

The Herald

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

FEBRUARY 2024



From the Pastor...

Greetings, Church!

At the first church that I served as a full-time pastor, I worked with an interim senior pastor from whom I learned a great many things about ministry in times of transition. This pastor told me that the job description of an interim pastor is to clean out the closets, literally and figuratively.

Basically, he was teaching me that all systems, patterns, and resources of a congregation need review during an interim period. That doesn't mean that everything needs to change. But even the most well-maintained collection (of coins, silver, sports memorabilia, or church artifacts) will need dusting and reorganizing from time to time.



The photo accompanying this article is of the supply room at a different church that I served as interim pastor. You can imagine that walking into this closet might be overwhelming. Often the ministries of a congregation end up just as cluttered and disorganized as a Sunday School supply closet.

The Interim Ministry Network has a more professional-sounding description of transitional times in congregations. An interim pastor's job is to *continued...*

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

OUR MISSION "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."

Church Office:

Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday

8 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor:

Pastor Katya Ouchakof

puccdodgeville@gmail.com

608-616-5075

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5727

plymouth@mhtc.net

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Schedules

From the Pastor ... continued


“help a religious community find and express a vision that will guide its ministry and aid in discerning the choice of its next leader.” I feel that we have been making progress together in this visioning over the past several months.

So far, we have reviewed and modified our leadership structure to be more sustainable for the size of our congregation. We have affirmed some of the best practices that allow organizations to function in healthy ways, which includes setting some boundaries on who can serve in which elected role. We have reviewed and worked on developing lay leadership for worship services when the pastor cannot be present.

Next steps for this transitional time include discussion about what our priorities are moving forward, and how we can work to realize them. Using the analogy of the supply closet, we need to make sure that the items we will use are in good condition, and easily accessible. This might mean rearranging other items (ministries) or even discarding some of them to ensure that there is enough capacity for the things that we care most about.

Thank you for inviting me to journey with you during this interim period. I hope that we are able to continue to faithfully work together to listen to where God is calling us, and equip ourselves to be able to follow that call.

In Christ,
Pastor Katya

 **The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday**, which is March 5 this year. We will be sharing an evening ecumenical with Grace Lutheran and Dodgeville UMC. The service will be at 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 1105 N Bequette St, Dodgeville. If you prefer to attend a midday service on Ash Wednesday, Grace Lutheran will be holding worship at noon, though that one will not have ecumenical leadership.

Pastor Katya will be on vacation from Feb 12-22. If you have an urgent pastoral need during that time, you may contact Pastor Lorri McGranahan from Dodgeville UMC:



**Pastor Is On
Vacation**

Usher/Reader/Communion

February

2 - Steve and Jenny
9 - Mary and Rick
16 - Chuck and Jill
23 - Mark and Lisa

March

2 - Mary and Rick
9 - Mark and Lisa
16 - Earl and Shirley
22 - Jenny and Steve
30 - Chuck and Jill

