

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2023

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

*Cross Illumination for
March is sponsored by Ben
Bechle in memory of his
father, David Bechle.*

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Wednesday Soup Suppers

Wednesday Lenten soup suppers are back! We will gather for fellowship, discussion, and a simple meal of soup, bread, and bars.

Our topic this year is the Kingdom of God (or Kin-dom of God) and how it relates to Plymouth and our community. We will meet at 6 P.M. in the Fellowship Room on March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. (That's every Wednesday in March.) If you are coming from work or school and arrive a little late that's ok! If you'd like to provide bread, soup, or bars, please sign up on the sheet in the entryway. If you have questions see George Stecher.



Magnificent Muffins Return!

On Easter morning, April 9, we will have our Magnificent Muffin Breakfast. Bring in 1/2 dozen or a dozen muffins to share. We will start at 9:30 A.M. Make sure you get your muffins to church by that time. Beverages and fruit will be provided. If we have leftovers, we will sell them after our Easter service. Proceeds from these will go to our Landscape project or to any young campers wanting to attend summer camp. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Kleist.



Easter Flowers

Easter flower orders need to be submitted by **March 10**. Order blanks are in the alcove by the office. Lilies are \$10 and the tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are \$13. If you can't get to church to pick up an order blank, you can call (715-835-5475) or email (mimi@pcucc.com) the church office to give us your order.

March Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March 5

2nd Sunday in Lent

Hunger offering

Theme: Look for the Helper

Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121;

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; Matthew 3:1–17

March 19

4th Sunday in Lent

OCWM offering

Theme: Look for the Shepherd

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23;

Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

March 12

3rd Sunday in Lent

Prayers for the People

Theme: Look for the Refresher

Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95;

Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

March 26

5th Sunday in Lent

Theme: Look for the Liberator

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130;

Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45

March Birthdays

- 2 Doug Salter
- 5 Judy Insteness
- 8 Steven Gilbertson
Joyce Holmen
Aurora Robison
Dakota Stygar
- 29 Dorothy Kruschke

Prayer Ministry

In March, we are praying for these individuals/families: Terri (Joe) Gilbert, Dorothy Gilbertson, Matt Gilbertson, Paul (Gay) Gilbertson, Steven Gilbertson

Memorials

Birthday Challenge: Larry & Barb Kleist, Lil Savage

*Daylight Saving
Time begins
Sunday, March 12.
Remember to set
your clocks ahead
one hour before
retiring on
Saturday.*



Food for Thought

Communion will be March 5. 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 no pot luck this month. Join us Wednesday evenings, starting March 1, for soup and discussion.

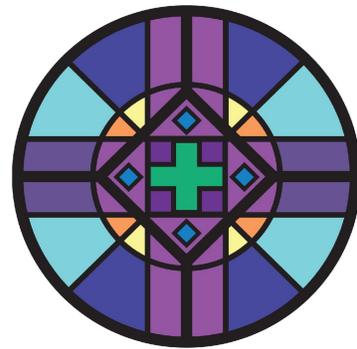
As mentioned, our Community Table offering will be taken on March 5. Please be generous. Some of the federal funding for those on lower incomes has ended and they are finding it harder to afford food for their families. More and more people are using the Community Table for a daily source of good food.

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 March 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.

Benefit for Stand in the Light Memory Choir

On Monday, March 20, Burrachos Mexican Grill, 5314 Prill Rd, Eau Claire will offer 25% of their sales between 4 and 8 P.M. to support the choir. You must purchase an entree and mention that you are supporting Stand in the Light Memory Choir when you pay so that the choir gets credit for your purchase.

Photos from Dorothy Gilbertson's 100th birthday celebration:



UUC FORUM:
"Making Changes with Environmental Consciousness"

Thursday, March 16 (7 pm)

let's save our earth

SPEAKERS: Regan Watts, Eau Claire County Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator and Erin LaFaive, Herbalist author of the *Learning Herbalism Workbook*

On Facebook Live:
"Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Eau Claire"
In Person: UUC Sanctuary (421. S. Farwell St., EC)



Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

I have a mishmash of things to offer you this month, so in no particular order:

We have a Lenten devotional on our website that was created by the Creation Care Team (which I'm on), focusing on our vocation as environmental stewards of God's magnificent creation.

