

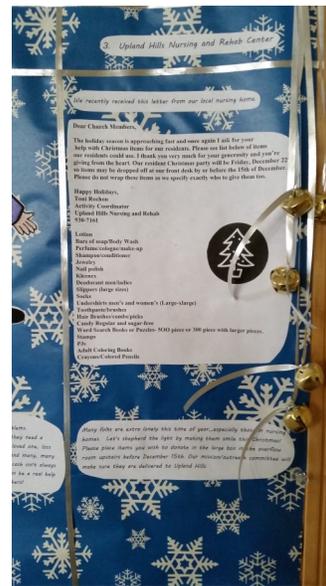


**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE HELD  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, AT 7 PM.  
THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR WORSHIP  
SERVICE ON THAT MORNING.**



### Joyful Noise

bulletin boards are new and located in the Fellowship Hall. These informative boards will indicate what your giving supports and what the needs are.



### UPDATES

No Feeding Friends this month. Feeding Friends will resume on January 10, 2018.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day

Dec 2 - Dodgeville Woman's Federated Club hosting Breakfast with Santa @ Plymouth UCC, 8 am until 11 am.

Dec 2 - Plymouth UCC and Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce LIVE NATIVITY at Plymouth UCC, 1 pm until 6 pm. **Please donate cookies or bars.** Thank you!

Dec 3 - First Day of Advent, Budget Q and A following worship

Dec 9 Pasty Sale

Dec 17 - 2018 Budget Vote



Facebook page is updated weekly. [Plymouth United Church of Christ Dodgeville.](#)

Visit our webpage for updated information.





## A Note from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Advent is that time of year when we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. It is a time of expectation, a season of waiting and anticipation; Advent is about looking for God and hoping for God in a world where God's promises are outstanding and yet to be fulfilled.

But if we're honest, the reality of our Advent experience looks more like a four-week period of crazy-busy, where we scramble to fit in all the additional tasks of buying/wrapping/sending gifts, decorating the house, preparing extra food, attending parties, sending cards, and on and on and on.

The Advent season is usually more about meeting expectations than it is about anticipating the coming of Christ, and by the time Christmas is over we've spread ourselves so thin we can't feel much of anything – besides relief.

Advent is supposed to be a time of an inward journey, a time of self-reflection and self-awareness. Thomas Merton says, "Be still. Listen to the stones of the wall. Be silent, they try to speak your name. Listen to the living walls. Who are you? Who are you? Whose silence are you?"

Imagine what it would look like if every Christian were to embark on an inward journey of self-reflection during the month of December. Imagine what it would be like if instead of all the frenzy, *every single Christian* were to spend the entire month in silent anticipation of the coming of Christ.

I wish I could imagine that. I wish I believed it were possible. It's probably not.

But here's the thing. Advent has nothing to do with a particular date on a calendar. Advent is always arriving. The kingdom of heaven is always unfolding, always revealing itself as the "not yet here," and the "yet always here" mystery of God.

The truth is, our lives are one big, never-ending "advent," – not just one month out of a year leading up to the birth of a baby – but every single day we draw breath. And it is precisely this baby, Jesus, who taught us about Advent and the imminence of Advent long before Advent even existed!

So go ahead and take time to listen to the stones of the walls; allow yourselves the luxury of silence as they speak your name. God is not trapped in our calendars and clocks, and neither are we...

Merry Christmas to you all,  
Pastor Joy



## MODERATORS REPORT

Plymouth Friends, "What's up with the flags you say?" The question of why the US and Christian Flag were moved from the altar has come up a few times in the past month or more. The moving of them appears to date back to a year ago when the Christmas trees were put in place. The flags could not be seen, so they were moved. They had not been returned to the sanctuary till a week ago. In the weeks prior to them being placed in the sanctuary but not on the altar, some healthy debate occurred amongst Pastor Joylynn, the council, and other congregation members. I learned a few lessons regarding the proper way to display the US Flag as per a 1976 federal requirement. I also got informed about the 1950's era origin of the common practice of placing of the US flag in church sanctuaries. I also learned about the Christian Flag and the fact that it originated in 1896 and has an importance that is largely symbolic. I mean not to diminish it by saying that, I only mean to say no church is required to display it.

