



# Good News

Plymouth United Church *of Christ*

October 2025

Published monthly by  
**Plymouth UCC**  
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***Cross illumination for  
October is sponsored by the  
Shepler Family.***

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## **All Souls Remembrance**

Would you like to honor someone who has died? Our November 2 worship service will be our annual All Souls Day Remembrance of the Dead. This year we remember the lives of Audrey Heimstead and Pat Sexter.

We also like to honor those in your family or circle of friends/mentors/loved ones who have died. If you have someone that you would like to have remembered, please give their name and date of death (if you know) to Pastor Michael or to Mimi by October 27 so we can print their names in the bulletin.



Dear Plymouth,

This is Bill Sprouse, a fellow member of the church, and ordained minister in the UCC. Thank you for reading the Transition Guides over the course of the summer! After the church Thrift Sale the Leadership Team wanted to review the 12-weeks of guides that sought to lead us towards a more grounded identity in Christ, and a seeking of what community needs for care and justice God might be speaking to us about in this season of transition.

This Sunday you will be able to pick up the review sheet. With gentleness and curiosity, read the overview, and use the questions at the end of the handout to consider what God might be inviting you into. I would invite you to use this personally, and also with others to make room to consider and share what God is doing among us.

If you have questions about these or would like help considering your own journey with God, please know that I would be glad to listen, and I'm sure Pastor Michael would be as well. :-)

Peace,  
Bill Sprouse

# October Worship Calendar

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

*Communion the first Sunday of the month*

## **October 5**

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

**Community Table &**

**Neighbors In Need offering**

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Sprouse**

Lamentations 1:1–6 or Habakkuk 1:1–4;

2:1–4; Psalm 137 or Psalm 37:1–9;

2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10

## **October 12**

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

**Prayers for the People**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7 or 2 Kings 5:1–3,

7–15c; Psalm 66:1–12 or Psalm 111;

2 Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19

## **October 19**

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

Jeremiah 31:27–34 or Genesis 32:22–31;

Psalm 119:97–104 or Psalm 121;

2 Timothy 3:14–4:5; Luke 18:1–8

## **October 26**

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

Joel 2:23–32 or Jeremiah 14:7–10,

19–22; Psalm 65 or Psalm 84:1–7;

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14

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## **October Birthdays**

- 2 Jen Adams
- 4 Hannah Zehms
- 5 Jamie Stafford
- 9 Maria Patton
- 22 Kay Bussing
- Nathan Stygar
- 29 Nancy Wendt

## **Prayer Ministry**

**In October, we are praying for these**

**individuals/families:** Bill & Heidi

Sprouse, Beck, Gabe, Olivia; Jamie

Stafford, Nathan, Dakota, Kayla, Zayden

Freid; George (Sue Falch) Stecher; John

Stecher; Steve Strassman

## **Neighbors in Need Offering**

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. We will collect this offering on October 5. There will be a special envelope in your bulletin for this.

## **Memorials**

*Birthday Challenge:*

Cindy Halfen

Steve Strassman

Linda Oliver

## Food for Thought

Communion will be held on October 5, World Communion Sunday. We will take our offering for the Community Table and Neighbors in Need, and we will also have a potluck! Bring a dish to pass!



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: men's tennis shoes, sizes 11-13; sweatpants, sizes M, L, XL; T-shirts, sizes L, XL, 2XL & 3XL; socks, ankle & crew; regular sweatshirts, L & XL; hoodies, L, XL, 2XL; tents, 1-2. 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. October 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.

## Quilt, Craft, Thrift & Bake Sale Results

We had a successful day on Saturday, September 20. We made a little over \$3000 on our sale! Thanks to everyone who donated goods, baked goodies, helped set up the sale, helped the day of the sale and helped with packing up and cleaning up. It was a fun day and a lot of interaction with members and friends of our church.

Dear Plymouth,

It's easy to know that October is near and here: Halloween decorations are out! Whether it's giant skeletons, black cats, or something spookier, many people, and maybe you, go "all in" with Halloween decorations. It's fun to see what different houses come up with each Halloween. I remember taking a walk on a nice, October evening a few years ago. It was already dark and I was enjoying my walk until I saw, just a few feet away, a scary figure that looked like something out of a horror movie sitting on a swaying swing that was hanging from a tree near the sidewalk. I almost fell over I was given such a fright. I quickly realized it wasn't real but just a Halloween decoration. I avoided that house the next Halloween!

