

The Herald

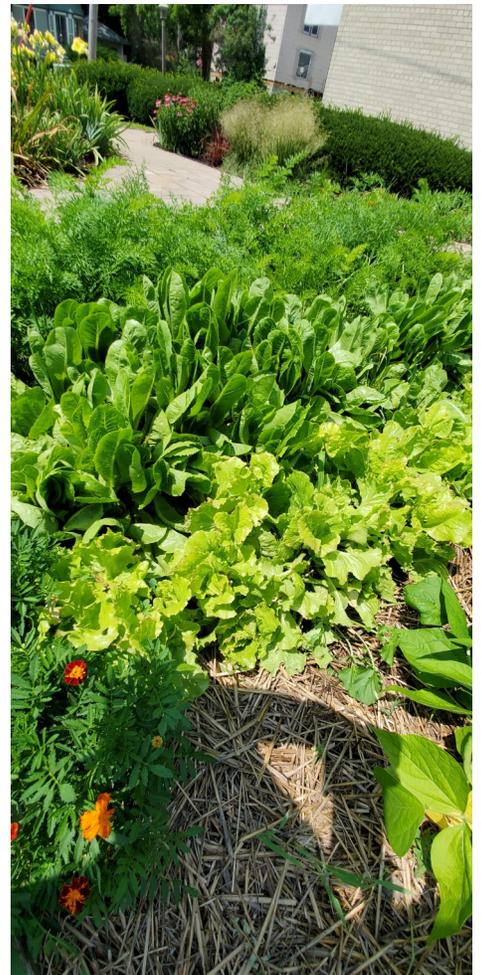
Plymouth UCC Dodgeville



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ

AUGUST 2019

Plymouth Gardens Taking Shape





A Note from the Pastor...



Beloved Community,

I hope this finds you rested and happy from your summer travels and time spent with family. We have been receiving a great many flat Jesus pictures, and the stories they tell are such happy ones. So keep 'em coming! We really enjoy them and we love sharing them with the rest of the community.

The summer months are such a blessing aren't they? They give us time to escape for a bit the hectic demands of the rest of the year. They give us time to catch up with loved ones, and to spend time tending to our own re-creation needs that are often otherwise ignored. Taking time off is a good thing indeed; as the scripture says: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

But there is another aspect of summer that is becoming a real issue for us at Plymouth. During the summer months we know that worship attendance will be down, and we kind of count on it. But this year it has been so far down it is alarming. And if we're honest – the past winter wasn't much better.

Heck, this entire past year has been difficult. We have lost some members that we were not expecting to lose, and of the members that remain, there seems to be a general air of resignation. All of you have noticed; I know you have because nearly every one of you have expressed your concerns to me. We all know that there is a problem; we all know that our membership is drying up, and we all know that something has to give if we are to survive.

So here's some good news; because the fact of the matter is, we still have plenty of choices. We still have options – good options – attractive options, if only we will come together and recommit ourselves to God, to this ministry, and to each other. We have the tools; we have everything we need; the only things we don't have right now are cohesion, unity and desire. But we have had those things in the past, and I know we can recover them if we just start showing up again.

The bottom line is this, if this ministry is to survive then we are all needed – every single one of us. We are needed to show up, and participate, and cooperate with one another. We are needed in worship. We are needed in fellowship. We are needed to fulfill leadership positions. We are needed period! Because no one person can do this alone – including me.

Friends, I believe in this church – with all my heart I believe in Plymouth. I believe God's Spirit blows through this church and blesses this ministry every single day. I believe in the body – the wonderful people who are so open and accepting and HOSPITABLE to everyone who walks through our doors. And I believe that if we want it, the best is still yet to come for Plymouth. We just have to reach for it – together – all of us. Because that's what it's going to take – all of us.

So here's my request. I know that you are probably starting to wrap up final travel plans and such, but if you happen to be in town can you please come to church? We need you. I need you. I have some ideas, but I need us back together so I can talk to you about them. Actually, for August, there are lots of incentives. The 11th, the 18th, and the 25th all have big activities planned – fun stuff! So be sure to check out the calendar and make plans to attend.

