



A Note from the Pastor...



The following is a statement from the Wisconsin Council of Churches "**On The Misuse of Scripture to Justify Injustice.**"

On The Misuse of Scripture to Justify Injustice

[The Wisconsin Council of Churches](#)

As the crisis surrounding immigration continues to unfold, we, the members of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, raise our voices in protest at the policies being implemented and at the inappropriate appeal to scripture by government officials in support of these policies.

With a signed Executive Order instructing the indefinite detention of families, the reunification of children separated from their parents unlikely to occur, and National Guard troops from Wisconsin being sent to support ICE activities along the border, it is clear that our government intends to continue using its authority in ways that perpetrate trauma.

We, the members of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, have covenanted "to pray and work together for the unity and renewal of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world." That means, whenever possible, we will strive to give clear expression to the Christian faith that unites us, especially when that faith has been publicly perverted or maligned, and stand with the weak and powerless when they are being exploited, maltreated or neglected - especially by those who are officially responsible for the public welfare.

We are especially concerned with the Attorney General's appeal to scripture to support the policy of separating parents from their children, and by extension, the indefinite detention of undocumented immigrants and the rejection of asylum seekers.

The Attorney General appeals to Paul's statement in Romans 13:1: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God."

We reject this theological misrepresentation of Scripture, specifically, and of Christian teaching about the State, generally, in justification of such obvious injustice.

This verse has been used in many contexts: by Nazis demanding that Christians submit to and participate in the genocide of Jews; by South African Christians defending the injustice of Apartheid; by American Christians defending the institution of slavery. The historical echoes are profoundly disturbing and we call the church and society to attend,

that the past not be repeated.

The Apostle Paul, author of these words, was himself imprisoned and executed by the Roman Empire. He wrote this sentence in a larger context, in a letter written to Christians in Rome, who were an illicit community and in danger of persecution. He wrote it as part of a larger argument that includes not only his insistence that governmental authority is ordained by God but that such authority has its limits.

Paul asserts that there is a higher law, a higher principle to which any government, any human community, any human is subject: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

We declare that our common Christian witness is imperiled by inauthentic Christian teaching in the public square, and the church's own limited, episodic responses to injustice. When Christian teaching is perverted by those in governance and that twisting of scripture is allowed by the Christian community, we stand in a dangerous place.

Throughout Hebrew and Christian scripture, there is an understanding that all human authority is subject to divine judgment and justice; that laws are just only to the extent that they conform to divine justice. The Hebrew prophets railed against the injustices of kings and societies that ignored the plight of the poor, of widows and orphans, of strangers and aliens.

It is not only the government which bears responsibility for a just society; the voice of the people addressing their government, the witness of the Church and its prophetic voice offered in encouragement and admonition must not be absent. We must not only speak a Word into these perilous times, but be ready to act, as well. We pray for the guidance of the Spirit that our words and actions may be true.

The criminalization and detention of undocumented immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers is manifestly unjust. As Christians, we cannot stand by idly; we cannot remain silent in the face of injustice and oppression.

We call on the churches and their pastoral leadership to remain steadfast and bold, both in Christian teaching and public witness, that misrepresentations of Scripture not be allowed to stand.

We call on the members of our congregations, lawmakers, and people of good will to rise up in protest against this injustice, to ensure that people seeking asylum, refugees, immigrants hoping to make a better life for themselves and their families, be welcomed, embraced, and allowed to help make this a better, more inclusive and diverse, stronger nation.

The Rev. Kerri Parker
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Churches

Bishop Gerald Mansholt
East-Central Synod, ELCA
Board President
Wisconsin Council of Churches



Plymouth's annual Outdoor Ecumenical Worship will be Sunday, August 5 at 9 am, at Centennial Park, shelter #1. There will be a fellowship that follows.

Members of each church will bring cookies or bars keeping with the idea of finger foods only to be set up on the tables in the shelter. Plymouth will provide coffee, lemonade, plastic table covers, and a table for communion. Grace Lutheran will bring a portable cross, napkins, cups, sugar, and cream for the coffee. United Methodist Church will provide name tags.

Please bring your lawn chair to sit on.

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan will be the special guest, and he will be doing the entire service except for the communion. He is a psalmist making adventurous music for the ever-evolving church. He serves across denominations singing songs, teaching the psalms and telling dumb jokes. In worship, expect a contemplative but energetic vibe. Richard earned his M.A. in Theology and the Arts from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and is currently working on his DMin through Eden Seminary in St. Louis. You can learn more about him at <http://www.psalmmersion.com/> and <http://www.worldmaking.net/promo>.



Ecumenical Service

Sunday August 5 at 9 am

Centennial Park Shelter #1

Special Guest - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Bring a Lawn Chair

Fellowship to Follow

Rain Location Dodgeville High School

Hosted by Grace Lutheran,

Plymouth Congregational UCC,

and United Methodist of Dodgeville



Janice and David Neal with grandson in Sturgeon Bay.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH FLAT JESUS 2018



Flat Jesus goes with Pastor Joy to Luther Seminary in Minneapolis for a Continuing Education class!



