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Happy Easter Everyone!

Our first Joyful Noise collection this month will help fund a new church project called Blessing Bags.

The idea began with Jan Helmich one Friday morning as a few of us ladies were talking in Fellowship Hall when a homeless man walked in desperate for any assistance we could provide. As you might expect his story was long and tragic, leaving him and his girlfriend living in their car trying to make it out of state but without enough money to eat lunch, much less fill their gas tank. As we talked with him, we soon realized we had nothing available to help him. None of us had any cash on us. I had just recently delivered all the food donations to the pantry, which isn't open on Fridays. Plymouth had stopped giving out gas cards. SWCAP also doesn't have gas cards and could only recommend seeking help from the police. But the man was leery of seeking help there, fearing he would be ticketed for driving without car insurance. We called Pastor Joy, and fortunately she was able to come over and meet with these people and provide a little assistance out of the pastor's discretionary fund to get them on their way.



But what if Pastor Joy had not been available? We all felt like we as a church should be helping people who come to us in need instead of having to turn them away. So Jan's solution was to put together a few bags of non perishable groceries, all of which require no cooking or refrigeration and can be opened without tools, and she even included some plastic flatware and napkins. Also included is a list of community resources. These Blessing Bags, as we're calling them, will be kept in the church office and given out as needed. Each bag contains approximately \$25 worth of food and can easily feed an entire family. I put together a few smaller bags as well, containing approximately \$10 worth of food for those without families. Anne Bachner added to this some postcards which are pre-addressed to the church, in the hope that people will stay in touch and let us know how they're doing. Pastor Joy still plans to speak with as many of these folks as possible to assess additional needs, and perhaps will add a gas card or store gift card.

Please give generously to this project so Plymouth can continue to be a blessing to those in need.

Lisa



UPDATES



If you are looking for information in a past newsletter, you can go online to the church website. On the menu bar choose resources and then newsletters. You can choose any newsletter as far back as April of 2016. You can also click on this link to take you there

[https://
www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org/
newsletter](https://www.plymouthuccdodgeville.org/newsletter)

**I ALWAYS
WONDERED WHY
SOMEBODY DIDN'T
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT. THEN
I REALIZED, I AM
SOMEBODY.**





A Note from the Pastor...



Dear Friends,

At long last we come to the end of our Lenten journey and enter into the season of Easter. This is that magical time of year when the world begins its journey back into life and every day is a new revelation. I heard birdsong for the first time the other day, or I saw my first crocus of the year, and look, isn't that a bud forming on that tree over there? Each new thing is something we have witnessed many times before, but each time is always like the first time.

And so it is with the resurrection. We have experienced the joy of Easter many times, but each time is always like the very first time, and that is the magic and the mystery of our faith. It's alive, and it is always shifting, shaping, and forming into something better.

The Easter season is a season of new life and hope. It is a season of power, grace and glory! It's the most important season of the Christian year, when we proclaim that life has triumphed over death; love has triumphed over hatred and indifference, and hope shall forever triumph over despair.

I think we've all had kind of a long winter this year. A lot of us were sick, and we've all had "stuff" going on. But for us as a church it's actually been a great year so far. We've had quite a number of new people visiting us, and a lot of those new people are sticking around. And, we just welcomed six new members into our body!

We've had some great parties, hosted by our fantastic Diaconate committee.

Our Lenten Wellness and Meditation Workshop reached a lot of people, and, was a really good experience for everyone who participated.

We continue to grow in our ecumenical relationships by sharing ministry and worship, and I would be hard pressed to think of a better way of demonstrating Christ's passion for unity and love.

And that matters! In fact, from what I know of the bible, it's the only thing that matters. And not only that, but it's urgent! If the church is to survive; heck, if the world is to survive, then it will be because a handful of crackpots like us continued to trust that love is the most important thing we can do both in and for the world.

Right before he was arrested, Jesus told his followers to "love each other just as I have loved you," and he wasn't just referring to those present in the room. He was commanding them to carry that message to everyone whose path they crossed, because he knew that love was the only thing strong enough to hold this crazy world together.

I believe Plymouth is moving in the right direction. Plymouth is a loving, caring community; I know this to be true because I see it all the time. And right now we are being called. We are being called to show the world that love trumps hate, and hope shall forever triumph over despair. We are being called to keep alive his commandment to love – no matter what happens or who does what.

