

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2023

Published monthly by
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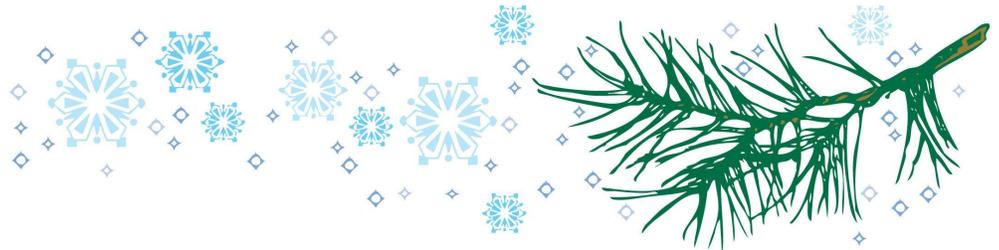
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Savage in honor of refugees
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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 29 following worship. Snacks will be provided. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 22. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 16**. If anyone would like to join our Leadership Team, please let Barb Kleist know. You can contact her via phone at 715-834-8130 or email @ bkleist04@gmail.com or in person at church. We are always looking for new people to help us lead our Congregation.

We are also looking for a Moderator-Elect. We need someone who would like to step forward and learn what is involved in leading our Congregation. The Moderator, Barb Kleist, has been doing it for a long time and it's now time for someone else to step forward. It's not something that requires any special skills, just faith in God and a desire to help Plymouth Church.

Stewardship Update

Our Stewardship Sunday was December 4. We've collected 17 pledges for a total of \$62,735. That's a bit less 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 2023 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 1
No Worship

January 8
Epiphany Sunday
Community Table offering
Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

January 15
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Prayers for the People
Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11;
1 Corinthians 1:1–9; John 1:29–42



We will take down our Christmas/Advent decorations on Tuesday, January 10 at 2 P.M. It's not as much fun as putting them up, but something that needs to be done. Please come and help!

Our Amazing Quilters

They have been *very* busy in 2022. They made 150 quilts for Western Dairyland, walker bags and wheelchair quilts for residents at Dove, doggie and kitty beds for the Humane Society, fleece quilts for the homeless, and used left-over fleece to make hats and gloves for the local school district. What a wonderful ministry!

January 22
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
OCWM offering
Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9;
1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–23

January 29
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Annual Meeting
Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

Prayer Ministry

In January, we are praying for these individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Aaron, Caleb; Jackie Andersen; Ben Bechle (Ben); Pat (Gary) Burnam; Kay Bussing; Meghan (Austin) Cartmill, Gracie, Harrison

January Birthdays

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

Food for Thought

Communion will be January 8 since we will not be having worship on January 1. We will serve communion or you may choose the sealed cups if you prefer. We will also take our offering for the Community Table. There will be no pot luck that day.

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 completely. Even after you receive it, make sure you stay safe. It's also not too late for a flu shot! Masks are available at church, for those who would still like to wear one.

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, and warm clothing, hooded sweatshirts along with socks, mittens, hats, 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, 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 January birthdays, it's your turn!

Volunteers Needed!

The Stand in the Light Memory Choir has been a mission of our congregation since its beginning in 2016. While it no longer meets at Plymouth, we have many members involved with the organization. The choir is growing and we're finding we could use a few more volunteers.

They meet every Thursday morning at 9:45 for rehearsals. The spring semester is starting January 5, with a concert on April 20. Volunteers from Plymouth have traditionally been serving coffee and snacks to choir members prior to the start of rehearsal. We start serving at 9:15. We would like a couple more volunteers to help with this. It would be on a rotating schedule, not every week. The timing would be from about 8:30 A.M. until about 10:15 A.M. The rehearsals are at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Please let Barb Kleist know if you are interested. You can contact her at 715-834-8130.

We also can use snacks for the choir. We serve cookies or bars. We need enough for about 60 people. They especially like something with chocolate in it. There will be a sign up-sheet at church January 8th, for the dates for the remainder of January and all of February.

Thank you in advance for volunteering!

Memorials

Birthday Challenge: Alice Daniels

Landscape: Keith & Deb Zehms

A/V System in memory of Jim Oliver:
Linda Oliver

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

As we begin 2023 and leave 2022 behind, there are many things I'm praying to leave in 2022, and you might be, too: Covid and other viruses, school shootings and all mass shootings and violence, war in Ukraine and elsewhere, homelessness, hunger, policies that demonize and harm people, racism, sexism, white nationalism and antisemitism, political rhetoric that replaces facts with opinion and negotiation with inflexible ideology. You likely thought of other things. We don't have much power to keep those things in 2022, unfortunately, but it's still worth praying about. And daunting as those things are to keep in the past, there are others that we do have the power to not carry with us into 2023: our guilt and shame, our could-have-dones and should-have-dones, our mistakes, our failures, the places where we didn't succeed in ways that we hoped to. Those we can let go of. God has no interest in them and wants us to be free of them, so put them in the trash bin with the rest of the junk. We can also leave behind our resentments, jealousies, and hatred. Our fears, hesitations, and despair. Move into 2023 with a spirit of abundance. Enter the new year with a resolve to take more risks in generosity, friendliness, openness to others, compassion, mercy, and hope. Maybe even finally take the risk to do something you've long wanted to do.

