



# Good News

Plymouth United Church of Christ

July 2025

Published monthly by  
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*Cross illumination for July  
is sponsored by Larry &  
Barb Kleist in honor of their  
49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*



## OCWM WISCONSIN IMPACT

*OCWM Wisconsin Impact, formerly known as OCWM Basic Support, funds the wider mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ. Because of our gifts to OCWM Wisconsin Impact, the Wisconsin Conference can support the vitality of congregations like ours. A portion of OCWM Wisconsin Impact goes to regional missions like United Church Camps, Inc. (outdoor ministry) and the National Ministries of the UCC.*

## Gift (SCRIP) Cards

Just a reminder that the church is selling gift cards from the following businesses: Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, Menard's & Target. We carry these cards all the time. Festival cards are in \$50 and \$100 denominations, Kwik Trip are also at \$50 and \$100. Menard's cards are at \$25 and \$100. Target cards are at \$25 and \$50. The church is able to purchase these cards at a discount with the profit going to our General Fund. Last year we were able to make over \$1500 profit. The cards can be used like cash and do not have to be used in one visit.

This is a very easy fundraiser for our church, but this year sales are down. If the trend continues, we may have to drop some of the cards we always carry. Everyone goes to the grocery store or gets gas for their vehicle. Please help your church out! If you have any questions, please contact Larry or Mimi.

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# July Worship Calendar

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**10:30 A.M. Worship**

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

## **July 6**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**Community Table offering**

2 Kings 5:1–14 or Isaiah 66:10–14;  
Psalm 30 or Psalm 66:1–9;  
Galatians 6:(1–6) 7–16; Luke 10:1–11,  
16–20

## **July 13**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**Prayers for the People**

**Guest Preacher: Rev Eric Nielsen**

Amos 7:7–17 or Deuteronomy 30:9–14;  
Psalm 82 or Psalm 25:1–10;  
Colossians 1:1–14; Luke 10:25–37

## **July 20**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 8:1–12 or Genesis 18:1–10a;  
Psalm 52 or Psalm 15;  
Colossians 1:15–28; Luke 10:38–42

## **July 27**

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Hosea 1:2–10 or Genesis 18:20–32;  
Psalm 85 or Psalm 138;  
Colossians 2:6–15 (16–19); Luke  
11:1–13

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## **July Birthdays**

7 Hailey Barnhardt  
9 Louise Partlow  
10 Gracie Cartmill  
11 Mel Rude  
15 Lyle Carlson  
17 Bill Sprouse  
18 Kayla Stygar  
19 Megan Eisberner  
26 Jim Rusch

## **Prayer Ministry**

**In July, we are praying for these individuals/families:** Maria Patton;  
Mimi Pederson; Kevin & Jean Phillips;  
Kenny (Annette) Polden; Aurora (Matt)  
Robison

## Food for Thought

Communion will be held on July 6. We will take our offering for the Community Table and we will also have a potluck featuring brats and burgers! Bring a dish to go with them.

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. Masks are always available at church if you would like to wear 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. 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, especially men's L, XL & 2XL; sleeping bags & blankets; men's underwear—new is preferred, especially L or XL; sweatpants, men's L, XL & 2XL; tarps 4x6 or 6x8. Also, monetary gifts are very welcome. They purchase city bus passes to provide to those who 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, which now is a new copier for the office. July birthdays—it's your turn. Plus if anyone wants to give extra toward a new copier, now's a perfect time.

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.

## Upcoming Sale!

On September 20 we will have a Thrift Sale, Bake Sale, Craft Sale and Quilt Sale. Mark the date on your calendar! Any crafts are welcome, our quilters are busy quilting, think of the things you want to bake (Our Bake Sales are very popular), and start collecting things for the Thrift Sale. Thrift Sale items must all be marked except for clothing and books. We will let you know when you can bring your items.

Dear Plymouth UCC,

One of my favorite times of the day during the summer is in the early morning. The early I'm referring to is around 6:00 A.M., which I know for some people may not be early at all. It's at that time on most days, while the rest of my family is still asleep, I take our new puppy for a walk and then water our plants and new trees.

