

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

December 2024

Published monthly by  
**Plymouth UCC**  
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Eau Claire WI 54703  
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**Ministers:** All the people

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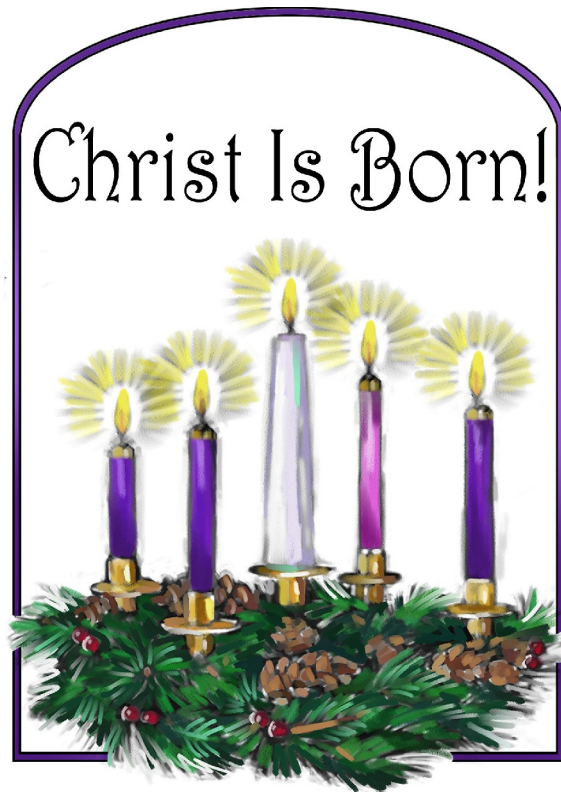
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*Cross Illumination for  
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## Candlelight Family Service of Lessons and Carols Tuesday, December 24 6:00 P.M.



A family-friendly worship service of praise for the birth of our Savior with special music and a beautiful candlelit Silent Night.

# December Worship Calendar

10:30 A.M. Worship  
*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

## December 1

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Hunger offering*

Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:1–10;  
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 21:25–36

## December 8

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Prayers for the People*

Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79;  
Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

## December 15

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6;  
Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

## December 22

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*OCWM offering*

Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm  
80:1–7; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45  
(46–55)

## December 24

*Christmas Eve*

6:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols

## December 29

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26; Psalm 148;  
Colossians 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52

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## December Birthdays

4	Irma Shepler
5	Terri Gilbert
9	Pastor David Aaron Adams
11	Alice Daniels
22	Cathy Stygar



## Prayer Ministry

**In December, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Dana Wachs (Beverly Wickstrom); Adam (Alyssa) Wendt; Ron & Nancy Wendt; Keith & Deb Zehms, Sam; Hannah Zehms

## Memorials

*Birthday Challenge:*  
Maria Patton

*In memory of Sylvia Carlson:*  
Louise Partlow

*In memory of Char Kozlowski:*  
George Stecher  
Louise Partlow  
Larry & Barb Kleist

# Advent Activities



***Sunday, December 1***  
***First Sunday of Advent***

We will celebrate that day with Communion and our monthly offering to the Community Table.

***Saturday, December 7***

We'll decorate our church, starting at 10 A.M. A soup lunch will be provided after we finish. If we get enough help, we should be done in a couple hours!



***Sunday, December 8***  
***Second Sunday of Advent***

We are asking members to bring in an ornament to finish decorating the tree. Hang it on the tree as you come in to worship!



***Sunday, December 15***  
***Third Sunday of Advent***

We celebrate by bringing in our pledges for 2025! Let's make it a good year!

Following worship, we will have our cookie exchange. Bring in your 1–2 dozen cookies before church and deliver them to the kitchen. Cookies will be placed on trays and after church you can make your selection of cookies. Mark your containers so the kitchen workers can get them back to you to fill up. If we have extra cookies, people who don't bake cookies may choose from what's left.



***December 22***  
***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

We will celebrate with a special Christmas potluck. Let's have a great turnout! Bring a favorite dish to pass!

***December 24***  
***Christmas Eve***

This is our traditional candlelit service. Please join us for this special day. The service starts at 6 P.M.

## Food for Thought

Communion will be December 1. 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 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 still around in our community. Masks are always available at church if you would like to wear one. Flu shots and the new COVID ones are available now—make plans to get yours soon.



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 clothing, or else you can send a check to CVSM, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0051. As the weather turns colder, please help out with hooded sweatshirts, warm jackets, mittens, hats, hand warmers, all in larger sizes so that they can layer. Also, monetary gifts are very welcome.

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 our next big project. December 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. Also,

make sure the hospital knows you belong to Plymouth UCC. 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 directly to give her that information.



