



Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

February 2024

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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*Cross Illumination for
February is sponsored by
Allen Christensen in honor
of Cathy Christensen's
birthday.*

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Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

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 4

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Hunger offering

Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9:16–23; Mark 1:29–39

February 18

1st Sunday in Lent

OCWM offering

Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10;
1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

February 11

Transfiguration Sunday

Prayers for the People

2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6;
2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9

February 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31;
Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38 or
Mark 9:2–9

February 14

Ash Wednesday

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

February Birthdays

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

This year we will discuss Ibrim X. Kendi's book, "How to Be an Antiracist." The United Church of Christ encouraged all churches in the denomination to read it as part of an "All Church Read" and provided some resources, including suggested discussion questions. Reading the book is not required, but you will get a lot more out of the discussion if you read it. The book is available in the public library, it can be purchased at BAM!, and the paperback edition is under \$12 on Amazon. If you have questions, please talk to George Stecher.

Wednesday Lenten soup suppers are back!

We will gather for fellowship, discussion, and a simple meal of soup, bread, and bars at 6 P.M. in the Fellowship Room on February 21 and 28 and March 6, 13, and 20. 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.

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; Terri (Joe) Gilbert

Food for Thought

Communion will be February 4. We will be serving communion, but we will also have the sealed cups for you if you prefer. Our offering for the Community Table will be received that day too.

This month our Pot Luck will be on February 18. We are going to try out different weeks each month, for a while, to see if we maybe get a better turnout on a particular week.



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. COVID and the flu are showing an increase in our community. Make sure you get a booster and also your flu shot. Masks are always available at church if you feel you need 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. We have a collection box in the Gathering area.

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 and sign repair. So February birthdays, it's your turn!

Come and visit our libraries. We have one curbside for anyone to use and we've started one inside in Fellowship Hall. Different books are added frequently. We also have DVD's now!

If anyone knows of a family member or member of this congregation who is in the hospital, please let the church office know. Unless someone tells us, we don't know if you're in the hospital.

On the same subject, we would like emergency contacts for all our members. We will have forms on the counter next to the office. You can fill one out and place it in the offering plate or contact Mimi directly to give her that information.

Mark your calendars for up-coming events this Spring:
Bake & Thrift Sale, Saturday, April 20
Garden Club Plant Sale and Plymouth
Bake Sale, Saturday, May 18

Memorials

Birthday Challenge:
Larry & Barb Kleist

In memory of Joan Rau:
George Stecher

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

A bit more serious of a Pastor's Pen this month—a request for your emergency contact information, and for you to speak to your loved ones about the importance of your church family to you.

Over the years, we've had several occasions of not being able to visit church members in the hospital, a rehab facility, or other location simply because we weren't informed where they were, and had no one to call to ask. I've had a number of times of visiting someone in the hospital, then they were released to a rehabilitation facility or to family without us being told, then I go to the hospital to see them and they're gone. The hospital can only tell me you aren't there; they cannot tell me where you have gone, or even if, God forbid, you died while there.

In a previous church, a member died of a heart attack during a meeting. His wife was a member so we knew who to contact, but if we hadn't known her, we would not have had any knowledge of who to contact. That's not a good situation.

To help us avoid this, we are asking you for two things. First, please give us emergency contact information (especially if you have no family involved in this congregation). Then if something were to happen to you, we have someone to contact to either let them know that you had an issue while at church, or we can ask them where you are if we lose track.

Second, please also let your children or guardian know that you would like Plymouth church to be contacted if something happens to you, and give them our church's name and phone number (Plymouth UCC, Eau Claire, 715-835-5475).

Of course, you never have to give us more information than you are comfortable giving, but this would be very helpful to have.

I always hope that nothing happens to any of you, but unfortunately, most of us will go through it at least once in our lifetime. It's comforting to know that when we do go through it, the bonds of community will not be broken.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pastor Steve'.

Leadership Team Minutes

January 7, 2024

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Cindy Halfen, Mike Tschumperlin, Deb Zehms, and Pastor David

We began with a presentation by Ruth Ann from First Presbyterian regarding their experiences during their pastor's sabbatical.

- Their pastor took a three month sabbatical in the summer of 2022.
- Her sabbatical was funded by a grant.
- Everyone on staff and in the congregation had to take on more responsibility, but they all worked together to do something good for Pastor Cathy.
- Pastor Cathy returned with more energy.

A sabbatical for Pastor David would not occur until 2025.

The business meeting was called to order. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of December 31, 2023

Year to Date Income	\$136,428.55
Year to Date Expenses	\$146,364.59
Ahead (Behind)	(\$9,936.04)

Memorial Fund Balance: \$18,126.57

Reserve Fund Balance: \$10,432.28

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Worship:

- George, Lorin, and Bill are planning the programming for Wednesday Soup Suppers during Lent.

Building and Grounds:

- We will need to replace the blue pot that broke by the outside steps.
- The door of the sign by the road needs repair. Thanks to Linda Jaenke for making needed additional letters.
- Lots of bushes will go in this spring to fill the space by the garage and parking lot. Mulch from the downed trees will be used to cover the ground around them.

Pastor's Report:

- Christmas services went really well with good attendance. Time to start thinking about Lent.
- Upgrading the mic system was discussed, voted on, and accepted.

New Business:

- Rob took us through the budget. Discussion was held when needed.
- Bill and Dorothy Ann have agreed to serve on the Leadership Team.
- Someone from Ladysmith will join the February meeting to discuss their experiences with pastoral sabbatical.
- Everyone was reminded to get their reports in so they could be distributed prior to the Annual Meeting on January 28.

Meeting adjourned. Our next meeting will be February 11, 2024 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Zehms



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>February 2024</div> 						
				1	2	3
4 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	5	6 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Chapel Hts at Plym	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 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at Bethesda Gold	14 Ash Wednesday 2:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday worship	15	16	17
18 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	19	20 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Rock Creek at Plym	21 6:00 P.M. Lenten supper	22	23	24
25 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	26	27 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball St Mark at Plym	28 6:00 P.M. Lenten supper	29		