

# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

May 2025

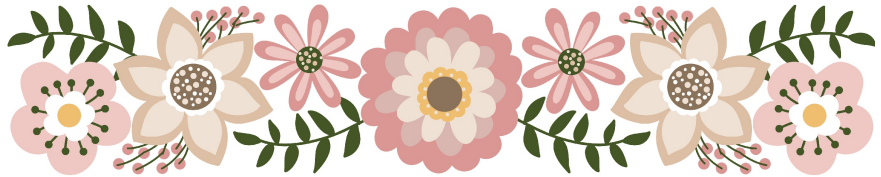
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***Cross illumination for April  
is sponsored by Dorothy  
Kruschke in memory of Paul  
Kruschke.***



## May the *FOURTH—Be with us!*

In celebration and thanks for our 20 years with Pastor David, you are invited to join us at Plymouth United Church of Christ on Sunday, May 4, 2025. We will be celebrating his final Sunday with us before he moves on to his next calling in Honolulu, Hawaii, with a catered/pot luck dinner at noon, following the 10:30 service. We will also be taking a free will offering for Pastor David and there will be a place for cards and gifts.

**Who:** You!

**What:** Catered/Potluck Dinner

**When:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 Dinner at noon.

**Where:** Plymouth UCC, 2010 Moholt Dr

**Why:** To celebrate the dedicated service and unconditional love that Rev. David Huber has shown us and our community, with our thanks, love, and well-wishes for his future

\* \* \*

*Dear Members of Plymouth*

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*Good News! Rev. Michael Jones is stepping into the role of pastor for this transition time. His name will be familiar to some of you, as he is our Associate Conference Minister. He will be continuing his work with the Northwest Association during his time with us.*

*Rev Jones is married and has two children. They live in the Eau Claire area. You will have a chance to meet him May 4 at Pastor David's Farewell Service and meal. Please welcome him to our church family!*

*Blessings to you all this Easter Season,  
Barb Kleist, Moderator*

# May Worship Calendar

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

## **May 4**

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

**Community Table offering**

Acts 9:1–6 (7–20); Psalm 30;

Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

## **May 11**

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

**Prayers for the People**

Acts 9:36–43; Psalm 23;

Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30

## **May 18**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 148;

Revelation 21:1–6; John 13:31–35

## **May 25**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

**OCWM offering**

Acts 16:9–15; Psalm 67;

Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5; John

14:23–29 or John 5:1–9

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## **May Birthdays**

- 1 Tami Eisberner
- 3 Mimi Pederson
- 6 Tyrone Stygar
- 7 Sandy Moore
- 8 John Stecher  
Joseph Norris
- 16 Lilah Eastzman  
Paul Gilbertson
- 17 Cathy Lawler  
Cate Reiter
- 18 Micah Adams
- 22 Ashley Mayer
- 30 Linda Jaenke

## **Prayer Ministry**

**In May, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Susie Kleist, Dorothy Kruschke, Arvilla Kruschke, Peggy Larson, Cathy Lawler

## **Memorials**

*In memory of Pat Sexter:*  
George Stecher

## Food for Thought

Communion was held April 27. We will not have communion in May, but we will take our offering for the Community Table on May 4. Don't forget our special pot luck on May 4 to celebrate Pastor David's ministry with us and to say goodbye. Please let us know what you will be bringing. There's a sign up sheet at church or you can either call or email the church office or email Barb at [bkleist04@gmail.com](mailto:bkleist04@gmail.com). The church will be providing hot ham and beef with gravy, but we need all the fixings. We will have guests besides us, so we're thinking around sixty people. Please let us know what you are bringing.



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 still recommended this season! The COVID vaccine is still available, along with the RSV vaccine. The CDC is recommending you get a second COVID shot after six months.

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. With federal funding being cut, there are very few options for the homeless. 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. Here is a needs list from the Street Ministry: hooded sweatshirts, in larger sizes so that they can layer; sleeping bags and blankets; men's underwear—new is preferred in all sizes. Also, monetary gifts are very welcome.

They purchase city bus passes to provide those that need transportation to work or appointments. Also if they need some items not donated, they have to purchase them.

