

Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

December 2022

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

*Cross Illumination for
December is sponsored by
Pete Spitt in memory of his
wife, Sharon and his
brother, Wallace.*

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Candlelight Family Service of Lessons and Carols Saturday, December 24 6:00 P.M.



A family-friendly worship service of praise for the birth of our Savior with special music and a beautiful candlelit Silent Night.

December Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Community Table offering

Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19;

Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

OCWM offering

Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19;

Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 35:1–10; Luke 1:47–55;

James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11

December 24

Christmas Eve worship

6:00 P.M.

December 25

No Sunday worship

Prayer Ministry

In December, we are praying for these individuals/families: Dana Wachs (Beverly Wickstrom), Len Weisfeld, Adam (Alyssa) Wendt, Ron & Nancy Wendt, Keith & Deb Zehms



Memorials

Birthday Challenge:

Steve Strassman

A/V system:

In memory of Jim Oliver:

Family and Friends, Linda

Oliver, Larry & Barb Kleist

Landscape:

In memory of Marybeth Tschumperlin:

Family and Friends, Mike

Tschumperlin, Larry & Barb

Kleist

2	Pete Spitt
4	Irma Shepler
5	Terri Gilbert
9	Pastor David Aaron Adams
22	Cathy Stygar

Food for Thought

Communion will be December 4. We will be serving communion or we will have the sealed cups for you. We will also take our offering for the Community Table. There will be no pot luck that day. Instead, we'll have our pot luck on December 18, the Sunday we welcome our new members!

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. Just a reminder—the new booster for COVID is now available.

Please contact your pharmacy or doctor to see if you're eligible.

Please don't forget our homeless friends. They especially need donations of money, and warm clothing, hooded sweatshirts, along with socks, mittens, hats and jackets, and hand warmers. 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, go to the website, chippewavalleystreetministry.org, and donate through PayPal.

December 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.

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

Come and visit our new libraries. We have one curbside for anyone to use and we've started one inside in Fellowship Hall.

Please note: There will be no worship services on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. Please join us for our Christmas Eve service on December 24.

SCRIP Cards for Christmas giving!

Need a gift for someone and you have no idea what to get them? How about a gift card from our scrip program? Not only does it solve your gift giving problems, but it benefits our church. We have Festival Food cards, Holiday cards, Kwik Trip cards, Menard cards and Target cards available every week. Each company gives Plymouth a percentage when we buy them. The amounts range from 15% down to 2%. Plus we have a list of other companies (Amazon, Old Navy, Red Robin, Scheel's, etc.) we can order from. You just need to give us a week to get them. The cards are available every Sunday in our Coffee Bistro area. This is a quick, easy, and painless fundraiser for us. Please help us out!



Dear Friends and Family of Plymouth,

Advent is upon us, and that also means that Christmas is around the corner.

Are you ready for Christmas? That question seems to be asked a lot, because we cram so much into our preparations that one could very easily NOT be ready for Christmas by the time it comes. Oh, no! I offer you some comforting news: 2000 years ago on the first Christmas no one was ready for it then, either. Not Mary or Joseph, and certainly not the world. Christmas is coming whether we are ready for it or not—so why not enjoy the sacred time that is the waiting time of Advent? Do whatever fills you with joy for the season and brings you meaning, but don't stress over anything that goes undone. We don't want to be so stressed making sure that we're "ready" that we utterly miss it when it comes. Let go of whatever is undone, because let's be honest: none of it is essential anyway. Christmas is going to happen even if there are zero choices of cookies, presents are unwrapped, or not every room is decorated. So be present to the happening.

We're talking about the sacred in this year's Advent services: sacred time, sacred space, sacred people, and sacred knowing. In so many ways, all that is around us and within us is sacred, for it is all born of God. But unless we slow down (sacred time), and allow ourselves time to see it, we will not notice that we are surrounded by sacredness. We need to engage in the spiritual practice of being silent, unbusy, and unproductive. We need those in order to do the work of discipleship of noticing the sacred.

