

# The Herald

## DODGEVILLE PLYMOUTH UCC

### MARCH 2018



Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ

### Welcoming New Members



Plymouth UCC welcomed new members on February 11th, from left to right, Betty Pigman, Liz Bothfeld, Vince Kavaloski, and Sheryl and David Pinnow with their grandchild. Not shown is Jane Kavaloski.



Our next Special Music program will be March 25, introducing Jennifer Clayton, music director and Church band leader at the Cowboy Country Church. Come hear Jen tickle the keys and sing. Don't miss her! You'll like! She is very, very good!



### One Great Hour of Sharing

**What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?**  
One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

### Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Seven Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

Please join us in supporting this important mission by making a donation on March 11.

### UPDATES



#### Plymouth Circle

Plymouth Circle will be meeting the 4th Thursday of the month, 12 pm at Country Kitchen. Please join us. Everyone eats lunch, right? Open to all, men, women, couples, singles, everyone. We always have fun and good conversation."

**Last day** to order a Lily for Easter is Sunday, March 18. You can find an order form in the back of the sanctuary.

**The first Lenten Workshop** was cancelled due to weather on February 22. The Art Meditation on March 2nd at 7 pm, will include information from the first workshop. Lenten Workshops will be held in the Fellowship Hall and begin at 7 pm, Thursdays, through March 22nd with the exception of March 8th due to Pasty day preparation. March 8th will tentatively be held in the overflow room upstairs.

**World Day of Prayer** is March 2, 10 am, at Dodgeville United Methodist Church.

**St. Patrick's Day Potluck** following worship on Sunday, March 11.





## A Note from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I write this to you I am just coming back from a week-long bout with the flu. During the season of Lent we are encouraged to spend time in the “wilderness” reflecting on our lives and our relationship with God, and there’s nothing like a good old fashioned fever to make that wilderness experience come to life.

Yet there were many “touchstones” that kept me tethered, or, as I like to call them, “Angels of Mercy.” To those of you who were willing to show up on my doorstep with offerings of food, medicine and love, thank you! You have no idea how those small gestures kept me going as I battled my fever demon.

And to Pastor Jim, I owe an especially big thanks. On Wednesday night as I attempted to let my dog out, I wound up falling on the skating rink that my deck had become and busting open my knee. Then, as I lay there in the pouring sleet sobbing, Elijah ran off into the night. You could say I was at an all-time low. So I drug myself inside and texted Pastor Jim who dropped everything to come and find the dog and take him off my hands.

It was indeed, a long, hard week – one I would not want to repeat every Lent.

But today, exactly one week after it all began, the sun came out; I did my laundry; I cleaned my house; Elijah came home, and I feel a surge of renewal that can only be experienced after having gone through a particularly difficult ordeal.

I don’t know why we sometimes have to go through so much darkness before we can experience the sweet joy of light. But I do notice that when we finally do make it back to the light, it is absolutely dazzling in its beauty, its promise, and its hope. The air smells sweeter; things taste better, music sounds richer, and the joy we experience is so much deeper and more meaningful.

I share these reflections with you because I know that we are all in a period of darkness right now. Our entire nation is in a fever of despair as we wander in the wilderness trying to find our humanity again, and I hear songs of lament everywhere I turn.

We know things are broken; we know there is much that is seriously wrong, but we just can’t seem to agree on what it is, or how to go about fixing it. We struggle to gain the upper hand in our discussions rather than listen to each other in the possibility of hearing something new and viable. Our relationships are strained to the breaking point; we have forgotten that we belong to each other, and we just can’t seem to understand that every single time we hurt others we hurt ourselves.

So we are wandering in this darkened, liminal space, terrified and lost, and wondering: “how did we get here? And “how do we find our way out?”