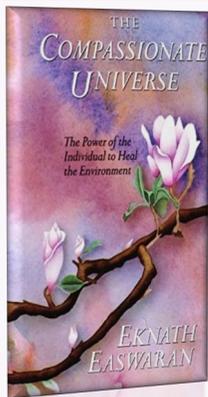
Easter cries out, "Oh death, where is your victory! O death, where is your sting!" (1 Corinthians 15:56) Easter calls us to lift our heads and look for the Risen Christ. It calls us to look at the broken places to see where life is breaking through, and to coax and nurture it through our love.

Love is the most important thing. And every resurrection of love is like the first time, because love is always shifting, shaping, and forming into something better.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Joy





To all Faith Explorers, new and older

After Easter we move on to [The Compassionate Universe](#)

by Easwaran. inspired by Gandhi.

Easwaran describes his search for a way of life that combines inner fulfillment, respect for nature, and effective participation in the world.

Then he presents the fruit of that search: a comprehensive program of trusteeship of ourselves and the earth.

This is environmentalism as a great adventure, filled with the challenges and rewards of inner growth.

"As trustees," he writes, "we discover that each of us is a unique and essential member of a compassionate universe."

I ordered 9 books that ranged from \$3.95 to \$7.95. I am asking you to reimburse me \$7.00 apiece for all books.

(Used books are usually bought 1 at a time and mailed separately at different costs. I also bot paper and hardback.

So, it gets complicated to keep track of real costs. I am happy with \$7.00 if it works for you.)

As the books arrive, I will leave them on the desk outside the church office.

We will have no meeting on Easter. Perhaps we can read the first couple chapters so that we can begin discussion again the 8th of April at 8:45. Reading the book is not a requirement to attend, though hopefully, it will inform our discussion and leads us to nurture Earth.

Anne Bachner



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 1 at Plymouth UCC 10 am.



Spring Cleaning

A good resurrection and renewal often includes a good spring cleaning, and Plymouth is long overdue. On May 12 at 10 a.m., we will gather in the fellowship hall to divide among us various tasks including, but not limited to:

A good cleaning of the kitchen

A good cleaning of the refrigerators

A good cleaning of the storage rooms along with the purging of unnecessary items

Sweep, mop and wax floor in fellowship hall

A good all over dusting



Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

Church Office:

Pastor Availability

Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office Administrator

Hours

Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Pastor:

Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

[pastor-](mailto:joylynn@gmail.com)

joylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5737

plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Lisa Duwell

Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator:



ATTENDANCE

MARCH 4	30
MARCH 11	28
MARCH 18	41
MARCH 25	43



PUCU will be hosting Feeding Friends on April 14.

Please sign up for Fellowship in the Sanctuary. Thank you!!!

The final Pasty Sale is April 10. Volunteers to help will be greatly appreciated! Thank you!



Happy Birthday

- April 11 Angela Brown
- April 12 Mary Lukes
- April 12 Sean Brown

Did we miss a birthday? Please contact the church office and let us know. 935-5727

Choir Practice WEDNESDAYS at 7 pm



Plymouth Circle meets the 4th Thursday @ noon

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN FEBRUARY

MISSION TRIP	\$833.48
FREE CLINIC	\$630.12

APRIL JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS DESIGNATED FOR:

BLESSINGS BAG

HOMELESS COALITION

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

Mission Statement

"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."

Vision Statement

"To be a welcoming and thriving Christian Community, living our faith through reflection and action, while remaining grounded in God's love."



NATIONAL MONTH OF HOPE

During April, buds come into full bloom brightening our days, and National Month of Hope also lends a hand in lifting our spirits. Everyone needs a little hope now and then. Spread a little sunshine their way and bring some hope into their lives. <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-month-of-hope-april/>

April is named after the Greek goddess of love, [Aphrodite](#).

The daisy symbolizes innocence, loyal love, and purity; but it also means "I'll never tell!" The sweet pea signifies blissful pleasure, and are used to say goodbye.

The birthstone for people born in April is the [diamond](#), one of the hardest substances on earth, and one that formed deep in the earth, even if we don't know how long ago that happened. <https://www.thoughtco.com/april-fun-facts-3456079>

Members,

Please check the mailboxes outside of Pastor Joylynn's office. Your mail slot position may have changed. Please make use of your mail slot and check for any new material or items left for you from another member.

Thank you



Newsletter Deadline

April 24 at 8 am.

