

The Herald March 2017

God is Still Speaking

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ Dodgeville, WI

Dear Plymouth Family,

This year Plymouth has been hard at work putting together vision, mission, and values statements. In just two meetings we have come a long way in identifying who we are and where we want to go. We have identified a long list of values, or things that we agree are the cornerstone of who we are as a community of faith, and in our last meeting we began the fine art of crafting this list into statements that clearly communicate our intentions to ourselves and to the rest of the world. Some may wonder why we are putting so much effort into these statements, but as we continue this work, hopefully we are discovering that it is not just one more task to complete, but rather an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reaffirm who we are in Christ's service so that we can feed new growth into what we do in the world.

The spiritual life is after all just as much about pausing as it is about acting. The spiritual life is dynamic and constantly renewing, but like the seasons, renewal springs out of periods of pause. Who we are as a community of faith is dynamic and constantly renewing. In fact, over the past year we have renewed considerably as we began a whole new chapter in ministry with our after-school program. So it is essential that we pause, and it is essential that we focus and remember who and whose we are.

I can't help but compare this to Jesus' time in the wilderness where he too paused and took time to prepare himself for living out his purpose in a complicated and brutal world. After he was baptized by John and the dove descended upon him, God boomed out: "this is my son, and I am pleased by him." Talk about dynamic! So Jesus headed immediately for the wilderness where he spent forty days pausing before doing anything else. The bible tells us that he spent that time fasting, praying and facing down every temptation Satan could come up with. It was only after this time of pause that he went out and began to proclaim the Good News.

Beginning in the fourth century, Christians began emulating this practice through a special season that we have come to know as Lent. During Lent, we pause ourselves and focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It's not about making ourselves holy, or about proving anything; it is simply a way of making room for new growth, and of welcoming the new life of resurrection.

Pause is a part of the cycle of life. It is part of our life together, and it is part of our life individually. It is a part of nature as each season gives way to the next. It allows us to "spring-clean" and make room for renewal. As part of the "body of Christ," we need to always be in the cycle of life; allowing time for renewal and time for pause. As we move into Lent, I invite us to deepen our trust in God's Spirit: to refocus our collective attention, in order to discern together where God might want to take us. I pray this journey of discovery will better enable us to discover the strengths and positive energy within us that God can use toward fulfilling God's vision, or dream, for Plymouth UCC.

From the Pastor's Pen...



Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joy

March 2017 Pastor's Report

Attendance:

February 5 – 38

February 12 – 34

February 19 – 38

February 26 – 32

Scripture Readings for the Month of March

March 5

First Sunday in Lent

Luke 10:25-42 (Psalm 15 or 15:1) Parable of the Good Samaritan

March 12

Second Sunday in Lent

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (Psalm 122 or 122:6)
The tower in Siloam and need for repentance, parable of fig tree that bore no fruit, lament over Jerusalem.

March 19

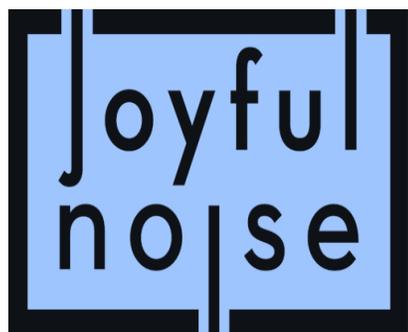
Third Sunday in Lent

Luke 15:1-32 (Psalm 119:167-176 or 119:176)
Parables of lost sheep, coin, prodigal son.

March 26

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Luke 16:19-31 (Psalm 41:1-3 or 41:1) Parable of the rich man and Lazarus



Thanks to your generosity in March.

\$465.92 was collected for the
Community Connections Free Clinic

The March Joyful Noise Offering is
designated for

March 5, 12, 19 - Hodan Center

March 26 - One Great Hour of Sharing

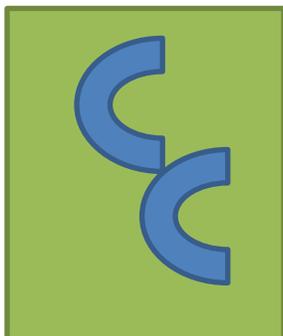
Moderator's Report

Momentum can be a tricky thing to manage. Once, when I was working as a delivery person for an Agriculture Cooperative, I lost focus and sped around a tight curve too quickly and the result was not good. I found myself inside an overturned truck in a swampy ditch. Hind sight tells me that a few miles per hour less and I would have avoided an ambulance ride, tens of thousands of dollars in financial loss and the well-earned embarrassment that followed. I sense we have forward momentum now at Plymouth. New faces have regularly been seen on Sunday's. We are making solid progress toward the goal of adopting Value, Vision and Mission Statements. Some may feel that we will have those statements crafted more quickly than anticipated. Too quickly? Not likely. It does I think make some sense to be mindful of any approaching curves in the road. I feel we can best do that by continuing to hear each other. That perhaps is the most important part of conducting our community conversations. It helps us understand what lies ahead in the road and what the speed limit should be.