Congratulations to Plymouth Church Quilters for the first-place blue ribbon awarded for one of their beautiful quilts. The award was for crafts done at least in part by residents in assisted living or skilled care facilities. The quilt top was sewn by June Bartilson, who has been an avid member of the Plymouth quilting group for nearly 30 years. June (age 97) is also a long-time member of Truax Congregational UCC and is currently living at Dove Bloomer assisted living apartments. Her quilt top is made of squares sewn together in the "Trip Around the World" pattern. The quilt was tied and bound by Cate Reiter, Louise Sanders and Rianna Voss. Congratulations to this group that carries out the mission of spreading warmth in the world! The blue ribbon quilt is on display by the coffee area in the church.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Advent is fast approaching! It begins this year on December 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We won't be fully decorated yet, but you can join us on December 7, our decorating day, to put up the tree and make our building full of Christmas cheer! And join us in worship those four Sundays of Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the newborn baby Jesus into the world, a ritual that Christians have been re-enacting for almost 2000 years.

The holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Years can be a difficult time for some people— financial anxiety, grief, seasonal disorder, loneliness can all have a significant impact on how people are feeling and coping through the holidays. If you find yourself in a position of needing to talk, please do reach out to me. Sometimes just having another person to share things with can be incredibly healing. If you are in need of holiday food, meals, or toys for children (or if you know anyone who is), I've worked with a lot of clergy in the area to put together a list of places where one can get toys/gifts for kids, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals, food for Christmas, and other help in the Chippewa Valley. We have a document that is on our website you can check out if you need anything or someone asks you where they can go for help. You can find the document at [http://pcucc.com/holiday\\_help.pdf](http://pcucc.com/holiday_help.pdf).

This time of year comes with a lot of pressure to get things done (Bake the cookies! Wrap the presents! Decorate the house! Go to parties! Go to concerts! Host a party or two! and so on). It's okay if things don't get done or if they get done imperfectly. Especially this year, with so much uncertainty and worry in the air, take care of yourself and be gentle on yourself. If you need to take time to be swaddled and not be productive, take that time! Christmas should be a time of peace, joy, love, and hope, not a time of stress and anxiety. Make sure to be present with your loved ones, hold to those relationships, and spend time together—the best present is yourself and your relationships.

I wish you a meaningful and spiritual journey through the four weeks of Advent, and that you have a blessed and very merry Christmas! We'll have our beautiful Christmas Eve service on December 24, and on Sunday, December 29, we'll re-read the Christmas story and have a carol sing.

Blessings,



# Leadership Team Minutes

November 10, 2024

Members present: Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Dorothy Ann Divine, Bill Sprouse, Cindy Halfen, and Mimi Pederson

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 October 31, 2024

Year to Date Income	\$125,852.86
Year to Date Expenses	\$125,976.91
Ahead (Behind)	(\$124.05)

## Treasurer's Report:

Year to date envelope giving is \$7,829 over last year at this time and \$25,986 more than the average going back to 2009. \$2,000 was pulled from the Reserve Fund. The quarterly building insurance premium was paid.

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$5,122.34

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$30,989.94

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Stewardship:

- We have sold 189 boxes of nuts for a profit of about \$850.

## Worship:

- We will decorate for Christmas on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 A.M. A soup lunch will be provided to the volunteers.
- December 15 we have a cookie exchange. More details in the December newsletter.
- December 22 we will have a Christmas pot luck after worship.

## Building and Grounds:

- The floor in the Fellowship room has been scrubbed. We will give Andrea, our housekeeper, a Kwik Trip scrip card as a thank-you.
- There is a coffee spot on the carpet just outside the sanctuary. The affected carpet squares will be cleaned or replaced as needed.

## Pastor's Report:

- No report as Pastor David is on vacation

## Old Business:

- The libraries are being well looked after by Linda Oliver
- We will get a final determination of the dates for Pastor David's sabbatical so that we can fine tune our goals and plans for that time.

## New Business:

- Stewardship Sunday will be December 15. The letter will go out after Thanksgiving and there will be an article in the newsletter.
- The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be January 26, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 15, 2024 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2024</h1>						
<b>1 <i>Hunger offering</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship	2	3  10:00 A.M. Quilters	4	5	6	7  10:00 A.M. Advent Decorating
<b>8 <i>Prayers for the People</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	9	10  10:00 A.M. Quilters	11	12	13	14
<b>15 <i>OCWM offering Stewardship Sunday</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship <b><i>Cookie Exchange</i></b>	16	17  10:00 A.M. Quilters	18	19	20	21
22  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck	23	24  6:00 P.M. Lessons & Carols	25  Office closed	26	27	28
29  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	30	31				



We will decorate our church on Saturday, December 7 starting at 10 A.M. A soup lunch will be provided after we finish. If we get enough help, we should be done in a couple hours!