



Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

March 2024

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

*Cross Illumination for
March is sponsored by Lil
Savage in memory of her
parents.*



Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

10:30 A.M. Worship



Maundy Thursday, March 28

2:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service



Good Friday, March 29

12:00 P.M. Service at First Congregational



Easter Sunday, March 31

9:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffins

10:30 A.M. Celebration Worship

Magnificent Muffins Return!

On Easter morning, March 31, we will have our Magnificent Muffin Breakfast. Bring in a half 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 any young campers wanting to attend summer camp. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Kleist.

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March Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship

Communion the first Sunday of the month

March 3

3rd Sunday in Lent

Hunger offering

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

March 10

4th Sunday in Lent

Prayers for the People

Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3,
17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

March 17

5th Sunday in Lent

OCWM offering

Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12 or
Psalm 119:9–16; Hebrews 5:5–10; John
12:20–33

March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms:

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Mark 11:1–11 or
John 12:12–16

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16;
Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47 or
Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)

March 28

Maundy Thursday

2:00 P.M. Tenebrae Service

March 29

Good Friday

12:00 P.M. Worship at First Cong.

March 31

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm
118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
or Acts 10:34–43; John 20:1–18 or
Mark 16:1–8

March Birthdays

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

Prayer Ministry

In March, we are praying for these individuals/families: Matt Gilbertson, Paul (Gay) Gilbertson, Steven Gilbertson, Jeff & Lesa Green, Cindy (Jerry) Halfen, Harlan & Charlene Hartwich

Memorials

Birthday Challenge: Lyle & Sylvia Carlson
In memory of Randy Strand: Larry & Barb Kleist

Food for Thought

Communion will be March 3. We will be serving communion or we will have the sealed cups for you. We will also be taking our offering for the Community Table.

We will also be having a Pot Luck this month on March 3. Bring your favorite dish to pass. Just a reminder, even if you don't have a dish to pass, please join us anyway. We always have more than enough food to share.

Join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for soup and discussions! Dates are February 21 through March 20. Starting time is 6 P.M. If you want to bring soup, bread or a dessert, sign up at church!

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, RSV 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 for winter clothing, or else you can send a check to CVSM, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0051.

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. March 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.

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 have forms on the counter next to the office or you can contact Mimi to give her that information

Mark your calendars for the up-coming event this Spring: Garden Club Plant Sale and Plymouth Bake Sale, Saturday, May 18.



What is a pastoral sabbatical and why should we do it?

A definition of a pastoral sabbatical:

The pastor is given paid leave for rest, rejuvenation, and perhaps deeper study. It is a break from a job that provides a person a change of pace, allowing them to be more effective at the position upon their return.

Reasons this is important for pastors, especially following the pandemic:

- A pastor has emotional highs and lows unlike most other vocations, which can be emotionally draining.
- Pastors need a break with no distractions to refuel, and the church will benefit.
- A pastor is on call 24/7 which, over time, can become physically and emotionally draining.
- Pastors who have sabbaticals seem to have longer tenure at churches as they are less likely to experience burnout.
- Pastors who have sabbaticals view the time off as an affirmation from their churches. Recognizing the need for a sabbatical, and then making it happen for a pastor, shows the pastor that the congregation genuinely cares about their welfare.

In the past several years, our church burned, we went through the construction of our new church, and shortly after that, the pandemic hit. Pastor David found ways to hold us together through all of that, while also involved in the planning of the new church and navigating the uncharted waters of church life during the pandemic. A sabbatical would say to him, “You are important to us. We care about your well being.”

Spring Thrift Sale & Bake Sale has been postponed!

The Thrift Sale & Bake Sale we had scheduled for April 20 has been postponed. Due to a number of events happening around this date, we are moving the sale to September 14. Mark your calendars! The May 18 Bake Sale and Plant Sale, in conjunction with the Eau Claire Garden Club, will be going on as planned. Look for more information on this in the April newsletter!

Offering envelopes

Running short of your offering envelopes? Let Mimi know and she will give you a fresh supply.