But Leonard Cohen reminds us: Forget your perfect offering, there is a crack, a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in, that’s how the light gets in.” In other words, when things seem at their very worst – when you’re lying on your deck in an ice storm sobbing your eyes out and then your dog runs off – when there are so many cracks running through it all that it looks as though it is all going to shatter in a million pieces – that’s how the light gets in.

When we’ve reached the end of our resources and ideas about self-sufficiency, that’s how the light gets in. When we finally admit we need help, that we don’t have all the answers, and that no single one of us can manage it all on our own – that’s how the light gets in. When we are once again ready to stand together – that’s how the light gets in, that’s how the light gets in.

We will not wander in this wilderness forever. Someday it will become too much and then we will be ready to listen again. And when that day comes, the sun will come out; we will begin the work of cleaning up and rebuilding, and the light will be absolutely dazzling in its beauty, its promise and its hope.

We are all one – we belong to each other.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Pastor Joy*



# Holy Week Worship Schedule



## **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP**

March 25th at Plymouth UCC 10:00 am

Special Music guest will be Jennifer Clayton on piano and singing.

We will be stripping the sanctuary in preparation for Holy Week.



## **ECUMENICAL MAUNDY THURSDAY**

March 29th at Dodgeville United Methodist Church 6 pm.

Soup and sandwiches will be served Potluck style following worship.

Plymouth has been asked to provide the sandwiches.



## **ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**

March 30 at Plymouth UCC 7 pm.



## **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

April 1 at Plymouth UCC 10 am.

# 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-](mailto:joylynn@gmail.com)

[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:**

Chuck Roethe

**Vice Moderator:**

## ATTENDANCE

<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 11</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 18</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 25</b>	<b>33</b>



## Happy Birthday

March 13

Melanie Jones

March 17

Lisa Duwell

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



PUCU will be hosting Feeding Friends on March 14.

Please sign up for Fellowship in the Sanctuary. Thank you!!!

Pasty Sale is March 10. Volunteers to help will be greatly appreciated! Thank you!



Choir Practice WEDNESDAYS at 7 pm



Plymouth Circle meets the 4th Thursday @ noon

**THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN JANUARY**

**FOOD PANTRY \$500**

**MISSION TRIP \$255.97**

**PASTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND \$89.01**

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

**HODAN CENTER MARCH 4, 18, 25**

**ONE GREAT MARCH 11**

**HOURLY OF SHARING**

**Joyful noise**



# Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

## 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."

**Equinoxes** and solstices are opposite on either side of the equator, and the **March equinox** is also known as the "spring (vernal) **equinox**" in the Northern Hemisphere and as the "autumnal (fall) **equinox**" in the Southern Hemisphere.

Members,

Please check the mailboxes outside of Pastor Joylynn's office. Your mail slot position may have changed. Please make use of your mail slot and check for any new material or items left for you from another member.

Thank you

## The Sun Crosses the Equator

The March equinox marks the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator – from south to north. This happens on [March 19, 20, or 21](#) every year.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Moderator

Chuck Roethe

### Vice Moderator

### Trustees

Mark Pepelea

### Diaconate

Gary McHone

### Mission

Lisa Pepelea

### Clerk

Denise Whitish

### Christian Education

### 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).



## Newsletter Deadline

March 20 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)





# MARCH 2018



SUN	MON	Tue	Wed	THU	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  <i>Lenten Wellness Workshop</i>	<b>2</b> World Day of Prayer @ UMC, 10 am	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	<b>7</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm  <i>Wacky Wednesday            2:30 - 5:30 pm            Choir, 7 pm</i>	<b>8</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  Trustees, 7 pm  <i>Lenten Wellness Workshop</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Pasty Sale</i>  
<b>11</b> Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am  <b>Daylight Saving Time            Starts...            Spring Forward</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	<b>14</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm  <i>Wacky Wednesday            2:30 - 5:30 pm            Feeding Friends, 5 pm</i>	<b>15</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  <i>Lenten Wellness Workshop</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>   
<b>18</b> Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am  <b>St. Patrick's Day            Potluck</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  <b>Diaconate, 5:30 pm            Council, 7 pm            First Day of Spring</b> 	<b>21</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm  <i>Wacky Wednesday            2:30 - 5:30 pm            Choir, 7 pm</i>	<b>22</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm  <i>Lenten Wellness Workshop</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am  	<b>26</b>  	<b>27</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	<b>28</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm  Choir, 7 pm	<b>29</b> Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm <i>Maundy Thursday @ UMC 6            pm</i> 	<b>30</b>  <i>Good Friday 7 pm            @ Plymouth</i> 	<b>31</b>



