

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2022

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

*Cross Illumination for July  
is sponsored by Larry &  
Barb Kleist in honor of their  
anniversary.*

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## Backpacks wanted!

Would you like to make an impact on students within our Eau Claire School District? We Care Eau Claire is a charitable organization that works with churches and other charitable organizations to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need. In the past three years, they have helped over 2,000 families send

their kids to school with the supplies they need.

We would like to do our part to help in this effort by collecting backpacks (without supplies in them) to donate. We are looking for regular sized backpacks, not the small ones and they should be brought to the church by Sunday, July 10. Please consider donating a backpack today.



**FREE**  
**LED bulbs**

## Here's a bright idea...

We have received a new shipment of free LED light bulbs. Please feel free to take as many as you wish for yourself or to share with friends/relatives. Help yourself (and the planet!!)

## July Worship Calendar

**10:30 A.M. Worship**  
*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

### July 3

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**Community Table offering**

2 Kings 5:1–14 or Isaiah 66:10–14;  
Psalm 30 or Psalm 66:1–9;  
Galatians 6:(1–6) 7–16; Luke 10:1–11,  
16–20

### July 10

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

**Prayers for the People**

Amos 7:7–17 or Deuteronomy 30:9–14;  
Psalm 82 or Psalm 25:1–10;  
Colossians 1:1–14; Luke 10:25–37

### July 17

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**OCWM offering**

Amos 8:1–12 or Genesis 18:1–10a;  
Psalm 52 or Psalm 15;  
Colossians 1:15–28; Luke 10:38–42

### July 24

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Hosea 1:2–10 or Genesis 18:20–32;  
Psalm 85 or Psalm 138;  
Colossians 2:6–15 (16–19); Luke  
11:1–13

### July 31

*8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Hosea 11:1–11 or Ecclesiastes 1:2,  
12–14; 2:18–23;  
Psalm 107:1–9,43 or Psalm 49:1–12;  
Colossians 3:1–11; Luke 12:13–21

## Prayer Ministry

**In July, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Joanne Miller, John & Sandy Moore, Jim & Linda Oliver, Louise Partlow, Maria Patton, Mimi Pederson



7	Hailey Barnhardt
9	Louise Partlow
10	Gracie Cartmill
11	Mel Rude
18	Kayla Stygar
19	Megan Eisberner

## Food for Thought

Communion will be July 3. We will be serving communion or we will have the sealed cups for you. We will also take our offering for the Community Table. Following worship we will have a pot luck! Bring your favorite dish to share!



We are still recording our worship service to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home or can't make it to worship. Please make sure you are vaccinated and boosted. This makes everyone feel safer and maybe we can get rid of COVID sooner. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe. Masks are available at church, for those who would still like to wear one.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. They especially need backpacks (larger in size, not child/youth size, please), gas cards (OK for "Fuel Only"), small tents (1-2 person), T-shirts (clean and in good repair) XL, 2XL, food cards for fast food, convenience stores, etc. We have a drop off box at church and whatever is donated will be taken to Good Shepherd weekly. The mailing address for monetary donations is: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI. If you prefer, goto the website, [chippewavalleystreetministry.org](http://chippewavalleystreetministry.org), and donate through PayPal.

July birthdays, it's your turn to think about making a donation to our Birthday Challenge. We are challenging you to make a donation in your birthday month corresponding to your age or whatever amount you are comfortable with. The money will be put toward future capital improvements, such as parking lot resurfacing.

Now that we have changed our garbage carrier to Earthbound Environmental Services, we have three types of trash cans. There's a regular trash can, a recycling trash can and a compost trash can. Each is clearly marked with what can go in them. If you have questions, check the refrigerator. We have complete listings on the door.

We also have free light bulbs. They are LED bulbs and are free for the taking. It's a program sponsored by Focus on Energy.



### Busy Bees

Our quilters have indeed been very busy! So far this year, they have made 101 quilts! Most are given to Western Wisconsin Dairyland

but some are donated directly to nursing homes. They have even made doggie beds for the Humane Society. Well done, Ladies!

## Plymouth Library

Not only do we have a Little Free Library facing the front sidewalk on Moholt, which is free to



neighbors, we have started a free library inside. We had a lot of books left from our Thrift Sale. Rather than giving them all away, we kept a few. You can borrow a book, bring the book back, or bring another in if you want. No need to sign the books out. NO overdue fees! The Leadership Team just thought our church family may like to borrow a book on occasion. The Plymouth Library is located in Fellowship Hall. Please don't be shy.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Thank you for your cards, texts, messages, and especially your prayers in the last month as I've been dealing with Covid and fractured ribs. Your notes and messages lift my spirits, and knowing that you are holding me in prayer makes the process bearable. I am grateful for the healing power of your concern and for your patience in giving me the needed time to heal. Gratitude also for our lay leadership who are taking care of things, including leadership on Sunday mornings (and even leading worship without me for two Sundays). Plymouth is in faithful, capable, and loving hands!

Your prayers are helping. I'm feeling better every day. While I wish it would go a lot faster than it has been, recovery from illness moves at the pace it needs to move. We can't rush it, we can only be patient while the healing work is done knowing only that it will be over at some point. That said, I do hope to be back to normal soon, because let's be honest: being sick is the pits and I'm tired of it.

