

the Herald August 2016

God is Still Speaking

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Dodgeville, Wisconsin

From the Pastor's Pen...



I have just returned from vacation this very day, and I know that you know how crazy that first day back can be. First there are the thousands of emails to attend to because I can never remember to set an auto response letting folks know that I am on vacation! Then there is the snail mail to sift through and mostly throw away, but still, everything has to be checked and scrutinized for any sort of redeeming value. Then there are the conversations to catch up on, and the last vestiges of fog to clear away as it sinks in that vacation is over and it is time to get to work.

Before leaving I promised myself that I was going to unplug from the news and social media the whole time I was gone. I did pretty well the first week; I only peeked at Facebook a couple of times, but then things started to heat up again with the RNC and I just could not stand being out of the loop. When I finally tuned back in, all I heard, everywhere I went, were the words, "the sky is falling, the sky is falling." Indeed!

I think unplugging for a bit is as necessary as a yearly checkup. During the time I was unplugged, I watched a lot of quality TV such as Sesame Street, Thomas the Train, Beauty and the Beast, and many other programs that I don't remember the names of. As I watched it occurred to me that we should all be required to unplug at least once a year and enjoy a refresher course in simple things like manners, how to set the table, and remembering to go potty before leaving the house. This is what our toddlers and small children receive a steady diet of all day, every day, along with the alphabet and a few other helpful resources. But the instant we are old enough to reason and figure things out for ourselves, we stop listening and paying attention to the truly useful advice in the world.

The second week I returned to the "adult world" and began to ease back into "more mature TV" like the RNC. It seemed that there were a great many speakers who would benefit tremendously from a week of Sesame Street. Every news outlet I turned to was broadcasting the same message, "be afraid; be very afraid." I heard a lot of demonizing, finger-pointing and blame-casting, and it wasn't too long before I found myself yearning for another episode of "Thomas the Train." During my unplugged period, I never once sensed that the sky might be falling because we were focusing on solutions rather than problems. Do you find yourself cut off from your friends? Maybe it was because you didn't want to share your new ball with them... Do you find yourself hungry at bedtime? Maybe it was because you didn't finish your supper...

Back in the adult world, it is so darn easy to be drawn into the hype and fear. And when you live in fear, before you know it you're looking for a scapegoat, someone to blame, some witch to burn at the stake. Everyone who contributed to the work of the bible must have known this because the number one statement in the bible is some variation of the words "do not be afraid."

We are moving into an election season, the likes of which we have never seen before. We are being bombarded by reports of new killings every day be they shootings, bombings or executions. People all over the country are rising up, demanding to be heard – and very few of us are listening anymore. How do we restore ourselves to sanity? I don't know, but I do know that sitting with a three-year-old on one side and a two-year-old on the other watching Sesame Street together helped me tremendously. Do not be afraid; God is with us. Remember that. Remember that and share it because you never know what tinderbox you might diffuse in the process... Blessings and Peace, Pastor Joy

Moderator's Report



It is hotter than.....out there. I suspect that is all the hot air blowing in from Cleveland and Philadelphia. I noticed some cool things happening at Plymouth recently. Pastor Joylynn will be back from her vacation. That is cool. I will not play preacher again for some time. That has to be cool.

Steve Freeman and Dave Pearson made short work of a repair to a vandalized window in the fellowship hall. That is very cool. The Peace garden has been spruced up. Way Cool. Another cool thing was a successful open house on Farmer's Appreciation day. Thanks to Chuck, Jill and all who lent a hand. The coolest of all was a great celebration for Max and Gretchen's Confirmation.

Our Wacky Wednesday Afterschool program begins in just over a month. The steering committee has been working through many details. Soon we will make a list available to the congregation of inexpensive items we could use to make the program a success. On that list are sure to be the contribution of healthy snacks that we will need weekly as well as art supplies, board games and appropriate books. Games and books for one to three-year-olds are needed.

We will also be posting a list for volunteers. You can volunteer to serve snacks or be involved as a teaching assistant. We do expect any teaching assistant to pass a background check and participate in a free, online instructional course. Please don't let that dissuade you. The course takes less than an hour. Credit should go out to Dave Pearson for securing a Grant from the Kiwanis Club. That grant of \$1000.00 was awarded to the Family Resource Center. They are partnering with Plymouth on the Wacky Wednesday project. If you know a Kiwanis member, please thank them.

We have already rounded the corner on the second half of 2016. This is a good time to be thinking about stepping into a role on one of our 2017 Plymouth teams. Diaconate is in need of additional members right now. Plymouth needs you. Stewardship will also be a topic soon enough. Plymouth's funds are no doubt tightening. We're blessed to have generous group of givers in our church. Unfortunately, that group is small and getting smaller. Invite a friend to church. Let them know what we are about.