How to do that? Something fun that could be a good spiritual discipline for you this Advent is to immerse yourself in scripture each day. Allow yourself the

quiet, still, unbusy time of reading the story of Jesus and you might find yourself more able to notice the sacred around you.

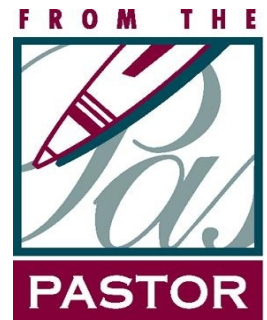
The Gospel of Luke has 24 chapters in it—as many chapters as an Advent calendar has days. Starting on Dec. 1*, start reading a chapter a day and on Christmas Eve you will have read the entire gospel. You will have a better understanding of whose birth we're celebrating or have your understanding refreshed. If you also have an Advent calendar, do the two together. Read a chapter, and then open a door on the calendar.

Join your church family for worship, too, as we explore the sacred this season. And the "class" we're holding on the birth narratives (see elsewhere in the newsletter about this).

Have a meaningful Advent of noticing the sacred, and a very merry Christmas!



* Advent actually begins on Nov. 27 this year, so if you think you might miss a day or two of reading, you can start early and give yourself a few buffer days. Or you could read each of the 4 chapters of the book of Ruth Nov. 27–30, which is a story of one of Jesus' ancestors, Ruth, who is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew. She is the great-grandmother of David. It's a beautiful story of friendship, dedication, and one of many stories in the Old Testament of an outsider/foreigner being used by God to do something important.



Advent Bible study opportunity

On the four Wednesdays during Advent we will show videos from the online class *The Christmas Stories: Celebrating, Questioning, & Explaining the Biblical Narratives* sponsored by the Homebrewed Christianity podcast. The course will be led by New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan and is based on the book *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth*, which he co-authored with Marcus J. Borg. There is no cost and the book is optional. We will meet on November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 21 at 3 P.M. in the sanctuary and will follow each video with discussion. For more information see George Stecher. (Note: We are decorating the sanctuary for Christmas on November 30 at 2 P.M., so we might start a little bit later on that date.)

Kwik Trip Scrip Change

As of November 1, 2022, Kwik Trip will no longer offer an additional 10% rebate on purchases inside the store when you use your scrip card. Instead, they will have separate "Grocery" cards at a 15% discount for us. These will be good only inside the store and may not be used for fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lottery/lotto, or stamps. Please let the office know if you would be interested in buying these cards so that we can order them.

Thanks from Community Table

We have received a "thank you" from the Community Table. It seems we are one of their biggest donors!

Bake, Craft, Nut Sale!

December 2–3 we will have a holiday bake sale in conjunction with the EC Garden Club's "Porch Pot" event. We will also be selling our Christmas nuts and have a small table for our crafts. We need everyone's participation in making baked goods, especially since it is a two day event! Gather your recipes and your ingredients and get ready to bake, so that we can have an awesome sale. Besides the actual baking, we'll need help setting up, marking the baked goods, and covering the days of the sale. A sign-up sheet will be out.

New Associate Conference Minister

We just received this news from Rev. Franz Reigert, our Conference Minister, that a new Associate Conference Minister has been chosen who will serve the Northwest Association, among his other duties. As mentioned at a Leadership Team meeting sometime in the past, our current ACM, Rob MacDougall, will retire at the end of this year.

Good news that they were able to find someone in time, and that they had a number of candidates to choose from!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2022</h1> 						
				1	2 3–7 P.M. Bake/Nuts/ Crafts sale	3 9 A.M.–7 P.M. Bake/Nuts/ Crafts sale
4 Community Table offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	5	6 10:00 A.M. Quilters 6:45 P.M. Dartball–Away (Bethesda Gold)	7	8	9	10
11 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	12	13 10:00 A.M. Quilters 6:45 P.M. Dartball–Here (Rock Creek)	14	15	16	17
18 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	19	20 10:00 A.M. Quilters	21	22	23	24 6:00 P.M. Lessons & Carols
25 No worship today	26	27	28	29	30	31