

The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

MARCH
2020



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ



Beloved Community,

There's nothing like a death to point us back to the things that are really important in life. Lent is that time of year when we journey with Jesus to the cross. It is that time when we wander through the wilderness of our lives, resisting temptation and facing down the demons of our own desires. It is a time when we take on "a reflective examining of the inner places of the soul." And then, on the other side of our wanderings, we get to stand together and bear witness to his death.

But there's more. Because on Easter morning we will awaken to the cry "He is Risen!" That's right; his death points us right back to life; because in life there is no death – only transformation.

Year after year we make the journey. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday we are invited to give up some things and to resist the temptation of death. Lent, like most of our Christian traditions, is not Biblical in origin; it came along later, replacing certain pagan and other indigenous spiritual practices. Even the word Lent isn't explicitly Christian: it means "lengthen," as in, the days are getting longer. But the historic practices of Lent are Christian. There are three of them: praying, fasting, almsgiving.

Barbara Brown Taylor says, Lent can be seen as "a springtime of the soul." It's a way of cleaning out the system and opening our eyes to what remains when all our comforts are gone. She talks about how we live in a culture of anesthesia, referring to the appliances or habits or substances we use to distract ourselves from feeling what it really feels like to live the kind of lives we are living.

I mean, we all use something right? Whether it be shopping, social media, or Netflix, vodka martinis, fast food or demanding jobs, we all have our "quick fixes" for dulling the pain. Most of us spend a lot of time and money trying to avoid ourselves, but I don't know anyone who succeeds at that entirely or forever. Sooner or later, every one of us will get to take our own trip to the desert – whether it be via the waiting room at the hospital, the hotel room you had to stay in after your house burned down, or the floor you knelt on as you watched your beloved pet die – we all have opportunities to discover who we really are and what our lives are really about.

Taylor says, "Wildernesses come in so many shapes and sizes that the only way you can really tell you are in one is to look around for what you normally count on to save your life and come up empty. No food. No earthly power. No special protection—just a Bible-quoting devil and a whole bunch of sand."

That sounds like some really bad news, but I don't think it is. I think the wilderness is one of the most reality-based, spirit-filled, life-changing places a person can be.

Lent offers us forty days to find out what life is like without our painkillers. It's kind of a practice run for the "real deal" so to speak. At its best, Lent prepares us for those times

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 - 12:30 pm

Pastor:

Joylynn Graham
Cell 553-0149
pastorjoylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag
935-5727
plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas
Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Joan Bettner-Steele

when all our hopes and dreams – turn into wilderness. And it prepares us to resist the temptation that threatens the heart of all faithful living – the temptation to give up.

So in this season of Lent, may we follow Jesus into, and through the wilderness. May we resist the temptation to try and find a better way. And may we trust in the God who has promised to never leave us or forsake us, and who is indeed with us every step of the way – no matter what.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Joy



LEADING FROM YOUR EXTRAORDINARY BEST

Through God's love, lead with your whole self for the good of others.

"...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." ~ Mark 12:30-31a

Annual Meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ

Please join us for learning, fellowship, worship, and to conduct the Annual business of our SW Association.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Jenni Catron,
Founder and CEO of
The 4Sight Group

Jenni is a writer, speaker, and leadership expert committed to helping others lead from their extraordinary best. Jenni's passion is to inspire and equip others to do the same. Jenni writes: Most leaders that I talk to begin their journey with a deep passion for the mission of the organization. The whirlwind of activity is overwhelming, and before long, we've lost our sense of direction. Our mission is to provide tools you need to accomplish your purpose with renewed focus and passion.

get4sight.com

Saturday, May 2, 2020

9:30 am - 3:15 pm

Plymouth Congregational UCC

115 W. Merrimac St., Dodgeville, WI
plymouthuccdodgeville.org

Workshops:

- Discussion with Jenni Catron
- Churches in Transition
- Innovation for Social Justice
- Ideas for Welcoming & Accessibility

Registration begins at 8:30 am; Gathering Worship at 9:30 am.

Registration: \$15 per person. No fee for members-in-discernment and retired clergy and partners. To register return the form provided or register on-line on the Conference's website under "Associations."

Please register by Friday, April 24.



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH...

As I begin my term as your moderator, I want to thank the congregation for trusting in me to handle the business of our church for the next 2 years. It is my goal to communicate with the congregation what is going on regarding the business of the church. To do so, I am reactivating a moderator column in our monthly newsletter. Once the council approves the minutes from the previous month, I will report on it here so our members will know what is going on. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact me or our vice moderator Gary McHone. If we don't have an answer for you, we will direct you to the appropriate council member that can.

This first report is from our January 2020 meeting. Our current membership number is 67; however, some names on the list are possibly not active, so we will revisit this in 2020 with the help of Denise, our clerk.

Anne Bachner has submitted a formal request to investigate solar panels and an energy audit for the church. This has been forwarded to the trustees for follow up.

Shirley Barnes contacted the diaconate regarding the use of a professional video series, "Saving Jesus," to be used in place of sermons while Pastor Joylynn is on sabbatical. Plans are underway to do this. Fat Tuesday Pancake breakfast is planned for February 23, to kick off lent. The diaconate will be serving.

Due to family issues, there was no trustee report in January.

The financial reported that the family resource center will be contributing more to the Wacky Wednesday program and that Bill Duwell, as chairperson, has applied for a UCC grant.

