



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2022

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

*Cross Illumination for
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Savage in memory of her
parents.*

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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 30 following worship. Snacks will be provided. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 23. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 17**. We are also looking for a few more people for our Leadership Team for next year. If you are interested, please contact Barb Kleist.

Stewardship Update

Our Stewardship Sunday was December 12. We've collected 17 pledges for a total of \$65,930. That's a lot better than last year at this time. It's extremely difficult to plan a budget when you don't have a good idea of what your income will be, so it is urgent that you return your pledge card as soon as possible so that the Leadership Team can present a realistic 2022 budget at the Annual Meeting. If you've misplaced your pledge card, you can call the church office (715-825-5475) and we'll be happy to send you another one, or if you're comfortable doing so, you can give your pledge to Mimi over the phone. In any case, if we haven't received your pledge yet, please make it a priority. Thank you!

January Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

January 2

Epiphany Sunday

Community Table offering

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

January 9

Baptism of the Lord

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 16

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

January 23

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

January 30

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Meeting

Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6;
1 Corinthians 13:1–13; Luke 4:21–30

Prayer Ministry

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



We will take down our Christmas/Advent decorations on Thursday evening, January 13 at 6 P.M. All help will be appreciated. If we have enough people to help it should take less than an hour!

January Birthdays

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

Inter-Faith Prayer Service

The Inter-Faith Prayer service will be held Wednesday, January 12 at 6:0 P.M. via Zoom. Check the Plymouth Facebook page for a link.

Food for Thought

Communion will be January 2. We will also be taking our offering for the Community Table.

We are still recording our worship service live, to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home or can't make it to worship on Sunday.

Hopefully everyone will be able to get a vaccine or your booster shot soon. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe, wear your masks in a public place, social distance, wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer.

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. January birthdays, it's your turn!

We have changed our garbage carrier. We are now with Earthbound Environmental Services. This means we have three types of trash cans. We have a regular trash can, a recycling trash can, and a compost trash can. Each will be

clearly marked with what can go in them. There is a separate article in the newsletter that goes into more specific details.

Coming up January 30 is our Annual Meeting, hopefully in person this year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We Need You!

We need some new members for our Leadership Team! We have lost a couple members this year and really are in need of a few new members. There is no experience necessary, just a willingness to help your church. There are no term limits and all ideas are considered seriously. We meet monthly. Starting in February we will meet after church on the second Sunday of the month. We will meet this way also in March. Then we will go back to the second Tuesday of the month until daylight saving ends. Your term starts after the Annual Meeting in January. For more information or to volunteer, please contact either Barb Kleist or the church office. Please consider helping.

Memorials

Birthday Challenge:

Gordy & Audrey Heimstead, David Huber, Alice Daniels

Landscape:

Keith & Deb Zehms, UCC Foundation (Creation Care Grant)

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that for you, and for all of us, 2022 sees the end to the pandemic, and a beginning of newness. I hesitate to use the word normalcy, because there was much pre-pandemic that was normal that has been jettisoned, and for good reason. But I do long for an end to these two years that have stayed far past their welcome: to travel without thinking, to invite people over, to shop or sing or go to school or worship without masks, to go back to the innocence of not constantly second-guessing our behavior about whether we might be putting someone in jeopardy.



But whatever happens, the new year is a time for new beginnings, even if they are small beginnings. Whatever it is you may have chosen to take on as a new disciple this year, or to let go of, or to change in your life—I pray that you will stick with it, and I pray that you will ask God along for that journey to help you out.

As a new year comes with its new beginnings, may we also let go of all the mistakes we made in the past year. You are forgiven, so leave them in the past. Let them stay in 2021, and enter 2022 with a totally clean slate. Jesus was about living in the present and living into the future, not holding on to the pain and grudges and shame and guilt of the past. Enter 2021 as fresh as a newborn baby.

Some news for you all: I was part of a group of non-profits, county and city employees, religious/faith leaders, and politicians to create a warming center for our population living on the streets.

