



# *the Herald* May 2016

*God is Still Speaking*

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Dodgeville, Wisconsin*



*From the Pastor's Pen...*

*After a hectic Lent and an even more hectic Holy Week, Easter Sunday ushered in much needed warm breezes and a little down-time for this pastor. I spent my vacation week at home tending to those little things that accumulate into big piles, as well as doing some much needed spring cleaning. Spring cleaning is a yearly ritual that I take very seriously; it is a time of purging and refreshing; of airing out and polishing. The winter months have been long and by the end of March I am just itching to revive my house and acquire that freshness that I've been longing for all winter. Everything outside is starting to sing with new life. The buds are coming out on the trees, birds are chirping, and the daffodils are beginning to bloom.*

*But sometimes we need to do the same thing with our spiritual houses. All of us grow stale sometimes and need a spiritual freshening up. The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. We can't clean ourselves, so we must draw near to God for help and this requires some intentional practice. Psalm 51:10 says: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Likewise, Hebrews 10:22 reminds us: "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." Spiritual cleansing is a form of housekeeping that goes straight to the heart – beyond what others see and hear. It's a deep cleaning from within that changes and refreshes how we perceive the world and those around us. And as your heart gets clean, your words and actions automatically follow.*

*So what needs to be done in order to clean up your spiritual home? What needs to be improved? Are there things in your life that are just junk and cluttering up your life? Are there things getting in your way of serving Christ to your greatest potential? Are things like worry, anger, gossip, and bad habits cluttering up your life? A good litmus test can be found in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

*This year as the Earth awakens; as energy shifts and starts to stir; as the dirt thaws and the sweet sap starts to rise; as life breaks new ground; let us, too, give a good stretch and emerge from a long winter's nap into the sunshine of God's grace and mercy. Let us find in ourselves what is pure, pleasing and commendable, and ask God to remove from our hearts what is stale and stuffy. Let us exercise our compassion and our kindness with each other and renew collectively our community of faith.*

*As we become lighter together we will be free to fly forward with the sun and the birds, eager to greet whatever awaits us in the new season. Let us prepare to spring ahead.*

*Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Joy*



## **Moderator's Report**

A few things of note this month. Pastor Joylynn and I attended the SW Association meeting in Fort Atkinson. I think the most important takeaways were these. We share many of the same issues and concerns with other congregations of our size throughout the area. Dwindling congregation size and tightening budgets are not rare. It is important to not dwell on these issues but rather to move forward confidently with new initiatives that get us out into the community. In my view that bodes well for us. We have already taken many steps in that direction. Identifying core values was emphasized much during the day.

I feel like we are very much taking the right first steps to pinpoint what our core values are. Reviewing our church constitution is a part of that. Talking openly during our community conversations is a part of that. In the near future we will learn more about what it means for our church to declare itself "Open and affirming". That may also end up being a key part of our core values. These will be the type of values that define how we use resources, how we are viewed in the community, how we are viewed in the eyes of God.

Perhaps another simple way to add to the list of what Plymouth values is to think about how we treat each other. I mean to say how we speak to each other when tackling the tasks of managing the church. What we say and how we say it to each other makes a difference. Words matter. We can be honest and truthful with each other while still maintaining a high level of courtesy and respect. In the last year I can't say I've always witnessed that as being a Plymouth value in practice. I am the first to admit I am as guilty as any when it comes to thinking before acting and speaking. I hope to start my value list by improving that.

## **Whacky Wednesday**

I had hoped to be able to report one way or another as to the future of the afterschool program for this issue but we fell a bit short of being able to print the results. I look forward to filling you in on that next month.

## **Pasties**

Thanks everyone for another fantastic effort in helping us through another Pasty season. It is a vital undertaking. Without your strong commitment to this undertaking, many of our important community outreach programs would suffer. Those pasty dollars help pay the bills so we can put other dollars toward charitable causes.

Thanks, Bill Duwell

## ***Plymouth Church Council Minutes*** **Plymouth UCC Council Minutes** **April 12, 2016**

Present: Bill Duwell, Earl Barnes, Julie Neal, Steve Freeman, Chuck Roethe, Gretchen Pearson, Pastor Joy Graham, Dave Pearson  
Excused: Gary McHone

Opening Prayer – Pastor Joy

Agenda Changes and Approval – Approved with additions.

