

The Herald

DODGEVILLE PLYMOUTH UCC

FEBRUARY 2018



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ



WACKY WEDNESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL KIDS CLUB UPDATE

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. So far this school year, we have served 22 children and supported 20 families in the Dodgeville area. To make this program function, we have utilized the help of 12 wonderful volunteers. The U.W. Extension staff comes by every three weeks to read us a story, talk about healthy eating, and then the children engage in food preparation (and of course, eat their creations). This year we have added more service projects including baking blueberry muffins for Feeding Friends and tying blankets for the residents of Uplands Health Center (thanks, Lisa P.).

So far, all thanks to Plymouth volunteers, we have learned a little about playing the harmonica (thanks, Rod), delved into some amazing math-related activities (thanks, Earl), learned to play chess (thanks, Vince and Dave), developed our cooperative learning skills and tried out some of our acting talents (thanks, Bill D.), painted some dazzling paintings (thanks, Joylynn), explored the mysterious world of

magnets (thanks, Gretchen P.) and engaged in "Secret "

Writing (Cryptology for children?—thanks, Jane) just to name a few. We even got to go sledding last week, when we had snow! Many of these children helped out or attended our Christmas Eve Charlie Brown Christmas program. This group of children is wonderfully engaged in trying new things, and we are all enjoying seeing them grow!

Thank you, Plymouth, for supporting this program financially, with your in-kind donations of space, and with your volunteer hours. The children, their families, the school, and the community thank you!

Judy Campbell

FAITH EXPLORERS

Meeting from 8:45 to 9:45 before our Church Service in the Church Office

On February 4th, the Faith Explores will begin discussing:

***THE FOURTH GOSPEL** by John Shelby Spong, the bestselling author and popular proponent of a modern, scholarly and authentic Christianity, argues that this last gospel to be written was misinterpreted by the framers of the fourth-century creeds to be a literal account of the life of Jesus when in fact it is a literary, interpretive retelling of the events in Jesus' life through the medium of fictional characters, from Nicodemus and Lazarus to the "Beloved Disciple." The Fourth Gospel was designed first to place Jesus into the context of the Jewish scriptures, then to place him into the worship patterns of the synagogue and finally to allow him to be viewed through the lens of a popular form of first-century Jewish mysticism.*



Pastor Joy is using this book as a prime source for her sermons from January through April. Earl Barnes has ordered copies of the book. If you would like a copy, please let Earl know.



UPDATES

Welcome, New Members!

We will be welcoming new members into the congregation on Sunday, February 11th. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation of the UCC, meaning that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. Of course, you are always welcome to participate in the full life of the church without it, but if you are interested in sharing in the covenant of mutual care and ministry through church membership, please join us on Tuesday, February 6 for a new members' orientation to be followed by a covenant ceremony on February 11.

February 14
Ash Wednesday
Feeding Friends

Feeding Friends is at the Methodist Church, 5 pm. Ash Wednesday ecumenical service at Plymouth, 7 pm, with Pastor Jim Droste.



A Note from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Every month I make a pilgrimage to our conference office in Deforest where I meet with a wonderful group of pastors to talk about ministry. We meet for three hours and during that time we share a meal, enjoy a time of centering, and then talk about the challenges we face and the blessings we receive as we journey along this quirky path of discipleship.

Being a part of this community of practice is mandatory, but I wouldn't miss it for anything because it brings me such joy and renewal. In three years' time these folks have become like family, and I know that I am an integral part of that family. I know that I belong.

That was our topic of conversation this past month – belonging. In the United Church of Christ we place a great deal of emphasis on welcoming people into our congregations. We say that “no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.” And we mean it. But there is a difference between feeling welcome and feeling as though you actually belong somewhere. When you belong, you are noticeably missed when you are absent. People want to know where you are; they want to know if everything is okay.

We talked a great deal about this difference, and what we realized is two things: first, extending our welcome to others doesn't require anything beyond that, whereas a belonging somewhere takes time. Belonging is based on relationship, and relationships develop over time. Friendships build with each and every encounter, and trust is established through our experiences with each other.

Second, belonging is a two way street. We can extend a welcome without any help from the other party, but belonging is participatory. If I want to belong somewhere, then I too must invest myself in the work of the relationship.

I have been mulling this over lately as we prepare to welcome new members into our midst, and I have been thinking about it in regard to those members we don't see as often as we used to.