Through the generosity of the Christ Church Cathedral, we found a space; Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services provided a good amount of funding; and others of us offered time, talent, and other services to create a shelter at the Cathedral. It was open Christmas weekend, will be open New Years weekend, and will be open on Sundays. We hope that we can find more financial resources to make it a daily option, but for now we only have enough for Sundays. The warming shelter will be open during the hours that Sojourner House is not: basically 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. We will have professional staff there, but we also need volunteers to serve in 3–4 hour shifts. Helping out will mostly mean being present, and helping with snacks and food, registration, and possibly talking to and listening to the stories of people living on the streets. Please contact me if you would be interested in volunteering for a few hours. I'm very excited about this: with the library under construction, and the closing of Positive Avenues and some other helping groups, there is almost nowhere downtown during the day that our homeless population can go to be warm, get food, use a bathroom, take a bath, find water, or store their stuff. We talked throughout Advent about making room in our hearts. We sang a song every Sunday with the words "Make of my heart a stable, a house for the Holy, a warm and sturdy place for hope/peace/love/joy to live and grow." May we all make room for our homeless neighbors during this harsh winter.

Christmas blessings to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pastor Dan'.

Leadership Team Minutes

December 14, 2021

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Louise Partlow, Linda Oliver, Rob Jaenke, Ben Bechle, Cindy Halfen, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David.

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2021

Year to Date Income	\$111,408.30
Year to Date Expenses	\$111,985.32
Ahead (Behind)	(\$577.02)

Treasurer's Report:

Although income for November was down considerably from last year, YTD giving is the second highest of the last 12 years. Normal monthly bills were paid.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$12,779.74
\$775.00 designated for the General Fund was transferred to the General Fund.

Reserve Fund Balance: \$7,363.99

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- Pledges received so far number 13 and total \$52,780. Last year we had 19 pledges for \$54,010.

Worship:

- Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 P.M. Cindy will hand out the candles as Barb will not be here.
- December 26 worship will be online only. It will be recorded at 3:00 P.M. on December 21.

- There will be communion on January 2.
- Christmas undecorating will be done Tuesday, January 11 at 5:30 P.M. [*This date and time were changed. See Page 2*]

Building and Grounds:

- One of the back doors does not lock. We need to figure out who to call to fix it.
- One of the faucets in the men's bathroom is not working.
- There is a light out in the parking lot, but that will be dealt with in the spring.
- We discussed the sad state of the children's play structure behind the garage and will decide a course of action.

Pastor's Report:

- Monday, December 20 at 5:00 P.M. there will be a JONAH sponsored service of remembrance at Phoenix Park for the homeless who passed away this year in Eau Claire.
- JONAH and other groups are also working on finding some kind of warming place for the homeless population in downtown Eau Claire.

Old Business:

- We have started our garbage service with Earthbound Environmental Services. As with all new things, we still have some learning to do about what goes in each of the three bins (trash, recycle, and compost), but we will get it eventually.

Continued on page 6.



*Leadership Team meeting minutes
continued from page 5*

New Business:

- We will need to work on the budget for 2022.
- The Annual Meeting is set for January 30. At the meeting we will adopt the budget for 2022, install Leadership Team members, and vote on signing the Kairos (Creation Care) Covenant (more about that later)
- Deadline for submissions to the Annual Report are due January 17, 2022.
- The Nominating Committee is still looking for people willing to join the Leadership Team. Deb Zehms has said yes so far.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2022 in person at church.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson

**A Word about
Offering Envelopes**

We're going to handle offering envelopes differently. In the past we have given everyone a new box of envelopes each year. Now we will issue new envelopes on an as-needed basis. Many folks use only one envelope a month as they contribute once for an entire month. Others may have extra envelopes due to the fact that we did not have in-person worship because of Covid. We felt it was a better use of our resources to let people use the envelopes they already have. Going forward, when you need more envelopes, you can call, email, or stop in the office and get a new box.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2022</h1>						1
<p>2 Community Table offering</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Dartball St Mark at Plym</p>	5	6	7	8
<p>9 Prayers for the People</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Leadership Team Dartball Saving Grace at Plym</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Undecorate</p>	14	15
<p>16 OCWM offering</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Annual Report deadline</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at PB&J</p>	19	20	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 P.M. Dartball Bethesda Gold at Plym</p>	26	27	28	29
<p>30 Annual Meeting</p> <p>10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Mtg</p>	31					



Please note: The quilters do not meet in January.