It has been great seeing a few faces that have been missing over the past few months. Welcome back Ross and Orville. I always feel I learn a great deal about the health of our congregation when I witness it reacting to disagreement, hardship and challenge. It feels to me like we are getting better at dealing with this as a church family. I understand that there is room to improve in this area but I can't help but believe that we are moving forward.

I need to make mention of a topic discussed in the most recent Council Meeting. Gary Mchone has stepped up to serve on the Trustee Team. The Trustees certainly can use the support of Gary's energy and as I am learning, solid understating of building maintenance. The council has decided to accept Gary's offer to be a Trustee. I understand that our church's constitution describes a position on any of our committees as being "elected". I welcome your input as to whether you have concerns over accepting Gary's offer to serve.

Peace, Bill D



March Community Conversation on March 19

Please come with your thoughts as we
share a meal and conversation.

Plymouth UCC Council Meeting February 21, 2017

Due to technical difficulties, the minutes for February 21st council meeting minutes will not be included in this newsletter. We will return next month.

Next Council meeting March 21, 2017 at 7pm

Please be sure to submit your newsletter items in time for publication. Next Due date is March 27. Thank you!



Happy Birthday

March 13	Melanie Jones
March 17	Lisa Duwell
March 27	Mike Dampf

Pastor Joylynn will be on vacation March 6th and will return on March 14th.

SUNDAYS
WORSHIP 10 AM
Joylynn's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday,
 Thursday
 10 am – 2 pm

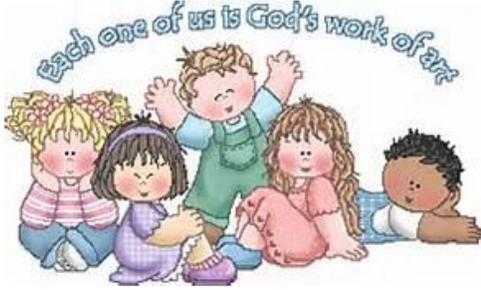
MARCH 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3 World Day of Prayer	4
5 Fellowship After Worship Adult Ed, 11:30	6 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	7 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	8 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 Choir 7 pm Pastor Joylynn Vacation	9 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	10 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	11 Pastor Joylynn Vacation 
12 Fellowship After Worship Adult Ed, 11:30 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	13 Pastor Joylynn Vacation	14	15 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 Choir 7 pm	16 Trustee's 7 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18
19 Community Conversation St. Patrick's Meal 	20	21 Diaconate 5:30 Council 7 pm	22 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 Choir 7 pm	23 Ruth Circle Country Kitchen At Noon	24	25
26 Fellowship After Worship Adult Ed, 11:30	27 Newsletter Submissions Due 	28	29 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 Choir 7 pm	30	31	

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

ARE YOU A GRANDPARENT, PARENT, AUNT, UNCLE, NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND OF A CHILD?



Our church website has a section just for kids.

Visit plymouthuccdodgeville.org and click on the Children's Corner. This page contains Bible stories, prayers, craft ideas and more. Tell a child! Email them a link to our page or post it on your social media. New Content is added regularly. Thank you!



Sunday March 19

Saint Patrick's Day Lunch following Worship

Corned beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, also available will be Rye Bread, Saur Kraut, Thousand Island Dressing, and Swiss Cheese for Rueben's, Desserts, Juices, and Coffee

An Alternative Will Be Available If You Do Not Want Corned Beef

Pastor

Reverend Joylynn Graham
Cell 553-0149
pastorjoylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Mary Haag
Office 935-5727
Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance

Keely Thomas
Home 935-9259

Organist

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director

Lisa Duwell

Council Moderator

Bill Duwell

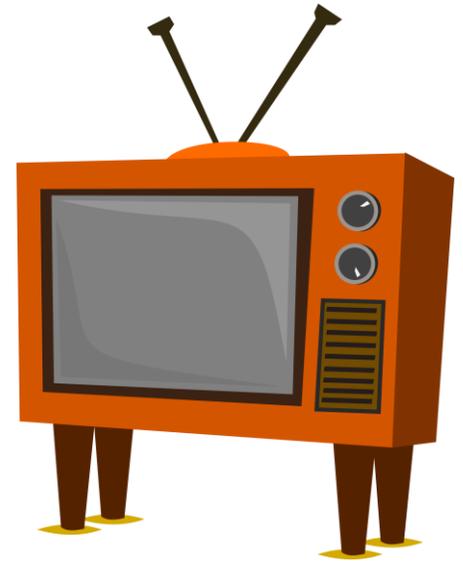
Vice Moderator

Chuck Roethe

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 and on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



Church Council

Bill DuWell, Moderator

Chuck Roethe, Vice Moderator

Mark Pepelea, Trustees

Gary McHone, Diaconate

Chuck Roethe, Mission

Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Julie Neal, Christian Ed

Dave Pearson, Treasurer

Earl Barnes, Financial Secretary

Ruth Circle

Circle the Fourth Thursday of each month on your calendar.

The decision was made on January 26 that going forward, the fourth Thursday of each month is a very good day to meet. Join us for the next Ruth Circle at the Country Kitchen on **March 23 at noon.**



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United Church of Christ**
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