Peace, Bill D

Plymouth UCC Council Minutes July 19, 2016

Present: Bill DuWell, Gary HcHone, Dave Pearson, Chuck Roethe, Julie Neal, Gretchen Pearson, Steve Freeman

Corrections and Approval of Council Minutes of June 21st, 2016 Chuck moved and Gary seconded to approve the minutes as read. Approved

Mission: Chuck – Farmer’s Appreciation Day Parade participation and Open House was a success. Some neighbors came as well as people from the parade. Thanks to Chuck for all his planning, Jill for her help and Bill for transporting the Kawasaki mule.

Financial Report: Steve, Dave

- Reduction in checking and savings mostly due to window payments.
- Investment will increase in the near future.
- The Stewardship and Loose income are on schedule.
- Some of the local mission offerings from 2015 were paid out in 2016.
- Six months into the year, the church is very close to what was budgeted.
- Gretchen moved and Julie seconded to approve the financial report. Approved.

Committee Reports

Education: Julie – Confirmation went very well.

Diaconate: Gary –

- Picnic is August 21st at shelter #2. Diaconate will provide potato salad, brats and beverages and congregation will bring dishes to pass. Notices will be given out at Feeding Friends.
- While Pastor Joy is on vacation, the diaconate conducted the service last week and will again this coming Sunday.
- The committee is photographing all the memorial plaques throughout the church. The photos will be on display on a wall.

Trustees: Steve

- Overflow area – Steve and Mark have done some research about tables and chairs. 48” tables with 6 chairs at each. Five occupied tables will cover about 80 inches which will make the room very crowded. Cost is \$220 a set. More research is needed.
- There are some very important areas in the church that need repair and major maintenance which will take precedence. Steve will present a list of these projects to the Trustee meeting.
- Building Maintenance Updates: A window was broken in the Fellowship hall with a rock. Steve cleaned up the glass and removed the broken storm on the outside. Dave replaced the inside window and is getting the storm repaired. Trustees are looking at getting the lower level painted and possibly replacing the storms.
- To paint the bell tower louvers a company can do the project for \$1000 plus the cost of renting a lift.
- The plaque dedicating the Peace Garden has been attached to a rock outside.

Other Business:

After School Program: Bill –

- Judy Campbell will be the administrator of the program. Now background checks will begin. There is an on-line course of best practices working with children. Committee members will participate in this course.
- Projector: Bill located one for \$275 and will donate it to the church.
- Stewardship Materials: Bill Reduced the number of pledge cards ordered as he found some that had not been used. Materials will cost around \$30.
- Iowa County Emergency Management: Bill filled out the form and sent it in.
- The surge projector was tripped when the electricity went out during a storm. Sherry was able to restart the router/modem. The question presented was who should Sherry call for any technical problems that may arise?
- Newspaper Article – The Chronicle wants to write an article about the recent refurbishing of the stained glass windows. Steve has written historical information about the windows. A date and time will be set with the Chronicle.

Respectfully submitted
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Next meeting August 16thth at 7pm

Plymouth Community Conversations

The point is to communicate and give everyone a voice.

We will not have a Plymouth Community Conversations in August and they will resume in September.

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now". Martin Luther King, Jr.



Church Picnic at Centennial Park on August 21st

- Potluck meal starts after the church service
- Church to provide the beverage, brats & potato salad
- Please bring your own table service & lawn chairs and join us in shelter # 2
- *PLEASE JOIN US!*



Soon Plymouth will be starting a new ministry called **Wacky Wednesday**. This much needed after-school program will be a great service to those young people who have nowhere to go after school by providing them with a safe space in which to do homework and participate in fun and meaningful activities. We have been planning this project for nearly a year and are very excited to see it launch! It is important for us to remember however, that this new ministry is not a replacement for our existing ministry Feeding Friends. Feeding Friends has evolved into a huge success in our community and Plymouth has played a large role in that success. We have had many kinks to work out, but we have reached a place where we are operating smoothly and the program is depending on us to continue to do so. We have a core group that participates in this ministry, but we have lost some of our volunteers and could sure use some replacements. The work is easy, fun and rewarding, plus you get a free meal! Won't you please consider joining us in this very worthy ministry? ***Come once and give it a try; you won't regret it!***

Feeding Friends Community Meal

Plymouth will host the Feeding Friends dinner on **Wednesday, August 10th at 5:00pm**. The meal will be **Stroganoff, French Bread, Corn, Salads & Dessert** and the coordinators will be **Chuck & Jill**.

In August we short workers for this event and need more volunteers 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. Please contact Chuck and Jill if you can help.