October brings with it more than just Halloween, though. The beautiful colors of changing leaves, the color and shape of pumpkins and other fall crops (Thank you to Jim and Julie for the beautiful pumpkins on either side of the entrance to Plymouth!), and all that comes with the harvest. October has traditionally been a harvest month, and many crops like apples, pumpkins, squash, and root vegetables are ready for picking. We recently went to the Eau Claire Farmers' Market, and it was clear that the harvest was in! It was hard not to want to buy everything on the tables of colorful and recently picked vegetables.

Back before grocery stores and the food industry we have today, farmers would spend a lot of time in October canning vegetables and everything from the harvest to sustain their families throughout the winter. You can imagine, even though canning was hard work (which some of you may still do), there would have been a certain amount of pride and celebration in seeing what all the hard work and dedication of the summer had brought. Many churches also had harvest festivals, celebrating God's presence and a good growing season. The harvest was a celebration of God's gifts and the earth's bounty.

We have a lot to celebrate here at Plymouth in October! The Thrift Sale was a success, and thank you to all of those who donated, bought, and helped in any way possible. I was in awe of all the hard work and dedication you put into making it a success for the church. We also have had lively worship services with beautiful music, the return of fun traditions like the candy jar during the passing of the peace, and engaging transition handouts prepared by Bill Sprouse. Plymouth is celebrating its own harvest, one that shows who we are as a community of faith, dedicated and looking forward to the future ahead.

Peace,

*Pastor Michael*



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

# Leadership Team Minutes

September 21, 2025

Members present: Barb Kleist, Larry Kleist, Rob Jaenke, Lil Savage, Lyle Carlson, Mimi Pederson, Dorothy Ann Divine, and Bill Sprouse

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 A.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.



## **Financial Reports:**

As of August 31, 2025

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Year to Date Income   | \$92,957.50 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$91,728.45 |
| Ahead (Behind)        | \$1,229.05  |

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Year to date envelope income is \$68,449, \$217 more than last year at this point, and more than the YTD average going back to 2009. \$2,000 was transferred from the Reserve Fund. Expenses included lawn mowing for August and the yearly maintenance for our database program Shepherd's Staff.

**Memorial Fund Balance:** \$8,916.56

**Reserve Fund Balance:** \$9,064.89

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

## **Stewardship:**

- Larry will check on the price for nuts this year.

## **Worship:**

- We will have a pot luck following worship October 5.

## **Building and Grounds:**

- Some folks have been having trouble with their keys. Larry will bring in some silicone spray to see if that will help.

## **Pastor's Report:**

- No report as Pastor Michael was gone.

## **Old Business:**

- The Thrift Sale was a huge success. We made over \$3,000!
- Bill will write up a summary of our transition hand-outs and ask for congregational feed back.

## **New Business:**

- The Leadership Team voted to ask Pastor Michael to stay on permanently as our part-time pastor. Barb will discuss this with him to see if he wants to stay and then it will be put to a congregational vote before the end of his contract (December 31, 2025).

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 P.M. Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 12, 2025 after worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mimi Pederson

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--------|---|
| <h1>October 2025</h1>   |   |   |  |   |        |   |
|   |   |   | 1  | 2   | 3      | 4   |
| <b>5 Hunger &amp; NIN offering</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Communion<br>Worship<br>11:30 P.M. Pot Luck | 6   | 7<br><br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>6:45 P.M. Dartball<br>Hope Gospel at<br>Plymouth    | 8<br><br>1:30 P.M. Bible<br>Study  | 9<br><br>11:00 A.M.–<br>3:00 P.M.<br>90 <sup>th</sup> birthday<br>celebration for<br>Maria Patton | 10     | 11  |
| <b>12 Prayers for the People</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship                                       | 13<br><br>5:30 P.M. EC<br>Garden Club         | 14<br><br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>6:45 P.M. Dartball<br>Plymouth at<br>Chapel Hts    | 15   | 16  | 17     | 18  |
| <b>19 OCWM offering</b><br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship  | 20<br><br>4:30 P.M. EC<br>Master<br>Gardeners | 21<br><br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>6:45 P.M. Dartball<br>Bethesda Gold at<br>Plymouth | 22<br><br>1:30 P.M. Bible<br>Study   | 23  | 24     | 25  |
| 26<br><br>10:00 A.M. Coffee<br>10:30 A.M. Worship   | 27  | 28<br><br>10:00 A.M. Quilters<br><br>6:45 P.M. Dartball<br>Plymouth at Rock<br>Creek    | 29   | 30  | 31     |  |



**15 oz. Mixed nuts for \$17.00**

Order by calling the church office (715-835-5475), emailing Mimi (mimi@pcucc.com), or use the sign-up sheet in the hallway alcove.