## DIACONATE NEWS

### DIACONATE NOTES

The Diaconate Board met on February 20th. We would like to share some items with the congregation.

New name tags will be ordered with a new church logo on them. They will be easier to put on and people will be encouraged to wear them each Sunday.

We discussed having a BBQ Dinner sometime this summer which would be open to the public as a fundraiser for our church. No date or details are available yet but look for more information in the future and think how you might be able to help. I am sure that there will be help needed to donate desserts, salads, etc., to help set up, help serve and especially to clean up!!!!!!

A new project is being started jointly with the Mission Committee to provide some emergency help for people who come to our church seeking help. This is still in the planning stage but some of the things being discussed are Blessings Bags filled with ready to eat food, a gift card for some needed item, and a list of where other help can be found such as food pantry hours, social services available, free clinic hours, etc. This will not be a replacement for existing services but an emergency service to fill an immediate need. More information will be coming as the project develops.

A St. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK is scheduled for March 18th immediately following church service. Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots will be provided. People will be asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. Fellowship Hall will be decorated for the holiday. Please come and join the fun! Wear green, do an Irish jig, or find another way to share your Irish spirit!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Helmich, secretary



Plymouth has a Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, and haven't done so yet, please add us to your friend list. Search for Plymouth United Church of Christ Dodgeville or go to <https://www.facebook.com/Plymouth-United-Church-of-Christ-Dodgeville>



Plymouth UCC is on the web. Click on the link or type in [www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org). Click the links to get the latest or archived sermons or newsletters, check out the calendar for the current activities, information at your fingertips.



### Monthly Meetings/Events

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

#### Sundays:

**Faith Explorers** 8:45 am

**Community Conversation**  
usually 3rd Sunday each month

#### Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of the month:

**Diaconate** 5:30 pm

**Council Meetings** 7 pm-

#### Wednesdays

**Wacky Wednesday** 2:30 - 5:30 pm

**Choir**, 7 pm

**Feeding Friends** - 2nd Wednesday of the month.

#### 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. Next month is the last Pasty sale. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the office.



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Members Present- Chuck Roethe, Anne Bachner, Dave Pearson, Gary McHone, Mark Pepelea, Lisa Pepelea, Pastor Joylynn and Denise Whitish

Excused- Earl Barnes

Opening Prayer by Pastor Joylynn

Agenda approval- motion by Lisa and seconded by Denise to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Corrections and approval of January council meeting minutes- motion by Lisa and seconded by Denise to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report-** Joylynn

Pastor Joylynn outlined a proposal she has written for helping those in need who come to the church. Currently no money or gift cards are being given out which is not responsive to those in need. Turning people away is not in keeping with our commitment to follow Christ. See attached proposal. Currently Joylynn is unaware of how to access the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Mark and Lisa confirm that PDF is budgeted for \$250 per year and proceeds from one month of Joyful Noise offerings. Right now there is a balance of approximately \$900. Discussion ensued- some council members were unaware that things had changed so drastically- about two years ago the practice was stopped due to secretary nervous about people in need coming in when she was alone. Joylynn has talked with our current secretary who is comfortable with the proposal. More discussion regarding how gift cards etc... would be purchased. Chuck and Joylynn will meet in the next week or so to work out details then Joylynn will meet with the mission committee. All agreed this should get going as soon as possible.