HSHS Vigil The Spiritual Power of Humans Gathered Together

The JONAH religious leaders invite you to gather in a space of lament over the closing of local HSHS hospitals and the uncertainty surrounding the situation so that our grief may move towards hope. All are welcome on Tuesday, March 5, 6:00–7:00 P.M. at L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, third floor Riverview Room for interfaith prayer and an open sharing space with peer listening support.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

It feels weird to say this in the March newsletter, but Easter is on the last day of the month! As we continue our Lenten journeys, we will continue on Sundays looking at Jesus' words about how to be faithful and how to consider how we are doing on our faith journeys. Our Wednesday Soup and Discussion nights will continue to gather at 6 P.M. for a meal and discussion about Ibram X. Kendi's book "How to be an Anti-Racist," a very timely and important topic, given our current up-tick in racism. You don't need to read the book, but I recommend it: I just started and am about halfway through, and finding it eye-opening and very helpful in better understanding issues around racism and its active opposite, anti-racism. Jesus was always expanding the idea of who is "in," and I find Kendi's thoughtful writing to be helpful in how we can keep expanding that idea, too.

During Holy Week, we have our traditional Maundy Thursday service, though please note that we've moved it to 2 P.M.

Good Friday worship will be our ecumenical worship service First Congregational UCC (310 Broadway) at noon.

Easter morning, join us for Magnificent Muffins at 9:30 A.M. and then celebration worship at 10:30 A.M. with lots of great music and our Easter Alleluias about the risen Christ.

May your Lenten journeys be fruitful, meaningful, and faithful.

Pastor David



Order Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary and then take them home and plant them in your own yard after Easter. The flowers may be placed in memory or in honor of a loved one. Our supplier would like our order by March 15 to guarantee availability. Please fill out the information below and return it with your payment to the church office by then if you can. Checks should be made out to Plymouth United Church of Christ.

Your name(s): _____

In memory/honor of (Please circle one) _____

_____ Lily plants at \$12.00 each \$ _____

_____ Daffodils at \$12.00 each \$ _____

_____ Tulips at \$12.00 each \$ _____

_____ Hyacinths at \$12.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



Leadership Team Minutes

February 11, 2024

Members present: Larry Kleist, Barb Kleist, Cindy Halfen, Mike Tschumperlin, Deb Zehms, Bill Sprouse, Mimi Pederson, and Pastor David

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 A.M. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of January 31, 2024

Year to Date Income	\$43,181.90
Year to Date Expenses	\$13,864.65
Ahead (Behind)	\$29,317.25

Treasurer's Report:

Envelope income of \$40,991 is the most in one month going back to at least 2009. Paid bills include building insurance installment payment, worker's comp, maintenance of the HVAC, and the annual monitoring fee from Access Security.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$18,203.25

Reserve Fund Balance: \$10,437.38

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- A few more pledges have come in.

Worship:

- Ash Wednesday worship will be February 14 at 2:00 P.M. and Maundy Thursday worship will be March 28 at 2:00 P.M.
- Easter Sunday we will have "Magnificent Muffins" at 9:30 A.M. and worship will be at 10:30 A.M.
- Lenten Wednesday evenings we'll have Soup Suppers at 6:00 P.M.

Building and Grounds:

- We will need to do our own cleaning of the building until our housekeeper

is ready to come back to work. There is a sign-up in the alcove listing what needs to be done.

Pastor's Report:

- He will be officiating at the funeral for our housekeeper's husband.
- He and Lynn will get together to plan for Lent.
- The NW Association Annual Meeting will be held April 20 at First Congregational in Eau Claire
- Kayla Stygar has had a baby, so we will have a baptism at some point.
- New audio jacks have been installed and are working.

Old Business:

- Lil Savage will look after the libraries in the Fellowship Room and at the street.
- We need to make a plan to hang the wind chimes that were given in memory of Pete Spitt.
- We need to consider what our next steps are in regard to Pastor David's sabbatical.

New Business:

- The Thrift and Bake Sale originally scheduled for April 20 has been rescheduled to September 14.
- Bill will find out how we can call in to the hospital to see if anyone from our congregation is there.

We met with Nancy Kraft from Ladysmith UCC via Zoom. She told us about how their congregation handled their pastor's sabbatical. It was very informative and gave us some good ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M. Our next meeting will be March 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2024</h1>					1	2
3 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	4	5 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plym at PB&J	6 6:00 P.M. Lenten supper	7	8	9
10 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	11	12 10:00 A.M. Quilters 7:00 P.M. Dartball Plymouth bye	13 6:00 P.M. Lenten supper	14	15	16
17 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	18	19 10:00 A.M. Quilters	20 6:00 P.M. Lenten supper	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	25	26 10:00 A.M. Quilters	27	28 Maundy Thursday 2:00 P.M. Tenebrae Worship	29 Good Friday 12:00 P.M. Worship at First Cong.	30
31 Easter Sunday 9:30 A.M. Magnificent Muffins 10:30 A.M. Celebration Worship						

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday.