

The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE

NOVEMBER 2019



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ



A Note from the Pastor...

Beloved Community,

Five years ago you called me to be your pastor, and not a day has gone by that I have not been blessed and honored to serve you. We have been through a lot in the last five years; we have celebrated richly; we have mourned deeply, and we have grown together considerably in our understanding of what it means to be the church.

In the time I have been here, we have attempted a lot of new and uncomfortable ideas. We have learned new ways of extending Christ's love through community engagement. We have created ecumenical relationships with other churches in our community, and we have had many meaningful interfaith experiences. But at the same time, we have had to accept the hard reality of declining numbers. And now, we are facing some very difficult choices.

I wish I could offer here a glowing report of increased growth and maximized profits, but I can't. If this were a corporation and I were your CEO, you would have replaced me a long time ago. But this is not a corporation. We are not a corporation. We are a body of followers trying to spread a gospel of love in a broken and hurting world. And while that gospel of love may be what the world needs; it is not what the world wants. Because the world has become fixated on increased growth and maximized profits.

That's a real crux isn't it? We want to grow and we want to increase our stewardship dollars so that we can continue spreading God's love. But God's love is counter-intuitive to growth and profits. God's love is about making sure everyone has enough first so that they are free to live a fruitful and productive life. The world demands productivity first – and then, maybe, we will have enough so that we can keep producing... But God comes at us from the opposite direction, promising that if we see to each other's needs first, fruitful productivity will follow.

How impractical is that? Very! So impractical in fact, that that is what it is going to take if this world is to begin any kind of healing. Right now we worship productivity. We worship numbers. We worship growth and profits, and a lot of people are consumed in the process. A LOT of people are consumed in the process. Our planet is being consumed in the process. And the only thing that is going to turn it around is a gospel of love that puts creation first and profits last.

Likewise, the only thing that is going to sustain our ministry here at Plymouth, is if we resist the urge to think in terms of profits and numbers, and focus instead on how we can best serve in our little chunk of the world. How can we begin the healing process in our community? How can we demonstrate that God's abundant

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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

love and generosity is already built in to the fabric of the universe and all we have to do is put each other first?

Following in Christ’s footsteps is an act of faith. It is a walk of faith. It is living in faith all the time – not just for one hour every Sunday. And that faith is about trusting in God’s abundant provision. If we can act out of that kind of faith and trust, our ministry will survive and it will serve. It won’t look the same, but it will survive, and it will serve, faithfully.

It is an honor to be your pastor, and over the course of the last five years I can honestly say that I have come to love each and every one of you both on an individual level, and as participants in my community of faith. And now, as we stand at a crossroads in our journey together, let us turn in the direction of faith, trust, life, and hope. I don’t know where that will lead us any more than you do, but I’m willing to go first and scare the snakes off the path ahead of you. I believe in you Plymouth; I always have... Happy Anniversary and much love!

Pastor Joy

Schedules

Usher

November 3 - Gary and Harry McHone
November 10 -
November 17 - Chuck and Jill Roethe
November 24 - Rod and Mary Lukes

Reader

November 3 - Gary McHone
November 10 -
November 17 - Chuck Roethe
November 24 - Earl Barnes

Communion

November 3 - Gary McHone
November 10 - Dave Pearson
November 17 - Jill Roethe
November 24 - Jan Helmich

Fellowship

November 3 - Souper Sunday
November 10 - Mary Lukes
November 17 - Jean Brown
November 24 -

Joyful Noise

November - Homeless Coalition

ATTENDANCE

October 6 27
October 13 17
October 20 28
October 27

JOYFUL NOISE

Thanks to your generosity in September:
Hodan Center \$284.83
Multicultural Outreach Center \$221.84
November Joyful Noise Offering is designated for:
Homeless Coalition

November Birthdays:

November 5 Maureen Teubert
November 8 Julie Neal
November 10 Orville James
November 10 Jayne Rayne
November 11 Denise Whitish
November 14 Sawyer Kamholtz
November 17 Dean Whitish
November 18 Michelle Zettle-Bruegger
November 27 Brad Bruegger

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

November 14 at 8 am.

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

Coming up...

November 3 - "Souper Celebration" following worship. Join us in celebration of our 5 year anniversary together with Reverend Joylynn. The Diaconate will serve a variety of soups.

November 9 - Please remember to pick up your pasty order. If you would like to volunteer to help with the pasty sale, please contact Denise or the office. Your help is appreciated.

November 13 - As the host on this date, Plymouth UCC is responsible for Feeding Friends Community Meal. Please contact Jill and let her know if you will be donating a salad or dessert. Thanks!

November 13 - Plymouth Choir will meet at 7 pm. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship music will be covered. New members are welcome, please join us.

November 17 - Special Music Sunday with Rod Lukes. Come join us for worship and Rod's blues-themed music at 10 am.

November 27 - Join us for food, fellowship, and worship at the Annual Ecumenical Feeding Friends Thanksgiving meal and worship. The meal is at 5:00 pm with worship following at 6:30 pm. Participating clergy will include Pastor Jim Droste of UMC, Pastor Joylynn Graham of Plymouth UCC, Pastor Mark Williamson and Vicar Heidi Youngquist of Grace Lutheran Church, and Father Tafadzwa Kushamba of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Plymouth UCC is responsible for mashed potatoes for approximately 250 people. Volunteers are needed to prepare the turkey, serve food and clean up. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, or belong to a group that can serve, please contact Juanita Starr at 608-574-4591. Volunteers should arrive around 4:00 pm so that the meal is ready to serve a 5 pm.

November 27 - Ecumenical Choir - Come and sing with the Ecumenical Choir for the Thanksgiving Eve Worship being held at the United Methodist Church. Practice will be **November 20th**, 6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, and **November 27th**, 6 pm at United Methodist Church. All are welcome!

December 1 - "Hanging of the Greens" will follow 10 am worship. Come join us and help with hanging of the greens and enjoy pizza afterwards.

December 21 - Longest Night Service

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

Meetings

November 14 - Monthly Trustee meeting at 7 pm.

November 19 - Monthly Diaconate meeting at 5:30 pm.

November 19 - Monthly Council meeting at 7 pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator

Harry Zelhofer-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.

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 - October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 14, and April 18.

Wacky Wednesday - The Wacky Wednesday After School 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.

Wacky Wednesday - An after-school program for children ages 5-8. Wacky Wednesday gives kids a fun and safe place to go! We are always looking for volunteers...For more details contact Judy Campbell at wwednesdays16@gmail.com

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."