

The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

MAY

2023



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ

Pastor Tammy Martens Pulpit Supply for Plymouth UCC



Tammy lives in southwest Madison with her husband, Rob, and their daughter Lily. Lily is a graduate of Memorial High School in Madison and now attends Madison College. She is an avid horse lover and has competed in a few Eventing Competitions. She takes horse jumping lessons and also teaches horse riding lessons at Misty Morning Farm outside of Madison. Gabe, their son, is a junior at the University of Minnesota at Twin Cities and is studying computer engineering. Tammy's husband, Rob, is a software engineer and works from home.

Rob also works as the Youth Rock Band Director at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and has been in that position for over 10 years. The band plays once a month in worship. Both Gabe and Lily were part of the band when they were in middle and high school. Lily currently assists Rob with leading the band.

Tammy has worked almost 30 years in ministry. She finished a 15-year tenure at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ as Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families last August 2022. Working at Orchard Ridge was very gratifying and Tammy is very grateful for the opportunity she had to be in ministry with wonderful people at that church.

Tammy graduated from Palmer Seminary (formerly called Eastern Baptist Seminary) in Philadelphia in 1995. She was ordained in the American Baptist denomination.

Tammy has begun work as a Program Associate for the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. One of the services they provide is mediation for churches in conflict. Tammy also assists with their clergy support and educational programs.

Tammy loves to hang out with her family which also includes their dog, Callie. One of Tammy and her family's favorite places to visit is Moon Beach (one of the United Church Camps of Wisconsin) in St. Germain, WI. They have been attending Family Camp since 2007. Tammy also loves to travel. Last summer their family visited Vermont where Rob, Tammy's husband, is from. Tammy also loves to cook, take long walks, and spend time with friends.

Tammy hopes to provide faithful leadership to Plymouth UCC through leading worship and preaching sermons that help to deepen faith and discipleship. Tammy looks forward to hearing and learning about the mission and vision of Plymouth UCC.

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:

Pastor Availability Hours:
Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor:

Interim Pastor
Tammy Martens

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag
935-5727
plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Mission

Would you like to get involved? Volunteer for one of our missions.

Little Free Pantry - Serves the members of the community by providing food for anyone in need. The Pantry is found outside in the front of the church. Donated food items should be easy to open and easy to eat with minimal to no preparation. We could also use some toiletries and personal items. Food pantry shelf is located downstairs next to the door leading into the fellowship hall.

Pasty - Pasty season is here. Pasties are on the minds of members of the community and even those outside of the community who have heard about Plymouth's pasties. Workers are needed to make this successful each month. Please sign up to work one or more Saturdays through the entire season. Call into the office or contact Denise Whitish. Please let us know how you can help. Let's keep the best pasties in town available. Pasty dates - October 9, November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, and April 9.

Be a part of the Church

Faith Explorers - Wednesdays, 11:00 am via Zoom and Faith Explorers. If you have questions or doubts, you are in the right place. If you want to meet with others who have questions and doubts, then this group is for you. Please contact Earl Barnes for more information.

Plymouth Pathfinders - What is Plymouth Pathfinders? It is our newly organized Sunday School class. This class is on hold until further notice.

Plymouth Circle - Fourth Thursday of the month, noon, at Country Kitchen. "Plymouth Circle (or as we call ourselves sometimes "The Out For Lunch Bunch") this is the week! Open to all, men, women, couples, singles, everyone. We always have fun and good conversation.

Plymouth Circle of Care - This is a group of volunteers who are ready to help you if you need help. Whether it's a ride or a hot meal that is needed please contact a member of this group.

Moderator

Gary McHone

Vice Moderator

Open

Trustees

Shirley Barnes

Diaconate

Randy Thompson

Mission

Chuck Roethe

Clerk

Mary Stellick

Christian Education

Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

Financial Secretary

Earl Barnes

If your address, phone/
cell number, or email
have changed, please con-
tact 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.



Care Team - We are in the early stages of forming a Plymouth Care Team for the purpose visiting those members who are no longer able to get out and about. The Care Team, along with the Pastor will visit on a monthly basis and offer communion as well. If you are interested in joining the Care Team, we need you! If

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

May 18 @ 8 am

Announcements/Coming up...

May 10 - Community Meeting - A tour, discussion, and pizza at Plymouth UCC to discuss setting the building up for community use.

Mother's Day – May 14 – Diaconate will supply 15 red roses to hand out. Rod Lukes will be playing harmonica during worship.

Mini Food Pantry – Now that the weather is warmer, we are restarting the Mini Food Pantry. For the month of May, we are especially looking for peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, and granola bars. A longer list is available on the pantry shelf in the basement.

Introducing Rachel Peller

Rachel Peller will help recruit and facilitate people and nonprofit groups to use the PUCB building in a manner consistent with the church's wider mission and will also maintain the Little Free Pantry. In exchange, she will use the old LSS room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from about 9am to 4pm as office space for her virtual work for Wisconsin Partners, a nonprofit project of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative in Sauk City. Wisconsin Partners facilitates collaboration across sectors, perspectives, and communities. Recent priority areas have included childcare, housing, senior caregiving, and polarization/civic health, all from a multi-sector, asset-based, and relational approach. Rachel recently moved into Rock Ridge Cooperative in Dodgeville (previous home of Judy Campbell and Jane and Vince Kavalovski) with her girlfriend Rebecca, and plans to be active in the community.



