

# The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

OCTOBER  
2023



Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your search committee is excited to introduce Rev. Jennifer Seach as our choice candidate to join us as our new half-time pastor!

Rev Jennifer Seach is coming to Plymouth UCC from Beaver creek, Oregon. Her spouse Brett White has been in Wisconsin for several months as the Executive Director of SWCAP, so Jennifer and dog Fergus are looking forward to being in the same state as Brett again.

Jennifer's ministerial passions are social justice, contemplative spirituality, and community. She is also inspired by outreach- showing unchurched or church-wary people that Christians don't have to be mean and judgmental (and in fact are not supposed to be) and that God is also not mean and judgmental. She sometimes describes herself as a "theology nerd" and thinks that God has a sense of humor.

She loves reading all sorts of books- mysteries, science fiction and fantasy, history, novels, and more. She also likes cooking and baking, walks in beautiful places, travel, trees and gardens, mountains, lakes, and dogs.

Pastor Jennifer grew up primarily in Twin Falls, Idaho. She went to the University of Montana and earned a BA in English and religious studies. She has an MDiv from Yale Divinity School and an M Counseling from Idaho State University. From January 2016 to October 2023, Jennifer served as solo pastor at Beaver creek United Church of Christ in Beaver creek, OR- a rural Portland, OR metro church of 73 members. It has been OnA for 24 years, and is also Earthwise and Just Peace. While in Oregon, Jennifer served on the Central Pacific Conference board of directors as the chair of the Local Church Ministries Committee. Prior to her call at Beaver creek, Jennifer worked in Catholic Campus ministry and was a mental health therapist. While in Idaho, she was chair of the Portneuf Interfaith fellowship, chaired 2Great4Hate- a community human rights organization, was on the community health center board, and was a member of the Idaho Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Her Catholic ministry was selected by Catholic Relief Services as a Best Practices campus. She also helped start LGBT affirming groups at local high schools.

Pastor Jennifer is looking forward to getting to know the community at Plymouth

**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

**Office Administrator:**  
Mary Haag  
935-5727  
[plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net)

**Maintenance:**

**Organist:**  
Marilyn Dunn

**Choir Director:**

UCC and in Dodgeville and seeing where God might be leading the church.

Please join us for worship on Sunday November 5th to hear her preach.

Immediately following worship, there will be a congregational vote on the installation of Pastor Seach. If approved, she will accept our call and sign the pre-negotiated contract. This will be followed by a special fellowship celebration.

There will be no absentee ballots for the vote, so please be sure to attend worship in person on 11/5.

### Informational meeting October 8

On October 8th following worship there will be a brief meeting to answer any questions you may have about the contract the Search Committee has negotiated with our new part time pastoral candidate.

The contract has already been negotiated and approved by Council. No changes will be made to it. There is nothing to vote on. The meeting is informational only and there is no requirement to attend if you are not interested in the details. Rest assured everything within the contract is standard per the UCC conference, but we want to keep everyone informed throughout the entire process.

These are exciting times!



## **Seeking help with Usher/Reader/Communion duties during worship!**

There's nothing difficult here, but all is necessary to ensure the service runs smoothly.

### **Usher Duties:**

- **Unlock doors and turn on lights and fan**
  - **Unlock side door and use key to ensure it stays in unlocked position**
  - **Turn automated door opener on**
  - **Unlock main (front) door**
- **Turn on sound system (1 button located in sacristy)**
- **Light candles during prelude prior to start of service using candle lighter/snuffer**
- **Ring bell during prelude (no set number of chimes, just "several")**
- **Collect offering and Joyful Noise donations**
  - **Before collection, wait at back of church until pastor brings the collection plates down**
  - **After collection wait at back until doxology starts then bring plates forward**
  - **Finish doxology and prayer of thanksgiving, then return to your seat**
- **Hold/pass the microphone around for Prayers of the People and Announcements as needed**
- **Extinguish candles during last hymn and carry flame back down the aisle with lighter/snuffer**
- **When sanctuary is empty after service, lock the front door and turn off the lights and sound system**

### **Reader Duties:**

- **Sit up front by the lectern at the start of worship.**
- **Read the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer after pastor does the Welcome**
- **Invite the Congregation to Passing of the Peace**
- **Read the scripture after the first hymn**  
(Mary Haag will email you the readings and prayers prior to worship)

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...

