



Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

November 2020

Published monthly by
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***Cross illumination for
November is sponsored by
Mimi Pederson is loving
memory of her sister Trudy
Brewer.***

***This issue of the newsletter
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All Souls Remembrance

Our November 1 worship service will be our annual All Souls Day Remembrance of the Dead. This year we remember the lives of Bonnie Carter, Jeanne Strassman, Leota Rasmussen, and Faye LaPean. We will also honor those in your family or circle of friends/mentors/loved ones who have died.



Looking for Words of Thankfulness!

Pastor David

Calling all members—for our Thanksgiving Eve service this year we are making a video of short snippets of members of our three UCC churches talking about what they are thankful for in 2020. In a year with much that hasn't been welcome, we know that you all have still much that you are thankful for!

Please record you or your family/friends on your phone or laptop at home saying in 5–10 seconds what you are thankful for in 2020. You don't need to say why or explain it, just something simple like, "This year, I am thankful that I was able to explore some state parks" or "This year we are thankful for all the extra family meals we've been able to share."

If you don't have a way to record yourself, please contact me and I can record you.



If you are wary of being on video, you can send me your thankfulness by email or phone call and I will make a video reading people's thanks.

The videos should be sent to me (contact me for details on how) and I will then forward them to our video editor.

November Worship Calendar

November 1

All Saints Sunday

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Community Table offering

Revelation 7:9–17; Psalm 34:1–10, 22;

1 John 3:1–3; Matthew 5:1–12

November 8

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Prayers for the People

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 or Amos

5:18–24; Psalm 78:1–7 or Psalm 70;

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew

25:1–13

November 15

24th Sunday after Pentecost

OCWM offering

Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123 or Psalm 76;

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew

25:14–30

November 22

Reign of Christ Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; Psalm 100;

Ephesians 1:15–23; Matthew 25:31–46

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1–9; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19;

1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:24–37

Prayer Ministry

In November, we are praying for

these individuals/families: Ken Snart, Pete Spitt, Jamie Stafford, George & Sue Stecher, Steve Strassman, Benji & Cathy Stygar

Going forward, the church website, Facebook, and YouTube will have links to the weekly messages and liturgy, and they will be up and online by early Sunday morning..

Food for Thought

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on November 1.

Please make sure you keep up to date on your pledges. We still have bills to pay. We won't be doing any of our fund raisers this year, so it's really important to keep our offerings coming in.

Don't forget our homeless friends. Please keep them in your prayers. They especially need donations of money at this time. Their drop off centers are

closed, so they need to purchase some things for the homeless. The mailing address is Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702. If you prefer, you can go to the website, chippewavalleystreetministry.org, and donate through PayPal.

Leadership Musings

It's with a heavy heart that the Leadership team has decided to cancel our in-person worship until further notice. Due to the tremendous upsurge of COVID-19 cases in the Eau Claire area, we feel we need to stop our Sunday morning in person worship service. We will continue our worship virtually on Sundays. Please join us.

We also are going to postpone our virtual bake sale. Hopefully, sometime in Spring of 2021 we can reschedule it. In its place, we will be advertising our nuts on Facebook. Make sure you share the Facebook post with your friends and tell them how good the nuts are.

In these times of uncertainty, it is important that we all stay connected. I'm challenging all our members to contact someone in the congregation at least once during the week. We all need to hear a familiar voice! Let's check on each other. Also, don't forget the video chats via Zoom with Pastor David on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

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. Save your bottles and bring them in the next time we meet

We revived the Birthday Challenge last year. 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. Those of

you who have November birthdays are challenged to make a donation.

Also, don't forget our new A/V system. We are upgrading to make us move into the 21st century. We still need money for 3 TV's. We want to be able to have the ability to handle overflow, and to do different programming in the sanctuary, once we are meeting in "normal" circumstances.

Memorials

General Fund

In memory of Faye LaPean: William & June Grambo, Ethel Richardson, Mary Timm, David & Lynn Dummer, David & Stacy Dummer

A/V System

In memory of Jim Jaenke: Larry & Barb Kleist

November Birthdays

1	Char Hartwich
6	Arvilla Kruschke
12	Lesa Green
20	Tyjha Stygar
26	Kevin Phillips
30	Jacqueline Andersen Louise Sanders

Nuts for sale!!

Prices are: 14 oz. for \$15.00, 28 oz. for \$26.00, 14oz. cashews for \$16.00. Order by calling the church office (715-835-5475) or emailing Mimi (mimi@pcucc.com).

Leadership Team Minutes

October 5, 2020

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Linda Oliver, Lil Savage, Mimi Pederson, Louise Partlow, and Pastor David. Ben Bechle joined via Zoom.

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of September 30, 2020

Year to Date Income	\$95,908.80
Year to Date Expenses	\$92,616.62
Ahead (Behind)	\$3,292.18

Treasurer's Report:

Income for September was \$4,866.00. Envelope income was above last year. Expenses were \$10,398.75.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$8,542.76

Memorial Fund Balance: \$8,232.58

PPP loan: No information yet on when this is to be paid.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

Members are keeping up pretty well with their pledges under our current situation and everything going on. They are working on the fall stewardship campaign. The letter will go out around the end of October. The second Sunday in November will be Stewardship Sunday.

Worship:

Larry and Barb will be gone for two Sundays. Most duties will be taken

care of. Communion with the pre-packaged elements went well and should work okay for us now.

Women of Plymouth:

No report

Building and Grounds:

No report

Pastor's Report:

NE Association virtual clergy retreat going well. Pastor David is missing Moon Beach and mentioned that our church camps are suffering from lack of income. The state-of-the-art Wifi will be installed in the sanctuary and fellowship room on October 8.

