

The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

APRIL

2022



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ



From the Pastor's Keyboard...

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the third week of Lent and spring is in the air! We are back in our sanctuary, our new video equipment is working beautifully, and there are signs of hope and renewal all around us.

It seems rather appropriate that we should re-open on the first Sunday of Lent. After two years and three shutdowns, we have learned well how to dial down our expectations. We have learned well how to adapt to changing circumstances while remaining flexible, and although the situation itself has been devastating, these lessons learned come to us as gifts. They come to us as "new growth", arising out of the ashes of ruin, and what better season than Lent to cultivate this "new growth"?

Lent is that time when we slow down and let go. It is a time of shedding all that keeps us from God, and all the dead-weight that has accumulated throughout the winter. It is a time when the seeds of rebirth begin to stir and make themselves known deep inside us. It is a time of quiet attentiveness to the inner whisper of God – guiding us, calling us, leading us... And I can't help but notice that there is a great deal of stirring going on lately. A great deal of curiosity and searching, for something deeper, something more holy and pure than the over-bearing and demanding God we were presented with as children.

We have two adult discussion groups going on now. We have our regular Faith Explorers on Wednesday mornings and now we have the Faith Explorers Evening Edition which happens at 6 pm. And to my great happiness, both groups are thriving with lots of deep questions being asked, and raw honesty being shared.

We are living in both conflicting and unstable times. And beneath our brave exteriors, we are all deeply worried. And we have questions. Lots of questions – especially about God. Who is God? How do I perceive God? How do I pray? What is prayer? How do I know if God is even listening? And Jesus, who was he, really? And that book of Revelation? Who came up with that? And why?

We might not come up with any final answers, but that's not the point. The point is to ask the questions together – to talk about them together, honestly, and openly,

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:

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Office Administrator Hours

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

Pastor:

Joylynn Graham
Cell 553-0149
pastorjoylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag
935-5727
plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

and it is in the sharing of ourselves and our pain and our joy, that we encounter the divine.

Someone was wishing out loud that we could have those types of discussion in worship, and I thought to myself how wonderful that would be, and how might we do that?

We know that the God (most of us) grew up with as children is not the Living God we are seeking today, but what is it? How do we perceive God together, as a community of faith? That's an important question, one that I don't believe we have ever asked. Could this be a nudge?

During this season of Lent, let us discern together, what is God calling us to? What "new thing" is God about to do? Maybe a post-worship discussion group? I am open to conversations about God – always. It's my thing. But let's think about it, and listen, and discern – quietly and together.

Holding you all in my heart and prayers,

Pastor Joy



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-people-are-praying-together-each-morning-online-and-not-just-for-lent/>

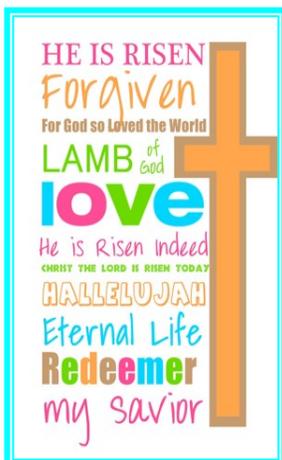
<https://www.ucc.org/dire-climate-report-prompts-call-for-church-action-ucc-offers-ways-to-respond/>

<https://www.ucc.org/as-concern-for-ukraine-grows-so-do-donations-and-prayers/>

<https://www.ucc.org/holy-joes-cafe-sees-urgent-need-to-move-coffee-supplies-due-to-russia-ukraine-conflict/>

<https://www.ucc.org/two-ucc-churches-take-cool-congregations-awards-in-2022/>

<https://www.ucc.org/poor-peoples-campaign-on-road-again-headed-for-mass-d-c-rally-june-18/>



If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily, the cost will be \$12.95 for a single stem and \$24.95 for a double stem. Let us know who the Easter Lily is in memory or in honor of, and we will put a name tag on each plant and place it at the alter for the April 17 service. Please print clearly so that there are no errors. All orders are due March 31. Please make checks payable to Plymouth UCC. Thank you

Your Name:

Plant **in** **Honor** **Memory of:**

Message:

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.

Wacky Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday is not in session this semester. While Wacky Wednesday after-school program is not happening this time, they are always in need of volunteers. If you have a special talent you would like to share with the after school

Be a part of the Church

Faith Explorers - Wednesdays, 10:30 am via Zoom and Faith Explorers Evening Edition, which takes place Wednesdays at 6 pm via zoom. 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 Pastor Joylynn 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Gary McHone

Vice Moderator

Melody Thompson

Trustees

Mark Pepelea

Diaconate

Randy Thompson

Mission

Chuck Roethe

Clerk

Denise Whitish

Christian Education

Judy Campbell

Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

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.



Care Team - We are in the early stages of forming a Plymouth Care Team for the purpose of 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 com-

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

April 26 @ 8 am

Announcements/Coming up...

Easter Sunday – April 17 – Worship as usual

Earth Sunday – April 24 – Worship outside with a pizza and garden cleanup party to follow. Wear your overalls and come casual! If the day is nice we will worship outdoors; if it is not, we will worship in the fellowship hall, have some pizza, and then head out for garden clean up if the weather allows.

Mini Food Pantry – The mini food pantry is back in business and we are once again in need of donations. 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.

Annual Meeting of the SW Association – April 30 – We are in need of two delegates to attend the association meeting along with Pastor Joy. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. These meetings tend to be the business of the association which encompasses all UCC churches in SW Wisconsin. There are also breakout sessions and a worship service, along with a keynote speaker. This year's theme is "Tending the Soul of the Beloved Community". Everyone is encouraged to attend as it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other churches in the area. If you are interested, please see Pastor Joy

Schedules

Usher

April 3 - Rod and Mary Lukes

April 10 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

April 17 - Maureen Teubert

April 24 - Denise Whitish

Reader

April 3 - Rod Lukes

April 10 - Jill Roethe

April 17 - Dave Pearson

April 24 - Judy Campbell

Communion

April 3 - Rod Lukes

April 10 - Chuck Roethe

April 17 - Dave Pearson

April 24 - Judy Campbell

Joyful Noise

Hodan Center

Fellowship

April 3 -

April 10 -

April 17 -

April 24 -

Happy Birthday:

I ACCIDENTALLY DELETED THE BIRTHDAY LIST. PLEASE SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY TO US SO THAT WE CAN WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

THANK YOU,
MARY

JOYFUL NOISE

Thanks to your generosity in January

Food Pantry

151.00

April Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:

Hodan Center

Thank you!!!



Join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 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 weekend is a good time to bring a guest with you to Sunday Worship.



Plymouth UCC Dodgeville
115 West Merrimac Street
Dodgeville Wisconsin 53533