I do not know when Plymouth began displaying the two flags on the altar. It is likely it occurred in the 1950's. I also do not know if we have church records that would show that an official placement of the flags is mandated via a congregational vote. You can now fast forward to present day. The council discussed and voted on the new placement in the sanctuary. This new placement is not a requirement. Our church constitution will not show it in its bylaws. Does our placement of the US flag meet federal guidelines? Nope. Is the new placement an even more prominent one than the altar? In my view it is. Are we finished debating this? I suspect not. Was the council decision the right one? Weigh in, let me know.

In a related matter, let's all keep in mind that when we have a beef with what's going on at Plymouth, there are proper ways to go about voicing concerns. If it relates to the building, talk to a trustee. A personal concern, of course, is best voiced to pastor Joylynn. The council moderator is a good starting point for most other issues. If you don't care for something the pastor is up to, we have a Pastoral Relations committee that can act as a go-between in those instances. What I hope can be avoided is the stress that is created when Pastor Joy is caught off guard at an ill-timed moment.

I need to close by reinforcing some dates of importance. We will be meeting following the December third Sunday service to discuss the proposed 2018 budget. The second date to keep in mind is December 17th. That is the date for a congregation vote to approve a budget for 2018.

Peace,

Bill D



# Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

## Church Office:

### Pastor Availability

#### Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Office Administrator

#### Hours

Tuesday-Thursday  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

### Pastor:

Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

#### [pastor-](#)

[joylynn@gmail.com](mailto:joylynn@gmail.com)

### Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5737

[plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net)

### Maintenance:

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

### Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

### Choir Director:

Lisa Duwell

### Moderator:

Bill Duwell

### Vice Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

## ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 5	39
NOVEMBER 12	34
NOVEMBER 19	43
NOVEMBER 26	28



In the Northern Hemisphere December has the shortest daylight hours and marks the beginning of winter. December provides the longest days in Southern Hemisphere, as it is the beginning of summer.

### Mission Statement

**"To grow and share our faith, worship God, and follow Jesus Christ in the ways of love, peace, compassion, justice and the nurturing of God's creation."**

### Vision Statement

**"To be a welcoming and thriving Christian Community, living our faith through reflection and action, while remaining grounded in God's love."**

## Happy Birthday

December 9	Frank Duwell
December 11	Louis Neal
December 12	Jane Bettner
December 29	Isaac Steele



Did we miss a birthday? Please contact the church office and let us know. 935-5727

## Choir Practice WEDNESDAYS at 7 pm



## Community Conversation

**THANKS TO YOUR  
GENEROSITY IN OCTOBER**

FEEDING FRIENDS

\$421.13

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

\$246.39

**DECEMBER JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING  
IS DESIGNATED FOR:**

**THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

**PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Joyful  
noise



# Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

We recently received a request for donations of Christmas gifts for the residents of Upland Hills Nursing and Rehab Center. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

Lotion	Socks
Bar Soap/Shower Gel	Jewelry
Make-up	Perfume/Cologne
Shampoo/Conditioner	Jigsaw puzzles (300-500 larger size pieces)
Nail Polish	Slippers (large sizes)
Kleenex	Hair Brushes/Combs/Picks
Deodorant	Crayons/Colored pencils
Word Search books	Adult coloring Books
Stamps	Undershirts (men's and women's L and XL)
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes	Candy (regular and sugar free)
Pajamas	

There will be a large box wrapped to look like a Christmas gift in the overflow room by the stage for collection of these items.

Please place all donations in this box on or before December 14th so they can be delivered in time for their Christmas party.

Please do not wrap your gifts, as the staff knows who each item will be given to.