Corrections and Approval of Minutes: Dave moved, Pastor Joy seconded to approve the minutes. Approved.

**Mission:** Chuck – The Mission committee met Sunday morning.

- Betsy Strand and Barbara Glass will no longer be on the committee.
- There may be a donation from the Joyful Noise that was not used for the mission trip. Chuck and Bill will make sure that it is deposited in the Mission trip account at Mineral Point.
- Farmer's Appreciation Day July 10th – We will have a float and Chuck will carry the banners and up to six cheering people on his Kawasaki Mule.
- Love Dodgeville – May 1<sup>st</sup>. No one has signed up yet from Plymouth for a work project.
- Cost containment ideas. Those involved understand the need to meet and plan nutritious meals on a budget. The Feeding Friends team will meet to form a budget and plan economical and nutritious meals.
- Ecumenical happenings need to be shared equally among the different churches.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Website–up and running. Pastor would like to present it to the congregation at the Community conversation on Sunday. Dave will provide the projector.
- Community Conversations – Shift Initiative
- Annual Conference Meeting – Plymouth was asked to talk at the meeting about the Shift Initiative and Community Conversations.
- Historian – The Ruth Circle has agreed to help with sorting out the vast amount of papers, documents and photos. We will need someone to spear head this job and become our historian.
- New PC - Bill will check on the donation for this. Dave and Earl contacted Applied Micro which offers service. Pastor Joy and Sherry will decide which PC they would consider adequate and then let the trustees know.
- Concert with Celia – Council talked about the possibility of holding an evening concert. It would involve selling tickets. Bill will check on this.
- Pastor will be attending a Clergy Leadership Conference in Phoenix April 19-20 with two days travel and will gone all week.

**Financial Report:** Reports were not available from the accountant but will be available for the Trustee meeting. Dave moved and Steve seconded that we table the financial report until the May meeting. Approved.

### **Committee Reports**

Education: Julie – Confirmation kids had a very successful bake sale to pay for the Duck Hunt project.

Diaconate:

- The Sermon for Earth Day April 24<sup>th</sup> will be about animals. Pastor will propose to the Diaconate the possibility of a blessing of the animals if not for Earth Day, some other time later in the year when we can do it outside. Perhaps Farmer's Appreciation Day.
- Welcome Our Neighbors was very successful. Plans are being made to an invite to our Muslim friends and the other churches to a joint service and picnic at Governor Dodge Park this summer.
- Diaconate needs to review with the ushers as to following the duties - especially the new communion procedures and making sure the lights are turned off upstairs and the front door is securely locked.

Trustees: Steve

- Doorbell – Still working on this issue. The point is safety.
- Exit Lights – they are not on. Steve will check which ones are working and which need new bulbs or do not work at all.
- Tables and chairs–Mark is looking into the new tables and chairs. Hallway lights between the office and the kitchen are very dull. Trustees will look into this.

### **Other Business**

- Constitution Update: Dave – The committee has established some of the changes to the constitution. Now the council needs to address the section dealing with the council and each committee needs to address what changes are needed pertaining to it's committee. Steve Freeman, Shirley Barnes, Dave Pearson and Gary McHone are on the committee. Steve offered some suggestions about numbers of

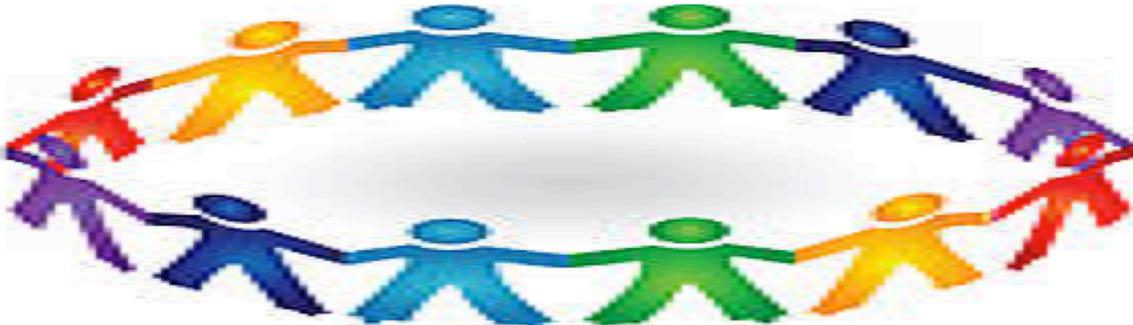
members on each committee and number of years of commitment. Bill will go over the portion involving the council and offer some suggestions which the council will discuss.

