

The Herald

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

NOVEMBER
2025

From The Pastor...

Those of you who attended the event on healthy church leadership in February may remember the example that Professor Nesson used to open his presentation. He talked about putting food into the refrigerator. If we have leftovers, we put them in a Tupperware container, or at least cover them in foil or plastic wrap. There are drawers for vegetables and drawers for cheese. And if we have milk, we definitely make sure that it's in some kind of container before we put it away! If we just poured milk into the fridge, it wouldn't be much good when we came back to look for it later. The containers we use to keep our food safe and usable are analogous to the boundaries that are necessary to the function of a healthy church.

Boundaries are good. They allow us to know what work is ours to do, and what belongs to someone else. Healthy boundaries can help keep us from burnout, while also helping to create a sustainable culture for our congregation.

When my colleagues have asked me in recent weeks what work we have done together, I've realized that it can be summed up as establishing and defining healthy boundaries for the sake of the long-term health of our congregation. We updated our constitution, including the size of our Council, to make sense for the size of our congregation. We've created job descriptions for all staff, so that they don't end up in the position of being asked to do more than what they are paid to do. We've created and updated policies to acknowledge that we now share our building with M&M, and also to acknowledge the level of trust that people deserve to have in the leaders of a church.

Together, we have worked on discerning what we want future pastoral leadership to look like. I've been in touch with Rachel Bauman at the WI Conference, as well as other faith leaders in the area, to consider how we can find pastoral leadership for Plymouth quickly while also making a good match.

My goal in all of these tasks has been to create a culture at Plymouth that will be able to sustain itself for the coming years. I hope that the next pastor will be able to start with a solid foundation, not having to patch things up before getting



OUR VISION "To be a welcoming and thriving Christian Community, living our faith through reflection and action, while remaining grounded in God's love."

OUR MISSION "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."

Church Office:

Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday

8 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor:

Pastor Katya Ouchakof

puccdodgeville@gmail.com

608-616-5075

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

608-935-5727

plymouth@mhtc.net

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

started with the mission that they feel called to follow together with Plymouth's members. By having established boundaries, there will hopefully be minimal puddles of spilled milk in the fridge to deal with!

Thank you for joining with me in this work the past year or so. I believe that Plymouth is well-situated for the future, and I look forward to seeing what the Spirit has in store!



Bring your family, bring your neighbors—bring your thanks! Plymouth UCC, Dodgeville UMC, and Grace Lutheran Churches invite you to a joyful Thanksgiving Worship service on Wednesday, November 19 at 6 pm at Dodgeville UMC (327 N Iowa St). All ages welcome!



Time Change Reminder!

Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday night, November 1. The official time change happens at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2. Enjoy the extra hour of rest and earlier morning light!



Al-Nakba: The Palestinian Catastrophe Video will be shown in the Cozy Room at 11:30 on November 9th. Al-Nakba, or "the catastrophe," refers to the mass displacement and dispossession of over 750,000 Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, following the creation of the State of Israel. This foundational trauma continues to shape Palestinian identity and struggle, as families commemorate the loss of their homeland and advocate for justice and the right of return. We are offering this video and discussion in response to the invitation from the Wisconsin Conference to learn more about the conflict in Israel-Palestine, consistent with a resolution passed by the UCC General Assembly in 2021. A copy of that resolution is available in the church office.

Usher/Reader/Communion

November

2 - Mary and Rick Stellick
9 - Steve and Jenny
16 - Chuck and Jill Roethe
23 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea
30 - Mary and Rick Stellick

December

7- Steve and Jenny
14- Chuck and Jill Roethe
21 - Mary and Rick Stellick
28 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

Joyful Noise

November

Sierra Leone Orphanage

December

7, 14 - Homeless Coalition
21 - Christmas Fund
28 - Homeless Coalition

Fellowship

November

7 - Stellicks
14 - Pepelea
21 -
28 -

December

7 -
14 -
21 - 28 -



**Watch Worship online via
our Facebook page,
Sundays, at 10 am.**

Meeting Minutes

To keep our congregation informed, we'll be including brief summaries from each Church Council meeting in our newsletters. These highlights will share key discussions and decisions. Full meeting minutes are available by request after they're approved at the following Council meeting.

No matter where you are on your journey, there's always a place for you here. We hope these Council updates help you feel connected.

October 2025 Council Meeting Summary

October 15, 2025

Present: Lisa Pepelea, Moderator; Steve Pieroni, Treasurer; Mary Stellick, Clerk;

at large members Chuck Roethe, Denise Whitish, Shirley Barnes (via phone)

Absent: Pastor Katya Ouchakof

Meeting was called to order by Lisa at 7:00. Mary played the song "Perfect Pastor" by Bryan Sirchio in lieu of a prayer.

The minutes from the September council meeting were reviewed. Steve moved and Denise seconded to approve them as written. Motion carried.

Old business:

Private signs - Lisa has updated the signs to include contact info and will get those to Mary H for copying and laminating to replace existing signs.

Palestine/Israel conflict video for 11/9 after worship – Steve will check on the name of the one he suggested.

Revised MOU and M&M fee – following discussion, Denise moved and Chuck seconded to present the proposed MOU to M&M with the

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Lisa Pepelea

Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

Clerk

Mary Stellick

At Large council members

Shirley Barnes

Denise Whitish

Chuck Roethe

Meetings

Update...Due to the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship on November 19, the Diaconate will meet at 4 PM and the Council at 7:15 PM.

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 submissions are due the Sunday following council meetings.

change in the long-term rental section to offer either 25% of the rent to M&M, with a yearly fee charged to M&M for their use of the building at \$2500 or to offer 50% of the rent received to M&M, with the yearly fee paid by M&M of \$3700. The vote was four in favor and two abstaining. Motion carried.

Building Use policy – Chuck moved and Denise seconded to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.

Wedding policy – Chuck moved and Denise seconded to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report and Committee reports are available on request.

New Business:

Office Administrator job description – Denise asked if other duties relating to the pasty sale that Mary has been performing could be added to the description. Denise moved and Chuck seconded to approve with job description with the addition of said duties. Motion carried.

Bookkeeper job description – Denise moved and Chuck seconded to approve as written. Motion carried.

Mary moved and Chuck seconded to budget \$600 for next year's Our Church's Wider Mission payment to the Conference. Motion carried.

Need to find a candidate for Council at-large position when Shirley's term ends this year – tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40. Next Meeting Wednesday November 19, 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

Help stock the **Little Free Pantry!** Shelf-stable, unexpired items—especially proteins, cereals, and pull-tab canned goods—are always appreciated. Your donations make a real difference for our neighbors in need.

The Faith Explorers

are meeting at 11am for an hour via zoom on Wednesday to discuss a chapter in The Scottish Enlightenment, How the Scots Invented the Modern World – by Adam Smith and friends. Contact Earl Barnes or Dave Pearson for the link to join the discussion or the link to see a recording after the discussion.



Dreaming God's Dream. No gift too small. No dream too big.

Please remember to turn your commitment cards in by November 9.