



# *the Herald*

*June 2016*

*God is Still Speaking*

*Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Dodgeville, Wisconsin*



*From the Pastor's Pen...*

*One of the most powerful parts of the recent UCC Clergy Women's Leadership Event that I attended, was the affirmation that "I am enough." It sounds easy enough to say, but claiming it and knowing it in my heart is sometimes difficult, and I know that is true for most of us. In today's secular world, hard work, extreme busy-ness, and lots of stuff is how an individual's personal worth is measured. We teach this to our kids at a very early age by keeping them busy with sports, music lessons, dance lessons and community service. We are always plugged in and available to our jobs and our friends and families because of technologies that didn't exist even twenty years ago. Cellular devices enable us to receive calls, emails, texts, Facebook messages and voice messages at all hours of the day or night – even in the car – plus, we have the ability to shop at the click of a button. The pressure is always on to be available; to consume, to keep moving, and despite our best efforts, it never seems as though we have done enough, accomplished enough, or been enough to anyone – including ourselves.*

*So maybe it's not too surprising that church has become less of a priority since often times church membership demands even more of already full lives. The church is fatigued from the effort of maintaining itself; new members are needed to help with the fellowship hour, ushering duties, committee work, pasty making, and so on... But the fact is, with all of the chaos going on in this world and in our lives, what is really needed is sanctuary – a place to land for a few minutes and feel safe enough to set all of our busy-ness down. We need a space to connect with the universe and recharge our depleted batteries. We need reassurance that we are enough – just as we are; and, more than anything, we need to know that God loves us and God cares about us.*

*No, the building won't maintain itself, and yes, we are here to reach out in mission and be good stewards in the world, but if our spirits are not being fed, if our worship is just an afterthought, then we have lost track of our purpose. The whole point of being the church together is the opening of ourselves through worship and praise to a God who deeply desires to be in relationship with us. It's that connection that empowers us to do the other things. It's that spiritual nurturing that allows us to move forward in mission and ministry with our priorities straight and our vision clear. There is always more to do. We will never accomplish it all, but we are enough, and God loves us just the way we are. We need to know that. We need to feel it. We need to reflect it...*

*Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Joy*

*Announcements:*

## **Confirmation**

*Confirmation is a pretty big deal in the faith journey. Confirmation is the first adult decision our young people will make. In Sunday school our youth learn about the Christian faith, but Confirmation is different. Confirmation is about our youth deciding to own the Christian faith for themselves. It is a time in their lives when they have the opportunity to define who Jesus is for themselves, to figure out what it takes to be a follower of Jesus, and decide whether they want to do this at this time in their life with the people of Plymouth UCC. This is an important step; it is not the beginning of the journey (that happened at baptism), nor is it the end. It is the beginning of a conscious, life altering, life changing decision to follow Jesus and to commit to a life of seeking to serve him all the rest of the days of our life.*

*Please join us on Sunday, June 12, as we confirm and reaffirm the baptism of Max and Gretchen Bruegger. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. with a special fellowship afterwards. Congratulations Max and Gretchen!!!*

*Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Joy*



**Time Change:** *Starting June 5 & until Labor Day Weekend church service will begin at 9am.*

## **Moderator's Report**

May is a great month for Midwestern Birders. Many of our favorite friends return from their winter hangouts. The same happens at Plymouth. It was great to see the smiling faces of a few returning Snowbirds. "Occasional" is a birding term. It refers to a bird that is rare to see. I've seen some recently on Sundays. I think if we feed those occasionals right they will come more often. I have also noticed some bird's that stopped feeding. They too need our attention. I'm not sure what will bring them back. I suspect they will let us know.

In May the hard work continued as we examined our congregational values. A vote to move forward with the afterschool program was could be seen as a signal that we value attempts to reach out to the community's youth. We are nest building. Thank you to all who contributed to the necessary debate surrounding the vote. We are now moving forward with this pilot program. A steering committee is being formed. The criterion for selecting children for the

program has been set. I hope to have work related to insurance background checks in place by June. The readying of the necessary rooms at Plymouth will happen over the course of the summer.

