

Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

February 2025

Published monthly by
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Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

Usually I would be writing about Lent in this newsletter, but this year Easter is late—and we don't begin Lent until March 5! So in February we continue with our season of Epiphany, the season of light and revelation. The word "epiphany" means to "make known" or "to reveal," and relates to the wise men coming to visit Jesus with their gifts, and thus reveal to the world that the new King has been born. The star that the wise men saw revealed the birth to them, then they make that revelation to the rest of us. For us in the northern hemisphere, especially we who are near and above the 45th parallel, the season of light comes during some of the shortest days of the year when we have so much darkness and cold. We light the Epiphany candles and talk about the light of Christ as a reminder that the darkness and cold around us will end—spring is right around the corner!

One longstanding Epiphany tradition that comes from Europe is to mark with chalk the lintels of the doors of homes with the year and the letters C, M, and B in the pattern YY+C+M+B+YY, so this year it would be 20+C+M+B+25. (The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house.") Then a prayer for the household is said. I will leave you with this prayer, asking that God bless you all this Epiphany season.

Peace be with this house and with all who live here. And peace be with all who enter here. During these days we keep this Feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and thereby to the whole world. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because of the presence of Christ here. O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings,



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February Worship Calendar

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

February 2

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Community Table offering

Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6;
1 Corinthians 13:1–13; Luke 4:21–30

February 9

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers for the People

Isaiah 6:1–8, (9–13); Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1–11; Luke 5:1–11

February 16

6th Sunday after Epiphany

OCWM offering

Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12–20; Luke 6:17–26

February 23

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3–11, 15; Psalm 37:1–11,
39–40; 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50;
Luke 6:27–38

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!

Pastor David on vacation

Pastor David will be on vacation from February 3 through February 16. While he is away, you can contact Rev. Mark Pirazzini if you have a pastoral emergency.

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

February Birthdays

5 Jean Phillips
12 Cathy Christensen
18 Travis Eisberner
19 Jeff Green
28 Kenny Polden

Memorials

In memory of Audrey Heimstead:
George Stecher & Sue Falch
Larry & Barb Kleist
Paul & Gay Gilbertson
Family and Friends

Birthday Challenge:

Larry & Barb Kleist
Lorin & Dorothy Ann Divine

Food for Thought

Communion will be February 2. 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 will have a pot luck on February 16 to celebrate Valentine's Day. Bring food you love the most!

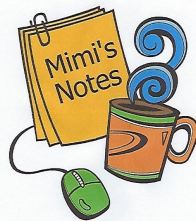
We are still recording our worship service to view on Facebook, for those who feel safer at home or can't make it to worship. COVID, RSV and the flu are still around in our community. Masks are always available at church if you would like to wear one. Flu shots are out and also the new COVID is available, 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. 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.

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



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.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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February 2025



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| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Hunger offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Communion worship | 3 | 4 10:00 A.M. Quilters | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Prayers for the People 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team | 10 | 11 10:00 A.M. Quilters | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 OCWM offering 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Pot luck | 17 | 18 10:00 A.M. Quilters | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship | 24 | 25 10:00 A.M. Quilters | 26 | 27 | 28 | |