Right before getting sick I had a week of study leave to attend the Festival of Homiletics (the festival of preaching I attend almost every year). It was absolutely wonderful and filled my spiritual and pastoral bucket. The theme was preaching after a time of trauma. The trauma being the two years of the pandemic and the adjustments that churches had to make, the new things that pastors and lay leaders needed to learn and adapt to, and the adjustment of coming into a post-pandemic time. But right before the festival was the shooting in Buffalo by a white supremacist, as well as some other events, and so our preachers and lecturers also spoke on the trauma of mass shootings, the lasting legacy and present reality of racism, the uptick in white supremacy, the toxicity of our public discourse, and the shrinking influence of mainline Christianity.

I wish I could say they offered all the answers and that I could summarize them in the next sentences. Reality, however, is not that simple. But there was one consistent message from the presenters, which is the message the church is entrusted to proclaim: that God's intent for us is love. For all the challenges that face us, we have an answer in Jesus' vision of a world of compassion, empathy, mercy, sharing, and love. It's a message of hope—it lets us know that we change and live into that vision and that the way things are is not the way they have to be or will always be. Even when it is difficult and slow and we lament, "How long, Lord? How Long?," we can make a more loving world by following in Jesus' path.

That's the vision that Plymouth strives to live into with our ministries in our community: our quilters, giving to and serving at the Community Table, offering our building to local service groups, being Open and Affirming, and so on, and now including our Little Library along our sidewalk on Moholt, the backpacks we'll be donating, and the work we are doing to in making our lawn more environmentally friendly and replanting our property with pollinator gardens and native species.

We aren't called to heal the whole world, but we are called to heal the little bit of it that we inhabit. So let us continue to heal and to show our neighbors the hope that we have for a better way into a better future. Jesus' message of hope doesn't come with a timeline, but it does come with the promise that healing is, indeed, possible.

Blessings,



# Leadership Team Minutes

June 14, 2022



Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Ben Bechle, Deb Zehms, Linda Oliver and Mimi Pederson

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

## Financial Reports:

As of May 31, 2022

Year to Date Income	\$63,441.87
Year to Date Expenses	\$57,213.84
Ahead (Behind)	\$6,228.03

## Treasurer's Report:

Year to Date envelope income of \$54,320 is \$30,500 more than last year at this time and \$27,000 over the 5-year average.

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$34,228.20

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$5,447.45

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Building and Grounds:

- Larry will no longer do the mowing. The last time he did so, he nearly toppled over doing the “bowl” portion of the yard. He felt it was too risky to continue, especially since he’s usually here alone when mowing and if there were an accident, no one would know and be able to get help.
- The Team decided to have Bluecoat do the mowing at a cost of approximately \$100–\$125 per week.

## Pastor's Report:

- He learned a lot and enjoyed the Festival of Homiletics he attended.
- He expressed his thanks for all the prayers and get well wishes he’s received.

## Old Business:

- The “Little Library” is up and stocked with books. There was an ant problem, but Cindy was able to take care of it.
- Speaking of libraries, there will be a “Plymouth Library” on the small table in the corner of the fellowship room. We have so many books. Congregation members will be encouraged to take one/leave one/switch out/keep the ones available.
- We have received a new shipment of LED light bulbs (free) so we will put some out for people to take as many as they’d like and keep reminding them to do so.



## New Business:

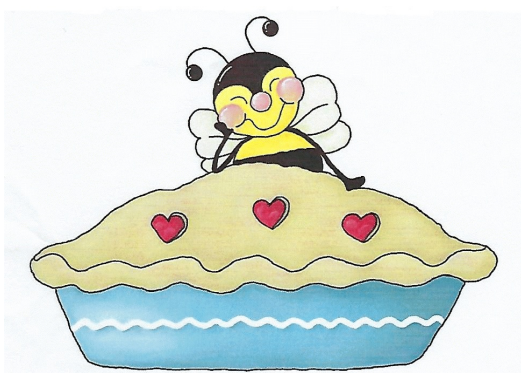
- We will participate in the We Care Eau Claire program to provide backpacks filled with supplies for kids in the Eau Claire School District. There will be an article in the July newsletter with all the details.
- We will volunteer for service at the Community Table in September, probably on a weekend day. Watch for details to come.
- We need to get a TV cart for the large TV in the fellowship room. That way it can be moved easily and safely and placed wherever it’s needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M. There will be no Leadership Team meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>July 2022</h1> 					1	2
<b>3 Community Table offering</b> 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	4  <b>Office Closed</b>	5  10:00 A.M. Quilters	6	7	8	9
<b>10 Prayers for the People</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	11	12 10:00 A.M. Quilters	13	14	15	16
<b>17 OCWM offering</b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	18	19 10:00 A.M. Quilters	20 4–7 P.M. Truax Pie & Ice Cream Social	21	22	23
24  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	25	26 10:00 A.M. Quilters	27	28	29	30
31  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship						



## *Pie & Ice Cream Social*

Featuring BBQ's/Hot dogs and all the fixings...  
and of course PIE!

4–7 P.M.

Wednesday, July 20

Truax Congregational UCC

1008 50<sup>th</sup> St, Eau Claire