I believe that belonging to this great body of Christ is the most important thing in the world. More important than my pride or my feelings, and if someone steps on either of those, then I know that I have to do whatever is necessary to bring healing to the situation so that we can carry on in our mutual belonging. Sometimes that can be really hard, but belonging is that important to me.

And what I have learned, is that if I stay with it and do the work to restore the relationship, then it is always stronger as a result. The feeling of belonging deepens for both parties, and it's a wonderful thing.

Relationships can be hard work sometimes; and finding a place to belong is a big investment of the self. But I can't think of a single thing in the world more satisfying than to know that I have a community of people who love and care about me enough to miss me if I'm not there.

As we prepare to welcome new members into our community of faith, and as we continue our ongoing journey together, let us remember what the most important thing is in this life, and let us offer to each other the grace and the willingness to do the mutual work of belonging.



Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Joy



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

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

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

JANUARY 7	37
JANUARY 14	35
JANUARY 21	31
JANUARY 28	39



February is named for the Latin word februum, which means purification.



PUC will be hosting Feeding Friends on February 14.

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

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



Happy Birthday

- February 4 Ross Vivian
- February 7 Ginger Jones
- February 8 Marie Fry
- February 9 Gretchen Pearson
- February 14 Annah Freeman
- February 16 Danielle Brown
- February 18 Steve Freeman
- February 23 Bill Boyer
- February 28 Ralph Martin



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

Choir Practice WEDNESDAYS at 7 pm



THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FUND \$165.85

PASTOR'S FUND \$453.08

FEBRUARY JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS DESIGNATED FOR:

MISSION TRIP FEB 4

FREE CLINIC FEB 11, 18, 25



Spread the Love

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.”

Upcoming

February 11	Fat Tuesday Celebration
February 14	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
April 1	Easter



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.



Newsletter Deadline

February 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





FEBRUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm National Freedom Day	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3
4 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am Rosa Parks Day	5	6 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm New Member Meeting 6:30 pm	7 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir , 7 pm	8 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Trustees, 7 pm	9	10 Pasty Day 
11 Worship 10 am Faith Explorers 8:45 am Fat Tuesday Pancake Breakfast Following Worship 	12 Abe Lincoln's Birthday	13 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Mardi Gras	14 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Feeding Friends, 5 pm Ash Wednesday service 7 pm Valentine's Day 	15 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Susan B Anthony's Birthday	16	17
18 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am  Lent	19  President's Day	20 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Diaconate, 5:30 pm Council, 7 pm	21 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir , 7 pm	22 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	23	24
25 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	26	27 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	28 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir , 7 pm	 	 	



DIACONATE NEWS

The Diaconate Board met on January 16th. Here are some of the things we discussed that we would like to share with you.

A meeting with those who are serving as ushers will be scheduled to instruct those who need to know how to use the sound system and the camera and review other duties.

Nursery staffing: As we are having more children in church there is a need to organize a few volunteers to sign up to be available to help in the nursery when children show up.

Upcoming events: February 11th there will be a "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Lunch after church to kick off the Lenten season. Note that our Fat Tuesday will be on a Sunday!!!!!! We will be serving pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, applesauce and beverages. Also we will have a King Cake so come see who will be crowned Carnival King or Queen.

There will also be special services for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Some will be ecumenical services with the Methodist church so be aware of this when these services are announced.

Memorial Easter Lillies will be ordered again this year. Order slips will be placed in the church bulletin when it is time to place your order.

We discussed the budget cuts to the Diaconate budget for 2018 and ways to raise money to supplement what is budgeted. The Diaconate members will be planning church services when Pastor Joy is unable to be there. In the past we have enjoyed having some of our church members give the message. If any of you would like to give the message in the future please contact any Diaconate member. We would love to hear your story!!

Jan Helmich, secretary

BLESSINGS IN A BAG

FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED

In an effort to be more supportive of those in need, we will be offering tote bags filled with food to those who seek our help. The tote bags should contain nonperishable food items that can be easily opened and do not require heating. The bags should also have plastic utensils and napkins. If you are able to fill a tote bag and donate it, please bring it to the office. If someone approaches you for help, please feel free to offer them one of the tote bags from the office. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Joy or Jan Helmich.