Flat Jesus was a big hit in St. Louis.



Our sermon series will encompass nine weeks, but could easily cover so much more. I have created a very basic and very flexible outline, keeping in mind that much of this will be broken up by vacation and training events.

- June 3 – Church History, a brief overview
- June 17 – Theology, The Doctrine of God
- July 1 – Christology, The Doctrine of Christ
- July 22 – The Holy Spirit
- July 29 – The Doctrine of the Trinity
- Aug 12 – The Doctrine of Sin
- Aug 19 – The Doctrine of Salvation
- Aug 26 – Ecclesiology, The Doctrine of the Church
- Sept 2 – Eschatology, The Doctrine of death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

Summer Sermon Series by Reverend Joylynn

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

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag
935-5737

plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas
Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Lisa Duwell

Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator:

ATTENDANCE

JUNE 3	30
JUNE 10	25
JUNE 17	24
JUNE 24	29

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



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

- July 3 Jacob Hulbert
- July 14 Karley Eggers
- Reverend Joylynn
- July 23 Harry Zelhofer-McHone
- July 24 David Neal
- July 26 Bill Fitzgerald
- Marilyn Dunn



Faith EXPLORERS

Will not meet again until Mid August.



Reminder...Choir will resume September 5th.

Please remember to take Flat Jesus with you on your vacations or just out and about one day and send pictures to the office email. Plymouth@mhtc.net



For Past Newsletters click on the link
<https://www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org/newsletter>

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN MAY

FEEDING FRIENDS \$306.52

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH \$174.05

JULY JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS DESIGNATED FOR:

RELAY FOR LIFE

FOOD PANTRY

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."

There are many countries which have their Independence Day during the month of July. These include the United States, Belarus, Venezuela, Argentina, Belgium, the Bahamas, and the Maldives. The national days for France and Canada occur in July as well.

Sometimes the hot, long days of July are called the "dog days of summer".

JULY NATIONAL DAYS

- National Ice Cream Month
- National Blueberry Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Picnic Month
- National Pickle Month



Newsletter Deadline July 18 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

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.



JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	2 Pastor Joylynn vacation begins	3 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm	4 	5 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm	6	7 Farmers Appreciation Days 
8 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am Parade 11 am 	9	10 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm	11 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Feeding Friends, 5 pm	12 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Trustees, 7 pm	13	14
15 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	16 Pastor Joylynn vacation ends	17 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Diaconate, 5:30 pm Council, 7 pm	18 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	19 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Newsletter info Due	20	21
22 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	23	24 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	25 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	26 Office Closed Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Plymouth Circle, Noon	27	28
29 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	30	31 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm				

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville



DIACONATE NEWS

Connect With The United Church of Christ

They are on Facebook, Twitter, and the internet. Click on the links below to catch up with the latest concerning the UCC.

facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChrist/>



[@unitedchurch](https://twitter.com/unitedchurch)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNHiM8rZs0qsluznI0XV9ag>

Party Cheese Ball

- 2 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese (room temperature)
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (room temperature)
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped red pepper
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Dash cayenne pepper (or more to taste)
- 1 tsp. Horseradish (or more to taste)
- 1 cup chopped pecans (can use finely chopped parsley if not using nuts)



From Gretchen's Kitchen

- Beat cream cheese and cheddar with mixer until well blended
- Add remaining ingredients except nuts (or parsley) and mix or beat well.
- Shape into somewhat of a ball or mound (it will be soft), place on plate, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate several hours or overnight.
- Shape into a ball or igloo and roll in nuts (or parsley).

Store in refrigerator but serve at room temperature

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
Special Music Sunday - once a month, usually the last Sunday of the month.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm during school year
Choir, 7 pm, Resumes on September 5, 2018.
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.



Plymouth UCC Council Minutes June 19, 2018



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

plymouthuccdodgeville.org

Or

**On Facebook look for Plymouth
United Church of Christ, Dodge-
ville**

Or on [YouTube](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s)



C O U N C I L M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Members Present- Chuck Roethe, Gary McHone, Denise Whitish, Earl Barnes, Dave Pearson, Lisa Pepelea and Mark Pepelea.

Opening Prayer written by Pastor Joy- read by Chuck.

Old Business-

No list for “adopt an area of church to clean” has been made yet.

Nothing new about concerns of door not locking. Has been working fine as far as Dave and Gary know.

Pastor’s Report-

Pastor Joy out of town- sent written report as follows-I don’t have a whole lot to report this month since I am busy with travels and training. Right now I am at Luther Seminary in St. Paul taking a course for my Continuing Education, or at least I will be by the time you read this. J

This year I am taking a course entitled “Rising Strong in Church Leadership.” I can’t tell you much about it since it is still in the future, but I have a really good feeling about this class. So I will just have to tell you all about it when I return!