With God, every day is a new day. We can let go of the past and move forward any time—we don't have to wait for the changing of the year. But this is a good time to think about it. Let the past live in the past, and let us live in the now. The

temptation to try to live in the past is very strong; I see many who do it, and I see how unhealthy it is. And for us who follow Jesus, living in the past means that we aren't faithfully living in God's present, trusting in the new life and new chances that God is always offering us. Trust in God's grace, and enter 2023 like a newborn, free of the burdens and baggage of the past, ready to join the new opportunities and abundant life that God has intended for us.

May your 2023 be filled with blessings and goodness, and the courage to let go of whatever you need to let go of so that you may live into the newness that God offers!



Justice Winter Party January 19

You're invited to join SEVEN justice organizations for an evening of light social time and treats sponsored by JONAH (Joining our Neighbors Advancing Hope). The Winter Party doors are open from 5:30–7P.M. at the EC Public Library 3rd floor meeting space. No reservations necessary.



Leadership Team Minutes

December 11, 2022

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

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist called the meeting to order at 11:50 A.M. Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2022

Year to Date Income	\$121,148.34
Year to Date Expenses	\$123,753.95
Ahead (Behind)	(\$2,605.61)

Treasurer's Report:

Year to Date envelope income of \$87,045 is \$9,557 more than last year at this time and \$25,044 over the year to date average going back to 2009.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$9,292.88

Reserve Fund Balance: \$9,864.51

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- Nuts have all been delivered. Larry thinks we made something around \$1,200.
- So far, we have 14 pledges that total \$52,235 for 2023. Thank-you notes will be sent to those who have pledged.

Building and Grounds:

- We need more letters and punctuation symbols for our church sign. Larry will get a price.

- Two trees need to be cut down, and Keith Zehms has already arranged to have that done.
- It was decided to give our housekeeper a \$100 Kwik Trip card and a \$100 Festival card. She has stopped billing us for her labor.
- The glass in the sanctuary fire door has finally been replaced.
- Larry says we need to purchase a "good" snow shovel.

Worship:

- Cindy will hand out candles for "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve. She and Linda will light them when the time comes.
- Decorations will be taken down Tuesday, January 10 at 2:00 P.M.

Pastor's Report:

- He reported thanks from the Festival Choir for the use of our building for rehearsals.
- New members will be received December 18, and he has spoken with some folks who came to worship as visitors.
- The Conference Office is down-sizing and moving to the Daycholah Center. The facility in DeForest will be sold.



Old Business:

- The "Libraries" are being used and appreciated.
- The "Porch Pot" event with the Eau Claire Garden Club went pretty well. We had a great response and made over \$1500. We hope to do it again next year, and we will advertise more and perhaps hold it a bit earlier.

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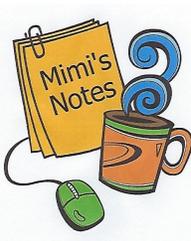
Leadership Team continued from page 5

New Business:

- The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for January 29. Annual Reports need to be available by January 22, so the deadline for submissions is January 16.
- The Team voted to accept the Divine Family, Pat Kerr, and Allen & Cathy Christensen into membership.
- We are looking for anyone who would be interested in being on the Leadership Team.
- The proposed budget for 2023 was reviewed. The Team raised the budget for mowing and voted to give the staff a 4% raise.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 15, 2023 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Keep in mind that we now handle offering envelopes differently. In the past we have given everyone a new box of envelopes each year.

Now we issue new envelopes on an as-needed basis. Many folks use only one envelope a month as they contribute once for an entire month. We feel it's a better use of our resources to let people use the envelopes they already have. When you need more envelopes, you can call, email, or stop in the office and get a new box.

Please use the green attendance slips in the bulletins. If you're a member, you don't have to fill out all the information,

just put your name. This is important so that my database records are accurate.

Support Local Refugees

Are you wondering how you can support local refugees, particularly from Ukraine? JONAH is collaborating with Welcoming New Neighbors and has determined the best three options at this point to support Ukraine families. 1. Donations are needed directly to the churches welcoming a family, as the biggest financial need is covering the arrival costs, the first three months, and work permits of a family's coming. Contact JONAH to find out who is in need today. 2. Once a family is here the most valuable things they need are social connection and support to find autonomy – that means your time! Contact JONAH to learn more. 3. There is a way to sponsor a family just in name and not monetarily or physically (as all they need is a name to come to the U.S.—may not be our area). Someone can talk to you about what is involved with this responsibility. For more information on all of these options, please contact JONAH's organizer Lynn Buske at cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com.



100th Birthday Celebration

Dorothy Gilbertson will be 100 years old on January 10. Her family is hosting a celebration here at Plymouth on Sunday, January 15 from noon until 2 P.M. A light lunch will be served. You are invited to come and help them celebrate! No gifts please, but cards would be appreciated.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January 2023</h1>						
1 <i>No Worship</i>	2	3 7:00 P.M. Dartball St Mark at Plym	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Hunger offering</i> 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	9	10 2:00 P.M. Undecorate 7:00 P.M. Dartball Saving Grace at Plym	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Prayers for the People</i> 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 12:00 P.M. 100 th Birthday Party for Dorothy Gilbertson	16 <i>Deadline for Annual Report</i>	17 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at PB&J	18	19	20	21
22 <i>OCWM offering</i> 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	23	24 7:00 P.M. Dartball Bethesda Gold at Plym	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Annual Meeting</i> 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Mtg	30	31				



Please note: The quilters do not meet in January.