Thanks for helping to share the joy of Christmas!



The Dodgeville area of the Compassionate Friends will be hosting a worldwide candle lighting service of remembrance of loved ones lost. The service will be at the Dodgeville United Methodist Church, Sunday, December 10th, at 6 pm. All are welcome. Fellowship and lunch to follow the service. Any Questions call 935-2693.

## Newsletter Deadline

**January 23 at 8 am.**

*Please submit any items you would like to appear in the newsletter by this time.*

*Email your newsletter*

*submissions to*

[plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net)



## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Moderator

Bill Duwell

### Vice Moderator

Chuck roethe

### Trustees

Mark Pepelea

### Diaconate

Gary McHone

### Mission

Lisa Pepelea

### Clerk

Gretchen Pearson

### Christian Education

Julie Neal

### Treasurer

Dave Pearson

### Financial Secretary

Earl Barnes

If your address, phone/cell number, or email have changed, please contact the office so that we may update our records . You may call the office at 935-5727, or email the office at [plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net).



# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World AIDS Day— Ringing of the Bells 	2 Breakfast with Santa 8-11 am Live Nativity 1-6 pm 
3 First Sunday of Advent Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	4	5 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	6 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	7 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 Pasty Sale 
10 Second Sunday of Advent Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	11	12 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Diaconate, 5:30 pm Council, 7 pm	13 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	14 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Trustees, 7 pm	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am Choir Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Homes 1 pm	18	19 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	20 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	21 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm First Day of Winter 	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday Advent Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm 	25 Christmas 	26 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	27 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	28 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	29	30
31 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am 						



## DIACONATE NEWS



### Diaconate Notes

The Diaconate Board met November 14th at 5:30 pm.

Discussion was held regarding the 2018 budget. Our budget will take a cut but we can work with that. The budget will include funds for one guest speaker during the year and the Diaconate will do any other services needed.

Memorial Poinsettias - Order forms will be included in the church bulletins so people can order poinsettias which will be displayed in the sanctuary and then taken home.

November 26th will be the Hanging of the Greens following the church service. Diaconate will be providing pizza.

December 2nd there will be a Live Nativity from 1:00 - 6:00 on our church lawn sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Plymouth will provide costumes and will have an open house providing free cookies and hot chocolate and a place to warm up. Church members will be asked to bring cookies. Harry and Gary will arrange background music and have a light projector set up to add to the festive atmosphere in the church.

A new Usher Duty List has been updated and given to all the ushers.

Jan Helmich, Secretary



Feeding Friends could use plastic containers with covers such ice cream buckets, cottage cheese and large yogurt containers and the like. Please leave them on the counter at Church and thank you.



I am getting up a new **NOTICE** ready to print directory. Please let me know if your phone numbers and addresses are still correct. I am also working on updating the birthday list. Please let me know your birthday and wedding anniversary if you would like. Thank you for your help.

### Monthly Meetings/Events

Sometimes meeting times/dates will change. Please check the [website](#), [Facebook](#), or contact the church office 935-5727.

#### Sundays:

8:45 AM—Faith Explorers  
Community Conversation usually 3rd Sunday each month

#### Tuesdays

Diaconate 5:30 pm  
Council Meetings 7 pm—Third Tuesday of the month.

#### Wednesdays

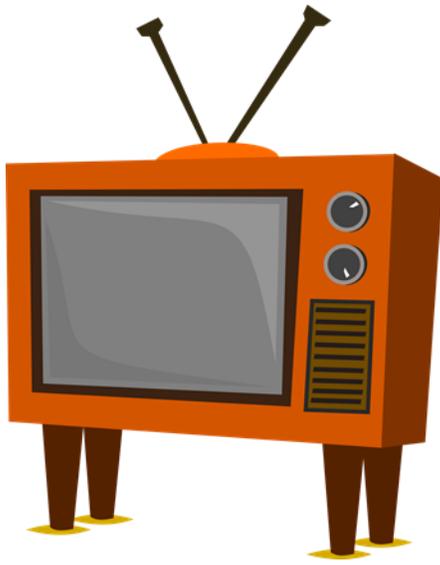
Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm  
Choir, 7 pm

#### Thursdays

**Trustees** - Second Thursday of the Month, 7 pm.  
**Plymouth Circle** - Fourth Thursday of the month, noon, at Country Kitchen.