Let's spend the month of August pulling ourselves back together in worship and fellowship so that by September we can be ready for a congregational meeting. In September I would like us to come to the table together, ready to have a serious discussion about the future of this ministry. More details on this meeting will be provided later, but count on a weeknight so that everyone can attend.

Almost five years ago, you called me in good faith to lead you in your ministry. Until now that has looked like one thing, but now we are about to do a new thing together. We must, if we are to survive. And my promise to you is this, for as long as I am your pastor I will lead you to the best of my ability, always keeping in mind that which is best for the ministry of this church.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Joy

Summer Sermon Series for 2019

BE THE CHURCH



July 28 – Reject Racism (or Dismantle Racism) —

Romans 10:11-13

The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

August 4 – Fight for the Powerless (or Fight with the Marginalized/ Confront the Powers) —

Psalms 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

August 11 – Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources —

Luke 3:10-11

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

(Continued from page 3)

August 18 – Embrace Diversity —

Genesis 1:27

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

August 25 – Love God —

Luke 10:25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

September 1 – Enjoy This Life —

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



August 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			National Eye Exam Month	1 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	2	3
4 Worship 10 am Fellowship	5	6 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Hiroshima Day of Remembrance	7 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30	8 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Trustees, 7 pm	9	10
11 Outdoor Ecumenical Worship 10 am At Centennial Park, Shelter #2 Ecumenical Service 	12	13 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	14 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 am Feeding Friends, 5pm	15 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	16	17
18 Worship 10 am Fellowship Pridefest Warner Park, 1 - 6 pm 	19	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 Faith Explorers 10:30	22 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Plymouth Circle, Noon	23	24
25 Worship 10 am Picnic Birthday Bash at Pastor Joylynn's 1 pm Birthday Picnic Bash	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 Faith Explorers 10:30	29 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	30	31



Feeding Friends Live Auction

When: Sunday, August 18th, 2019 at 1:00pm

Where: Dodgeville United Methodist Church

Why: To raise funds so our community can continue to have a free, hot, nutritious meal that is open to everyone and served with neighborly hospitality.

Please consider creating a "basket" or donating a service, gift certificate, etc to this worthwhile cause.



Donation Ideas

- Sporting event tickets
- Signed memorabilia
- Custom artwork
- Music lessons
- Jewelry
- Lawn mowing/snow blowing services
- Golf lessons
- Timeshares
- Local restaurant gift cards
- Local store gift certificates
- Museum tickets
- Hotel stays
- State Park sticker



Have fun creating your own basket to donate!

Basket Ideas



- Spa Day (bath bombs, slippers, robe, etc)
- Beach Party (beach towels, sand toys, sunscreen, etc)
- Birder's Delight (bird feeder, feed, bird ID book)
- Campfire (S'mores fixings, roasters, etc)
- New Baby (diapers, onesies, wipes, toys, etc)
- Ice Cream (fun bowls, toppings, ice cream scoop, etc)
- Grilling (BBQ sauce, apron, tongs, rub, spices, etc)
- Cookies (cookie pans, cutters, decorating supplies)
- Stationary (cards, journal, stamps, pens, etc)

If you have any questions about a donation, please contact Julia Harman at:

Phone: (608) 930-2220

Email: tandjharman@charter.net

Donations may be dropped off at DUMC on Sunday mornings or Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00am to 3:00pm, or by contacting Julia Harman for a pickup.

Don't forget to mark Sunday, August 18th at 1:00pm on your calendar, and plan to bid on exciting items at this fun, live auction!

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville



**Our Sunday Worship Service may
be viewed this month on our
website:**

plymouthuccdodgeville.org

Or

**On Facebook look for
Plymouth United Church of Christ,
Dodgeville**

Or on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s)



**Please contact the office and let us know when you
can help. Plymouth UCC hosts Feeding Friends the
2nd Wednesday of the month beginning at 5 pm.
935-5727**

