

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

January 2025

Published monthly by
Plymouth UCC
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***Cross Illumination for
January is sponsored by Lil
Savage in memory of family.***

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Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 26 following worship. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 19. Report submissions need to be in the church office **by January 13**. If anyone would like to join our Leadership Team, please let Barb Kleist know. You can contact her via phone at 715-834-8130 or email bkleist04@gmail.com or in person at church. We are always looking for new people to help us lead our Congregation.

We are also looking for a Moderator-Elect. We need someone who would like to step forward and learn what is involved in leading our Congregation. The Moderator, Barb Kleist, has been doing it for a long time and it's now time for someone else to step forward. It's not something that requires any special skills, just faith in God and a desire to help Plymouth Church.

Stewardship Update

Our Stewardship Sunday was December 15. We've collected 15 pledges for a total of \$56,320. That's a bit less than last year at this time. It's extremely difficult to plan a budget when you don't have a good idea of what your income will be, so it is urgent that you return your pledge card as soon as possible so that the Leadership Team can present a realistic 2025 budget at the Annual Meeting. If you've misplaced your pledge card, you can call the church office (715-825-5475) and we'll be happy to send you another one, or if you're comfortable doing so, you can give your pledge to Mimi over the phone. In any case, if we haven't received your pledge yet, please make it a priority. Thank you!

January Worship Calendar

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

January 5

Epiphany Sunday

Community Table offering

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

January 19

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

January 12

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

January 26

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Meeting

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21



We will take down our Christmas decorations on Wednesday, January 8 at noon. All help will be appreciated. If we have enough people to help, it should take less than an hour!

Valet Service Offered

We are once again offering valet service on Sunday mornings. Our parking lot in the winter can become slippery, especially if we have a light covering of snow. Please don't let that stop you from coming to church. If you drive up to the door, someone will help you. If someone doesn't come out right away, step inside and someone will be happy to help you out. Don't be shy, we want our Plymouth family to be safe!

Prayer Ministry

In January, we are praying for these individuals/families: Micah & Jennifer Adams, Scarlet, Caleb; Jackie Andersen; Pat (Gary) Burnam; Kay Bussing; Lyle Carlson; Meghan (Austin) Cartmill, Gracie, Harrison

January Birthdays

- 3 Caleb Adams
- 4 Barb Kleist
Susie Kleist
- 10 George Stecher
- 18 Beck Sprouse
- 19 Dorothy Ann Divine
Zayden Freid
- 20 Lorin Divine
- 21 Cathy Lee
- 24 Ron Wendt
Lil Savage
- 27 Nancy Champion
Larry Kleist

Food for Thought

Communion will be January 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.

We won't be having a pot luck in January, but the Leadership Team will be providing light snacks after worship on January 26 prior to our Annual Meeting. Please join us on this important day.

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 are out and also the new COVID is available, along with the RSV vaccine. 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 or else you can send a check to CVSM, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0051. Here is a needs list from the Street Ministry: hooded sweatshirts, warm jackets, mittens, hats, hand warmers, all in larger sizes so that they can layer. Also, monetary gifts are very welcome.

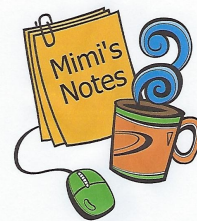
Also, don't forget our Birthday Challenge. We are challenging you to make a donation in your birthday month corresponding to your age. The money will be put toward our next big repair project. January birthdays, it's your turn!

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 to give her that information

Scrip cards and Nuts

Your purchases of these items really help our fund raising efforts. In 2024, our profit from nut sales was \$965, and our profit from scrip cards was \$1,566.34!



Keep in mind that we now handle offering envelopes differently. In the past we have given everyone a new box of envelopes each year.

Now we issue new envelopes on an as-needed basis. Many folks use only one envelope a month as they contribute once for an entire month. We feel it's a better use of our resources to let people use the envelopes they already have. When you need more envelopes, you can call, email, or stop in the office and get a new box.

Please use the green attendance slips in the bulletins. If you're a member, you don't have to fill out all the information, just put your name. This is important so that my database records are accurate.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Welcome to 2025! I'm sitting here thinking about the year 1976. The United States was celebrating its bicentennial, I was 10 years old, and the future still felt very far away. Specifically the year 2000. I'm not sure why I was thinking about the year 2000 so much in 1976, but the distance of it—24 whole years!—felt like it would never come. Now as we're moving into 2025, I realize we're farther from the year 2000 now than I was in 1976. And yet, the years leading to it felt like they lasted far, far longer than the years since. Part of the aging process, I suppose, that time feels like it goes faster as we get older. And next year (2026) will be our country's 250th birthday already! Time marches ever on, doesn't it? Moving into a new year often has me thinking about time—the past, the present, the future. You might be doing so, too. I don't have a lot to say about it, but I will say: the past can't be changed or returned to, so it's okay to let it go. God's grace allows us to let go of whatever we did wrong or failed to go.

And the future is uncertain: Jesus said not to worry about the future, to trust God. I heard a bit of wisdom a while ago that “guilt is living in the past, and worry is living in the future.” We can't live in either place, so as we move into 2025, focus on living in the present. Let God take care of your past and trust God for the future and be mindful about the present time, for that's the only time we have any control over, and the time that we can live in. No matter what number we give to a year, all we have is the present moment.

May God's spirit help us all to enter the new year by letting go of the past, letting go of worry about the future, and putting our energy into being mindful in the present.

Blessings,



Leadership Team Minutes

December 13, 2024

Members present: Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Dorothy Ann Divine, Bill Sprouse, Rob Jaenke, Mimi Pederson, Deb Zehms, Louise Partlow, and Pastor David

Our Moderator, Barb Kleist, called the meeting to order at 11:47 A.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial Reports:

As of November 30, 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date Income | \$136,459.86 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$136,362.60 |
| Ahead (Behind) | \$97.26 |

Treasurer's Report:

Year to date envelope giving is \$7,874 over last year at this time and \$22,883 more than the average going back to 2009. \$7,000 was pulled from the Reserve Fund.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$5,172.34

Reserve Fund Balance: \$23,999.25

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

Stewardship:

- Profit from the sale of nuts is nearly \$1000.

Worship:

- Christmas decorations will be taken down on Wednesday, January 8 at noon.
- New led lights for the sanctuary Christmas tree were approved.

Building and Grounds:

- We need to secure the gate to the fencing that surrounds the HVAC equipment for the sanctuary.

Pastor's Report:

- Advent is going well and the decor looks good.
- Christmas Eve music is all set
- Sunday, Dec. 29 will be a carol sing, and we'll celebrate Epiphany January 5
- He would like us to consider joining JONAH

Old Business:

- The libraries are being well looked after by Linda Oliver
- Pastor David has us the dates for his sabbatical which are July 7 to September 29.

New Business:

- Working on the agenda for the Annual Meeting
- Regarding the proposed budget for 2025, we will increase the budget for pulpit supply and increase Pastor David's salary by 3% and Mimi's by 4%.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 9, 2025 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Pederson



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesda | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| <h1>January 2025</h1> | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship | 6 | 7 | 8 12:00 P.M. Undecorate | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship | 13 Deadline for Annual Report | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Annual Meeting 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Annual Mtg | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



***Please note:
The quilters
do not meet
in January.***