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.

Needed for Feeding Friends: Cottage cheese, Cool Whip and large yogurt cartons to store leftovers or use for carry out meals. Also any ice cream buckets with lids. *Please put any of these clean containers in the kitchen in the large white basket.*
Thank you.

Dodger Food Locker

Tuesday August 9th from 6 to 7 PM at the Dodger Bowl:

Many children in our local schools do not have adequate access to food on non-school days. Help us take action and do our best to keep these kids from being hungry while not in school.

You are invited to a community-wide meeting to discuss the need for a weekend food program for Dodgeville and Ridgeway area elementary aged children.

The program, currently dubbed “**Dodger Food Locker**” is based on the success of the “Pointer Pantry”.

Meeting Agenda:

1. We will present our findings on the serious hunger needs in our community.
2. You will learn more about the Pointer Pantry, its success and how we hope to replicate it.
3. Learn more about what you can do to help.
4. Provide us with your ideas on how to make this program a success.
5. Help us name our food program!



Food Pantry Wish List

Jelly/jam, Peanut butter

Pancake mix, Syrup

Hamburger Helper, Ketchup

Boxed potatoes, Canned meals

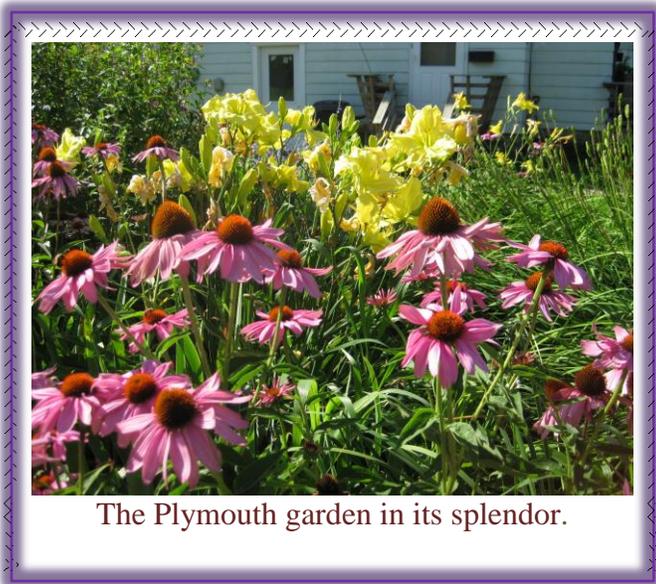
Canned vegetables, Jello/pudding

Cake Mix, Boxed desserts

Muffin Mix

Cash donations are also welcome





The Plymouth garden in its splendor.





Plymouth Church and the Family Resource Center will be starting an after-school program for children from DES beginning on **September 14, 2016**. This project will benefit not only the children who participate, but also the church community.

We are recruiting students and planning activities for fall. **Sign-up sheets for volunteers to work at the program and to provide snacks are posted on the church bulletin board.** If you have a talent to share or questions, please call Judy Campbell at 574-1266.

Applications to enroll in the after-school program can be picked up at the church and left at the church office once completed.

- Programming Includes:**
- Healthy Snacks**
 - Homework Club**
 - Artist Circle**
 - Theater Troupe**
 - Service Learning Projects**





Pastor Joy's Schedule

Pastor Hours: 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

Pastor Joy's Schedule

Be sure and check out the website at plymouthuccdodgeville.org
There is a place on the website to submit emails & events to the church office and to view recent photos and upcoming events.

Newsletter Submissions

Please email the info for the September 2016 Newsletter to Sherry @ Plymouth@mhtc.net by August 25th. THANK YOU!



Thanks to all the vounteers that helped with the Open House and the entry in the parade for Farmers Appreciation Day on July 10th!! Your generosity is appreciated!







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2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10 Feeding Friends 5 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 Diaconate Meeting 5pm & Council Meeting 7pm	17 Ruth Circle	18	19	20
21 PLYMOUTH UCC CHURCH PICNIC AFTER WORSHIP 	22	23	24	25 Trustee Meeting 7pm Newsletter content due	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Office Administrator

Sherry Miess

Office 935-5727

Email :Plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

Organist

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director

Lisa Duwell

Council Moderator

Bill Duwell

Vice Moderator

Chuck Roethe

TV Broadcast Schedule

Sunday worship is on Dodgeville Local Access channel There will not be a broadcast this summer and this schedule will resume when school starts. (MHTC channel 10). The schedule is as follows:

- 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rod Lukes - 2nd

***Francis Portwine -
24th***

Martha Boyer - 26th

Anne Bachner - 30th

CELEBRATE

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*



Happy Birthday!!!
August babies