

# Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

March 2020

Published monthly by  
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*Cross Illumination for  
March is sponsored by Ben  
Bechle in memory of David  
Bechle.*

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## Inside

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Worship Calendar . . . | Page 2  |
| Birthdays . . . . .    | Page 2  |
| Pastor's Pen. . . . .  | Pages 5 |
| Leadership Team        |         |
| Minutes . . . . .      | Page 4  |
| Calendar . . . . .     | Page 7  |

## Bake & Thrift Sale



We are having a Thrift and Bake Sale, Saturday, March 28 from 8 A.M. till 2 P.M. You can start bringing your **MARKED** goods to the church Sunday, March 15. The only thing you do not need to mark is books. We will have a sign on the books, so they will all be the same price. Please, no electronics. Items such as TVs, microwaves, computers, or telephones will not be accepted.

Baked goods can be brought any time on Friday, March 27. Please bring lots of baked goods. Last spring we ran out by noon!

We will need lots of help setting up for the sale and for the day of the actual sale. Sign-up sheets are out. We will set up the tables, etc. in the Fellowship Hall and Gathering Area on Monday evening March 16 starting at about 6 P.M. If you can help, it would be appreciated.

## March Worship Calendar

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**10:30 A.M. Worship**  
*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

### **March 1**

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

*Community Table offering*

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalm 32;  
Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 21:1–11

### **March 8**

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

*Prayers for the People*

Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; Mark 11:15–17

### **March 15**

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

*OCWM offering*

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95;  
Romans 5:1–11; Matthew 22:18–21

### **March 22**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8–14; Mark 14:3–7

### **March 29**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6–11; Mark 14:32–36

## **Prayer Ministry**

**In March, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Tami (Chris) Eisberner, Donald Erickson, Terri (Joe) Gilbert, Dorothy Gilbertson, Joe (Emily) Gilbertson

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## **Food for Thought**

There will be no pot luck in March. Join us Wednesday evenings during Lent, at 6 P.M. for soup suppers. The supper will be followed by scriptures and discussion. There's always room for more at our table.

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on March 1. The Community Table is an important community service. For many of those who come, this is their only meal of the day. You can also volunteer as an individual or family to serve. They can always use more help.

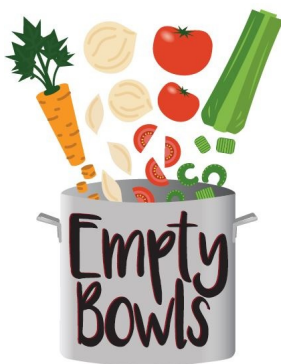
Please don't forget our homeless friends. As always the Street Ministry can use money or gas cards. They have needs right now of water, large backpacks, hand warmers, candy and granola bars. Winter coats in good condition and with working zippers are also needed. We have a donation box available for you to drop off your items.

## **March Birthdays**

2 Doug Salter  
5 Judy Insteness  
8 Steven Gilbertson  
Joyce Holmen  
Aurora Robison  
Dakota Stygar  
10 Jeremy Green  
29 Dorothy Kruschke

## Empty Bowls

*Where soup, art, and hunger-relief meet*



Join us in supporting local children, families, and seniors by attending the Annual Empty Bowls event on Thursday, March 5 from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. at The Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Avenue. 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 eat free (meal only).

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!

## Email address correction

Linda Oliver's email address in the recently published phone directory is incorrect. It should be [lfnoiver@gmail.com](mailto:lfnoiver@gmail.com)

## Leadership Musings

Don't forget our Diaper Drive, which ends February 29. Our donations will go to the Apple Pregnancy center. Spread the word to friends and family. You can drop them off at Plymouth, Good Shepherd Senior Apartments and Bed, Bath and Drapery. (*Disposable diapers only.*)

We are still collecting empty prescription bottles, with the labels removed. We can also take over the counter pain reliever bottles, also without the labels. There is a basket on the counter in the entryway.

Anyone need a ride to church? We want to make sure everyone gets to come to our Sunday morning services. If you need a ride, please call the church office at 715-835-5475 and we will arrange for someone to pick you up.

Remember the Birthday Challenge? In your birthday month, we are suggesting you make a donation to the church corresponding to your age or some amount you feel appropriate. The money will go to future capital improvements, such as resurfacing the parking lot. We want to be proactive in raising funds for future needs. So we challenge those of you who have March birthdays to make a donation!

Volunteers are needed! We need volunteers to light up the candles, read the liturgy, take the offering and hand out bulletins on Sunday mornings. Sign up if this is something you'd like to do.

Also, a sign up sheet will be out for flowers to brighten up the Sanctuary. Please sign up if you are interested.

Dates to remember:

March 28—Thrift Sale and Bake Sale

April 18—NW Association Annual Meeting at Plymouth

(More information coming in the April newsletter)

June 10—Pie & Ice Cream Social

## Leadership Team Minutes

February 10, 2020

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Linda Oliver, Rob Jaenke, Ben Bechle, Louise Partlow, and Cindy Halfen

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and accepted with one addition—Cindy Halfen's name needs to be added as being in attendance.

### Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2020

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Year to Date Income   | \$14,326.21 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$13,032.00 |
| Ahead (Behind)        | \$1,294.21  |

### Treasurer's Report:

Income for January was \$14,326.21. Expenses were \$13,032.00. Envelope income was good at \$7,285.00. Income received from 2019 for nut sales was \$1,592.00. All expenses are paid and up to date.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$517.47

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$6,927.56  
(No change from last month)

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### Stewardship:

No report at this time. Pledges are approximately the same as last year, or maybe slightly more.

### Worship:

Lenten Soup & Scripture will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26 with supper at 6:00 P.M. and worship at 7:00 P.M.

### Women of Plymouth:

They are looking at a small water heater for under the sink to get hot water a little quicker. Will see if it can be done. (Approximate cost is \$155.00)

### Building and Grounds:

Still working on the carpeting problem in the doorway to the sanctuary.

### Pastor's Report:

No report. Pastor David on vacation, so not at the meeting.

### Old Business:

- Pill bottle donations are going okay. Bring your bottles in when you can.
- The NW Association Annual Meeting will be here April 18. We will be serving lunch. Erbert & Gerbert's has good option. We need to serve and bring bars and cookies. More info soon.
- Linda, Cindy, and Barb are working on ads and drop-off points for the Diaper Drive that begins February 23.

### New Business:

- The Spring Thrift and Bake Sale will be March 28.
- The Pie & Ice Cream Social will be June 10—hours to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

The next meeting is Monday, March 9, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Partlow



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

We are entering Lent this week, starting with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 day period preceding Easter, and historically

**F R O M   T H E**



**PASTOR**

is a time for us to be penitent and do some self-evaluation on our faith journeys and our relationship with God. To help us in this time, we will be having some extra silent time in our Sunday worship and will be looking at stories from Jesus' last week of life, which we call Passion Week from the Latin "passio," "to suffer, endure." On Wednesday nights during Lent we'll gather for soup suppers followed by a discussion on discipleship and faith matters. The older I get, the more I find Lent to be an important time to grow

closer to God and grow deeper in my faith journey. Lent offers a framework to make me more mindful, allowing me to disconnect more from media and electronics and engage more in prayer, thoughtfulness, reading, and meditation.

I hope that you will take advantage of these forty days to be more intentional about taking daily time to talk to God in prayer, to meditate, to volunteer, or do whatever it is that helps you draw closer to God and align your path more with Jesus.

In other news, we have a thrift sale coming up at the end of March. Lent is a good time to let go of things, and so as I enter into my Lenten mood of taking a personal inventory to try to let go of non-faithful behaviors, I'll be doing a literal inventory as well and seeing just how much physical stuff I can let go of and bring it to the thrift sale. Letting go of things I'm not using, don't need, or is just taking up space is freeing in ways

that sometimes astound me. The physical and the spiritual are often tied together, and so letting go of physical things also makes room for more spiritual things. Why that is I don't know, but it feels great!

We also now have a google calendar of church events. If you would like to add it to your google calendar so that Plymouth events show up in your calendar, use this link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=plymoutheauclaire%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FChicago>

If you use an electronic calendar that isn't google calendar, this link ought to work for you:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/plymoutheauclaire%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

And lastly, we are hosting the Chippewa Valley Festival Choir as they rehearse for their performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Chippewa Valley Symphony in May. They will be here on Monday nights from March 23 through April 27. You may remember the choir used our building last year for rehearsals. They really like the quality of sound in the sanctuary and the comfort of our building, and they very much appreciated our Plymouth hospitality, and so they asked to use us again! That speaks well to the atmosphere of welcome and hospitality that you make here.

Blessings,



# Photo Gallery



Volunteers from Plymouth, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, and St. James formed a choir for the Interfaith Prayer Service.



We hosted the Interfaith Prayer Service.

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Order Easter flowers to decorate the chapel 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 order must be placed by March 27 to guarantee availability. 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 \$7.50 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils at \$8.50 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips at \$8.50 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths at \$8.50 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_



| Sun  | Mon                                   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu | Fri | Sat                           |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| <h1>March 2020</h1>  |                                       |   |  |     |     |                               |
| <b>1 Community Table offering</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Communion<br>Worship          | 2                                     | 3<br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>7:00 P.M. Dartball<br>St Mark at Plym       | 4<br><br>6:00 P.M.<br>Soup & Scripture   | 5   | 6   | 7                             |
| <b>8 Prayers for the People</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship                         | 9<br><br>7:00 P.M.<br>Leadership Team | 10<br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>7:00 P.M. Dartball<br>Plym at Saving Grace | 11<br><br>6:00 P.M.<br>Soup & Scripture  | 12  | 13  | 14                            |
| <b>15 OCWM offering</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship                                 | 16                                    | 17<br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>7:00 P.M. Dartball<br>Plym at Rock Creek   | 18<br><br>6:00 P.M.<br>Soup & Scripture  | 19  | 20  | 21                            |
| <b>22 OGHS offering</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship                                 | 23                                    | 24<br>10:00 A.M. Quilters   | 25<br><br>6:00 P.M.<br>Soup & Scripture  | 26  | 27  | 28<br>Thrift/<br>Bake<br>Sale |
| 29<br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship  | 30                                    | 31<br>10:00 A.M. Quilters   |  |     |     |                               |



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8.  
 Remember to set your clocks *forward*  
 one hour before retiring Saturday, March 7.