



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

April 2021

Published monthly by
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*Cross illumination for April
is sponsored by Lil Savage in
memory of Marie Savage.*

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

HOLY WEEK



Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service online

Easter Sunday

Celebration Service online

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Celebrate May Day with us on Sunday, May 2 as we worship in person again! See the Moderator's Food for Thought article on page 3 for more detailed information.

April Worship Calendar

April 4

Easter

Community Table offering

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43; Mark 16:1–8

April 11

2nd Sunday of Easter

Prayers for the People

Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133;
1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

April 18

3rd Sunday of Easter

OCWM offering

Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4;
1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

April 25

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

Prayer Ministry

In April, we are praying for these individuals/families: Jeff & Lesa Green, Cindy (Jerry) Halfen, Harlan & Charlene Hartwich, Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, Joyce Holmen

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

April Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Eleanor Robison |
| 5 | Rose Shepler |
| 13 | Pat Sexter |
| | Shawn Barnhardt |
| 21 | Joanne Miller |

Memorials

General Fund:

In memory of Michael Shepler:
Lyle Shepler Family, Vernon & Joan Smith, Mary Stygar Family

A/V System:

In memory of Paul Holmen:
Keith & Deb Zehms, Larry & Barb Kleist

Moderator's Food for Thought

Let's celebrate May Day on May 2 with our worship service at church! We would like to start worshipping together again on May 2. Won't that be great?! The Leadership Team feels the timing is right. The majority of our members will be vaccinated and hopefully the area's numbers will still be on the downward slide. Communion will be served. The Community Table offering will be taken.



There is the possibility that coffee will be served, but probably not snacks, yet.

Of course, masks will still be required along with social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be readily available. Until then, please worship with us virtually on Facebook. We will have our Maundy Thursday service and Easter

morning service on Facebook. We will still be recording our live worship services, even though we will be together, for those who feel safer at home.

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. Last year was an amazing year of giving! For the first time in recent memory, we didn't have to beg for money to operate our church's missions. Let's continue that this year. Our Treasurer doesn't need the additional stress of trying to find money to pay our bills!

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, 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 April 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.

Have a happy and blessed Easter!

Leadership Team Minutes

March 8, 2021

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

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Reports:

As of February 28, 2021

Year to Date Income	\$18,444.51
Year to Date Expenses	\$19,148.09
Ahead (Behind)	(\$703.58)

Treasurer's Report:

Envelope income for February was down from last year. Rob transferred \$3,000 from the Reserve Fund to help cover costs. All normal monthly bills were paid.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$5,051.47

Memorial Fund Balance: \$7,832.67

PPP loan: RCU is going to send an email with instructions to apply for forgiveness.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Building and Grounds:

- Carpet cleaning of the sanctuary main aisle and platforms, as well as the building entry have been done. There are still some wax spots on the platforms. Barb will work on them.
- A plumber was called and the urinal was fixed in 15 minutes.

Pastor's Report:

- Maundy Thursday worship will be recorded just like Sunday worship services.
- For Palm/Passion Sunday, he is planning dramatic readings and hymns.

- Liturgists for Sundays are lined up through June.
- Plymouth Brass (and friends) will play for Easter Sunday. There will be communion that day.
- April 17 is the NW Association Annual Meeting (virtual) from 9:30 A.M. to noon. Ben will be our delegate. At 10:00 there will be a presentation envisioning the rural church after the pandemic. Since we are a small congregation, we are very much like a rural church and may gain some helpful insight from this seminar.
- Conference Annual Meeting is May 11–15 (also virtual). We get two delegates.
- Church camps raised over \$700K and plan to be open this year.

New Business:

- A daycare person was interested in using our building so she could expand. After some discussion, it was decided that it would not be a good fit for us.
- We are looking at returning to in-person worship on May 2. Of course, we will abide by all recommendations of the CDC/local health department.
- We have set our OCWM giving goal at \$1,000 for 2021.
- We will not be placing an Easter ad in the newspaper this year as we are still virtual.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

Easter greetings to you all! You will probably be reading this right before Easter, but I feel like waiting for the May newsletter to say Happy Easter seems

much too late. May you all know new life, rebirth, second chances, and abundance of God's love and grace this Easter season! He is risen!

And soon, we shall be risen again, too, in a way. The pandemic isn't over, but we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Vaccinations are going out at a far faster rate than expected even two months ago. Many in our congregation

have already been vaccinated. The CDC has said that it's safe now for vaccinated people to be together in small groups, which is great news for families and friends who haven't had meals or other time together in a while. And as our Moderator Barb says elsewhere in this newsletter, we are looking very good for being able to safely return to in-person worship, hopefully the first Sunday in May. That will be an Easter moment!



After a pretty rough 2020, I think that 2021 will see many little Easters throughout the year as we come back to in-person worship, friends visiting our homes, going to the theater, eating in restaurants, and eventually an end to masking and other signs of the virus. That's what I'm praying for!

Until then, we will continue to offer our evening Vespers and Sunday worship services on our Facebook page, which you can see even if you don't have a Facebook account. For Easter Sunday, we have planned some special vocal and brass music from our church musicians that should be quite wonderful.

Have a blessed and joy-filled Easter Day and Easter season!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>April 2021</h1> 						
				1 Maundy Thursday 3:30 P.M. C & C Tenebrae Service online	2 Good Friday (Office closed)	3
4 Easter Sunday Community Table offering	5	6 9:00 A.M. C & C	7	8 3:30 P.M. C & C	9	10
11 Prayers for the People	12 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	13 9:00 A.M. C & C	14	15 3:30 P.M. C & C	16	17
18 OCWM offering	19	20 9:00 A.M. C & C	21	22 3:30 P.M. C & C	23	24
25	26	27 9:00 A.M. C & C	28	29 3:30 P.M. C & C	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/y2e87nmn>