

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2021

Published monthly by  
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## ***Inside***

Birthdays . . . . .	Page 3
Calendar . . . . .	Page 7
Food for Thought . . .	Page 2
Memorials . . . . .	Page 5
Leadership Team	
Minutes . . . . .	Pages 4
Pastor's Pen . . . . .	Page 6
Worship Calendar . . .	Page 2

## **Message from the Moderator—Annual Meeting**

Our constitution requires us to have an annual meeting in January. We won't be able to do a live meeting, so the Leadership Team has decided the voting will be done by mail, so that we can have the maximum participation. A quorum will be the number of ballots received. The official date of the meeting will be January 31, 2021.

All reports for the Annual Report will be due to Mimi by January 18 at the latest. Annual Reports will not be mailed out, but can be picked up at the church, if everything goes well, by Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Ballots for voting will also go out that week. You will be voting to approve the Nominations for Leadership Team and the 2021 budget. These items will be mailed with your ballot. The ballots need to be returned by January 28, either via mail or dropping them off at church or by sending an email to me at bkleist04@gmail.com.

If there are other items you feel need to be brought up or voted on, please contact me either via email or phone me at 715-834-8130. If there are other members who wish to be on the Leadership Team, please let me know by January 18 so we can include those names on the ballot. If there are questions on the budget please contact me also.

Pastor David will be on vacation at this time, so all questions regarding the Annual meeting need to come to me.

## **Pastor David will be on vacation**

Pastor David will be on vacation from January 11 to February 8. While he is away, you can call Rev. Mark Pirazzini at 715-598-2270 if you have a pastoral emergency.



# January Worship Calendar

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## January 3

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas*

#### *Community Table offering*

Jeremiah 31:7–14 or Sirach 24:1–12;  
Psalm 147:12–20 or Wisdom of  
Solomon 10:15–21; Ephesians 1:3–14;  
John 1:(1–9), 10–18

## January 10

### *Epiphany Sunday*

#### *Prayers for the People*

Psalm 126; Matthew 1:1–24

## January 17

### *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 24

### *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

## January 31

### *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28

## Prayer Ministry

**In January, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Micah & Jennifer Adams, Jackie Andersen, Ben Bechle, Pat (Gary) Burnam, Kay Bussing

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

Continue worshipping with us Sunday mornings virtually at 10:30 or whenever you are able to. Once the service is posted, it can be watched anytime. We will no longer be meeting in person at the church until further notice.

Did you turn in your pledge cards? We need them to complete the budget for 2021! Also make sure your pledges for this year are up to date. Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on January 3. Please make sure to either drop off your offerings at the church

office or mail them to us. The office hours are 9–11 A.M., Monday through Friday.

If anyone would like to join the Leadership Team for 2021, please contact Barb Kleist.

Don't forget our homeless friends. They especially need donations of money at this time. The mailing address is Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702. Or you can go to the website, [chippewavalleystreetministry.org](http://chippewavalleystreetministry.org), and donate through PayPal.

## Leadership Musings

Please stay safe! Wear a mask when in public, social distance and stay away from gatherings, except for your immediate family. We need to help put a stop to this pandemic! Also, consider getting the vaccine when it's available to you!

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/otc pain reliever bottles, with the labels removed.

Remember the Birthday Challenge to fund future capital improvements, such as resurfacing the parking lot. Those of you who have January 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 21<sup>st</sup> century. We still need money for 3 TVs. 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.

## January Birthdays

3	Caleb Adams
4	Barb Kleist. Susie Kleist
10	Dorothy Gilbertson, George Stecher
21	Cathy Lee
24	Ron Wendt, Lil Savage
27	Nancy Champion, Larry Kleist

## Memorials

**A/V System:** Keith & Deb Zehms,  
Women of Plymouth, Book Club

**Birthday Challenge:** David Huber,  
Alice Daniels

# Good News Leadership Team Minutes

December 14, 2020

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

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved.

## Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2020

Year to Date Income	\$118,064.34
Year to Date Expenses	\$113,588.06
Ahead (Behind)	\$4,476.28

## Treasurer's Report:

Income for November was \$14,960.00. Expenses were \$11,655.84. Envelope income alone was \$11,910 due to the fact that some members have prepaid their pledges for 2021.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$8,546.33

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$5,216.17

PPP loan: They are starting to accept forgiveness applications. RCU will email us when we can do so. (The norm is for loans under \$50,000 to be forgiven.)

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Stewardship:

A thank-you letter will be sent to those who have pledged.

## Worship:

We are going to send out candles for people to use on Christmas Eve for when we sing "Silent Night."

## Women of Plymouth:

No report.

## Building and Grounds:

Larry found someone to plow for us. The company is BlueCoat and we have signed a contract with them.

## Pastor's Report:

- Church camps (UCCI) are running a capital campaign to raise money to cover their shortfall due to being closed for the pandemic.
- Christmas Eve recordings have started. David is looking for folks interested in learning how to run the sound/recording/broadcasting system.
- He will take vacation January 11–February 8. He expects we will have live worship on YouTube while he is gone. Jim Oliver has agreed to preach on two of the Sundays.

## Old Business:

- Our nut sales this year earned us the usual amount of profit which is really good considering the circumstances.

## New Business:

- The budget worksheet for 2021 was presented by Rob. Barb proposed a 4% increase in salary for Pastor David and Mimi. The motion was seconded and passed.
- We discussed how to handle the Annual Meeting (or lack of one). It was decided to mail out the proposed budget and slate of officers and ask members to vote by snail mail or email. The 2020 Annual Report will be printed in January and copies will be available for pick-up in the church office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13. Our next meeting will be January 11 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



## Good News

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Happy new year to all of you, and also continued Christmas blessings, since we are still in the 12 days of the Christmas season!

I hope you all had the best Christmas holiday time possible given the circumstances, and that you had a chance to experience worshipping with our

**F R O M   T H E**



**PASTOR**

Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols on our YouTube channel at some point in the last week.

Christmas Eve worship was different this year since it was recorded, but it was still worship and we had beautiful music and readings, ending with our traditional candle-light Silent Night even if we were holding candles (or paper candles) and singing at home. Despite the differences this year, Jesus still appeared in the manger on Christmas

morning. Did you feel it? I hope you did.


Next up is the change of years. I feel pretty confident that most of us are very ready to say goodbye to 2020 and say hello to 2021! This has been a rough year for many of us, for our country, and for the world. With the advent of a vaccine (and possibly multiple vaccines), 2021 is looking more hopeful than it was a few months ago. We will likely need masks and to keep socially distant for many months, but, Wow!, a large load of anxiety about the future was released when the vaccine was approved. Until we can be together in worship and/or other church activities, again, we will continue to offer our worship services on our YouTube channel.

I will be on vacation from Jan 11 to Feb 8. Rev. Mark Pirazzini is covering in case of pastoral emergency. If anything comes up, please contact the office.

Also while I am on vacation, we will be broadcasting our own worship services on our YouTube channel on Jan. 17 and Feb. 7. On the Sundays of Jan. 24 and 31 we will be broadcasting worship services done by our Wisconsin Conference staff and by our National Staff.

As much as we are eager to move into 2021, there were some blessings in 2020: scientists from around the world worked together to develop a vaccine; neighbors helped neighbors; people stayed in contact with those who live alone and spent so much time isolated this year; stores adapted to accommodate people's needs with curbside pickup and delivery; we saw incredible generosity to food banks and soup kitchens, and to this congregation; churches quickly adapted to the technology that we have that now lets us more easily stay connected by videoconferencing and livestreaming; and so many more acts of goodness and progress. So it wasn't all bad! Still, I'm pretty sure I'll feel better when it's in the rearview mirror and we can all embrace the opportunities that a new year brings!

Blessings,

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2021</h1> 					1	2
3 <i>Community Table offering</i>	4	5 9:00 A.M. C & C	6	7 3:30 P.M. C & C	8	9
10 <i>Prayers for the People</i>	11 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>OCWM offering</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### 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> *Please note: C & C will not meet while Pastor David is on vacation.*