Monthly Meetings/ Events

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

Sundays:

8:45 AM—Faith Explorers
Community Conversation
usually 3rd Sunday each month

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

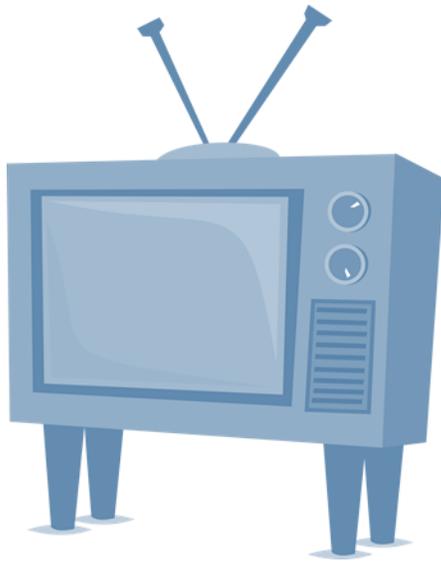
Wacky Wednesday 2:30 -
5:30 pm
Choir, 7 pm

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.



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**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)**

Present: Earl Barnes, Julie Neal, Bill DuWell, Dave Pearson, Chuck Roethe, Pastor Joylynn Graham, Gary McHone, Gretchen Pearson

Excused: Lisa Pepelea, Mark Pepelea

Opening Prayer-Pastor Joy

Agenda Changes & approval. Gary moved and Chuck seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Approved.

Corrections and Approval of Council Minutes of Dec. 12th, 2017. Dave moved and Gary seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Approved.

Pastors Report: Joylynn

Office Administrator Sick Days. Bill wrote a contract for the Office Administrator. It was decided to have Mary take time off if needed and to make it up at a later date.

Plans for Holy Week. Putting together a Thursday night meditation type of worship during Lent. There are many conflicts on Wednesdays i.e., Wacky Wednesday, Feeding Friends and Choir. This would include February 22nd through March 22nd.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Ann Bachner gave Pastor Joy some self addressed postcards to give to anyone who has received funds to send back to her to find out how they are doing. It would be good to have an amount of money on-hand rather than having to make a written request each for each, as timing is important. It was decided that \$100 of the budgeted amount would be given to Pastor Joy to as needed.

Congregational meeting on the 21st. Would like a conversation about "where to we go from here?" What do our mission and vision look like in action? Also - does the congregation wish to continue with our community conversations? What should our focus be? How often should we hold them?

A new member meeting is February 6th and a welcome for our new members will be at the service on February 11th. The website has been re-done by Pastor Joy. We would like to see an on-line ordering system for pasties. Is there a committee that could discuss this and identify how to go about this?

We will be needing a nursery attendant. There is no budget for this, but we could have a sign-up sheet so if there are children present, whoever's turn it is will be on duty. Gary will make up a calendar for members to sign up for nursery duty.

Committee Reports

Mission: Bill passed around the Joyful Noise list and the Mission year-end report. Lisa will continue on as the committee chair.

Education: Julie reported there is no a need for Sunday school right now. Some books should be in the nursery. Ann Bachner will attend council meetings every so often to report on the Faith Explorers group.

Plymouth UCC Council Minutes Continued

Diaconate: Gary reported that February 11th will be our Fat Tuesday lunch. The committee will be taking orders for memorial Easter Lillies. Palms will also be ordered for March 25th. The Maundy Thursday joint service will be at the Methodist Church. Pastor Joy will officiate there and Pastor Jim will officiate at the Ash Wednesday joint service, which will be at Plymouth. Good Friday service will be at Plymouth also as a joint service with the Methodist church. Installation of Council and Committee members will be January 28th.

Trustees: Bill Richard from Wells Fargo Bank will be at the Church on January 25th at 7:00 to discuss the endowment. A responsible person is needed for snow shoveling. The trustees will work this out.

Financial Report: Dave and Earl.

The year end report shows we had a surplus of \$5,739. Some checks were not written to several recipients of Joyful Noise fund totaling about \$500. These payments will show up on the January report.

Year end on income - Stewardship offerings were very positive in 2017. The total amount is over \$66,000 (10% greater than last year). Mission donations is also above last year partly because of the Hurricane Relief effort. Pasty sales were a little bit higher. Wells Fargo interest and dividends on the endowment were about 7% less than last year.

A budget and expenditures year end report was passed out and discussed. Chuck moved and Gary seconded to approve the Financial report as presented. Approved.

Other Business:

UCC Annual Report - Bill talked about the report to the Wisconsin UCC Conference that is due in March.

New Committee Candidates - Vice Moderator has not been secured.

Year End Reports - Mary has finished the report. The new directory will be handed out on Sunday. The directory is NOT an official membership list.

