



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2021

Published monthly by  
**Plymouth UCC**  
2010 Moholt Drive  
Eau Claire WI 54703  
**Phone:** 715-835-5475  
**Web:** pcucc.com

**Ministers:** All the people

**Pastor:** Rev. David Huber  
david@pcucc.com

**Church Secretary/Editor:**  
Mimi Pederson  
mimi@pcucc.com

**Cross illumination for  
March is sponsored by Ben  
Bechle in memory of David  
Bechle.**

***This issue of the newsletter  
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## Empty Bowls Week

Help fight local hunger with us! This year's Empty Bowls fundraiser will be a week-long opportunity (March 1-6) to come to Feed My People and pick up a one-of-a-kind gift bag without ever leaving your vehicle. All proceeds go towards hunger-relief in west central Wisconsin.

Each gift bag includes a handcrafted bowl, local recipes, and coupons to restaurants who typically supply the meal for Empty Bowls. Additionally, you will gain access to an online silent auction, which will be open February 25–March 6. A traditional Gift Bag is \$20 and contains a randomly selected handcrafted bowl made by a local artist or student. Signature Gift Bags are \$25 and feature a special bowl designed by Scheelhouse Pottery. Supporters also have the option of purchasing a Bowl with a Bow for \$10 that will go directly to someone in need as a gift.

Purchase tickets today at [give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek](http://give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowlsWeek). Pickup times will be emailed with your ticket receipt. Thank you for helping feed your neighbors in need.



## "Let Love Flow"

This year's theme for *One Great Hour of Sharing* (OGHS) is "Let Love Flow." We will gather our offerings for this on March 14.

The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the UCC bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables us to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

When you share your gifts, you "Let Love Flow" and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Since we are not having in-person worship, you will not receive a special envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing as you have in the past. Nevertheless, we ask that you please include your gift to OGHS when you mail/drop off your regular offering for March 14.

# March Worship Calendar

## March 7

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

#### *Community Table offering*

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

## March 14

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

#### *Prayers for the People*

Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3,  
17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

## March 21

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

#### *OCWM offering*

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12 or  
Psalm 119:9–16; Hebrews 5:5–10; John  
12:20–33

## March 28

### *Pal/Passion Sunday*

#### *Palms:*

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Mark 11:1–11 or  
John 12:12–16

#### *Passion:*

Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16;  
Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47 or  
Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)

## Prayer Ministry

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

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.

## March Birthdays

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 2  | Doug Salter       |
| 5  | Judy Insteness    |
| 8  | Steven Gilbertson |
|    | Joyce Holmen      |
|    | Aurora Robison    |
|    | Dakota Stygar     |
| 29 | Dorothy Kruschke  |



## Memorials

A/V System:  
Jo Ann Smith

*Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday.*

## Moderator's Food for Thought

Come worship with us virtually. The Sunday morning service is usually posted either Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Download the bulletin from our website, [pcucc.com](http://pcucc.com), and follow along while watching on our YouTube channel.



The first Sunday of the month is Communion. We have wafers and either wine or grape juice cups available. You can stop in during office hours. Say “Hi” to Pastor David and Mimi. They really like to see people. Of course, masks are required.

Our offering to the Community Table will be taken on March 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. Also, don’t forget your offering to fulfill your pledges, we still have bills to pay.

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 March birthdays, it’s your turn!

It’s getting closer to the time we need to order the TV’s for our AV system. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Members present via Zoom: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Cindy Halfen, Rob Jaenke, Linda Oliver, Lil Savage, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David.

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

## **Financial Reports:**

As of January 31, 2021

Year to Date Income	\$9,619.51
Year to Date Expenses	\$10,612.15
Ahead (Behind)	(\$992.64)

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Envelope income for January was down considerably from last year. Rob transferred \$500 from the Reserve Fund to help cover costs. All bills, including Workman's Comp and building insurance were paid.