#### Saturday

**Pasty Sales** - Second Saturday of the month October through April.



**Our Sunday Worship Service  
may be viewed on the Dodgeville**

**Local Access Channel  
(MHTC channel 10)**

**Sunday at 4 pm**

**Tuesday at 7 pm**

**Thursday at 8 am**

**Sermons are also available for  
viewing on our website:**

**[plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org) and  
on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)**

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Present: Pastor Joylynn Graham, Julie, Neal, Dave Pearson, Bill Duwell, Chuck Roethe, Lisa Pepelea, Mark Pepelea, Gary McHone, Gretchen Pearson, Earl Barnes

Guest: Elise Lindeman

Opening Prayer-Pastor Joy

Agenda Changes and approval: Mark moved, Dave seconded to approve the agenda. Approved

Corrections and Approval of Council Minutes of Oct. 17th, 2017: Dave moved, Gary seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Approved.

**Flag Issue:**

Elise Lindeman is concerned that the Christian and American Flags had been moved from the sanctuary to the front hall. She would like the flags brought back in the sanctuary. A Council member said that the flags may have been moved because of the Christmas decorations or during Holy Week and never moved back.

Gary moved as a compromise that the flags will be displayed on either side of the table along the overflow wall with the American Flag on the left side of the table and the Christian flag on the right side of the table. Seconded by Lisa. Approved.

**Pastors Report:** Joylynn

Office Administrator Salary vs Hourly - Bill discussed the Administrator's method of pay. There are advantages to being paid hourly but salaried offers more flexibility. We will leave the Administrators pay salaried at 18 hours per week as the work varies from week to week.

Pastor Joy will have surgery on December 11th and is expecting to be back in church December 18th. She will have a back-up sermon and bulletin ready in case she needs a longer recovery.

**Committee Reports**

Mission: Lisa - no report at this time.

Education: Julie will be resigning as Christian Ed chairperson at the end of this calendar year. Perhaps a member of the Faith Explorers group may wish to be the Council Meeting Representative.

Diaconate: Gary

Committee tied up loose ends regarding Hanging of the Greens November 26th

Announcements will be made asking for volunteers to help donate cookies and/or serve cookies and hot chocolate during the Live Nativity scene Saturday, December 2nd.

Notifications will go out for purchase of memorial poinsettias and sign-up sheets will be available to be returned to the church office by December 11th. The plants will be displayed in the sanctuary the week before Christmas.

Pastor brought up some complaints about the length of the service. Making passing the peace shorter and no announcements was not received well. The Faith Explorers have moved their meeting time to 8:45 a.m. which has solved the problem of not enough time for Fellowship before they met. Announcements (except during stewardship presentations) and Sharing of the Peace will continue as before.

### **Trustees:** Mark

ADA Door - moving switch down to make it easier to reach would cost over \$534.

The committee tabled this realizing this is too costly an expense. So far there have been no problems with it as is.

Wells Fargo endowment meeting will be re-scheduled. The representative from the bank has given Mark some suggestions and Mark will encourage questions from the congregation.

Roof Contractor - A roofer who put the roof on calked some portions around the chimney. Mark will check next time it rains to see if he can locate any water trail.

Elevator - We need some parts to fix the elevator. The service person checked it and it is safe to use even if is not perfectly level when it stops.

### **Financial Report:** Mark, Earl Dave

October Report - We are tracking as we should. Chuck moved and Gary seconded to accept the October Report as presented. Approved.

