitz,
Steve & Ann Leipnitz, Joanne Lowry,
Joanne (Sharon) Miller, John & Sandy
Moore

Food for Thought

We will not have a pot luck in March. Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent for “Soup & Scripture” at noon or 6:00 P.M. The soup is good and the discussions are even better. Our offering for St. Francis Food Pantry will be taken on March 6.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money, gas cards, and water.

Empty Bowls benefit for Feed My People will be Thursday, March 3 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire. \$18 for a bowl and soup meal, \$8 soup meal only, kids 10 and under free. Dine in or carry out. Tickets available here and at the door.

Community Table

We will serve at the Community Table on Saturday, March 19. We need about 10 volunteers to help. Please sign up! A sign-up sheet is available at church or call Barb Kleist or Mimi to volunteer.

March Birthdays

- 2 Doug Salter
- 3 Stacy Kleist Gantner
- 4 Claire Cramblit
- 5 Judy Insteness
- 6 Erma Phephles
- 8 Aurora Robison
Steven Gilbertson
Joyce Holmen
Dakota Stygar
- 9 Donald Erickson
- 10 Jeremy Green
- 11 Andrew Salter
- 24 Peter Holmen
- 29 Dorothy Kruschke

Truax Toy Sale

Truax UCC, 1008 50th St, will hold their Toy Sale on Saturday, March 12, 8:00–9:30 A.M. Check it out, but go early as the majority of the sale is done by 9:00 A.M.

Mark your calendars! May 14 is our spring thrift sale. Start looking for items to bring for the sale now!

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 our approximate order by **March 4**, 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 \$9.25 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,



Our theme this year during Lent is “choices.” Our Gospel lessons on these Sundays are stories of people making choices, from which we may learn about our own choices and how we react to those made by others. Ultimately, of course, we want to make choices (as individuals and as a church) that are healthy, loving, and faithful. Especially faithful. Though if we are making our choices in a faithful way, the other aspects will take care of themselves!

One of the choices every church is faced with is whether and how to let their community know they exist, or to keep quiet what they are doing on Sunday mornings. I’m on the side of believing that announcing our presence is the faithful thing to do. In the past few years, Plymouth has been working to be more visible in our community. Our most recent act was opening our doors to the Westridge Neighborhood Association to meet in our building, and to offer ourselves for the benefit of our neighborhood. Two wonderful Plymouth members provided hospitality, and around twenty people attended. We learned that a few people did not know there was a church in their neighborhood (even with us being a polling place!). Opening our doors to our neighborhood—so that we can be good neighbors—is a good choice, and I am thankful that we have done so.

We have made that choice as a church. But we as individuals also can make that choice to let people know about our church. We, too, have the choice of

inviting people to our worship and fellowship. I am again on the side of believing that telling people we are here and inviting them to Plymouth is a very good thing. This month offers a great opportunity to extend an invitation: Easter morning! Easter is a day that a lot of people go to church. People who don’t normally go to worship, people who haven’t gone in a long time, and people curious about what this “Easter thing” is all about. Wouldn’t it be great if they chose to join us at Plymouth because you invited them? With our Magnificent Muffin Morning breakfast before worship, it should be an easy invitation to say “yes” to! Invite your friends, co-workers, neighbors to breakfast and to experience the good news of Easter morning, that God loves us all!

As we consider our faith journeys this Lent, and in particular how and why we make choices, let us all choose to open our hands in invitation to worship with us on Easter morning, or any other Sunday (or our Lent Wednesday soup lunches and suppers!). Easter’s empty tomb and its promise of new life is God’s invitation to humanity to join in this new life and new relationship with our loving God. Let us choose this Easter to extend God’s invitation to those around us!

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

Leadership Team Minutes

February 8, 2016

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

Plymouth's Leadership Team met on Monday, February 8 at Culver's on Folsom Street at 7:00 P.M. The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2016

Year to Date Income	\$8,227.37
Year to Date Expenses	\$8,253.53
Ahead (Behind)	(\$26.16)

Treasurer's Report:

Income for January was \$8,227.37. Total expenses for the month were \$8,253.53, leaving us with a January loss of \$26.16. Envelope income and expenses were normal for the month.

Reserve Fund Report:

January balance is \$5,328.86.

Memorial Fund Report:

January balance is \$919.82.

Street Ministry Report:

January balance is \$1,964.54.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

One furnace needed another service call. We will have them checked every year as the repair person suggested. Leadership Team will check with Jim Welk for his thoughts.

Christian Education Commission:

No report, but they are starting to plan for Easter morning.

Stewardship Commission:

They will be working to prepare for the May thrift sale. Everyone collect and prepare your merchandise.

Service Commission:

Visits are ongoing by Pastor David and other church members. Please remember to fill out a visitation card—even for phone visits. Sending cards would be appreciated also.

Worship Commission:

Lent has started with Ash Wednesday with Soup and Scripture at noon and 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays. Empty Bowls tickets are available from Barb Kleist and Mimi in our office. We will serve the Community Table on March 19.

Women of Plymouth:

No report. We are considering a Cabin Fever Breakout, but probably in March if we can choose a date.

Pastor's Report:

Preparing for Lenten season and Easter. Working on "Connect, Grow, Love" to get to know more about our community and to be invitational. Also it would be good to keep track of repeat visitors and reach out to help welcome them. We need to answer the question, "Why do we do what we do?" in relation to Street Ministry, Quilting, community Table, OCWM, etc.



Minutes continued on page 6 ...

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tee shirts—Deb will order more if we get enough orders.

Minutes continued ...

Next meeting of the Leadership Team will be Monday, March 14 at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Partlow

**Northwest Association
Annual Meeting
April 9, 2016**

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at First Congregational UCC in La Crosse on Saturday, April 9. The Rev. Anita Bradshaw, PhD, author of *Change and Conflict in Your Congregation (Even if You Hate Both)*, will be the keynote speaker. Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert will be there to encourage our participation in “Shift: From Maintenance to Mission” which explores fresh paradigms for ministry in the 21st century. The closing worship will include the Service of Installation for Rev. Bob MacDougal as Associate Conference Minister. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Pastor David.

Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

SCRIP cards are now available for Mega Holiday, Gordy's, Festival, 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 3% of what is paid for Festival, 5% Gordy's, and Kwik Trip cards, and 10% for Mega Holiday cards. And at Kwik Trip, when the card is used *inside* the store (with some restrictions like tobacco, alcohol, stamps) they will deposit a 10% rebate into our bank account. So, for example, if you buy a \$100 Gordy's card, we pay \$95 and keep \$5 to help pay our bills. In 2015, we earned over \$1,500! 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 style="color: purple; font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">March 2016</h1>						
		<p>1</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p> <p>7:30 P.M. Dartball (Eagles at Plymouth)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 St Francis Food Pantry offering OGHS offering</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Communion Worship</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p> <p>7:30 P.M. Dartball (Plymouth at Rock Creek)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Prayers for the People</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship</p> <p>DST begins</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Leadership Team</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p> <p>7:30 P.M. Dartball (Plymouth at Baptist Ev.)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Plymouth serves the Community Table</p>
<p>20 Palm/Passion Sunday OCWM offering</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>25 Good Friday</p> <p>12:10 P.M. Worship at First Cong.</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Easter Sunday</p> <p>8:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffin Morning</p> <p>9:30 A.M. Celebration Worship</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Muffin Sale</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Quilters</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		