



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2021

Published monthly by  
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*Cross illumination for  
February is sponsored by  
Mike & Marybeth  
Tschumperlin.*

*This issue of the newsletter  
is sponsored by an  
anonymous donor.*

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Ash Wednesday is February 17. As with our Sunday worship, the “normal” Ash Wednesday service of Communion and Imposition of Ashes will not be possible, but we will have a virtual worship as Lent begins. Details will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Our Lenten Soup & Scripture will also be virtual this year. Nevertheless, we can have some wonderful and meaningful discussions as we gather on Zoom. Again, see the website/Facebook for details.



# February Worship Calendar

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## February 7

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*Community Table offering*

Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16–23; Mark 1:29–39

## February 14

*Transfiguration Sunday*

*Prayers for the People*

2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9

## February 17

*Ash Wednesday*

## February 21

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

*OCWM offering*

Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10;  
1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

## February 28

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

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31;  
Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38 or  
Mark 9:2–9

## Prayer Ministry

**In February, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Meghan Cartmill, Patty (John) Cartmill, Nancy Champion, Lilah Eastzman, Tami (Chris) Eisberner

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.

## February Birthdays

5 Jean Phillips  
13 John Moore  
16 Char Kozlowski  
18 Travis Eisberner  
19 Gloria Polden  
Jeff Green  
25 Graham Gilbertson  
28 Kenny Polden

## Memorials

### General Fund

*In memory of Paul Holmen:*

Joyce Holmen, George Stecher, Sue Falch, and John Stecher

**Birthday Challenge:** Larry & Barb Kleist, Dorothy Gilbertson

## **Moderator's Food for Thought**

Worship with us live, virtually, at 10:30 on February 7. Jim Oliver will be our guest speaker. The following Sunday, Valentine's Day, Pastor David will be back and we will worship 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.

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on February 7. 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.

Since Valentine's Day is coming up, it would be a great idea to send out a Valentine greeting to a friend or two at Plymouth. As we are all starting to suffer from pandemic fatigue, wouldn't it be great to receive a card or two from a Plymouth friend? Let's try it.

Hopefully everyone will be able to get a vaccine within a few months. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe...wear masks, wash hands frequently, and social distance.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. Mike and his crew are out checking on the homeless to make sure they are okay. 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. If you prefer, you can go to the website, [chippewavalleystreetministry.org](http://chippewavalleystreetministry.org), and donate through PayPal.

Also, don't forget our Birthday Challenge. We are challenging you to make a donation in your birthday month corresponding to your age. The money will be put toward future capital improvements, such as parking lot resurfacing. So February birthdays, it's your turn!

Members present via Zoom: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Cindy Halfen, 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 December meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Financial Reports:

As of December 31, 2020  
Year to Date Income \$123,477.34  
Year to Date Expenses \$122,941.07  
Ahead (Behind) \$536.27

### Treasurer's Report:

Income for December was \$5,413.00. Expenses were \$9,353.01. Envelope income for 2020 was \$87,629.88, with some of that due to people paying their 2021 pledges early. All bills were paid, and disbursements to OCWM and Community Table were caught up.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$8,548.14

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$7,491.67

PPP loan: Nothing to report. RCU is not accepting applications for forgiveness at this time.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### Stewardship:

No report.

### Worship:

Ash Wednesday is coming up February 17. No plans yet for that.

### Women of Plymouth:

No report.

### Building and Grounds:

We are going to have the carpet cleaned in the sanctuary and entry. Cindy will finish the application for a Creation Care Grant of \$1,000 for flowers and "eco" grass for the area above the retaining wall behind the building.

### Pastor's Report:

- He asked that we don't move any furniture in the sanctuary for the carpet cleaning because it is positioned for worship videos. It was decided to wait until after his vacation to clean the carpets.
- All the links we need while he is gone are posted on the website.
- He will return February 9
- He thanked Lynn for all her work at Christmas.

### Old Business:

- We will do a virtual Annual Meeting. Members will be mailed a copy of the proposed budget and slate of officers along with a ballot to return before January 31.
- Reports for the Annual Report are due January 18.

### New Business:

- The housekeeper Andrea donated her cleaning for October–December.
- A 50" TV donation will be made by Paul Gilbertson. It will be put in the meeting room next to the Quilters' room.
- There was discussion of adding Lynn as a paid employee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37. Our next meeting will be February 15 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

February brings us the beginning of Lent, our annual trek through the wilderness with Jesus before we move into Easter. Ash Wednesday is on Feb 17. In lieu of our traditional worship service of Communion and imposition of ashes, we will offer a worship service online. Unfortunately, our Covid pandemic continues, which means we

will be having an online version of our usual Soup and Scripture during Lent.

So this means that Lent this year, like the second half of Lent last year, will be more than a metaphorical journey through the wilderness. We will again be in the wilderness of pandemic, masking, staying at home, and online fellowship and worship.

We make these changes, though we do so with sadness and lament. It has been a long year. But we will continue to be separated with the trust that the Holy Spirit is still holding us together as a congregation and as a people, and do so now with the hope of the vaccines being distributed. I feel confident to say that the end-point of our time of separation can now be measured in months, then soon in weeks. We don't know what the future will hold for us—we never do—but the vaccines seem to be a very good

sign that we are coming to the end. I am thankful for all the scientists who have put in so much time and effort to bring us a way out of the pandemic. We can all take a moment today to offer to God our gratitude for giving us the ability to reason and create systems of knowledge that allow us to make scientific discoveries and create things like vaccines.

While I am away on vacation, you will be in the good hands of Jim Oliver who will guest preach on Jan 17 and Feb 7, doing a livestream on our YouTube channel. On Jan 24 and Jan 31 we will provide links to worship services created by the Wisconsin Conference Staff (Jan 24) and the Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ (Jan 31). Those links are already on our website and will be posted to our Facebook page on their respective mornings.

Winter blessings,



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

## 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/y2e87nm> *Please note: C & C will not meet while Pastor David is on vacation.*