I mentioned nest building earlier. The nest also needs maintenance. All of our church teams are doing that maintenance. I continue to be thankful for the strong efforts put forward in all areas. One area that has been discussed vigorously in recent months is the church's constitution. That has been difficult work. It is not surprising that consensus on how much to change in the document is difficult to agree upon. Is it wise to make big changes if that change also causes strife? At this time it appears that big change is not to be. At the most recent Council Meeting a vote to table the constitutional review was passed. This does not mean small change is not likely. The nest still needs to be a nurturing home.

Hopefully nurturing is our mission. Thankfully we have a great flock to carry out that mission. Take wing everybody.

Bill Duwell

### *Plymouth Church Council Minutes*

#### **Plymouth UCC Council Minutes**

**May 17, 2016**

Present: Present: Bill Duwell, Earl Barnes, Julie Neal, Steve Freeman, Chuck Roethe, Gretchen Pearson, Pastor Joy Graham, Dave Pearson, Gary McHone

Opening Prayer-Pastor Joy

Agenda Changes & approval: Dave approved, Chuck seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Approved. Corrections and Approval of Council Minutes of April 12th, 2016 Dave moved and Chuck seconded to approve the minutes as read. Approved.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Joy

- Stewardship Theme Materials – Pastor Joy encouraged obtaining the materials produced by the UCC to plan and carefully organize our campaign for September or October. This will help explain to the congregation the process of planning ahead for our budget. Bill will work with Sherry regarding the cost. We will approve purchasing materials at the June meeting.
- Community Conversations – Pastor suggested we set up a more effective and permanent way of showing videos etc. using the upstairs overflow room. Bill will research the cost of projector so we don't need to borrow one all the time.
- Church picnic – date has not been set yet for the interfaith service at Governor Dodge Park.
- Pastor will be taking her vacation July 11<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Diaconate will be in charge of the service using Kent Ulrey's book of sermons.

**Financial Report:** Steve, Dave and Earl

- If more details about the financial reports are needed, they can be found in the three ring binder in the office.
- The second payment has been made for the windows. Work on the windows, which is half done, began in

May and will continue within the next two weeks.

- The current budget was discussed. Income and expenditures are in line.
- There have been several large expenses for elevator repair. We may face a new elevator motor purchase in the future. We need to use the certified elevator services from Madison which includes mileage & travel time from Madison for repairs. Our particular elevator motor is no longer made and parts are hard or impossible to get.
- Wood panels around the bell tower need painting. The company doing the windows would do the job, but Steve is getting some more bids. It could be about \$2400.
- The committee will get some bids for fixing the Fellowship Room storage area. They will also check for mold in the building through the UW Extension.
- Gary moved and Dave seconded to accept the financial reports. Approved.

## **Committee Reports**

**Mission:** Chuck described our entry in the Farmer's Appreciation Day parade July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Chuck's Mule will be decorated and walkers will hand out cards for free popcorn after the parade. Open house in the church after the service (service will be at 9:00 a.m.). Chuck said he might be able to develop a pamphlet and find a way to deliver it to residents within a three block area inviting neighbors to our open house. There will be a group of people to help plan. Chuck will take care of getting people to participate.

**Education:** Julie – Last Sunday was the last SS day and the teachers and children enjoyed a picnic after church. Pastor Joy will award scholarships on Wednesday. Christian Ed will cover the cost of robes for confirmation.

### **Diaconate:** Gary

- Other than planning the church services while Pastor Joy is on vacation (see Pastor's report above) the committee is planning for confirmation in June; gifts and certificates are being prepared and the church will be decorated. The committee has discussed the fact that the Diaconate only plans events within the church rather than out in the community. Other committees should feel free to request the Diaconate Committee to assist in their activities.
- Bill needs to train others to do the recording of the service so it can be done when he is unavailable.

### **Trustees:** Steve

- Doorbell – Another unit will be purchased for LSS so the door can be locked if any staff member for the Church or LSS is in the building is alone.
- Exit Lights – some of the lights have been replaced and are working. Others will be looked into.
- Tables and Chairs – Mark Pepelea is researching purchasing the chairs for the overflow room.