The 2019 income was down by about \$1,000 last year. Pasty sale income was up by \$1,500. Wells Fargo's interest/dividends were down \$6,000 due to the market. This should improve.

Lisa Pepelea and Chuck Roethe will co-chair the mission committee in 2020.

Great news due to an increasing number of children coming to church, we will be developing a new program for the children. It sure is wonderful having the children participating in the church again.

Watch for continuing reports in future issues of our newsletter.

Sincerely,

Harry Zelholfer

Moderator

2020 Holy Week Schedule

April 5 - Palm Sunday @ Plymouth 10 am

April 9 - Ecumenical Maundy Thursday @ United Methodist Church 6 pm

April 10 - Ecumenical Good Friday @ Plymouth 7 pm

April 12 - Easter @ Plymouth 10 am

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 17 at 8 am.

ATTENDANCE

February 2	35
February 9	Cancelled
February 16	25
February 23	35

March Birthdays:

None



Reminder....

Due to Easter falling on April 12, the Pasty sale has been moved to April 18.

Coming up...

March 11 - Feeding Friends

March 14 - Pasty Sale

March 15 - St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage
Potluck Luncheon

Meetings

March 12 - Monthly Trustee meeting at 7 pm.

March 17 - Monthly Diaconate meeting at 5:30 pm.

March 17 - Monthly Council meeting at 7 pm.

JOYFUL NOISE

Thanks to your generosity in January

Food Pantry \$272.46

Wacky Wednesday \$135.32

March Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:

Hodan Center

One Great Hour of Sharing

Watch our Sunday Worship Service on our website www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org or on Youtube.com search for Plymouth UCC of Dodgeville.



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

Schedules

Usher

March 1 - Gary and Harry McHone

March 8 - Joan Steele and kids

March 15 - Randy and Melody Thompson

March 22 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

March 29 - Gary and Harry McHone

Reader

March 1 - Harry Zelhofer McHone

March 8 - Gretchen Pearson

March 15 - Melody Thompson

March 22 - Shirley Barnes

March 29 - Gary McHone

Communion

March 1 - Gary McHone

March 8 - Dave Pearson

March 15 - Randy Thompson

March 22 - Anne Bachner

March 29 - Gary McHone

Joyful Noise

March 1, 8, 15 - Hodan Center

March 22 - One Great Hour of Sharing

March 29 - Hodan Center

Fellowship

March 1 - Gretchen Pearson

March 8 - Shirley Barnes

March 15 - St Patrick's Potluck



Mission

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

Feeding Friends - Volunteers are needed for Feeding Friends. Plymouth UCC hosts Feeding Friends the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning at 5 pm. Salad and dessert donations are always needed if you cannot help with the preparation, serving, or cleanup. Please contact the office or Jill Roethe and let us know how you would like to help with Feeding Friends.

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 - January 11, February 8, March 14, and April 18.

Wacky Wednesday - The Wacky Wednesday after-school program is in need of volunteers. Please sign up to help with the activities or in areas where an extra hand from an adult is needed. 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, CrestRidge, 219 Grace Street, Dodgeville. 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.

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.

CHOIR - Plymouth Choir practices at 7 pm on Wednesdays. We welcome new singers. Contact Joan Steele for details. 414-531-5626

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Harry Zelhofer McHone

Vice Moderator

Gary McHone

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.



Prior to hosting the SW Association Conference on May 2, Plymouth will have a spring cleaning day to get ready for this big event. The date is Saturday, April 25. Volunteers are needed. Please see Harry to sign up for a cleaning shift. Thank you for your help!

Saturday, May 2, 9:30 am until 3:15 pm, the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ will be held at Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville. For more information, please click on this link. <https://www.wcucc.org/associations/southwest-association/resources-2/annual-meeting/>

Plymouth is also looking for volunteers to be present at the conference on May 2. Please contact Pastor Joylynn or the Diaconate if you are interested in volunteering.

We are looking for another large coffee maker. We have two 42-cup coffee makers in the kitchen and one from Gretchen. Does anyone have serving trays we could borrow for the breakfast goodies, fruit and juice?

Earth Day Worship will be Sunday, April 26th. Flat Jesus Sunday will also be on this date.



There are a lot of tips on the internet on how to stay healthy ,avoid the flu, or how to treat the flu. Here are a few. Check with your doctor for the latest information on the flu in your area and what treatments are available.

1. Talk to your doctor for professional advice if you are at risk for complications from flu or if you are concerned about medications you are currently taking while you have the flu.
2. Wash hands frequently, especially before meals. Try to avoid rubbing eyes, nose, or mouth.
3. **Eat a healthy diet rich in vitamins C and E.** Foods rich in these vitamins are believed to help support the immune system.
4. Get a good night's sleep.
5. **Stay hydrated.** Increasing water intake will help you stay healthy and lessen the chance of you coming down with the flu. Drinking extra fluids prevents dehydration caused by fever, loosens mucus, and keeps your throat moist. Gatorade is a good source for electrolytes needed for hydration.
6. Exercise regularly. Exercise reduces stress and can stimulate the immune system while promoting healthy sleep.
7. Listen to your body. Take it easy, get rest, and hydrate if you believe you are coming down with the flu.
8. **Disinfect surfaces you come into contact with such as door handles, shopping carts, desks, pens, etc.**