



## WACKY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL KIDS CLUB UPDATE



As we are nearing the end of our first year, we are beginning to reflect on our group of energetic students, our wonderfully faithful volunteers, and the fun we have had together. This pilot year was shaped by the needs of our group and the talents of our volunteers. We have had the opportunity to serve 25 children and their families. Each Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, we stop at Wilson Park to play. (We do have a running joke here—It's raining today so it must be Wednesday! We did have a lot of rainy Wednesdays...). When the group arrives at Plymouth Church, we have a healthy snack and play board games or build with Lego. Each afternoon,

we offer a homework help or reading time with an adult. Students even practiced their recorders or cello in a small group. Then we break into two groups and engage in planned activities. This year, we have offered yoga, creative dramatics, art, cooking and baking, science projects, music, and games to enrich their after-school lives. Of course, anything related to food is always our favorite activity!



We are planning an *open house* on our last afternoon, May 24, 2017, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. You are all invited to join us for food and fun. Learn first-hand from the children what they have enjoyed about the program. Hope to see you there!

And for those of you who have not yet heard, we received a United Fund grant for next year which will allow us to run the program for another year. With donations of healthy snack food and art supplies, financial support from the Family Resource Center of Iowa County, and the help of our dedicated and talented volunteers, we hope to provide even more engaging afterschool opportunities beginning next fall. What are you doing from 2:30-5:30 p.m. on a Wednesday afternoon? We are always looking for volunteers and people with an interest or talent to share, so consider joining us when you can.



Thank you for your continued financial support and for providing us the space to hold the program. And all our little Wacky Wednesday friends thank you, as well!

Judy Campbell, Program Coordinator

### UPDATES

Pastor Joylynn will be attending Festival of the Homiletics continuing education the week of May 15th.

Community Conversation will start up again in September

No Pasty sales until October.

Facebook page is updated weekly. [Plymouth United Church of Christ Dodgeville.](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthUnitedChurchofChristDodgeville)



Visit our webpage for updated information.





## A Note from the Pastor...

At the beginning of Lent, I went on a hermitage retreat to disconnect from some things, and to reconnect with others. We pastorly types do that sort of thing from time to time; it helps us to be better pastors AND it gives us that much needed time with God that is so easy to overlook in the busyness of our daily duties.

My hermitage was everything a person could want in a hermitage. It was small; it was simple; it was isolated, and it was quiet. It gave me the solitude I needed to read, write, pray and simply just be. What it did not have however, was indoor plumbing.

Now I didn't think that using an outhouse would be such a big deal when I was making my reservation, but at 3 a.m. that first morning as I trudged my way through the snow in my slippers, I distinctly remember asking myself "what were you thinking?" I also remember wondering why on earth they couldn't have just put a bathroom in the cabin.

Later I got to thinking about it, because there's plenty of time to think during a hermitage retreat, and it occurred to me just how ridiculous my outhouse woes would have sounded to what? Maybe half the world's population? Poor little me had to go out in the snow, wearing only my slippers, pajamas, AND coat, to a *heated* outhouse! Did you catch that word, heated?

Everything in life is relative, and I notice that our wants tend to kick in right at that place where our needs are being met. And I notice too, that we are inclined to take it for granted once our needs are met. In this case, had there not been an outhouse at all, I would have been zeroing in on my need for at least that much. But let's say there was an outhouse that wasn't heated. Chances are good I would *not* be saying, "I'm sure thankful for that outhouse," because I would be too busy thinking 'gee, they could have at least heated the darn thing!' But there was an outhouse *and* it was heated; so what was I thinking? I was thinking, 'let's move it indoors where it belongs!'

This might seem pretty trivial in the grand scheme of things, and it is, but it does shine a light on a much bigger picture. This is how we are; it's part of the human package, and when it goes unchecked, we end up with a big empty hole inside that no amount of anything can fill. Our lives become characterized by lack, and I don't know about you, but that is my idea of hell.