[http://pcucc.com/202301 Lenten Creation Care Devotional 2023](http://pcucc.com/202301_Lenten_Creation_Care_Devotional_2023)

We have also put our scrip card order form on our website. We don't have the capacity to order or buy them online, so you'll need to go through Mimi as usual, but now you can see the many hundreds of cards that are available.

[http://pcucc.com/scrip/2023 scrip list](http://pcucc.com/scrip/2023_scrip_list)

Meet our new Associate Conference Minister on March 12! Rev. Michael Jones has recently begun his call as our new ACM, serving the Northwest Association after Rev. Rob MacDougall's retirement at the end of last year. Michael will join us for worship on March 12. He'll be here early so he can meet and greet people during coffee time, then he will help lead worship and will preach.

An update on my days off: my days off are generally Friday and Saturday, unless we have a church function those days. Following the commandment to honor the Sabbath and for healthy boundaries, I will respond to emergencies as soon as I can, but otherwise I'll wait until I'm back to work. I'm in the office during the week otherwise, but I occasionally have meetings in other places, so I'm not always in the office. If you'd like to speak with me, please call (or text or email or whatever) first to make sure I'm in, or set up an appointment. But otherwise, please do come to the office

to visit—I enjoy your surprise visits and those unexpected chances to spend time with you when you stop in. The coffee pot is always ready to pour a cup for a time to chat.

Lent 2023: On Sundays during Lent, our theme is “Looking for love in all the wrong places.” Our scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, and healing can REALLY be found. It is not in the “usual” places, and that is as true for us today as it was for the scriptural authors. Don't we often look for wholeness (or even happiness) in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? We'll use Lent this year to reflect on and reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. See elsewhere for a list of the scripture and the weekly themes.

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

As we move through Lent, I highly recommend that you join your church family for Sunday worship, and also recommend you join us on Wednesday nights for our soup suppers and discussions. These will be good times of fellowship and will be helpful in our faith journeys. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more on those.

Lenten blessings,

Leadership Team Minutes

February 15, 2023

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Linda Oliver, Louise Partlow, Ben Bechle, Mimi Pederson, Mike Tschumperlin, Pete Spitt, and Pastor David

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called a very brief meeting to order at 11:40 A.M.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2023

Year to Date Income	\$18,067.48
Year to Date Expenses	\$13,028.05
Ahead (Behind)	\$5,039.43

Treasurer's Report:

Year to Date envelope income is well above average. The largest bills paid in January were for building insurance, fire system monitoring, and snow removal for January.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$11,196.88

Reserve Fund Balance: \$9,872.05

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- Larry gave us a short update of where we stand with pledges. At this point, we're pretty close to last year.

Building and Grounds:

- Larry is working to fix the clock in the fellowship room.
- Mike and Pete will take care of the garbage duties while Larry and Barb are gone.

Worship:

- We have set new times for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services at 2:00 P.M. as many folks don't like to be out driving after dark.
- George Stecher will be leading Lenten soup suppers on Wednesday

evenings. More details will be available in the March newsletter.

- Easter morning worship will be at 10:30 A.M. with a Muffin Breakfast at 9:30 A.M. Free will offering for the breakfast will be used for camp scholarships if we have any campers.

Pastor's Report:

- He will be attending the Festival of Homiletics May 15–19. We will need pulpit supply for May 21.
- April 22 is the NW Association Annual Meeting in Merrill WI. We are looking for a delegate.
- The Conference Annual Meeting will be June 9–11 at Green Lake Conference Center

Old Business:

- Our libraries are doing well, but we need more offerings for children.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the Music Fund account at Wells Fargo. (See addendum) As chair of the Plymouth Investment Plan committee, Larry Kleist has the authority to continue the process and close the account.

New Business:

- Bill and Heidi Sprouse have indicated that they would like to join Plymouth. The Team voted unanimously to accept them as members.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to clean out the garage and pay someone to take away the unwanted items.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M. Our next meeting will be March 5, 2023 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2023</h1> 						
			1 6:00 P.M. Lenten Soup Supper	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 6:45 P.M. Dartball Rock Creek at Plym	8 6:00 P.M. Lenten Soup Supper	9	10	11
12 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship DST begins	13	14 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Leadership Team	15 6:00 P.M. Lenten Soup Supper	16	17	18
19 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	20	21 10:00 A.M. Quilters	22 6:00 P.M. Lenten Soup Supper	23	24	25
26 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	27	28 10:00 A.M. Quilters	29 6:00 P.M. Lenten Soup Supper	30	31	