You are the life of the church



- Return to sitting with the congregation after the gospel reading.

#### **Communion Duties:**

- Purchase and bring with you a loaf of bakery bread (unsliced)
- Cut ends off and set aside.
- Cut part way through the center portion across the middle to make it easier to tear during service
- Cut ends into small pieces (20 or so)
- Place large partially cut piece on one side of bread dish and small pieces on the other side.
- Place bread dish on the right side of the altar (from behind the altar) and cover with the the cloth
- Get wine from under the sink in sacristy and pour approx. 1 cup into the small pitcher
- Take a small bottle of grape juice from under the sink and pour approx, half into the small chalice
- Place the pitcher, large chalice (empty), and small chalice on the left side of the altar and cover with the cloth
- When communion starts, get the chalices and serve communion with the pastor.
- After worship, clear the communion dishes from the altar and wash in sacristy sink, placing in rack to dry

Leftover wine and grape juice in chalices can be poured down the drain.

Discard leftover bread downstairs and save opened 1/2 bottle of grape juice in refrigerator in Fellowship Hall.

It sounds like a lot, but all of it can be easily accomplished by 2 people, arriving 30 minutes prior to service. If you've never done some of these tasks before and want someone to walk you through it, please contact Lisa Pepelea [lkpep@yahoo.com](mailto:lkpep@yahoo.com)

## 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**

**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](mailto: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 communion as well. If you are interested in joining the Care Team, we need you! If

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

October 24

### Announcements/Coming up...

Nov 5 - Reverend Seach will be preaching Sunday, November 5. There will be a vote immediately following the service to approve her joining Plymouth UCC as a part-time pastor. There will be no absentee ballots. There will be a special fellowship luncheon following where everyone can meet her.

#### Schedules

##### Usher/Reader/Communion

##### **October**

1 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

8 - Gary McHone

15 - Rick and Mary Stellick

22 - Dave Pearson and Steve Pieroni

29 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

\*If you would like to volunteer to help with Worship, please contact Lisa Pepelea or the church office.

#### Joyful Noise

October 1 NIN, 8 Maui Wildfire Relief

15 - 29 Hodan Center

#### Fellowship

October 1 - Lisa and Mark Pepelea

October 8 - Steve Pieroni

October 15 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

October 22 - Rick and Mary Stellick

October 29 - Rod and Mary Lukes

## Happy Birthday:

5 – Maureen Teubert  
10 – Orville James  
11 – Denise Whitish  
12 – Dean Whitish



## JOYFUL NOISE

Thanks to your generosity in September

Family Resource Center	128.01
MCOP	147.66

October Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:

NIN, Maui Wildfire Relief, Hodan Center

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.**

# July Council Meeting Minutes

## Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2023

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

Absent: Randy Thompson

Meeting was called to order by Gary at 7:00. The minutes of the June 20th meeting were reviewed. Correction was made to the accountant's name (Tracy Zander, not Tammy). There was a motion to approve the minutes by Chuck, seconded by Steve. The motion passed unanimously.

### Committee Reports

#### Diaconate

Gary and Jill met via phone, will go through the room holding the church decorations and sort them out.

There are not many options for available supply pastors – discussion re how to proceed until someone is found (e.g., using video sermons, special music/hymn sing service).

#### Trustees

HVAC – Steve met with Ken Reese re the thermostats and other issues. The thermostat for the AC is not programming correctly, discussed replacing it. Steve will look online for a manual or other information to try setting it. Ken said one AC unit is not working, a relay switch needs replacing.