Constitution - It was requested that a committee look at the committee portion of the constitution and make changes which would be more practical for our congregation as it is now and match what really works. Needed is a look at committee sizes, term limits, and committee chairpersons. Dave moved that the congregation be informed at the annual meeting that the council recommends we address revising the committee portion of the constitution. Gary seconded. Discussion: Should we add the section devoted to officers on the council? We need to get the section on committees done first - then look at officers. Approved.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 21st.

Gratitude was expressed to Bill, Julie and Gretchen as their terms have ended.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Next meeting: Feb. 20th, 2018 at 7pm

Schedules

Fellowship

February 4 - Anne Bachner

February 11 -

February 18 - Jack and Jean

February 25 - Earl and
Shirley Barnes

Usher

February 4 - Denise Whitish

February 11 - Lisa and Bill
Duwell

February 18 - Chuck and Jill
Roethe

February 25 - Denise
Whitish

Reader

February 4 - Denise Whitish

February 11 - Anne Bachner

February 18 - Chuck Roethe

February 25 - Jan Helmich

Communion

February 4 - Dave Pearson

February 11 - Anne Bachner

February 18 - Julie Neal

February 25 - Jan Helmich



Plymouth UCC Congregational Annual Meeting

January 21, 2018

A being Quorum was present, the meeting was called to order by Moderator, Bill DuWell.

Highlight of Committee reports. Each committee chair gave brief comments about his or her report. The Moderator asked for questions or comments. A small punctuation correction is needed in the pasty report and Shirley Barnes and Gretchen Pearson should be taken off of the Mission Committee roster. There is one open position, Vice Moderator, which will remain open until someone volunteers or is nominated at this meeting. Dave Pearson moved to approve the reports, with corrections, as presented and accept the list of officers and committee members as presented. Harry Zelhofer seconded the motion. Approved.

Constitution Committee Bill discussed the need for a committee to make changes to the portion of the Constitution regarding the active committees. Changes would be more practical for our congregation as it is now and match what really works.

What do we want to do in 2018? Bill opened the meeting up to any suggestions members have in regard to future activities of Plymouth. Suggestions included:

Continuing the Muslim/Christian dialogue and lunch meetings.

Orphanage in Sierra Leone become part of the mission committee

Hold more benefit events in the community similar to the hurricane relief event held in 2017.

Provide more opportunities for committees to work together on events or issues.

Some fundraisers to supplement our budget

Focus on our immediate needs and the here and now which will assure our future

More outreach in the community

Pastor Joy commented on a new idea of adding a self-addressed and stamped postcard and note to go along with any discretionary funds given, asking recipients to write back and let her know how they are doing.

Perhaps a "laundry day" at the local laundromat to provide quarters and detergent for the homeless.

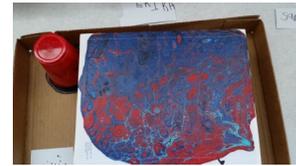
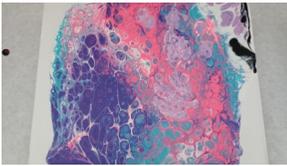
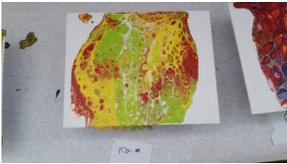
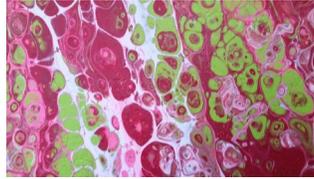
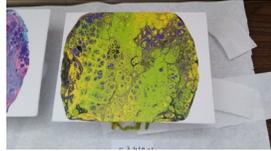
Pastor Joy asked if we should continue our community Conversations and if so, how often. It was agreed that quarterly meetings would be beneficial. The focus of the conversation should be made known ahead of time. A suggestion was made to hold these conversations on the third Sunday which would be after the Council meets.

It was suggested that if there is something anyone would like to see discussed or any good ideas to share, to contact a committee member or council member. The list of members is in the Annual Report for 2017 and they want to hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Wacky Wednesday



...a fun place to play and learn!



Sunday February 11, 2018

Following Worship

Fat Tuesday Pancake Breakfast

Mardi Gras Theme with a King Cake



Last year was a blast!

See you there!



Plymouth Congregational

United Church of Christ

115 West Merrimac Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533



Phone: 608-935-5727

Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Website: plymouthuccdodgeville.org