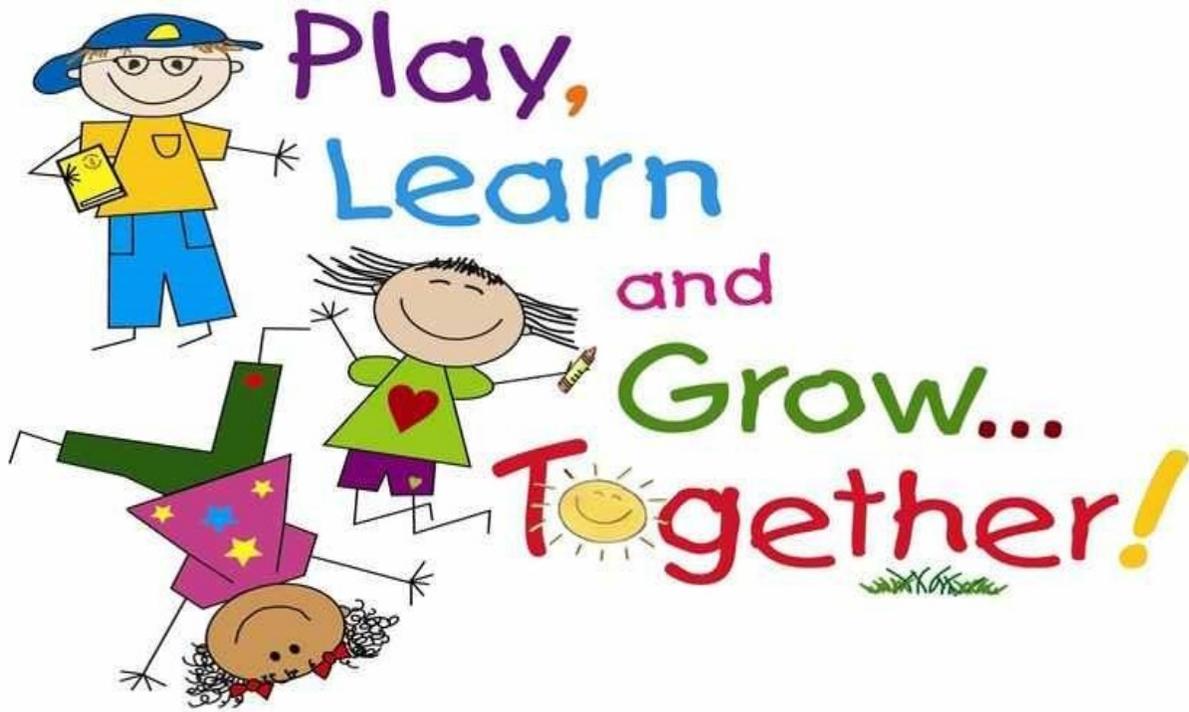
So we have to learn how to spot what's good about each and every moment rather than fixate on what is missing. We're trained practically from birth to always fixate on what's missing, and a lot of good things are spoiled because of it, but when we learn to enjoy things the way they are; when we learn to exist in the present the way it is; when we are fully aware of what is going on around us, before us, and in us; everything appears Holy and perfect; nothing is lacking, and again, I don't know about you, but to me that would be bliss, or Heaven.

Moving into the perfect, present moment is a forever practice, and everyone's practice is different. Your practice may be a certain time of day you set aside for prayer; it could be journaling; it could be yoga, reading, walking, meditation – or it could be the occasional hermitage in the woods with nothing more than a heated outhouse to sustain you. Most likely it is a combination of different things we do consciously and intentionally to wake ourselves up to the gift that is intrinsic in each and every precious moment.

The walk of faith is an amazing journey, and thankfully we have the ones beside us as well as the ones who have gone before us to help us along the way. As your pastor, I am here to talk to, to ask questions of, and to bounce things off of. As a fellow sojourner, I thank you for your willingness to walk beside me.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Joy

# *Plymouth UCC Dodgeville*



Speaking of Wacky Wednesday, in June Plymouth will be sending a delegation to the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting where we will be participating in Share Fair. Share Fair will exhibit the innovative ministries of 20 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. We are most honored to be selected to participate...Way to go Plymouth!