## **Other Business:**

- Constitution Update: Dave moved to table the constitution revision until 2017. Earl seconded. Discussion: Are there any points of agreement? The Constitution Committee did not get much feedback from the committees. There are many new committee members to suggest changes so waiting is a good idea. The absentee ballot process is quite sloppy and needs to be clarified. Some critical changes can be made independently of the rest of the constitution. Approved.
- The hallway and stairs near the kitchen is the only marked exit door besides the front door. It is cluttered with the garbage and recycle containers and other items which need to be located elsewhere. The council decided this should be a clear exit for emergencies. Bill and Steve will see to this. The hi-chairs should also be stored in a different place so the hallways are always clear. (Note: the furnace room and a back walkway in the Pastors office have exits but are unmarked and not easily accessible)
- After School Program: Bill indicated that the program is making good progress. Judy Campbell along with school staff has put together some document drafts regarding application, parent information, forms for parents to fill out etc. She also developed a criteria for applicants. This pilot program will take place on Wednesday after early release and will begin with K-grade 3 students with 4<sup>th</sup> grade siblings to be

considered.

- Office Computer: A new computer will be purchased soon. A generous couple from the church has offered to cover the cost.
- Office Copier: Bill – The old one will need to be replaced at some point as parts are unavailable. Sherrie has worked around some of these problems and is researching different options.
- Insurance board communication will be shared with the Trustees.

**Adjournment:** with no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

## Next Council Meeting June 21st at 7pm

### Flower Donation Needed

We are looking for some that has some extra (around 6 to 8) Shasta Daisies or Black-eyed-Susan plants for the Plymouth flower garden. Please drop off plants at the church office and Sherry will plant and water them. *Thank you!!*



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### Plymouth Community Conversations

*The point is to communicate and give everyone a voice. See you at the next **Community Conversation on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please mark your calendars for these very important conversations!*



PLYMOUTH will have a entry in the Farmer's Appreciation Day parade July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and a open house. More info to come from Chuck Roethe.



**COMMUNITY MEALS**  
— LOVE IN ACTION —

NO ONE HAS EVER  
BECOME POOR BY  
**GIVING**

ANNE FRANK (1929-1945)

@InspiringThoughts

MOTIVATIONAL-INSPIRATIONAL-WORLD.BLOGSPOT.COM

### Food Pantry Wish List

Jelly/jam, Peanut butter

Pancake mix, Syrup

Ketchup, Hamburger Helper

Boxed potatoes, Canned meals

Boxed desserts, Jello/pudding

Cake Mix or Muffin Mix

*Cash donations are also welcome*



### Feeding Friends Community Meal

It will be **Plymouth's** turn to host the Feeding Friends dinner on **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**. The meal will be a **Goulash, Garlic Bread, Corn, Salads & Dessert** and the coordinators will be Pastor Joylynn & Sherry.

Please call or email them if you can help out with set-up, serving or cleanup. Volunteers are still needed to make a salad or a dessert (cookies, bars, cake) for this meal. Food donations are more than welcome since the number of people attending the meal is close to 100 people.

Food prep time is from 3:30pm-5pm with meal serving at 5:00 pm until 6:30pm. Joyful Noise offerings help with the purchase of food for this community meal.

You are always invited to come and eat a great meal *every* Wednesday at the Methodist Church in Dodgeville and enjoy the company of around 100 other people from the community.

*Parking for Feed Friends is getting hard to find and people that are working the event should park in the gravel lot next to the fitness center.*

**Needed for Feeding Friends:** Cottage cheese, Cool Whip and large yogurt cartons to store leftovers or use for carry out meals. Also any 4 or 5 quart ice cream buckets with lids. *Please put any of these clean containers on the kitchen counter near the sign & box for "Feeding Friends containers". Thank you.*



*Hello gardeners and garden workers,*

Please watch the church bulletin and website for the next day we will work in the garden in June. Anne Bachner



www.clipartof.com · 1111659

You might notice **some vegetables** now growing in the Plymouth UCC side garden and those will be used towards the meal we provide for Feeding Friends each month.