Schedules

Usher/Reader/Communion

May 7 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

May 14 - Melody and Randy Thompson

May 21 - Mary and Rick Stellick

May 28 - Gary McHone and Steve Pieroni

*If you would like to volunteer to help with Worship, please contact Randy Thompson.

Joyful Noise

May 7, 14, 21 - Homeless Coalition

May 28 - Strengthen the Church

Fellowship

May 7 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

May 14 - Steve Pieroni

May 21 - Rick and Mary Stellick

May 28 -

JOYFUL NOISE

Happy Birthday:

May 13 - Dave Pearson

May 14 - Mary Haag



Thanks to your generosity in March

Friendship Center 203.10

One Great Hour of Sharing 94.00

Disaster Relief for Syria/
Turkey Earthquake 417.55

May Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:

Homeless Coalition
Strengthen the Church

Thank you!!!



Join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30 am.

Circle of Care

Earl and Shirley Barnes
Liz Bothfeld
Harry and Gary McHone
Dave and Gretchen Pearson
Rod and Mary Lukes
Lisa Pepelea
Chuck Roethe
Nancy Schmidt
Ross Vivian

Pastor Relations Committee

Jill Roethe
Lisa Pepelea
Gary McHone
Earl Barnes
Harry Zelhofer



**Every Sunday is a good
time to bring a guest with
you to Sunday Worship.**



Maundy Thursday Service at Plymouth

The warm glow of candlelight, tables strewn with palms, bowls of grapes and fresh bread greeted those attending the Maundy Thursday service at Plymouth. Thirty participants from both United Methodist Church and Plymouth enjoyed four varieties of soup and sandwiches. Following the meal, Pastor Jim Droste, UMC, and Christina Schoenwetter, Plymouth UCC, conducted the service commemorating the last supper including symbolic foot washing and communion. Thanks to Jan Helmich for setting the scene, Gary McHone, Steve Pieroni, Mary Stellick, Mary and Rod Lukes for the soups, Rick Stellick for kitchen help, Lisa Pepelea for the grapes and Jill Roethe for the bread.



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...



Preparing the Building for Public Use

Notes from 3/28/23 Meeting with Rachel Bauman and Andrew Warner

15 members of the congregation (Lisa Pepelea, Earl Barnes, Shirley Barnes, Mary Lukes, Rod Lukes, Dave Pearson, Gretchen Pearson, Liz Bothfield, Jan Helmich, Jean Brown, Carol Murphy, Gary McHone, Steve Pieroni, Rick Stellick, Mary Stellick) and one nonmember (Mary Haag, church secretary) met with Rachel Bauman (our Association Minister) and Andrew Warner (WCUCC Director of Development) to have a conversation regarding expanding the use of our church building to make it a more active and welcoming community resource.

Introductions – Rachel asked everyone to share how they are feeling about Plymouth UCC right now. Some answers were: curious, hopeful, concerned, scared, conflicted, and helpful.

Strengths – endowment, open to change, people of congregation, common goal

Concerns – roof and other needed repairs, energy level of aging congregation, fewer activities, decline in membership

There was some discussion regarding ideas to grow the church. Steve suggested that we should be thinking about Plymouth five or ten years from now – if it's possible that we would no longer be an active congregation, we should start thinking now about what we would like the Plymouth legacy in the community to be.

The following are some thoughts and questions from Andrew and Rachel (not necessarily in chronological order, I tried to group by topic):

Are we wanting to open up the building for financial gain/income or resources to use in maintaining/growing the church or our wider mission?

What would success look like in five to ten years?

How do we use the building to communicate who we are, what can we offer that's different from other churches?

Rachel suggested that we take a good look at the Annual Property Assessment tool that she sent to the Trustees, which considers everything from our mission to our building and property. It can help us come up with a step by step plan for moving forward.

Andrew brought up the WCUCC Foundation, which manages funds for local churches whether or not they are an active congregation. He will send information to the Endowment Committee.

Liz asked Rachel and Steve what other churches have done in similar situation. They gave several examples of churches using their building to provide for a need in their community while contin-

Preparing the Building for Public Use continued...

Liz asked Rachel and Steve what other churches have done in similar situation. They gave several examples of churches using their building to provide for a need in their community while continuing to maintain the congregation. Some of these churches used a Catalyst Grant from the Wisconsin Conference.

Ideas were discussed as ways to use the building (both during the meeting and afterward):

Shirley reported that the Trustees have approved a request from Rachel Peller, Director of Wisconsin Partners (a membership-based coalition of statewide associations and community-based civic groups) to use office space in the church three days a week. In exchange for the space (an upstairs classroom) she will barter her services to help plan and organize community events that could be hosted here.

The Trustees have met with Barry Hottman of Iowa County UW Extension regarding unmet community needs, such as co-working office spaces.

