



Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

February 2023

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
2010 Moholt Drive
Eau Claire WI 54703
Phone: 715-835-5475
Web: pcucc.com

Ministers: All the people

Pastor: Rev. David Huber
david@pcucc.com

Church Secretary/Editor:
Mimi Pederson
mimi@pcucc.com

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

*Cross Illumination for
February is sponsored by
Mike Tschumperlin in
memory of Marybeth
Tschumperlin.*

Inside

Worship Calendar . . . Page 2
Birthdays Page 2
Memorials Page 2
Pastor's Pen Page 4
Leadership Team
Minutes Page 5
Calendar Page 6



Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023

2:00 P.M. Worship with
Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Please note the time change.

February Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

February 5

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Hunger offering

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12); Psalm 112:1–10;
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 m(13–16); Matthew
5:13–20

February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 119:1–8;
1 Corinthians 3:1–9; Matthew 5:21–37

February 19

Transfiguration Sunday

OCWM offering

Exodus 24:12–18; Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9

February 22

Ash Wednesday

Theme: Looking for Love

2:00 P.M. Worship with Communion and
Imposition of Ashes

February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

Theme: Look for the Resister

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

February Birthdays

- 5 Jean Phillips
- 12 Cathy Christensen
- 13 John Moore
- 16 Char Kozlowski
- 18 Travis Eisberner
- 19 Jeff Green
- 28 Kenny Polden

Prayer Ministry

In February, we are praying for these individuals/families: Patty (John) Cartmill, Nancy Champion, Allen & Cathy Christensen, Lorin & Dorothy Ann Divine, Clyde, Anori, Tami (Chris) Eisberner, Megan, Travis

Valet Service

As you may have noticed, our parking lot has gotten quite icy this winter. So, to prevent any slipping, falling, and possible injuries, we have a few good looking gentlemen willing to either park your car for you or help you from your car to the building. This service will continue until we have a clear parking lot. No reservations needed! Just come on Sunday for coffee and worship. We will assist you with either parking or an arm to help you from your car.

Memorials

Birthday Challenge: Dorothy Gilbertson

Food for Thought

Communion will be February 5. We will serve communion or you may choose the sealed cups if you prefer. There will be a pot luck after worship. It's close to Valentines Day, so bring something that reminds you of that special day

Our Community Table offering will also be taken on February 5. Please be generous. Some of the federal funding for those on lower incomes has ended and they are finding it harder to afford food for their families. More and more people are using the Community Table for a daily source of good food.



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 February birthdays, it's your turn!

We have free light bulbs. They are LED bulbs and are free for the taking. It's a program sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference and 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.

If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2023, please do. It's not too late.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

This month we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 2 P.M. We will celebrate Communion and will have the imposition of ashes, reminding us that from dust we are made and to dust we shall return. Lent continues for another 6 Sundays, ending with Palm Sunday which brings us into Holy Week. During that week we will have Maundy Thursday worship on Thursday, April 6, at 2 P.M., Good Friday worship at First Congregational UCC at noon on April 7, and then Easter morning celebration at Plymouth on Easter morning, April 9.

Our theme for Lent this year will be “Looking for Love.” Our scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can really be found. Not surprisingly, these are most often NOT the places that the cultural norms and social conditioning were telling the people during the times that the scriptures were written, and this is as true for us now as it was for them. We are often told to look for wholeness and happiness by buying the “next great thing” that will finally make us happy or get our lives organized, the newest diet or miracle food, ideologies that promise safety and security (but which divide us and chip away at our souls, such as nationalism, racism, hatred of others), or otherwise

only offer temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction instead of a long-lasting connection to the holy and the kind of love that manifests our truest and most sacred selves. Lent is a reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We’ll move through stories of Jesus in our exploration of what is the “real deal” and what we as individuals and as the church need to let go of because they aren’t actually working in the way we were promised they’d work. The first Sunday of Lent we read of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness when he offers some thoughts about what to let go of.

I invite you to join your church family for worship this Lent. Especially if you have not been with us for a while, use this Lent to reconnect with your community and with God.

Blessings,



F R O M T H E



PASTOR

Leadership Team Minutes

January 15, 2023

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

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called a very brief meeting to order at 11:31 A.M.

Financial Reports:

As of December 31, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date Income | \$148,845.25 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$141,244.40 |
| Ahead (Behind) | \$7,600.85 |

Treasurer's Report:

Year to Date envelope income of \$109,635 is \$20,152 more than last year at this time and \$69,658 over the year to date average going back to 2009.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$10,878.88

Reserve Fund Balance: \$9,868.28

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

The proposed budget for 2023 was reviewed and accepted after Rob had made a couple updates that had been suggested at the December Leadership Team meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 A.M. Our next meeting will be February 12, 2023 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



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 is held at Plymouth, we have many members involved with the organization, but we could use a few more volunteers.

They meet every Thursday morning at 9:45 for rehearsals. The spring semester has started. 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, just down the street from us. 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 for the dates for the remainder of February and March.

Thank you in advance for volunteering!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|--|-----|-----|-----|
| <h1>February 2023</h1>  | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck | 6 | 7 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymat St Mark | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team | 13 | 14 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at Saving Grace | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship | 20 | 21 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball PB&J at Plym | 22 Ash Wednesday 2:00 P.M. Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship | 27 | 28 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at Bethesda Gold |  | | | |

Interfaith Prayer Service

Join us to pray for “Peace and Unity for All People” on Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 P.M. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 421 S. Farwell St. We will have a zoom link. To those using zoom: Invite people to your home for a prayer gathering. Praying with our human family is good for our mind, body and soul. Prayer lights our hearts with love and hope. Praying together brightens that light.