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON ON THE CHURCH PICNIC!**



*Plymouth Church & the Family Resource Center are planning an after-school program for children from DES beginning in September, 2016. This project will benefit not only the children who participate, but also the church community.*

**“WACKY” WEDNESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL KIDS CLUB**

**Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm**

**36 weeks**

**30-35 students grades K-5**

**Minimum of 3 adults on site (Pastor Joy would be one) plus Older student helpers from DHS (Key Club & NHS)**

**Programming:**

**Healthy Snacks**

**Homework Club**

**Artist Circle**

Theater Troupe  
Service Learning Projects



RELAY FOR LIFE UPDATE FROM MICHELLE



Another Relay Season in Iowa County Has come to an end. Through our multiple fundraisers, ranging from Joyful Noise to our Garage Sale where we raised well over \$1,500 to our BBQ fundraiser, our team had a **very successful year.**

Not only did we add 6 new members that do not belong to our church, but **we were the number one team this year in fundraising. Our Team raised \$8, 661.51.** **Maureen Teubert** was number 2 in the county for donations raised. Way to Go Maureen! I am extremely proud of my team. They all put in a lot of work this year and it shows how much this cause means to them. A special thank you to **Lisa Duwell** for all her hard work on putting our camp site together. And to **Jan Helmich** for her extra artistic touches and to **Aaron and Kate Garthwaite** for their assistance in making this event special.

Finally, I would like to thank **Mark and Lisa Pepelea** for all their help with the Barbeque. We greatly appreciate it. We would also like to thank each of **the members of Plymouth UCC** for the donations that you gave this year to help us on our way. Next year's theme is Dr. Seuss, we are already thinking of things we can do.

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*Pastor Joy's Schedule*

Pastor Joy will be available Tuesday through Thursday for Pastoral visits or Pastoral care. Please feel free to drop by the office or you can call for an appointment. Pastor Joy may be reached at: 553-0149, or the church office at 935-5727 or [plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net)

Be sure and check out the website at [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org)

There is a spot on the website to submit emails & events.

**Newsletter Submissions**

Please email the information for the **JULY 2016** Newsletter to Sherry at [Plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:Plymouth@mhtc.net) by June 25th. THANK YOU!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Service at 9am starts	6	7	8 Feeding Friends 5 pm	9	10	11
12 CONFIRMATION at 9am	13	14	15 Ruth Circle	16	17	18
19 Community Conversations - after worship	20 SUMMER BEGINS	21 Diaconate Meeting at 5pm Council Meeting 7pm	22	23 Pastoral Relations Meeting 7pm Trustee Meeting 7pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*Phone: 608-935-5727  
E-mail: [plymouth@mhcc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhcc.net)  
Website: [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org)*

*Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
115 W. Merrimac Rd.  
Dodgeville, WI 53533*

## TV Broadcast Schedule

### Pastor

Reverend Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

[pastorjoylynn@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoylynn@gmail.com)

### Office Administrator

Sherry Miess

Office 935-5727

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

Sunday worship is on Dodgeville Local Access channel (MHTC channel 10). The schedule is as follows:

- Sunday at 4 pm
- Tuesday at 7 pm
- Thursday at 8 am

Sermons are available for viewing on our website, [plymouthuccdodgeville.org](http://plymouthuccdodgeville.org) and on YouTube.com

### Maintenance

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

### Organist

Marilyn Dunn

### Choir Director

Lisa Duwell

### Council Moderator

Bill Duwell

### Vice Moderator

Chuck Roethe

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Emily Neal- 2nd

Roy Bettner -4th

Erin Teubert-14th

Elise Lindeman & Chris Tuebert -  
17th

Keith Hulbert-24th

Chuck Roethe-27th



## Church Council

Bill DuWell, Moderator

Chuck Roethe, Vice  
Moderator

Steve Freeman, Trustees

Gary McHone, Diaconate

Chuck Roethe, Mission

Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Julie Neal, Christian Ed

Dave Pearson, Treasurer

Earl Barnes, Finical  
Secretary