Building fund is at a negative \$621.20 because of the ADA door repair. Mark will transfer some funds to balance this out.

Stewardship - year to date giving is running about 2% below last year. Mission giving is high.

2018 Employee Compensation - Office Administrator should remain at 18 hours per week.

Wacky Wednesday Budget and Employee Management - Dave discussed a tentative budget for the 2017-18 school year. A question arose as to who (Plymouth or Family Resource Center) is responsible for reviewing the two employees for Wacky Wednesday. The suggestion was made that the steering committee be responsible for employee reviews and a member of the steering committee be on the council. The memorandum of understanding will need to be changed to reflect this addition.

2018 Budget: Mark presented several different budget scenarios. Suggestions were made for the Trustees to consider regarding different line items. Budget will be presented to the congregation November 19th with a paper copy and in the newsletter. Mark will take questions by phone. The congregation will vote on the final budget after the service December 17th.

### **Other Business:**

Stewardship Letter - Bill will be getting the letter out to the congregation soon.

The council agreed that operational issues regarding the church need to be discussed with the moderator and church council or the pastoral relations committee.

**Next meeting: Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm**



## **Schedules**

### **Fellowship**

3 - Tina Valenti

10 - Tina Valenti

17 - Anne Bachner

24 -

31 -

### **Usher**

3 - Bill and Lisa Duwell

10 - Chuck and Jill  
Roethe

17 - Maureen Teubert

24 - Gary McHone

31 - Rod and Mary  
Lukes

### **Reader**

3 - Bill Duwell

10 - Gretchen Pearson

17 - Maureen Teubert

24 - Gary McHone

31 - Jan Helmich

### **Communion**

3 - Julie Neal

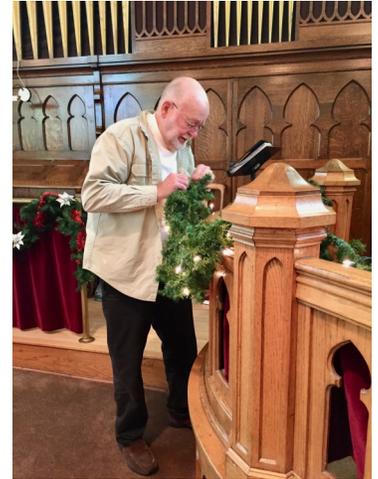
10 - Dave Pearson

17 - Jill Roethe

24 - Gary McHone

31 - Jan Helmich

# Hangin'g of the Greens



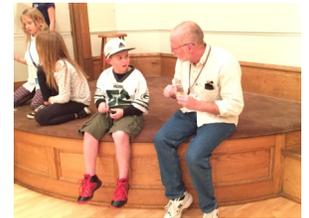
Merry Christmas





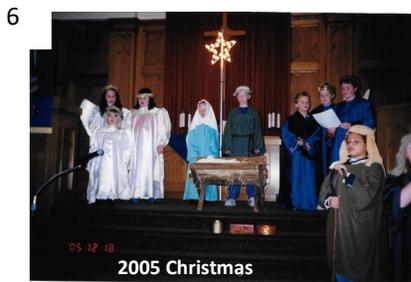
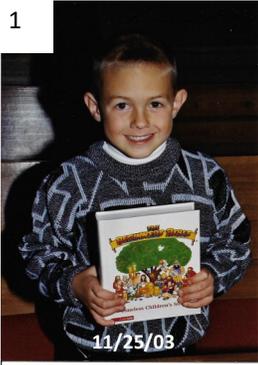
# A VIEW OF PLYMOUTH UCC ...

## WACKY WEDNESDAY IN ACTION



# OUT OF THE PAST...

When we have space, there will be pictures from the past. Please help to identify the **people** in the picture, the **date** and what **event or the reason for the picture**. Send your guesses to the office. Thanks!



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

**Plymouth Congregational**

**United Church of Christ**

115 West Merrimac Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533

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Email: [Plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:Plymouth@mhtc.net)

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