An estimate was obtained from John Demuth to rewire/relamp and install LED bulbs in the basement fixtures, \$2300. Shirley will get another id from Dan Johanne and bring it back to the Council.

The drywall was removed from the bottom of the brick wall in the basement, the consensus was to have it painted.

Trustees are still looking into having someone else do repair projects, suggestion was made to first ask Dave what he is able to do.

Cleaning up/de-cluttering – still need to determine what church items to save and what can be let go.

Insurance – Shirley will check if Mary Haag has insurance for the cheer team that is using space in the basement.

### Financial

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Earl reported that Stewardship from Jan – June is above last year, with Pasty sale income also above last year. The endowment income (interest and dividends) was not cited in the Financial Report, but approximate numbers were given.

Upcoming bills – insurance on the building will be due in September. The balance of the bill for the roof repairs will be due when completed, anticipated to be in September.

### Missions

Joyful Noise offerings this month were split between the Mini Food Pantry (first two Sundays) and the Iowa Co. Food Pantry.

### **Old Business**

Congregational meeting to amend Constitution – information went out to members, along with absentee ballots. Discussed including wording to include absentee ballots in quorum, will amend the proposed motion if agreed on. If there is no quorum on Sunday under the current Constitution, will need to re-schedule the meeting.

## **New Business**

Gary reported on our Farmer's Day parade participation, it went well. The cheer group helped to hand out freeze pops, ran out just before the end of the parade.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve seconded by Earl. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

# August Council Meeting Minutes

## **Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2023**

Members Present: Shirley Barnes, Earl Barnes, Gary McHone, Steve Pieroni, Chuck Rothe, Mary Stellick, Lisa Peplea (Chair of Search Committee)

Absent: Randy Thompson

Meeting was called to order by Gary at 7:00. The minutes of the July 18th meeting were reviewed with no corrections or addition noted. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Steve, seconded by Chuck. The motion passed unanimously.

By consensus, the New Business item regarding the Search Committee was moved forward. Lisa presented the Call Agreement and Position Description. Following discussion of them, Steve moved and Shirley seconded to approve them. Motion passed unanimously. Lisa will contact the candidate to schedule the Call Sunday.

## **Committee Reports**

### Diaconate

There will be a pulpit supply pastor this weekend. Gary will work with the pastor to get an agreement in place regarding other available Sundays.

## Trustees

Work has begun on the roof and gutters; they need to finish the gutters on one side and put flashing around the cupola.

It was discovered that the chimney is not lined. Steve contacted Chimney Specialists in Highland to get a bid. He will also contact Ken Reese to see if it is possible to vent the furnace out the side of the building (using PVC pipe) and not use the chimney.

Shirley heard back from the fire chief, we are supposed to have an annual inspection, which they will schedule.

A second bid for replacing lighting in the basement was received from Dan Johanne for either \$4100 or \$7000, depending on if rewiring was needed. John Demuth added approximately \$150 to his bid of \$2300 if lights in the bathrooms are replaced.

Rachel Peller has suggested two possible grants to apply for re community use.

It was proposed to put up a curtain or screen in the hallway to hide the mats used by the cheer-leading group.

## Financial

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Earl reported that Stewardship this year to date is above last year. Endowment income is up slightly YTD.

Chuck will call our representative at Wells Fargo to move money from the Endowment Fund to the checking account to pay the balance of the roof repairs and anticipated bills in the next few months.

## Missions

A Joyful Noise offering for the Maui fire victims will be designated in the next month.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **New Business**

Steve has reviewed the church Safe Conduct Policy and Agreement and brought up possible changes needed. He will ask Mary Haag to send a scanned copy to Council members to review for

discussion at our next meeting.

Chuck moved and Shirley seconded to approved the lower bid from John Demuth for the basement lights. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve seconded by Earl. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...

The life of the church is in your hands