On June 7, I headed for Green Lake to attend the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference. I went a day early so that I could do the boundary training that I am required to do every four years. Boundary training is essentially a course in professional ethics where we reflect on power dynamics

within the pastoral relationship, as well as our responsibility to maintain professional boundaries with those under our care. So that is done and I'm all up to date for the next four years!

The Annual Meeting opened at 1 pm on Friday, and this year's theme was "Why Are We Afraid? The Winds and Waves of Race and Privilege." The theme was built around the Mark 4:38-31 and sought to answer the questions:

What are we to do when social and political storm waves break across the bow of our church, threatening to swamp not only our peace and tranquility but also our vitality as a faith community?

Should we dive under the pews and hope the storm passes quickly by? Or, are we called to a different response? If the latter, how do we engage in dialogue with one another to discern the proper response without adding to the division and chaos that threatens to engulf us?

Rev. Traci Blackmon, who is the Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ, was the keynote speaker, and as always, the conference was exhilarating and exhausting all at the same time!

In other news, I have begun our summer sermon series on church doctrine and I believe we are off to a good start! Unfortunately, the first installment of the series was not captured on video since neither Gary nor Bill was present that day. I am wondering if we can enlist some more backups for running the camera when this occurs since I will be addressing the questions posed in response to the survey I did earlier. Plus, it would be nice to have the entire series available to anyone who wishes to keep up with it.

After I return from St. Paul, I will leave again immediately to attend the 175th anniversary of my home church in Missouri, so I will not be preaching on Sunday, the 24th.

I will return June 26th, and I will be preaching on Sunday, July 1st, but then I will be leaving immediately afterwards for Tennessee and then Alabama to spend time with my family. I will return July 17th, just in time for our next council meeting, and after that I plan to stay put for



Schedules

Fellowship

July 1 - Anne Bachner

Usher

July 1 - Rod Lukes

July 8 - Gary and Harry
McHone

July 15 - Earl and Shirley
Barnes

July 22 - Denise Whitish

July 29 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

Reader

July 1 - Rod Lukes

July 8 - Denise Whitish

July 15 - Anne Bachner

July 22 - Maureen Teubert

July 29 - Dave Pearson

Communion

July 1 - Jan Helmich

July 8 - Julie Neal

July 15 - Anne Bachner

July 22 - Gary McHone

July 29 - Dave Pearson

Joyful Noise

July 1 - Relay for Life

July 8, 15, 22, 29 -

Food Pantry



a good long while!

Diaconate-

Had productive meeting this month- met with Pastor Jim from UMC and Pastor Mark from Grace Lutheran to discuss picnic. They are expecting possibly over 200 in attendance so no longer planning on potluck lunch due to the large number. Will have service with sermon and concert with finger food and fellowship after. Lemonade and refreshments will be provided. Advertising on the city reader board and on radio. Will also put info in our newsletter and announce from pulpit. The service will be on Sunday, August 5 at 9:00 am. There will only be one offering basket. Pastors will decide which charity the free will offering will go.

Upcoming worship service schedule as follows- June 24th- Open and Affirming service- diaconate board will be taking care of the service with Harry will be doing the sermon- he will get the bulletin information to Mary. July 8th- diaconate board will assist Eric Lenninger with the service. July 15th- will have pulpit supply.

Trustees-

Kitchen wall update- possibly may be costly enough to need a congregational meeting to approve costs. Foundation is failing causing the water damage issues. Currently getting bids to pour concrete to repair/replace stairs causing moisture problems in the supply closet.

Also has contacted roofing companies for bids on repairing roof damage.

Lawn mowing being done by Annie Freeman with her dad helping. Have no problems.

Financial-

May report reviewed- office supplies and diaconate are behind budget but overall doing well- pretty close to estimate.

Stewardship giving is down 13%- unsure why- will continue to monitor.

Wacky Wednesday financial report reviewed- came in under budget for the 2017-2018 school year. Have funds of approximately \$2800 on hand. The \$500 the church budget has appropriated

has not been paid/transferred to the Wacky Wednesday budget as yet. If not transferred by 12/13/18 funds will be lost. Dave will check with Arayna on how that should happen.

Mission-

Nothing to report.

Education-

Chuck would like Earl and Dave to represent the adult studies to council if they have any issues- Earl and Dave agreeing having no problems at this time.

Some discussion about having educational materials available for children. Decided this issue should be discussed with Pastor Joylynn when she returns from her travels.

Moderator/Other Business

Chuck not able to organize float and open house for Farmer's Appreciation Day parade. Decided to take year off due to lack of member support even though has been well attended in the past.

No one was available to record the last two sermons of Pastor Joylynn's. Bill will be showing Chuck how to run the recording. Chuck will check before services to make sure someone will be present to run camera.

Chuck going to start going through the church constitution. Want to research and finalize the Mission/Outreach and Trustee committees.

Discussion about voting by proxy- can quorum for meeting be met by including the proxy votes. Chuck will look into more and report back.

Next Meeting- Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 pm. Denise will be absent, so Lisa will record notes.



**Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ**
115 West Merrimac Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533



Phone: 608-935-5727

Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Website: plymouthuccdodgeville.org