Other ideas were a need for quality daycare facilities, a senior center, involvement with the library, space for New Beginnings clothes distribution. None of these activities would limit our ability to operate as a church.

The group came to a consensus that these ideas and others are worth continuing the discussion and this is something that will not be done quickly if we decide we need to repurpose the church building consistent with our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stellick, Clerk

Community Event @ Plymouth May 10

On Wednesday, May 10 at 5 p.m., Plymouth is hosting a community event to talk about opening the church to more community activities. There will be a tour of the church at 5 p.m., brainstorming session at 5:30 p.m. and pizza and wrap up at 6:30 p.m. Please let Shirley Barnes know if you are able to be there because we want to be sure to have enough pizza for all.

Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Members Present: Randy Thompson, Shirley Barnes, Earl Barnes, Gary McHone, Steve Pieroni, Mary Stellick, Chuck Rothe

Meeting was called to order by Gary at 7:05. The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed, there were no additions or corrections. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve, seconded by Chuck. Minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Diaconate

Christina has accepted an associate pastorate with another church and will be cutting her contract here short. Her last service will be on Easter.

Maundy Thursday – confirmed that the soup & sandwich supper will begin at 5:00. Christina will lead the service with Pastor Jim of the UMC.

Jill will lead the service on 3/26 and Gary will lead on 4/16, and tentatively on 4/23 unless there is a pulpit supply pastor by then.

The Diaconate, along with representatives from the Barneveld church, are meeting with a pastor on 3/23, who if accepted, would be available for pastor supply through the summer.

Easter Lily order forms did not go out, Gary will remind the congregation about letting Mary Haag know if ordering, and the cost.

The Church Profile was completed by the Search Committee and sent to Council members to review. Motion was made by Shirley, seconded by Randy, to accept the Profile as written, with thanks to Lisa, Chuck, and Steve. Motion carried.+

Trustees

Shirley revised the Budget to reflect changes due to not having a full-time pastor. Use of \$11,000 from the Endowment Fund is anticipated for the year, not including any funds needed for roof repairs.

Midwest Roofing will be inspecting the roof and attic on 3/23.

Shirley contacted Rachel Bauman regarding expanding the use of our building and wider mission of our church. Rachel gave Shirley information about two resources, "Annual Assessment Questions" and a book, Transitioning Older & Historic Sacred Places, which the Trustees are reading. Rachel and Andrew Warner (WCUCC Director of Development) will meet

Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Minutes continued...

with the Trustees and anyone else interested in attending on 3/28 to discuss possible processes and resources available from the Conference.

Trustees met today with Barry Hottman from UW-Extension to have him tour the church building and discuss possible uses for the community.

Rachel Peller, Director of Wisconsin Partners (a membership-based coalition of statewide associations and community-based civic groups), has asked to use a room in the church building for her office 3 days/week. Details will be worked out with the Trustees.

Financial

Steve reported that there currently is \$17,900 in the checking account.

Statements were received today, not in a timely manner as requested. Steve will contact Zander Accounting to remind them of agreement.

Pledge cards were sent out. Earl reported that stewardship income is doing better than last year.

Missions

Chuck reported that the church has received thank you notes from all the missions supported in the past year.

The Joyful Noise offering this Sunday will be for the Conference Earthquake Relief fund.

Old Business

Mary and Shirley have not yet met to review the membership list, will do so before next month's meeting.

New Business

Gary asked council members to think about putting a new slogan on the sign in front of church

Randy will contact Mary Haag about ordering palm leaves for Palm Sunday.

Mary made a motion to adjourn, Shirley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

Joint Meeting of Church Council and Trustees

April 2, 2023

Attending: Gary McHone, Chuck Rothe, Rick Stellick, Jean Brown, Steve Pieroni, Earl Barnes, Shirley Barnes, Randy Thompson, Mary Stellick, Ross Vivian

The meeting was called to order by Gary discuss the bid from Midwest Roofing of \$27,550 for the roof repair work.

Chuck raised some concerns to make sure that the bid includes all work to be done.

Shirley stated that a positive is that Midwest Roofing is a local company.

Steve noted that we should also request an estimate to add flashing around the skylight. That estimate may be added to the current one or as a separate amount.

Chuck suggested that as the deadline to accept the bid is April 12, we ask Midwest Roofing for a one or two week extension in order to hold a congregational meeting to make a decision. Steve did not think that would be a problem.

Randy moved that we accept the proposed bid with a deadline extension. Steve seconded it, motion carried.

There will be a congregational meeting on April 16, to be announced on April 9 during the worship service. Gary will ask Mary Haag to send out a mailing about the meeting with a ballot for those who are unable to attend to send in, and to contact Shirley if they have any questions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

Congregational Meeting

April 16, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. by Moderator Gary McHone. A quorum was established with 19 members present and 15 proxy votes received.

Shirley Barnes explained that the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the bid of \$27,5050 from Midwest Roofing to repair the worst part of the roof and to add gutters.

Mary Stellick moved to accept the bid, Rick Stellick seconded the motion. There were no questions or comments.

Rick Stellick called the question. A voice vote to accept was unanimous.

Rick moved to adjourn the meeting. Adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk