

# The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

AUGUST  
2022



Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

Dear Friends,

Here we are in the Dog Days of Summer. Someone in our Faith Explorers group this morning asked where that expression came from, and my curiosity was instantly piqued. In my mind, the words "dog days of summer" had always conjured up images of dogs laying on the porch panting in the summer heat. But the origin of the phrase actually has to do with the stars. According to the Farmers' Almanac, the phrase "Dog Days", is a reference to Sirius, the Dog Star. During the "Dog Days" the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth.

Well, who knew that? Isn't it interesting how some of the things we think we know, things we take for *granted* in our understanding, are actually something else altogether?

Our book discussion this month centers around a book titled "The Artisan Soul" by Erwin Raphael McManus. We were all quite convinced after reading the first chapter that we did not enjoy the book at all, mostly because of the writing style of the author, but we agreed to stick with it for at least another chapter and I believe we are all glad we did, because the author talks about this very thing.

In the second chapter the author is talking about the need for the artist to find their own voice. He says, "Whether we choose to express ourselves through art or literature or struggle to find a career that uniquely expresses who we are and brings us personal happiness, a critical aspect of the journey to express our lives as a creative act is finding our own voice."

He talks about all the layers of influence that are heaped on us – from day 1 – before we even learn how to string sentences together, and how that narrative shapes us and molds us, but it's not the truth of who we really are. And our task in life, is to find our authentic voice in all that noise.

I think this is especially important today amidst all the noise coming from every direction. Everywhere we turn, someone is trying to influence our thoughts, our actions, our votes, and our spending habits. Everywhere we turn, someone is judging us, sizing us up, categorizing us. And it sets up this noisy clanging in our heads, distracting us at all costs from finding our own voice.



**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](mailto:pastorjoylynn@gmail.com)

##### Office Administrator:

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

##### Maintenance:

##### Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

##### Choir Director:

But amid the cacophony there is another voice. It is a much quieter voice, one to which you must attend closely as it beckons you deeper into the mystery of who, and *who's* you really are. Because who you are, is always defined by who you belong to.

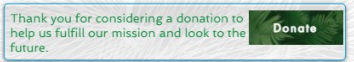
Who do you belong to? To who's word do you attend?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God. (John 1:1)

In these dog days of summer, let us attend to the Word of God.

Blessings on you all,  
Pastor Joy

Reminder...if you would like to make donations online, please follow this link <https://www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org/> once there, you may click on the donate link and follow instructions.



### **Ecumenical Outdoor Worship in the Park!**

- | When: August 7, 2022
- | Time: 9:00 a.m.
- | Where: Centennial Park (Under the big tree)
- | Who: Dodgeville UMC, Grace Lutheran, and Plymouth UCC  
(And anyone else who wants to attend!)
- | Preacher: Reverend Joylynn Graham
- | Details: Bring your chairs; bring your bug spray, and let's praise with elation God's recreation of the new day!

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...



## 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 October through April.

**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 participants or you would just like to help where needed, please contact the office or Judy Campbell.

# 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 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.

**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 you are interested in joining the Care Team please see Pastor Joy.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Moderator

Gary McHone

### Vice Moderator

Melody Thompson

### Trustees

Mark Pepelea

### Diaconate

Randy Thompson

### Mission

Chuck Roethe

### Clerk

Denise Whitish

### Christian Education

### 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](mailto:plymouth@mhtc.net).

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

August 18 @ 8 am

### Announcements/Coming up...

**August 7, 2022** - Ecumenical Outdoor Worship, Centennial Park, 9 am

**Mini Food Pantry** – The mini food pantry is 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.

Church isn't just where we worship...it's where we worship *together*. Church isn't just where we pray... *it's where we pray together*.

#### Schedules

##### Usher

August 7 - Melody and Randy Thompson

August 14 - Mary and Rick Stellick

August 21 -

August 29 - Gary and Harry McHone

##### Reader

August 7 - Randy Thompson

August 14 - Mary Stellick

August 21 -

August 28 - Harry McHone

##### Communion

August 7 - Melody Thompson

August 14 - Mary and Rick Stellick

August 21 - Jan Helmich

August 28 - Gary and Harry McHone

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

##### Joyful Noise

Free Clinic

##### Fellowship

August 7 - Ecumenical Worship @ Park

August 14 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

August 21 -

August 28 -



## JOYFUL NOISE

Thanks to your generosity in May

Food Pantry	\$40.00
Free Clinic	\$40.00
Friendship Center	\$20.00
Hodan Center	\$50.00
Homeless Coalition	\$325.49
Mini Pantry	\$40.00
Sierra Leone Project	\$500.00
OGHS	\$20.00

August Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:

Free Clinic

Thank you!!!

### 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



**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  
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.**

## **Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2021**

Members Present- Gary McHone, Steve Pieroni, Mark Pepelea, Chuck Roethe, Earl Barnes and Denise Whitish

Opening prayer by Gary.

Review of minutes from the May meeting- Gary had minor changes regarding the wording of the quit claim approved last month. Corrections made. Motion to approve corrected minutes by Chuck. Second by Mark. Passed unanimously.

No pastor's report due to Joylynn gone on vacation.

### **Diaconate Report-**

Randy also absent- Gary reports that Randy will be registering the church for the upcoming Farmer's Appreciation parade Sunday, July 10. Will be handing out freeze pops. Mary's cheerleading group will be joining us. Church service will be at 9:00 am that day.

No church service next Sunday, June 26 due to lack of staff.

No updates on the ecumenical service/picnic. Will know more when Joylynn returns.

Discussed having the Cattlemen's Association joining the church for a steak feed- need a fundraiser to help with the budget. Also discussed having burger/brat feed. Gary looking into both and will report back.

Gary could not find power point for the church service last week. Had to call Joylynn to find. Discussion about how to avoid this in the future.

### **Trustee's Report-**

Glass side door repaired- looks good.

It has been reported that Hodan Center employees are not cleaning the amount of time they are being paid for. Short discussion about how to handle- decided that Mark would contact Tom Schmit to discuss.

Mark will be taking out \$1000.00 out of endowment fund to checking account to use as a cushion. Steve will transfer checking and savings account from Wells Fargo to Farmer's Savings Bank in the next few weeks. Discussion about leaving endowment fund with Wells Fargo for now. When markets improve can discuss moving account fund.

### **Financial Report-**

Mark pointed out that office expenses are higher than usual for the month of May. Steve will check in with Mary.

Commented that budget for natural gas is almost gone due to increased prices. Not much to do about it at this time.

Audio/visual equipment was charged to the diaconate board- should not have been. Mark proposes cancelling the charges to the diaconate budget and using maintenance personnel money to pay off equipment. Diaconate board will still be over budget- Mark proposes moving more money for diaconate board to finish out the year. After discussion it was decided to also move choir director money to the diaconate budget since there is no choir director at this time.

Steve reports that accounts will move to Farmer's Savings Bank on 6/30/22. Will give Arayna the new banking information for payroll. Short discussion on whether we need a safe deposit box- decided we should open one at FSB.

Steve working on getting the new, less expensive property insurance paperwork completed. Has been working with Kandy Kueler regarding switching to this less expensive policy.

Another discussion regarding Arayna. Zander Accounting never returned calls. Other places will be more expensive. Steve will speak to Arayna about late payroll.

Earl reports that stewardship 30% down compared to last year. Wells Fargo interest increased some to get some back. Pasty sales have helped also. Discussion about sending out letter regarding the stewardship situation and where we are with pledges. Will have usual stewardship campaign in the fall.

### **Mission Report-**

Chuck reports he had good session with Mary today- getting good input with Joyful Noise checks etc... Everything currently up to date.

Another discussion about the Free Little Pantry and remaining money that is marked in the Blessing Bag line item. Randy offered to take the money and purchase items for the pantry- he is just waiting for the OK to do it. Mark will check the line item to make sure the money is there and will let Randy know.

### **Education-**

Judy has moved- there is no education committee at this time.

### **Old Business-**

Family Resource Center sign has been taken down with Dave and Gretchen's permission.

Bank account and insurance information already addressed above.

### **New Business-**

Mary gave Gary the dates she will be off this summer.

Next meeting date- Tuesday, July 19 at 7:00 pm. Denise will not be available to take notes.







Plymouth UCC Dodgeville  
115 West Merrimac Street  
Dodgeville Wisconsin 53533