## **Plymouth Community Gardens**



We are planning a community garden project at Plymouth Church. On **Saturday, May 13** at noon, we will be preparing several beds along the back side of the church and building a raised bed behind the Peace Garden. Planting of vegetable and herbs will take place over the next few weeks when the danger of frost passes. If you would like to get involved, contact Pastor Joylynn or Judy Campbell.

# Pastor's Report Continued...

**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:pastor-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:**

Bill Duwell

**Vice Moderator:**

Chuck Roethe

## Scripture Readings for the Month of May

- May 7** Acts 8:26-39  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter** Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized
- May 14** Acts 15:1-18  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter** Council at Jerusalem
- May 21** Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter** Living by Faith
- May 28** Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter** One in Christ

## ATTENDANCE

APRIL 2	36
APRIL 9	40
APRIL 16	54
APRIL 23	30
APRIL 30	29

We are still getting a fresh coat of paint. The future is bright for our all-new newsletter format. Please be patient as we finalize our style.



### THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN MARCH

- \$50 - HODAN CENTER
- \$134.71 - WAS COLLECTED FOR RELAY FOR LIFE
- \$362.93 - WAS COLLECTED FOR THE HOMELESS COALITION

May Joyful Noise offering is designated for:

### FEEDING FRIENDS



# Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

## MODERATORS REPORT

Friends, During the past few months we have come together during our Community Conversation sessions and put our hopes and thoughts on paper. With words, we have formed our Mission and Vision Statements. In May, we will hold a congregational meeting and decide whether or not to officially adopt those two statements. The hope is that these statements will become important guideposts for future church efforts. The following are the two statements we will be considering when the congregation meets.

### 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.”**

The date for the meeting will be announced by Sunday May 7. Notification will be given via email and announcement at the Sunday service on the seventh. Thanks to everyone for the input on these two important ideas. I think we are ready to make them part of the Plymouth culture and make works into actions.

Peace, Bill D

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### **Moderator**

Bill Duwell

### **Vice Moderator**

Chuck Roethe

### **Trustees**

Mark Pepelea

### **Diaconate**

Gary McHone

### **Mission**

Chuck Roethe

### **Clerk**

Gretchen Pearson

### **Christian Education**

Julie Neal

### **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).

## Happy Birthday

May 8 - Heather Dampf

May 8 - Jan Cooper

May 13 - Dave Pearson

May 14 - Mary Haag

May 29 Cody Hulbert



## PLYMOUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will now be known as Plymouth Circle. We are changing our name and widening our circle to include all members of Plymouth UCC. Please join us the fourth Thursday of each month, 12 pm, at Country Kitchen.

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	4 National Day of Prayer	5 Relay for Life	6
7	8	9	10 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm Choir 7 pm Feeding Friends 5 pm	11 Trustees 7 pm	12	13
14 Mother's Day 	15 Pastor Joylynn Festival of the Homiletics May 15-22	16 Diaconate 5:30 pm Council 7pm	17 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm Choir 7 pm	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day 
21	22	23	24 Wacky Wednesday 2:30-5:30 pm Open House 4:30-5:30 pm Choir 7pm	25 Ascension Day  Plymouth Circle @ noon	26 Last Day of School 	27
28	29 Memorial Day 	30	31			



## DIACONATE NEWS

### DIACONATE APRIL REPORT

Diaconate Meeting - April 18, 2017

The Diaconate Board met at 5:30 on April 18th. The following items were discussed:

A different table is needed to replace the folding table by the side door in the sanctuary. Research will be done to see if a suitable table can be found.

April 23 - Earth Day will be recognized. Gary and Harry will make a display for the front of the church. There will also be a Community Conversation that day to finalize our Mission Statement.

Most of our church banners are in bad shape. Plans are being made to either make or purchase new ones.

May 21 - Pastor Joy will be attending a seminar and will not be able to conduct the church service for that day. The Diaconate will make arrangements for the service using lay members of our church.

It was decided that a church potluck would be planned for June 4th after church. We will also be celebrating Pentecost that day.

Summer Picnic - tentative dates are either August 13 or 20 depending on availability of the site in Centennial Park. Plans are being made to promote attendance and to make it a fun and meaningful occasion.