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. May 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

## Help Needed!

We need to repaint Pastor David's office. Jerry Halfen is fixing the drywall and after that we need to repaint the office. Is there anyone out there that could volunteer to do this? It sure would help the church out! Please contact Barb Kleist if you're interested.

Dear friends and family of Plymouth,

I have written about 230 of these Pastor Pens over the years, and now we are at the last one. It feels kind of weird to be at the end, but then, endings often are kind of weird, as are beginnings. I have so much I could say to offer some final pastoral wisdom, some final discipleship challenges to remember always to love your neighbors and your enemies, some final churchy urging to continue to be kind to one another and gather for potlucks and other events... but I find that what I want to say most is thank you. I am filled with gratitude for the way you have trained me and taught me over the years that I have been with you. Gratitude that I have been able to watch some of our children grow into caring and wonderful and successful adults. Gratitude to be part of births and deaths, baptisms and weddings, Christmas Eve worship services filled with the talents of this congregation, eating a lot of great food and good conversations around the table, watching you grow as disciples and leaders and as a congregation. Gratitude to be invited into your lives in such personal and meaningful ways, to hear your stories, your joys and concerns, your hopes and fears.

Gratitude to have weathered a pandemic with you, and some significant building projects. Gratitude for your patience, forgiveness, encouragement, and laughter. Gratitude for your willingness to explore, imagine, improvise, and try new things. Plymouth is a very special community of love and friendship, and being with you has been a joy.

God is working wonderful and amazing things through you and will continue to do so!

Thank you!

And all blessings to you now and in the future!



# Leadership Team Minutes

March 2, 2025

Members present: Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Dorothy Ann Divine, Bill Sprouse, Rob Jaenke, Lil Savage, Lyle Carlson, Cindy Halfen, Deb Zehms, 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 March 31, 2025

Year to Date Income	\$45,493.05
Year to Date Expenses	\$37,921.57
Ahead (Behind)	\$7,571.48

## Treasurer's Report:

Year to date envelope income is \$11,164 less than last year at this point, but \$20,102 more than the YTD average going back to 2009. Expenses included Association dues, the quarterly water bill, and HVAC maintenance. OCWM and Community Table payments will be caught up in April.

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$6,413.08

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$24,032.86

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Worship:

- March 27 will be a communion Sunday and we will receive Marisa Johnson as a new member.
- May 4 (Pastor David's last Sunday as our pastor) we will have special music. There will be a Litany of Farewell at the end of the service.
- We are planning Farewell Luncheon following worship May 4. An invitation will go out to the congregation as well as special guests requested by Pastor David. We expect about 60 people and will purchase ham and beef with gravy and rolls. The rest of the meal will be pot luck style. Set-up for the meal will be done May 3 at 10 A.M.

## Building and Grounds:

- Our housekeeper has resigned due to health concerns. Lil is working to find a replacement. (We will have to do the cleaning for Easter and May 4.) We will present a thank-you gift to our departing housekeeper.

## Pastor's Report:

- He would appreciate it if we would cover his health/dental insurance for May. It was noted that perhaps the church in Hawaii will reimburse us for a portion of that. All other pastoral compensations will terminate on May 4.
- There will be an exit interview with the Leadership Team on April 25 at 1 P.M.
- He expressed sadness to leave us, but excitement for his new challenge.

At this point, Pastor David was excused from the meeting.

## New Business:

- We reviewed the Minister in Residence contract and compensation package for Rev. Michael Jones. A motion was made and seconded to accept the contract. Motion passed. We need to make him aware of Lynn's part of worship planning. We will have to take a look at the scheduling for who is preaching when, etc. After the contract is signed by both parties, a letter will be sent to the congregation.
- Bill has been working on weekly transition devotions and will have them ready soon.
- We have been asked if we would like to have a booth at the Pride gathering. More info to come.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 18, 2025 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2025</h1>						
				1	2	3
<b>4 <i>Hunger offering</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 12:00 P.M. Farewell Pot Luck	5	6  10:00 A.M. Quilters	7	8	9	10
<b>11 <i>Prayers for the People</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	12	13  10:00 A.M. Quilters	14	15	16	17
<b>18 <i>OCWM offering</i></b>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Leadership Team	19	20  10:00 A.M. Quilters	21	22	23	24
25  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	26	27  10:00 A.M. Quilters	28	29	30	31