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."**

Schedules

Usher

August 4 - Lisa and Bill Duwell

August 11 - Julie Neal

August 18 - Anne Bachner

August 25 - Jill Roethe

Communion

August 4 - Jill Roethe

August 11 - Julie Neal

August 18 - Jan Helmich

August 25 - Gary McHone

Communion

August 4 - Bill Duwell

August 11 - Julie Neal

August 18 - Anne Bachner

August 25 - Jill Roethe

Fellowship

August 4 - Anne Bachner

August 11 - Outdoor Ecumenical
Worship

August 18 - Rod and Mary Lukes

August 25 - Birthday Bash Picnic

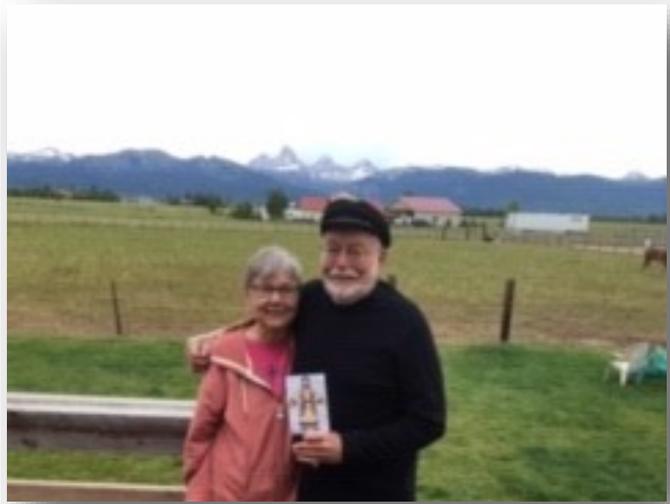
Joyful Noise

August - Free Clinic

Summer Time With Flat Jesus



David and Julie Neal kayaking at Lake Wissota State Park.



Dave and Gretchen enjoying the sights with the mountains in the background.



Plymouth UCC of Dodgeville

will be sponsoring an Open and Affirming booth

along with other area churches

at Pride Fest in Warner Park

2930 N Sherman Avenue

from 1 pm until 6 pm, August 18

All churches and all individuals are

welcome to join in the fun!

If interested, contact us at 608-935-5727.

Birthday Picnic Bash



With the help of members, Pastor Joylynn has been getting the homestead ready for a church-wide birthday celebration.

Come and celebrate with a church-wide birthday celebration picnic/potluck

Birthday Bash Picnic

Sunday August 25

1 pm

3705 County Road M

Dodgeville

Please bring a dish to pass

Bring lawn chairs

Pastor Joylynn will be providing brats and beverages



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.



DIACONATE NEWS

The Diaconate Committed met July 16th.

Those present were Gary McHone, Chairman, Pastor Joy, Harry Zelhofer-McHone, Jill Roethe, Julie Neal and Jan Helmich.

Discussions were held regarding the following:

1. August 11 at 10:00 AM - Ecumenical Service at Centennial Park. Pastor Joy will be in charge of Communion and will take what is needed for that. Everyone attending from our congregation is asked to bring cookies or bars or other finger foods for fellowship and lawn chairs. If raining the service will be at Grace Lutheran.
2. August 18th at 1:00 PM - Pride Celebration at Warner Park in Madison. Our church will have a booth there in conjunction with other UCC churches. Congregation members are encouraged to attend.
3. August 25th at 1:00 PM - Birthday Bash Potluck at Pastor Joy's home. Pastor Joy will provide brats and beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share and lawn chairs. Our committee will bring extra tables and outdoor umbrellas. Homemade ice cream will be made and there will be outdoor games to play. The Diaconate Committee will meet at Joylynn's at 5:00 on August 20th to finalize plans. This will be a party to celebrate "Everyone's Birthday".
4. Next year for Farmers Appreciation Day we would hope to have an entry in the parade with possibly handing out bags of popcorn. There will be more discussion about this later closer to that date.
5. We talked about the future of our church as this relates to fewer members, making our church more visible in our community, etc. We decided we would plan a back to church Sunday on September 8th. We are planning a pancake breakfast with the theme "Come For Breakfast and Stay For Church". Church members will be encouraged to ask a friend or other church members who haven't attended lately.
6. September 29th the Diaconate Committee will be planning the morning service as Pastor Joy will be gone due to getting some Continuing Education credits. If any church member (or knows of someone who would) would like to bring the message that morning please let a member of the Diaconate know.