Respectfully submitted: Jan Helmich

### Monthly Meetings/ Events

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

#### Tuesdays

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

#### Wednesdays

Wacky Wednesday during school year  
Choir 7pm

#### Thursdays

**Trustees** - Second Thursday of the Month, 7 pm.  
**Plymouth Circle** - Fourth Thursday of the month, noon, at Country Kitchen.

#### Saturday

**Pasty Sales** - First Saturday of the month October through April.



## Newsletter Deadline

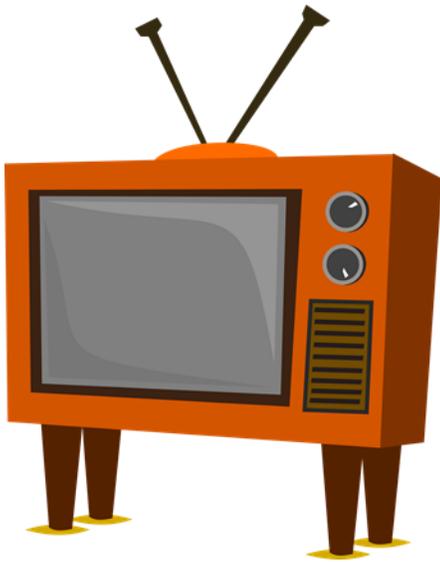
**June 27 at 8 am.**

*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)

**Plymouth UCC Council Meeting  
April 18, 2017**

The Service from April 23 will not be on our website or on the Local Access Channel due to technical difficulties with the recording.



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

**Present:** Julie Neal, Pastor Joylynn Graham, Dave Pearson, Gary McHone, Bill DuWell, Lisa, Pepelea, Mark Pepelea, Earl Barnes, Chuck Roethe

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Joy,

**Approval of Agenda:** Dave moved and Lisa seconded to approve the Agenda with the addition of a discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding. Approved.

**Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2017:**

Mark moved and Pastor Joylynn seconded to accept the minutes as read. Approved.

**Financial Report:** Mark, Dave, Earl

Mark discussed the Year-to-Date Budget items. Money paid by the members for Easter lilies will be put back into the Diaconate account.

Stewardship report - Earl, comparing this year's income with last year at this time. Local missions have risen 56%, Stewardship is up 1-2%, Interest and dividends is down about \$4000. Mark clarified this dividend fluctuation which happens each year.

Dave moved and Pastor Joy seconded to approve the financial report as given. Approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joy

Community Conversation will be this coming Sunday. It will be the last conversation of the season. The Mission statement will be "wrapped up".

A new wedding planning business has opened a block away and Pastor Joy gave the owner a tour of the church. She was impressed and may rent the sanctuary and other spaces based on the church's use policies.

Pastor Joy and Mary have put together a Building Use and Schedule Policy. The Trustees will look this over and make any changes if needed and approve these guidelines.

The Trustees will need to check with Keely if she is interested in working with this.

**Committee Reports.**

Mission: Lisa-The committee will meet April 30th

Education: Julie - No Report

Diaconate: Gary, June 4th will be a pot-luck after worship. Gretchen will get a permit for Centennial Park August 13th or the 20th as a second choice.

Trustees: Mark

New personal listening devices have been ordered.

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

There are quotes for a new copier with one or two more quotes coming in. The Church WiFi needs to be separate from the guest WiFi. Found two possible safes, 1 cubic foot size. Mark moved to purchase the SentrySafe Laptop Security safe for \$94.99. Gary seconded. Approved.

- there is no language in the document that discusses dissolving the relationship. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

**Other Business:**

Wacky Wednesday has been successful. The Children that come really need this program. A Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Wacky Wednesday program with the Iowa County Family Resource Center and Plymouth Church is needed. Dave moved that we adopt the memorandum. Lisa seconded. Discussion

**Next Meeting - May 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

This document outlines a partnership agreement between the Family Resource Center of Iowa County, a 501c3 organization, and Plymouth Church UCC, to develop and maintain the Wacky Wednesday after school program.