***If you would like to volunteer to help with Worship, please contact Mark Pepelea or the church office.**

Joyful Noise

February
Free Clinic
March

2, 9, 16, 23 Hodan Center
30 One Great Hour of Sharing

Fellowship

February
2 - Steve
9 - Barnes
16 - Pepeleas
23 -
March
2
9
16
23

Boundary Keeping

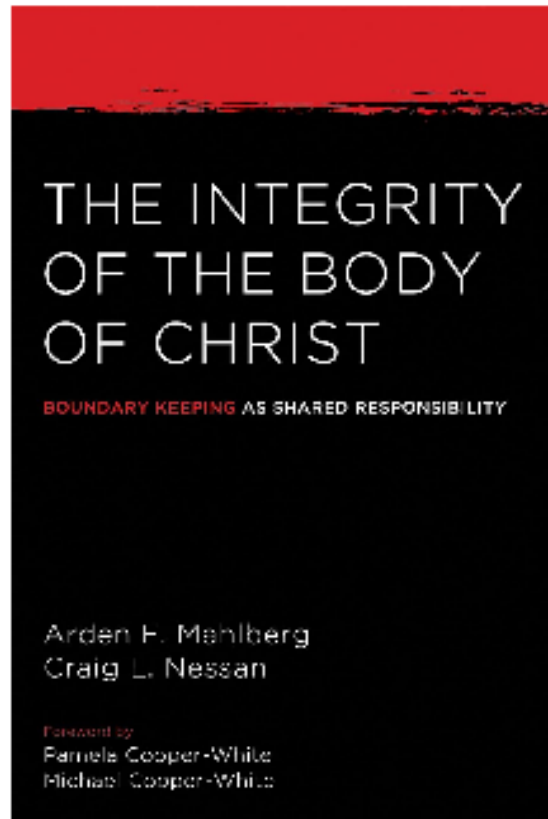
as Shared Responsibility in the Church

Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, of Wartburg Seminary
Co-Author *The Integrity of the Body of Christ*

**A free workshop especially for church councils, staff,
pastors, and other congregational leaders**

February 8, 2025 9am-noon
Plymouth UCC, 115 Merrimac St, Dodgeville WI

Co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church
and Plymouth United Church of Christ
With the support of a grant from Thrivent



For religious communities to have integrity and credibility they must flourish as places of love and respect. Every aspect of church life is defined by essential boundaries around space, time, thought, speech, will, emotion, and behavior – both for clergy and church members. In a flourishing Christian community, a wide array of boundaries must be recognized, celebrated, and navigated. Lessons from the emerging field of behavioral ethics are applied to the rich and rewarding complexity of boundaries in church life, helping us to be more loving and responsible in how we think, speak, and act, so that the church can be true to its identity and mission.

**Register for yourself or your group by
emailing Rev. Katya Ouchakof at
puccdodgeville@gmail.com**

**Questions? Contact Katya Ouchakof (608 616-5075; puccdodgeville@gmail.com)
or Mark Williamson (608 935-5718; mwilliamson.glc@gmail.com)**



SWA Spring Meeting

March 1st at McFarland UCC in McFarland

5710 Anthony St

McFarland, WI 53558-8625

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided

\$20 per person

Free virtual option available 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Register by February 20th

“Imagining the Future: A Conversation with the Southwest Association and Conference Minister, Rev. Franz Rigert about the Proposed Structural Changes to the Conference”.

[Register Here!](#)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Lisa Pepelea

Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

Clerk

Mary Stellick

At Large council members

Shirley Barnes

Denise Whitish

Chuck Roethe

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.

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Roethe at 10:47 a.m. There was a quorum of 18 members present and two via Zoom.

2. Pastor Katya opened with a prayer.
3. The minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting and two 2024 Congregational Meetings were reviewed. Rick Stellick moved and Jill Roethe seconded to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.
4. Following an explanation of the Treasurer's Report by Steve Pieroni, Treasurer, Rick Stellick moved and Jean Brown seconded to approve it as printed. Motion carried.
5. There were no questions regarding Committee Reports or the Clerk's Report. Mark Pepelea added his thanks to the anonymous donor who paid for him and Jill Roethe to attend a seminar on sacraments, as noted in the Diaconate report. Lisa Pepelea moved and Denise Whitish seconded to accept the reports as printed. Motion carried.
6. Motion to approve the proposed Constitution* by Rick Stellick, seconded by Steve Pieroni. Following discussion, motion carried unanimously.
7. Rick Stellick moved and Dave Pearson seconded to elect the slate of Officers and Council members as printed in the Agenda. Following discussion and clarification of terms for the members, motion carried.
8. Other business/comments: Shirley Barnes answered questions she has heard regarding finances between Merrimac & Main and the church. Chuck Roethe explained the reason for adding Section IX to the Constitution regarding Dissolution of the Church* as something all churches should have as part of their Constitution.
9. Mark Pepelea moved and Denise Whitish seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stellick, Clerk

*If you would like a copy of the constitution, please contact the church office.