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**Our Sunday Worship Service  
may be viewed this month on  
our website:**

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



Lenten Meditation Workshops- Joylynn getting many requests for information about the program- she is concerned about the number who will attend. May need to move to fellowship hall and has concerns about the cleanliness of the floor and tables. Tables are being marked up by Wacky Wednesday activities. Mark will discuss the cleaning with Keely. Suggestion of another spring cleaning was discussed.

Pastor Joy advised that the Southwest Association meeting in Burlington is April 21- Joylynn requesting that our church has representation this year. Would like two members to go along with her.

Pastor Joylynn has mapped out her vacation time this summer- she will be off May 21- 24 using three days of vacation and June 20-26 using four days. She is also planning to be gone two weeks in July. Along with the conference meeting on June 10 will need four weeks of pulpit supply.

Pastor Joylynn shared Feeding Friends guidelines written by the FF steering committee- see attached.

Brief discussion regarding Mary's sick days- the days are not paid but she is able to come in and make them up.

#### **Diaconate Committee- Gary**

The diaconate committee will be helping with the Blessing Bags that will be given to people in need who come to the church.

Starting to work on plans for a community barbeque possibly in July.

Will be having a St. Patrick's Day lunch after worship March 18. It will be a traditional Irish meal.

Easter lily order forms are out. Palms for Palm Sunday will be ordered.

#### **Trustee Committee- Mark**

Short discussion about snow shoveling-current plan not working- currently members are filling in when they can but better plan is needed.

Chuck had contact information for someone who shovels the drug store and Wells Fargo.

Door lock is sticking- Mark will look at it- if cannot be fixed will contact a locksmith.

There is a roof leak above the upstairs bathroom. Mark has contacted the roofer- should still be under warranty but if we have repair done by a local person the warranty contract would be null and void. Mark is supposed to hear from the approved roofers this week.

## Schedules

### Fellowship

**March 4 -**

**March 11 - Rod and Mary  
Lukes**

**March 18 -**

**March 25 - Sheryl and  
Dave Pinnow**

### Usher

**March 4 - Gary and Harry  
McHone**

**March 11 - Gary and Harry  
McHone**

**March 18 - Bill and Lisa  
Duwell**

**March 25 - Earl and  
Shirley Barnes**

### Reader

**March 4 - Gary McHone**

**March 11 - Gretchen  
Pearson**

**March 18 - Bill Duwell**

**March 25 - Shirley Barnes**

### Communion

**March 4 - Gary McHone**

**March 11 - Dave Pearson**

**March 18 - Jill Roethe**

**March 25 - Julie Neal**

### Joyful Noise

**March 4, 18, 25 - Hodan  
Center**

**March 11 - One Great  
Hour of Sharing**

Discussion regarding non budgeted spending.

The trustee committee feels the budget is a contract that should be followed if at all possible. Committee chairs should bring non budgeted spending to the council for discussion and noted in the minutes so spending is transparent for all congregational members. Joylynn mentioned that her travel budget goes over at times. Motion made by Denise and seconded by Gary that any committee member or pastor who anticipates going over their budget should bring item to council for discussion. Amounts and reason for exceeding budget amount will be documented in council. Motion passed unanimously. It is felt that this will assist trustees with future budgets and provide transparency for church members.

Financial information reviewed- see attached.

Mark expressed that budget tracking well.

#### **Mission Committee- Lisa**

Iowa County Relay for Life has been cancelled- will give the usual Joyful Noise offering to Kayla Kottke who will be competing in the Fond Du Lac event.

Will be discussing having a Joyful Noise offering for the Blessing Bags.

#### **Education Committee- Anne**

Anne is a leader in adult education- there currently is no education for children at this time. Diaconate tracking how many children come to worship. At this time there are no children who come regularly enough to attempt Sunday School. Diaconate committee is discussing having volunteers for the nursery again.