Wacky Wednesday (WW) is a non-religious program which provides educational and growth opportunities for children first to fourth grade in a safe, adult-supervised environment. WW meets during the school year on Wednesdays when Dodgeville public schools have early release. Funding for the program comes from the Family Resource Center (FRC) and Plymouth Church. In addition, applications for grants may be made to help reach program financial goals. WW program staff and FRC Board Members will collaborate on such applications.

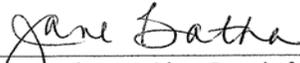
In order to provide WW, the partners agree to provide the following:

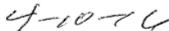
**Plymouth Church** will provide staff and office space to run the program. Space in the church lower level will be used to meet with the program participants. Staff will develop a curriculum for the program which emphasizes reading activities, appropriate social skills, and positive interactions with adults. A nutritious snack will be provided each Wednesday. Plymouth Church personnel will handle all accounting and financial obligations related to staffing.

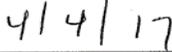
**The Family Resource Center** will provide funding for the program on an annual basis. This funding will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and renewed by a majority approval.

This partnership will continue until official resolution is agreed upon by both parties.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Duwell, Moderator  
Plymouth Church, UCC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Batha, President Board of Directors  
The Family Resource Center of Iowa Co.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Free Electronic Waste Recycling Event

## Schedules

### May Joyful Noise Offering

7, 14, 21, 28

### Feeding Friends

### Usher

7 - Maureen Teubert

14 - Gary McHone

21 - Bill and Lisa Duwell

28 - Denise Whitish

### Reader

7 - Jan Helmich

14 - Gary McHone

21 - Lisa Duwell

28 - Denise Whitish

### Communion

7 - Jan Helmich

14 - Gary McHone

21 - Dave Pearson

28 - Anne Bachner

Thursday May 11th

9:00 am until 3:00 pm

Applied Micro Parking Lot

65 S 4th St, Platteville

For More Info Call amy @ 608-348-6775

\* Minimal charge of \$15 for Tube Computer Monitors and \$20 Tube Televisions.

Copy Machines Televisions

VCR & DVD

Players

Phone Equip-

ment

Cell Phones

Stereos

Printers

Batteries

Computers

Electronic

Office Equip-

ment



RELAY FOR LIFE

MAY 5 @ HARRIS PARK

5 PM - 11 PM



## Community Spring Cleanup Days in Dodgeville

Wednesday, May 3rd - Saturday, May 6th.

Appliances, scrap metal, electronics and tires need to be taken to the dumpsters at the city garage located at 302 Quarry Street. Fees are required. Collection times are 7 am until 3:30 pm on May 3rd through May 5th, and 9 am until 2 pm on May 6th.

Furniture, mattresses, and other household items may be placed at the curb for curbside pickup on Saturday or can be taken directly to the city garage if you would like to dispose of the items prior to Saturday.

The city will not recycle yard waste, blacktop, cement, carpeting or building materials.

Diaconate will be hosting a Potluck  
after Services on June 4th for  
Pentecost Sunday.



Adult Education has updated  
their name to Faith  
Explorers.





# Interfaith Fellowship

## Potluck





## Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting SHIFT: Our Unfolding Story

SHIFT: Our Unfolding Story

This year's annual meeting will be June 8 - 11, at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. Special guest speakers will be Reverend John Dorhauer, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ; Reverend Everett Mitchell, pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church and Dane County Circuit Court Judge; Gary Rand, Director of Worship Activities and Adjunct Professor in Worship at McCormick Theological Seminary. Some highlights include:

- Share Fair – Gain inspiration from what congregations around the Conference are doing, including Plymouth UCC Dodgeville Wacky Wednesday Ministry
- Thursday Workshop – Sparking Creativity and Expanding Vision, with Paul Nixon, author of “Weird Church”
- Workshops – 14 workshops to choose from
- Friday Evening Social Gathering

For more information type <http://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/annual-meeting/> on the address line or click on this address to link to the page. You will find information on volunteer opportunities, lodging, meal, and registration, workshop and faith formation sessions. There are links to download a brochure or make contact for any questions.



**Plymouth Congregational**

**United Church of Christ**

115 West Merrimac Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: 608-935-5727

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

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