- After School Program: Bill - A notice and information regarding the congregational meeting to approve the financing of the After School Program was sent out. The meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Shopping News: Bill – It was decided not to buy a place on the church list.

**Next Meeting May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Plymouth Community Conversations**

*The point is to communicate and give everyone a voice. See you at the next **Community Conversation on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** . Please mark your calendars for these very important conversations!*



### **Sunday School Schedule**

The May schedule will be as follows:

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Julie Neal

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Martha Boyer

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Anne Bachner

That's it for the summer - we will resume in September! Thanks everyone!! Julie Neal



## Feeding Friends Community Meal



# COMMUNITY MEALS

— LOVE IN ACTION —

### Food Pantry Wish List

Jelly/jam

Peanut butter

Pancake mix

Syrup

Ketchup

Boxed desserts

Boxed potatoes

Canned meals

Jello/pudding

Hamburger Helper

Cake Mix

Muffin Mix

Cash donations are also  
welcome

It will be **Plymouth's** turn to host the Feeding Friends dinner on **Wednesday, May 11th at 5:00pm**. The **main dish will be a baked potato bar with yummy toppings** and the coordinators will be Gretchen and Dave Pearson. 414-507-2242, [gpearson@countrysspeed.com](mailto:gpearson@countrysspeed.com)

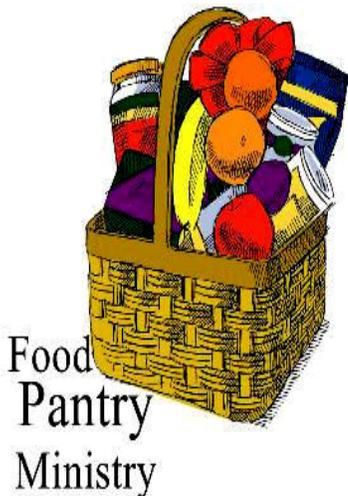
Please call or email them if you can help out with set-up, serving or cleanup. Volunteers are still needed to make a salad or a dessert (cookies, bars, cake) for this meal. Food donations are more than welcome since the number of people attending the meal is between 100 to 125 people.

Food prep time is from 3:30pm-5pm with meal serving at 5:00 pm until 6:30pm. Joyful Noise offerings help with the purchase of food for this community meal.

You are always invited to come and eat a great meal *every* Wednesday at the Methodist Church in Dodgeville and enjoy the company of around 120 other people from the community.

*Parking for Feed Friends is getting hard to find and people that are working the event should park in the gravel lot next to the fitness center.*

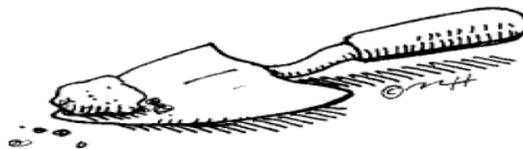
**Needed for Feeding Friends:** Cottage cheese, Cool Whip and large yogurt cartons to store leftovers or use for carry out meals. Also any 4 or 5 quart ice cream buckets with lids. *Please put any of these clean containers on the kitchen counter near the sign & box for "Feeding Friends containers". Thank you.*





*Hello gardeners and garden workers,*

**Please join me** to work in the garden on  
Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 and  
11:00. Thank you, Anne Bachner



### Pastoral Relations Committee

What is the Pastoral Relations Committee? It is a committee appointed by the church council and is designed to be a communication link between the pastor and the congregation. The Pastoral Relation Committee meets on a regular basis and discuss issues that the congregation or the pastor has. Both challenges and successes are discussed with the hope of finding possible solutions to the challenges. If members of the congregation have concerns about something and do not feel comfortable bringing them to the pastor, they can be brought to the committee members. The Pastoral Relations Committee does not have the authority to make decisions for the church. We can only bring up ideas to the appropriate committees. Our goal is to strengthen the relationship between the pastor and the congregation and to help the church grow in a more unified way. The Pastoral Relations committee consists of 4 members of the congregation: Jan Helmich, Maureen Teubert, Brad Bruegger, and David Neal. If you have something you would like brought before the committee, please contact one of us.