Please submit any items you would like to appear in the newsletter by this time. Email your newsletter submissions to

plymouth@mhtc.net



CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator

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.



April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am April Fool's Day	2	3 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	4 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm	5 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	6	7
8 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	9	10 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	11 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm Feeding Friends, 5 pm	12 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	13	14 Final Pasty Sale of The Season 
15 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	16	17 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Tax Day	18 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	19 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	20	21
22 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am Earth Day	23	24 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	25 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	26 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	27	28
29 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Faith Explorers 8:45 am	30					



DIACONATE NEWS

Diaconate Notes

The Diaconate Committee met on March 20th at the church. Gary thanked everyone for helping with the St. Patrick's Day lunch after church on March 18th. It was well attended.

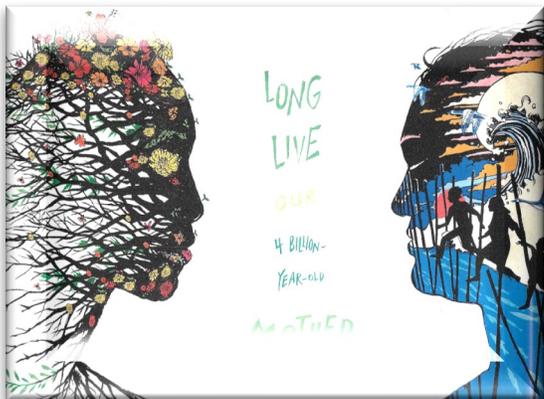
June 24th will be Opening and Affirming Sunday and a UCC banner will be purchased that reflects these principles more appropriately than the LGBTQ flag.

The calendar dominated the meeting including the dates that Pastor Joylynn would be out of the pulpit, the Holy Week schedule, Earth Day and summer events in the works. Maundy Thursday will be at UMC, but Plymouth is responsible for sandwiches to go with the soup supper at 6 p.m. Good Friday will be at Plymouth and readers/ushers are needed for the service. Easter lilies are on order and will be brought into the sanctuary on Easter morning.

Flat Jesus will be back, possibly in new attire on May 20th for everyone to take and travel.

The Centennial Park shelter has been reserved for the joint service/picnic with Grace Lutheran, UMC and Plymouth. Stay tuned for some exciting news about this event on August 12, 2018.

Submitted by Jill Roethe, secretary pro tem.



Earth Day



On April 22 we will be having a special Earth Day service. Plan to bring with you a favorite bulb or plant, and we will plant them in our Peace Garden! More Details to come...

The deadline to file your individual federal tax return is **Tuesday, April 17th**. It is also the deadline for making first quarter 2018 estimated tax payments for self-employed tax players and the last day to contribute to a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA according to Turbo Tax. Since April 15th falls on a Sunday and Washington DC celebrates Emancipation Day on April 16th, the date was moved to the 17th. For more information <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/2018-tax-filing-season-begins-jan-29-tax-returns-due-april-17-help-available-for-taxpayers>



Monthly Meetings/ Events

Sometimes meeting times/dates will change. Please check the [website](#), [Facebook](#), or contact the church office 935-5727.

Sundays:

Faith Explorers 8:45 am

Community Conversation usually 3rd Sunday each month

Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of the month:

Diaconate 5:30 pm

Council Meetings 7 pm-

Wednesdays

Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm

Choir, 7 pm

Feeding Friends - 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays

Trustees - Second Thursday of the Month, 7 pm.

Plymouth Circle - Fourth Thursday of the month, noon, at Country Kitchen.

Saturday

Pasty Sales - Second Saturday of the month October through April. Next month is the last Pasty sale. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the office.



Plymouth UCC Council Minutes March 20, 2018



**Our Sunday Worship Service
may be viewed this month on
our website:**

**plymouthuccdodgeville.org and
on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)**



C O U N C I L M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Members Present- Dave Pearson, Mark Pepelea, Harry Zelhofer, Chuck Roethe, Lisa Pepelea, Gary McHone, Earl Barnes, Denise Whitish, Anne Bachner and Pastor Joylynn

Opening Prayer by Pastor Joylynn

February meeting notes reviewed. Dave moved to approve minutes as written. Second by Lisa- passed unanimously.

Old Business-

Clarification on the committee helping with blessing bags.

Lisa confirmed that there will be a Joyful Noise collection for the bags.

Chuck has not had a chance to check the lockbox at Wells Fargo but is planning on doing soon.

