

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2017

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## Lent begins

Ash Wednesday  
March 1, 2017

6:00 P.M. Soup supper  
7:00 P.M. Worship with Communion and  
Imposition of Ashes



*Lenten Wednesdays starting March 8, join us for "Soup and Scripture" at 6:00 P.M.*

## Daylight Savings Time begins March 12

Remember to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before retiring on March 11.

## March Worship Calendar

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

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

**Wednesday, March 1**

*Ash Wednesday*

6:00 P.M. Soup supper

7:00 P.M. Worship with communion and imposition of ashes

**Sunday, March 5**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*St Francis Food Pantry offering*

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalm 32;

Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

**Sunday, March 12**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*Prayers for the People*

Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121;

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; Matthew 3:1–17

**Sunday, March 19**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*OCWM offering*

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95;

Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

**Sunday, March 26**

*4<sup>th</sup> 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:** Stacy (Peter)

Gantner, Terri (Joe) Gilbert, Dorothy

Gilbertson, Joe (Emily) Gilbertson, Paul

(Gay) Gilbertson, Jeff & Lesa Green

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## Food for Thought

There will be no pot luck during Lent. Join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for our Soup & Scripture nights. Bring your creativity with you. We will all be artistic during our time together. Soup is served at 6 P.M. Invite someone to share a meal with us. If you want to bring soup or bread or bars, please sign up at church or by calling the church office.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money or gas cards. Check with Pastor Mike for other needs for our street ministry. Our Food Pantry offering will be received on March 5.

## Easter Flowers

Our source for Easter flowers has no information yet concerning the cost of flowers or the deadline for orders. As soon as that becomes available, there will be order forms on the table in the back of the chapel. Please be on the lookout for them and place your order as soon as you can. The deadline is likely to be well before the end of March.

## March Birthdays

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

## Don't forget your SCRIP cards!

We have SCRIP cards 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 cards, 5% on Gordy's and Kwik Trip cards, and 10% on 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 2016 we earned over \$1,200! This is a great way to add to our income without feeling the pinch.

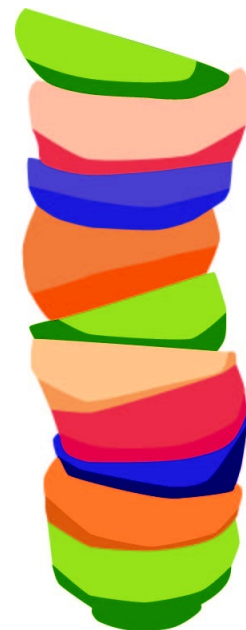
## Empty Bowls

*Where soup, art and hunger-relief meet*

One out of every nine people living in the Chippewa Valley struggle to have enough food to feed their families. At Feed My People Food Bank, we are committed to ending hunger in our community, but we cannot do it alone!

Join us in supporting local children, families, and seniors by attending Feed My People's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls event on Thursday March 2 from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. at The Florian Gardens. Enjoy delicious soups made by local restaurants, breads, beverages, and deserts. For a donation of \$20.00 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 at Feed My People ([www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org)) or at the door the day of the event. Advanced purchase is recommended. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Shut-in  
MINISTRY**

“falls through the cracks”).

The Service Committee 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, we'd like to know (so that no one

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

We are moving into the season of Lent, the six weeks before Easter in which we contemplate our faith journeys and the places in our lives that could use some improvement, and those areas that we are doing well in. It can feel sometimes like Lent is supposed to be a dark time of penance and feeling bad about ourselves, but it should not be that! We are not here to feel bad about ourselves or our relationship with God, but to simply move forward in faith by removing from our lives anything that is keeping us from living fully. Some like to give up something up for Lent—chocolate, swearing, alcohol, TV, fatty foods, for example—and some might take on a new spiritual discipline—being more generous, courteous, reading the Bible, praying, volunteering to help others, working on a spirit of openness to others. I think both are good disciplines, so try giving up something that is unhelpful and taking on something that is helpful!

During Sunday worship in Lent at Plymouth we are focusing on the helpful. Our worship team has planned a theme of “gratitude.” We talked about gratitude during our Soup and Scripture last year, and thought it would be good to explore it more in worship. Especially with the loss of our building and the upset from that, the darkness of winter, and the difficult social time we are in, we thought that moving our hearts and minds to gratitude is just what we need. We will create during worship (and during our Soup and Scriptures on Wednesday nights), sing some favorite hymns, share stories, and create an altar decoration that celebrates gratitude.

For decorating the altar, we ask that you bring a can or box of food (or many of them) on Sundays to display on the altar, and also any photos or other items that speak to you of gratitude. Your personal items you can have back after Easter; the food items will go to the St. Francis Food Pantry.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1 with a soup supper at 6 P.M. and then worship with Communion and imposition of ashes at 7 P.M. The following Wednesdays during Lent we will have Soup and Scripture at 6 P.M. with supper and then discussion on the Stations of the Cross while creating artworks about the stations. We have some beautiful “coloring book” posters and plenty of colored pencils to make some great art! Coloring is also a form of prayer, so as we color and discuss the posters, we will also be praying for ourselves, our neighbors, and for the world.