Old Business:

- Barb reminded everyone to stay in touch.
- We talked about the virtual bake sale. Joanne Miller will be contacting us about what we want to make and how much. Available items will be listed on Facebook and orders will be taken from November 1 to 10. This is all new so we need to figure it out.

New Business:

- Ideas for Advent: we will have a couple trees (sanctuary and narthex) and simple decorations this year. Decorating will be done December 5 and there will probably be no sharing lunch.
- All Saints' Day is November 1. Please let Mimi know if you have someone to remember.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45. Our next meeting will be November 9 at church.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Partlow



Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

November of 2020 witnesses to a significant milestone for our denomination, the United Church of Christ: our 400th year on this continent. Our predecessors the Pilgrims landed the Mayflower on Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. Four hundred years! These first Pilgrims were Puritans who were separatists from the Church of England, whose faith expression was illegal in England. After trying to live in Holland for a few years, they decided that they needed to maintain their English language and so received permission to settle a new colony in the new world. To summarize a few hundred years of history into one sentence, the separatist Puritan Pilgrims and the later non-separatist Puritans who came to North America in 1630, become the Congregationalists, and then in 1957 many thousands of Congregational congregations (including us) merged with other denominations: two that had come from Germany. (the German Evangelical and the German Reformed) and one home-grown denomination (the somewhat confusingly named Christian Church) to become the United Church of Christ.

In 1621, those Pilgrims celebrated their first day of giving thanks for the harvest after a hard year, which was the first Thanksgiving Day, which eventually became a national holiday. Our forebears' congregational polity had a significant effect on the creation of the United States of America and the formation of the U.S. Constitution. I urge you to look up the Mayflower Compact which was the set of rules those early Pilgrims used in a new experiment in self-governance.

The three UCC churches in Eau Claire have celebrated Thanksgiving with a joint worship service on Thanksgiving Eve for many years. We will do so again this year! However, because of the pandemic, it will take a different form: we will record it early in November and publish it on our church YouTube channel (with cross-posts on our Facebook page and link on our website) so it is available on Thanksgiving Eve.

And lastly, take care of your mental and physical health. Many things are certainly different this year. Between the pandemic, the election year craziness and divisions, the loss of many of our normal activities that mark the seasons (fairs, concerts, travels, holiday gatherings), new ways of shopping and being in public, extreme weather events from climate change, economic worries, and so on, we're all stressed, tired, worn out, anxious, and many other things. It is exhausting and difficult to go through such times, so if you're feeling overwhelmed or foggy or have difficulty keeping track of time and tasks that need to be done: you are definitely not alone. So please do take care of yourselves and take the time you need, and also do not hesitate to reach out. Meeting in person is not always possible, but I'm available by phone, email, text, Facebook messenger and video, and Zoom, all of which have been used to provide pastoral help and encouragement. Use whatever form you are most comfortable with. And know that you are all in my daily prayers as we work together to be God's people through this rare and difficult time.

Blessings,

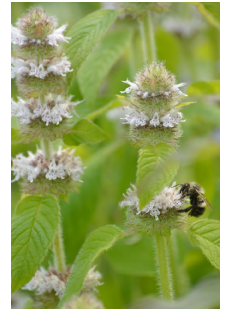



New Garden Planned

We're planning a native species/pollinator garden at the top of the retaining wall behind the church. What a beautiful sight it will be from the sanctuary. Easy to maintain once established and good for the birds and insects.



Cindy Halfen has knowledge and experience with prairie/woodland native plants. This spring and summer she started 15 different types of prairie flower and grass from seed in containers. When the plants were large enough, she transplanted (over 350) plants in her neighborhood prairie restoration project. Cindy will be starting seeds for the neighborhood prairie again this winter/spring, so Plymouth won't have to buy seeds.



There are a few species that are hard to start from seed, like Prairie Dropseed, or grow very slowly, like Purple Poppy Mallow. These should be purchased as plants from Prairie Moon Nursery or Prairie Nursery (depending on the price). A tray of 32–36 plants costs about \$100, compared to a three-pack for \$18. You can order a mix of plants for a tray. Cindy suggests two trays. The other cost will be wood mulch after the plants are in the ground. Cindy is applying for a grant from the Creation Care program of WI Conference to cover these costs.



Work will start next spring. In preparation, someone with a chainsaw is needed to about spend one hour this winter cutting a few invasive Buckthorn trees in the area. Cindy can be there to poison the stumps with herbicide immediately after cutting.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>November 2020</h1> 						
1 <i>All Saints' Sunday</i> <i>Community Table offering</i>	2	3 9:00 A.M. C & C	4	5 3:30 P.M. C & C	6	7
8 <i>Prayers for the People</i>	9 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	10 9:00 A.M. C & C	11	12 3:30 P.M. C & C	13	14
15 <i>OCWM offering</i>	16	17 9:00 A.M. C & C	18	19 3:30 P.M. C & C	20	21
22 <i>Reign of Christ</i>	23	24 9:00 A.M. C & C	25 7:00 P.M. Thanksgiving Eve worship online	26 Office closed	27	28
29 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	30					

What's C & C??

It's *Coffee and Conversation*, a virtual gathering via Zoom for folks who miss the Sunday morning coffee time at church. There is no set topic of conversation, and it's a nice way to keep in touch while we have to maintain social distance. Pastor David hosts the gatherings and posts the link on the church Facebook page. Check it out!

<https://tinyurl.com/y2e87nrn>