The reason early morning is my favorite time of a summer day is not just because of watering plants or even walking the puppy, though. It's because it's so quiet. There's not much going on. You don't hear a lot of cars, nor do you hear the typical sounds of summer, like lawn mowers and other lawn equipment.

What's surprising is that in that time of quiet is actually when I hear the most. No, I don't hear lawn mowers, cars, people, or the other usual sounds of summer, but I hear myself better than usual. I hear my own thoughts and what's going on inside of me that morning. I hear that I need that time to slow down, to listen, and to gather myself for the day ahead. I hear my worries, and then usually can let them go.

It's pretty ironic that in the quiet we sometimes hear more. The beauty of it is that what we're hearing is what's inside of us. It's not noise, it's the voice we know best and may need to hear best: our own.

What are you listening for this summer? What's on your mind? What are your hopes, dreams, and needs? I think we often spend our time listening for the voice of God, or listening to other people, or listening to anything that we hope might give us the answer we need or guidance, when all along, we need to listen to ourselves.

Jesus often said to his followers and everyone around him: "Let anyone with ears listen!" (Matthew 11:15 NRSVUE). Are you listening to yourself? This may be exactly how God intends to speak to you.

I continue to appreciate the warm welcome at Plymouth and have enjoyed getting to know some of you more. I look forward to a summer of listening to God together.

May you have a peaceful, uplifting, and ear-opening summer!

*Pastor Michael*



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

# Leadership Team Minutes

June 8, 2025

Members present: Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Lil Savage, Lyle Carlson, Cindy Halfen, Deb Zehms, Mimi Pederson, Dorothy Ann, Louise Partlow, and Pastor Michael

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 A.M. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

## Financial Reports:

As of May 31, 2025

Year to Date Income	\$56,936.20
Year to Date Expenses	\$62,287.36
Ahead (Behind)	(\$5,351.16)

## Treasurer's Report:

Year to date envelope income is \$11,029 less than last year at this point, but still more than the YTD average going back to 2009. \$2000 was transferred from the Reserve Fund and Judd St UCC reimbursed us for Pastor David's health insurance. Expenses included lawn mowing for May. OCWM and Community Table payments will be caught up at the end of the quarter.

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$6,604.56

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$22,048.73

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## Worship:

- We will schedule Marisa Johnson's New Member service soon.
- We will have a pot luck following worship July 6.

## Building and Grounds:

- Our new cleaning person is doing a great job.
- Pastor's office is done and looks nice. Pastor Michael has "moved in."

## Pastor's Report:

- He values open communication, feedback, suggestions
- He will be different from David; we need to think about what kind of pastor we want
- The church website must be updated. It will cost money, but for many people it's the first place they go to learn about us so it has to be current. Pastor Michael will look into options/costs.
- We discussed the need for a church credit card and the Leadership Team voted to get one.
- The "Northwest Association" is now the "Northern Region" of the WI Conference.

## Old Business:

- We are going to send someone to the June 14 Pride Event to see if we can or would want to participate next year.
- Stand in the Light Choir will make a 15-minute presentation at an upcoming worship service
- Do we want to do an ad for the Thrift, Bake, Craft, Quilt Sale? Larry will get prices for our options

## New Business:

- Do we want a "Songs and S'Mores" in August? We will check Lynn's availability when she gets back from vacation before we schedule it

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M. There will be no meeting in July so our next meeting will be Sunday, August 10, 2025 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>July 2025</div> <div> God Bless America  </div> </div>						
		1	2	3	4 <i>Office closed</i>	5
6 <i>Hunger offering</i>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 P.M. Pot Luck	7	8  10:00 A.M. Quilters	9  1:30 P.M. Bible Study	10	11	12
13 <i>Prayers for the People</i>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	14	15  10:00 A.M. Quilters	16	17	18	19
20 <i>OCWM offering</i>  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	21	22  10:00 A.M. Quilters	23  1:30 P.M. Bible Study	24	25	26
27  10:00 A.M. Coffee 10:30 A.M. Worship	28	29  10:00 A.M. Quilters	30	31		