Update on the adult class the Faith Explorers- they are averaging 6-10 members per Sun-

day. There are some nonmembers from time to time. Trying to get the word out for members to feel free to come in for discussion- no one should feel they need to sign up or read any of the assigned books. Will try and put another notice in the newsletter.

#### **Moderator's Report- Chuck**

New members Denise and Anne welcomed to the council (with some applause).

UCC yearbook report sent in- Chuck assembled this year. He would like to continue reporting since he got a lot of the groundwork done.

Work on constitution has started- there is a constitution review subcommittee consisting of Mark, Gary, Earl and Chuck. Dave would like to be included in this group. Chuck will get him going with this committee.

09/10 surplus split discussed. Mark has found documentation about the details in the endowment fund policy. Dave also thinks there is information in the Wells Fargo lockbox. Chuck will check on this.

Meeting Adjourned- next meeting Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted- Denise Whitish, Clerk



# Lenten Wellness Workshop

Plymouth Congregational

*United Church of Christ*

## FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THURSDAYS 7:00 P.M.

Come join us for mini Wellness classes focusing on meditation, mindfulness and movement to help strengthen the spiritual mind, body and soul.

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

115 W. Merrimac St. Dodgeville 53533

February 22

### **Meditation: Discussion and 10 Minute Meditation**

Discover what meditation is and how it may be more than you realized. Participate in a short guided meditation before getting some home tips to begin your own practice. Wear comfortable clothing.

March 1st

### **Art Meditation**

Join us as we take on an alternative form of meditation through active visual participation. We will have two techniques for participants to choose from. Watercolor Painting and Technical Drawing. Sup-plies provided.

March 8th

### **Movement**

Movement meditation comes in many forms such as Tia Chi, yoga, dancing and so many more. Come join us as we explore simple techniques of movement you can take home to use with your own music of choice.

March 15th

### **Mindful Eating**

Mindful eating gives an opportunity to slow down and experience dining in a very conscious way. Eating can become a joyous and spiritual experience as we develop a healthy relationship to food. Come discover how food is important to our everyday spiritual connection and health.

March 22

### **Meditation Continue**

Come join us for this final class. We will re-visit some of the previous meditations available and then hold a guided meditation.

Classes hosted by MC Loeffelholz with Original Root Health. [OriginalRootHealth.Com](http://OriginalRootHealth.Com)

# UCC News: Students, Faith Communities Call for a Change in Gun Laws after Parkland School Shootings

February 20, 2018

Written by **Connie Larkman**

As the students of Parkland, Florida step up to advocate for change in gun laws to prevent another school shooting in this country, [young people from across the United States](#) and national members of the faith community are standing with them in the call for action.

Several survivors of the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High on Valentine's Day, which ended with the deaths of 17 students and teachers, have stepped up to make sure there will be no more mass murders in our schools. The young people, supported by their families and their community, have been very vocal in their call for stricter gun control legislation. They are calling out state and federal politicians, pressuring for change.

"In the witness of students we are seeing policy advocacy at its most powerful — when the people and communities most impacted by an issue claim their voices and demand change, the policy dialogue shifts," said Sandy Sorensen, director of the UCC Washington D.C. office. "This is not something new—youth voices led the way in passing the UCC General Synod resolution calling for the recognition of gun violence as a public health issue."

On Sunday, Feb. 18, the students announced plans for a [march on Washington](#) to demand congressional action on gun violence. The event, dubbed "[March For Our Lives](#)," is scheduled for March 24.

The United Church of Christ, as one of 50 faith groups making up the national coalition, Faiths United Against Gun Violence, has long been committed to advocacy and organizing around responsible gun legislation. Faiths United, in tandem with the efforts of the young people, is working for change and is calling on all faith organizations, denominations, and groups to join in. A group statement issued Friday reads, "We firmly believe that in the face of gun violence, the invocation of 'thoughts and prayers' without action is sacrilege. The job of people of faith—especially those legislators who profess faith—is not to offer empty words. Our faiths call us to transformative action that heals our society."