Our next meeting will be on August 20th at 5:00 PM at Pastor Joy's home to finalize plans for the Birthday Bash.

Submitted by Jan Helmich, Secretary

Monthly Meetings/Events

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

Sundays

Special Music Sunday - once a month, usually the last Sunday of the month.

Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of the month:

Diaconate 5:30 pm

Council Meetings 7 pm-

Wednesdays

Faith Explorers 10:30 am at Crestridge

Wacky Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:30 pm, September through May.

Choir, 7 pm, September through May.

Feeding Friends - 2nd Wednesday of the month.

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.

Ecumenical Service



Sunday August 11 at 10 am

Centennial Park Shelter #1

Bring a Lawn Chair

Bring finger foods, bars, or cookies

Rain Location Grace Lutheran Church

***Hosted by Grace Lutheran,
Plymouth Congregational UCC,
and United Methodist of Dodgeville***

Commentary: Safe for Whom?

July 25, 2019

Written by Rhina Ramos

The White House's recent declaration to deny asylum to those who travel through another country before arriving to the U.S. blocks the possibilities and dreams of safety for any immigrant crossing Mexico (and potentially Guatemala). In order to enforce this declaration, the U.S. would need to have "Safe Third Country" agreements with Mexico and Guatemala. Currently, the U.S. only has this type of agreement with Canada.

In the [1951 Convention on the Treatment of Refugees](#), many European countries entered these collaborative agreements to atone for their past failures to provide refuge to those fleeing the Holocaust. Governments were also trying to prepare for people trying to escape the spread of Communism during the Cold War. This collaborative approach was intended to provide protection for those in fear of persecution.

However, the U.S. government, which views immigrants as a threat, does not have the same purpose in mind. President Trump's recent declaration attempts to move the border further south and to prevent the arrival to U.S. of those people he has dehumanized.

According to Susan Gzesh from Just Security, "A Safe Third Country must provide safety, security, and due process for asylum seekers." The notion that Mexico and Guatemala are "safe" countries to Central Americans or immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean, among others, is ludicrous. Guatemala has a recent legacy of indigenous genocide. The Mexican parents of the 43 disappeared students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College in 2014 are still chanting "Vivos se los llevaron, vivos los queremos"—"You took them alive; we want them back alive." Mass graves full of immigrants have been found in Mexico in recent years.

Even 35 years ago when I was crossing Mexico to get to the U.S., we were scared of the Mexican authorities. When the group I was traveling with was caught by the federal Mexican police, all 20 of us were put in a jail cell for an entire day. After we bribed them, they had connections with smugglers, who treated us as hostages until we were able to cross the U.S. border.

We can continue citing Matthew 25:44-45 and calling fellow Christians to see Jesus on the faces of terrified desperate immigrants, but it does not seem to click as if this image is too remote to register in our hearts. We can only hope we will realize and accept that their humanity is as valuable as ours, and that we will understand that this earth is vast and rich and not only the property of the wealthy and powerful. Our call to love justice and act mercifully is now.

[A recent development on this](#): "A federal judge on Wednesday blocked the Trump administration from enforcing new asylum restrictions for immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, marking the latest defeat for a president waging an all-out battle in the courts to stop the flow of migrants into the country."
Las Vegas - Review Journal



Check out these other articles on the UCC website.

https://www.ucc.org/news_wall_of_love_latest_way_for_aging_church_to_bring_community_in_07262019

https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_folks_help_vigils_shine_light_on_border_concentration_camps_07152019

https://www.ucc.org/news_iowa_community_coming_together_for_long_term_flood_recovery_07112019

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:pastor-joylynn@gmail.com)

joylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5727

plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator:

ATTENDANCE

JULY 7	19
JULY 14	10
JULY 21	28
JULY 28	25



Newsletter Deadline

August 22 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



August 2

Rod Lukes

August 26

Martha Boyer

August 30

Anne Bachner



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

**THANKS TO YOUR
GENEROSITY IN MAY**

FEEDING FRIENDS \$354.72

**AUGUST JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS
DESIGNATED FOR:**

FREE CLINIC

**Joyful
noise**



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United Church of Christ
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Website: plymouthuccdodgeville.org