In other news, our quilters have been back to their ministry of making quilts for our homeless neighbors. The “Stand in the Light” dementia choir has been back hard at work preparing for their concert on April 20 (please put that on your calendar!), Lynn and I have led worship at Heatherwood, and we have chosen an architect and will soon be getting to work on the design process for our new building! See Deb’s article for more on that.

*Continued on page 6*



# Leadership Team Minutes

February 2017

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Deb Zehms, Rob Jaenke, Jim Welk, Louise Partlow, Pastor David, Linda Jaenke, and Lil Savage.

There were no minutes from January as we had a very short meeting and none were taken.

### Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2017

Year to Date Income	\$8,764.31
Year to Date Expenses	\$7,984.07
Ahead (Behind)	\$780.24

### Treasurer's Report:

Income for January was \$8,764.31. This includes monies from Nut Sales and Scrip cards. Total expenses for the month were \$7,984.07. We had a gain of \$780.24 for January.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$1,033.00

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$6,577.23

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### Stewardship:

We talked about pledges. Deb will check with Mimi on this.

### Worship:

Ash Wednesday is coming up March 1. Soup Suppers will start—this year they will be only in the evening.

### Service:

Something will be put in the newsletter to remind our members about our shut-ins and to let Mimi know if they call or visit them.

### Pastor's Report:

Pastor David thanked everyone for extra work being done because of the fire.

### Old Business:

- Keith Zehms is reviewing and amending the 20-page contract from the architect. He feels it favors the architect more than it should. This should be done soon.
- Deb will contact some builders to see if they are interested in taking this project on.

### New Business:

- We are looking at a different insurance policy (with the same company) that is more along the lines of "Renters' Insurance." This should represent considerable savings for the time that we are renting space at Grace.
- The Annual Northwest Association Meeting is April 29 in Wausau

Jim moved to adjourn. It was seconded and passed.

The next meeting is Monday, March 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Partlow



*Pastor's Pen  
continued...*

As we come into Lent, I am finding my place of gratitude in that we have a faithful and hard working leadership team, we have a friendly and welcoming space at Grace Lutheran while we rebuild, and that as I am out and about in the community people ask how we are doing and what we are planning (lots of people are thinking about us!). And grateful that our ministries continue. Continuing what we do and who we are is a great sign of hope, that even a fire cannot keep us from being God's people!

Blessings,  
Pastor David

## **A Word from the Moderator...**

Happy Spring from your moderator...or is it? As I write this, the rain is pouring down and it is 50 degrees outside. So I rechecked my calendar, and it confirmed that it is February. But the weather calls for snow on Friday...this is confusing, even for a Wisconsin winter!

I would like to update everyone on our building process. The demolition is complete, and we are back to an empty tract of land, as it was in the beginning. We have chosen an architectural company, Lien and Peterson, which has worked with churches and their insurance companies in the past. They sent us a contract, it has been reviewed, and changes have been proposed. Once we settle on the final contents of the contract, it will be signed and the work on our plan will begin.

Once they have a draft, we will share it with the congregation and ask for input so that revisions can be made if needed.

Then construction companies will be asked to bid on the project, and we will choose one to build our new home. We are moving forward!

As we adjust to our temporary home in the Grace Chapel, we need to remember that we still have bills to pay: salaries, insurance, operating expenses. When we receive pledge cards from our church members, it helps the Leadership Team plan for our budget needs since it is a major part of our church's income. Last year, we received 27 pledges, but at this time we have had just 15 pledge cards returned. If you have not as yet returned yours, please put it in the mail, or bring it with you to church.

In case you missed it, we had our first potluck in the chapel. As usual, there was great conversation and lots of delicious food! It felt right to have that tradition begin again. Think Spring and I hope to see you in the chapel!

Deb Zehms,  
Moderator

If you have access to the Internet, please consider viewing this newsletter online. It will save paper, printing costs and postage. If you used to view the newsletter online and are now getting it via snail mail, it's because we no longer have your email address thanks to the fire. Contact Mimi at [mimi@pcucc.com](mailto:mimi@pcucc.com) to be put on the electronic mailing list. Otherwise, you will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2017</h1> 						
			<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:00 P.M. Supper 7:00 P.M. Worship	2 <b>Empty Bowls</b> 11 A.M. – 7 P.M.	3	4
<b>5 St Francis Food Pantry offering</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion Worship	6	7 10:00 A.M. Quilters  7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth at Concordia	8  6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	9	10	11
<b>12 Prayers for the People</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship  <b>DST Begins</b>	13  7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	14  10:00 A.M. Quilters  7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth at Peace	15  6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	16	17	18
<b>19 OCWM offering</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	20	21  10:00 A.M. Quilters	22  6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	23	24	25
<b>26 OGHS offering</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	27	28  10:00 A.M. Quilters	29  6:00 P.M. Soup & Scripture	30	31	