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$8,049.96

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$7,792.67

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:**

There will be an online service for Ash Wednesday. Rather than try to do Zoom meetings for "Soup and Scripture," it was decided that Pastor David's vespers on Wednesdays would be centered around Lenten themes.

## **Building and Grounds:**

- Carpet cleaning of the sanctuary and entry will be done early in the week to avoid upsetting the recording schedule for Sunday worship services.
- The urinal is leaking. Jim Welk will stop in and fix it.

## **Pastor's Report:**

- He expressed thanks for his vacation.
- He thanked Jim Oliver for preaching while he was gone.
- He officiated at the wedding of Peggy Norris and Mike Larson last Saturday.
- Megan Cartmill is expecting a baby this spring, so we'll be having a baptism!
- The Conference Annual Meeting and the NW Association Annual Meeting will both be virtual.

## **Old Business:**

- We did a virtual Annual Meeting. Members were mailed a copy of the proposed budget and slate of officers along with a ballot to return before January 31. We had 22 responses and both the budget and slate of officers were approved.
- The TV donated by Paul Gilbertson has been delivered.

## **New Business:**

- Our housekeeper, Andrea, has donated her cleaning services for January.
- Cindy Halfen has completed the application for a grant from the Conference Creation Care team

Meeting adjourned at 7:33. Our next meeting will be March 8 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

We are in the middle of Lent. If you've been joining us for worship, you know that this year I've not been in a very Lent kind of mood because in many ways, we've been in a long Lent with the pandemic, and with the short break we had between the fire and the pandemic, it's feeling like we've been in Lent for four and a half years. So for Lent this

**F R O M   T H E**



**PASTOR**

year, I'm thinking of it not so much as the penitential time to look within as we travel a metaphorical journey through the wilderness of Lent which is traditional, but as a time to look forward as we travel a more literal wilderness of Lent, pandemic, and other anxieties. In Lent we are always moving toward Easter, which is a beautiful place to point: the wilderness ends with Easter resurrection, new life, second chances, a rebirth into something new and wondrous...

We will celebrate Easter on April 4, as that is the day that the calendar has assigned to celebrate Easter. But we will celebrate another Easter later this year. We don't know when that will be. But we can see it on the horizon now. That's what I'm looking toward this year during Lent: the time when the pandemic is gone and we are worshiping in person, going to concerts, having friends over for supper, and holding potluck lunches after worship again! As people are vaccinated, as the Covid numbers hopefully continue to decline, and as the rest of the world does so, we will be able to resume the lives we had grown accustomed to.

In our looking forward, though, let it not be only a return to the normal we once knew; let this wilderness journey be a learning experience to create a new normal. A new normal in which we don't take meals with friends for granted, or take the availability of worshiping in person for granted, or take our relationships for granted. Let us be a people who have learned the depth of the systemic racism in our country and strive to change it; let us be a people who have witnessed the growth in numbers and public display of white supremacy, and strive to end it. Let us be a people who have learned the truly precarious position of people who live in poverty or on the edge of it; the financial anxiety of farmers; and the lack of Internet in rural areas. Let us be a people who have learned that family activities are very important and that other things should be scheduled around them, and not schedule family around other activities. And as a former grocery store clerk, I hope that we will be a people who realize just how important our grocery and other retail workers are, the cooks and delivery people, the waitstaff and the janitors, and especially our nurses, doctors, and medical scientists.

As you look forward this Lent, what are you seeing, what do you hope to see, and who would you like to be?

Blessings,

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2021</h1>						
	1	2 9:00 A.M. C & C	3	4 3:30 P.M. C & C	5	6
7 <i>Community Table offering</i>	8  7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	9 9:00 A.M. C & C	10	11 3:30 P.M. C & C	12	13
14 <i>Prayers for the People OGHS offering</i>  DST begins	15	16 9:00 A.M. C & C	17	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	29	30 9:00 A.M. C & C	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/y2e87nmn>