On Monday Faiths United launched a social media campaign [#PrayerAndPolicy](#) to encourage faith communities to pray, and to also take action.

"We engage in advocacy and organizing, seeking leg-

islative and societal change that will transform the reality of '93 gun deaths daily,'" the

statement continues. "In recent months we have held press conferences, advocated with Congressional leaders, worked against state bills that would allow guns in houses of worship, and opposed federal proposals to mandate concealed carry reciprocity. It is time for faith-based organizations to become part of this larger movement to prevent gun violence."

Faiths United hopes to support the Florida young people who are starting a movement among their peers, prompting other students across the country to speak out against gun violence and bring pressure on lawmakers to pass sensible, responsible policies to end gun violence. Legislators, who up to now have been complacent in addressing the issue.

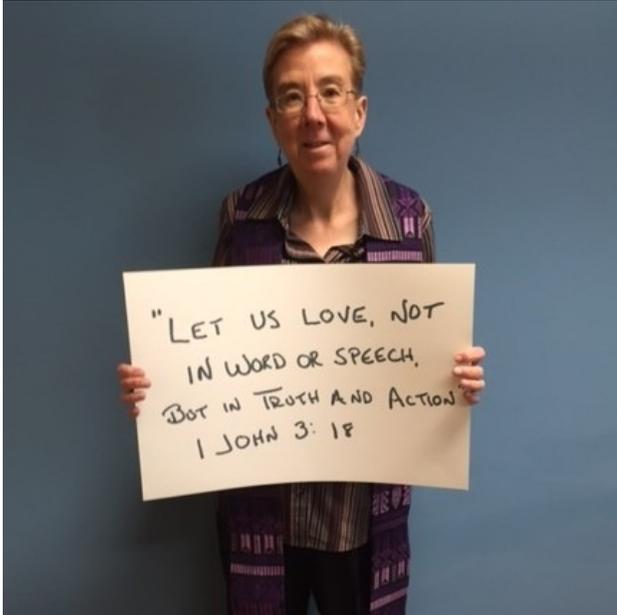
A [rally on Saturday in Fort Lauderdale](#), a [lie-in on Monday outside the White House](#) in Washington, D.C., and a [march to the Florida statehouse in Tallahassee on Tuesday](#), are just some of the ways students are making their voices heard.

"Faiths United has been working for many years to amplify faith voices and the unique role of the faith community in address gun violence and working for gun violence prevention," Sorensen said. "Faiths United annually coordinates a nationwide "Gun Violence Sabbath" to remind the country of the terrible toll of gun violence and to encourage faith communities to not only hold vigils but to tirelessly advocate for sensible gun violence prevention laws on a local, state and national level. The importance of working on all these levels of policymaking was, sadly, made clear again in last week's tragic mass shooting in Parkland. Florida has some of the weakest gun laws in the country, so it is all the more impressive that students are traveling to the state capital of Tallahassee to call for gun violence prevention."

The murders at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last week replaced Columbine High School in



1999 as the deadliest high school shooting in America. There is a march planned to mark that anniversary on April 20. Organizers behind the Women's March are also calling for a 17-minute nationwide walkout by teachers and students on March 14, a month after the Parkland shooting, to protest inaction from lawmakers on gun-control legislation.



"Our love of neighbor, our love of children and our commitment to a just world for all are lived out in our work to prevent gun violence," said Sorensen. "The courageous voices of the students from Parkland and around the country remind us: words are not enough."



## 2018 Annual Meeting

**Saturday April 14, 2018**

Salem United Church of Christ

502 Mark Drive

Verona, WI

Salemchurchverona.org

**Keynote Speaker:** Rev Robin Raudabough

Workshops will include: Words from a faith-based eco-organizer, solar power and organic gardening as ministry, and how to discuss controversial issues in your church.