Plymouth Church and the Family Resource Center will be proposing an after-school program for children from DES beginning in September, 2016. This project will benefit not only the children who participate, but also the church community.

**“WACKY” WEDNESDAY  
AFTER-SCHOOL KIDS CLUB  
Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm  
36 weeks  
30-35 students grades K-5**

**Minimum of 3 adults on site (Pastor Joy would be one) plus  
Older student helpers from DHS (Key Club & NHS)**

**Programming:  
Healthy Snacks  
Homework Club**

Artist Circle  
Theater Troupe  
Service Learning Projects



**The Dodgeville United Methodist Women Invite You to Their Annual  
Friends' Night**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

We will be *“Counting Our Blessings”*

With **Musical Guests Ron and Rosalee Kittleson**

*Refreshments will be served following the program*

The Dodgeville United Methodist Church, 327 North Iowa Street, Dodgeville.

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## May 7<sup>th</sup> Plymouth will have a SPRING CLEANING DAY.

An all Church Spring cleaning is scheduled for **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm.**

Please join us for this event and bring some snacks along to share to keep everyone energized. Sherry has started a list of cleaning projects and please feel free to suggest some tasks or things that you have noticed need cleaning or organizing.



### *Pastor Joy's Schedule*

Pastor Hours: Pastor Joy will be available Tuesday through Thursday for Pastoral visits or Pastoral care. Please feel free to drop by the office or you can call for an appointment. Pastor Joy may be reached at: 553-0149, or the church office at 935-5727 or [plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net)

Be sure and check out the website at [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org)

There is a spot on the website to submit emails & events.

### Newsletter Submissions

Please email the information for the JUNE 2016 Newsletter to Sherry at [Plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:Plymouth@mhtc.net) by May 25<sup>th</sup>. THANK YOU!



*The Friendship Duck Hunt* - Our goal is to help stop bullying in our school and bring awareness to it.

*We invite you to church on May 1<sup>st</sup>* to help contribute by writing nice messages on the rubber ducks. *Thank you! Max and Gretchen*





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Friendship Duck Hunt Message writing after worship & vote on Wacky Wednesday After School Program Confirmation - 3pm	2	3	4 Choir Practice 7pm	5	6 Relay For Life of Iowa Cty Harris Park @ 6pm	7 Spring Cleaning at Plymouth UCC 9am- 3pm
8	9	10	11 Feeding Friends 5 pm Choir Practice 7pm	12	13	14 Confirmation Field Trip- Time TBD
15 Plymouth Community Conversations - after worship	16	17 Council Meeting 7pm	18 Ruth Circle Choir Practice at 7pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Choir Practice 7pm	26 Trustee Meeting 7pm	27	28
29	30	31				

**Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ**  
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E-mail: [plymouth@mhcc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhcc.net)

Website: [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org)

## TV Broadcast Schedule

### Pastor

Reverend Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

[pastorjoylynn@gmail.co](mailto:pastorjoylynn@gmail.co)

### Office Administrator

Sherry Miess

Office 935-5727

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

### Maintenance

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

### Organist

Marilyn Dunn

### Choir Director

Lisa Duwell

### Council Moderator

Bill Duwell

### Vice Moderator

Chuck Roethe

Sunday worship is on Dodgeville Local Access channel (MHTC channel 10). The schedule is as follows:

- Sunday at 4 pm
- Tuesday at 7 pm
- Thursday at 8 am

Sermons are available for viewing on our website, [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org) and on YouTube.com

*HAPPY*

*BIRTHDAY*

*Megan McCarthy - 1st*

*Heather Dampf - 8th*

*Jan Helmich - 8th*

*Dave Pearson - 13th*

*CELEBRATE*



## Church Council

*Bill DuWell, Moderator*

*Chuck Roethe, Vice Moderator*

*Steve Freeman, Trustees*

*Gary McHone, Diaconate*

*Chuck Roethe, Mission*

*Gretchen Pearson, Clerk*

*Julie Neal, Christian Ed*

*Dave Pearson, Treasurer*

*Earl Barnes, Finical Secretary*