**Registration** begins at 8:30 am

**Worship** 9:00 am

**Closing Worship** at 2:45 pm

**Adjournment** at 3:15 pm

**Registration is \$15 per person**

There is no fee for members-in-discernment and retired clergy and partners.

You may register online.

**Please register by April 6.**



Reminder...

If you would like to order an Easter lily, the orders are due by March 19th. The cost is \$14. Let us know who the Easter Lily is in honor of and if you would like any special thoughts or prayers included on the card. The Easter Lily will be placed at the alter for Easter Sunday Worship. Make checks payable to Plymouth UCC. Thank you!

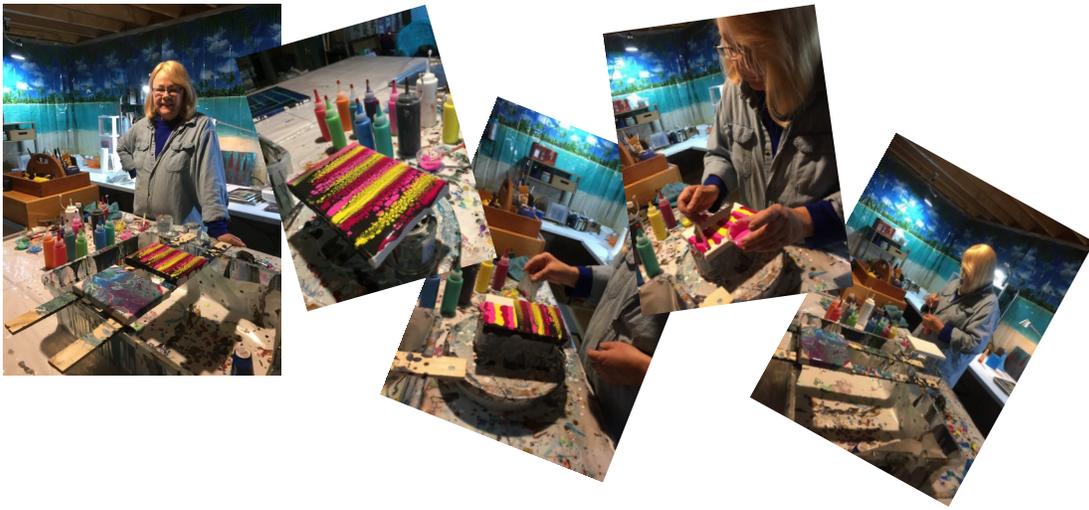
Your Name:

Easter Lily in honor/memory of:

Special thoughts or prayers:

Please print clearly. Thank you!





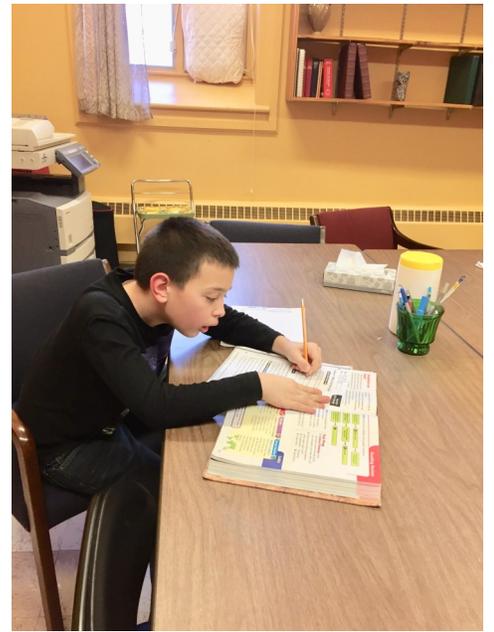
Pastor  
Joylynn's art  
studio,  
"Studio J."



Mardi Gras  
Fat Tuesday  
Pancake  
Breakfast.



# Wacky Wednesday



...a fun place to play and learn!

**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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