Pastor's Report-

More discussion about spring cleaning. Things that need to be done discussed and possible dates. Should definitely wait until after the last pasty sale. Date tentatively set Saturday, May 12. Mark suggested making a priority list so the most important needed tasks get done. Joylynn will compile list. Will announce in worship and in newsletter.

Lenten Thursdays going well. Joylynn would like to give MC a gift for conducting the series- around \$50.00. Discussion about which budget to take out of. Motion to take \$50.00 out of the diaconate budget for gift made by Joylynn. Second by Dave and Lisa together. Passed unanimously.

Picnic scheduled Sunday, August 12 at Centennial Park held jointly with the Methodist church congregation. Joylynn has an opportunity to invite a musician she knows- a very talented singer and songwriter who plays many instruments. She and the Methodist church would propose inviting the Lutheran church and open the event to the public. The cost of this musician would be approximately \$800.00 split between the three churches. Mark noted that this cost would be non-budgeted and should be transparent to all members. Some discussion of how offerings would be taken that day- three plates vs. one. A portion of the offering would cover some costs- the remainder would come out of the diaconate budget. Of course it will be a sunny 80 degree day. Joylynn will give update next month.

Joylynn has extra hours and would like three compensation days the week after Easter- she feels she needs a short break. Chuck will go over hours with Joylynn and quantify the amount of time needed. Unable to meet in person so will communicate by email. Anne reiterated that hours should be documented.

Diaconate Committee- Gary

Open and Affirming day will be June 24. Will be purchasing an open and affirming banner sanctioned by the UCC. Joylynn will be off that day. Diaconate board will fill in.

A count of 50 people in worship last Sunday and many came down for the St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Discussed Joylynn's vacation days- will fill pulpit on July 8th or 15th. Diaconate members will cover the rest.

Will empty sanctuary after service Palm Sunday after service due to special music.

The board is discussing having a garage sale- only church members can sell things but open to public. More information to come.

Chuck brought some changes that have been made in ushering duties that include lighting candles before first hymn, opening the handicapped doors and running the cameras. Many members unaware of these changes. An usher meeting had been scheduled in February but was cancelled due to weather. Gary will try and arrange another one.

Also discussed when to change to black vestments for Good Friday.

Trustees- Mark

Mark has hired a person to shovel snow- reliable so far. Will contact to hire him for next year.

Locksmith came out to check lock. While it is better still sticks slightly. Mark will call him back if not completely fixed.

Mark solved the doorbell problem by changing the doorbell cover.

Coming up on scholarship season- trustees will choose recipient based on need and community service.

Financial Secretary- Dave

See attached documentation- no questions.

Chuck questioned why there are two budget lines for "mission" and "outreach"- shouldn't they be the same? Discussion ensued- apparently Arayna requests separate budget spots due to endowment fund rules. Mission is running a negative balance and outreach has a surplus due to the 90/10 split of the endowment interest funds. Several members wondering why these cannot be combined into one budget line. Mark will discuss with Arayna after tax season. Will move \$5000 from outreach to mission for now.

Received email from Bill- Wacky Wednesday has received grants from the UCC and United Fund. This money should keep the school funded well into the 2018-2019 school year.

Mission- Lisa

Met to discuss the Blessing bags- two sizes- a larger one with cost of \$25.00 and a smaller one with cost of \$10.00. Some are all ready to go. Joylynn will distribute.

Education- Anne

Adult Education going well. Has finished current book and will announce next book selection-will be tied into Earth Day.

Moderator- Chuck

Has been looking at different agenda formats including some that have timed discussions per topic. Short discussion- decided it is OK to go over one hour for the meeting as long as discussion moves along and we don't get stuck on one topic repeating same things. Everyone agrees on this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Next meeting- Tuesday, April 17- 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted- Denise Whitish, Clerk

Schedules

Fellowship

April 1 - Easter

April 8 - Liz Bothfeld

April 15 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

April 22 - Anne and Kayla

April 29 - Tina Valenti

Usher

April 1 - Rod and Mary Lukes

April 8 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

April 15 - Bill and Lisa Duwell

April 22 - Denise Whitish

April 29 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

Reader

April 1 - Rod Lukes

April 8 - Jill Roethe

April 15 - Dave Pearson

April 22 - Anne Bachner

April 29 - Earl Barnes

Communion

April 1 - Rod Lukes

April 8 - Gary McHone

April 15 - Dave Pearson

April 22 - Jan Helmich

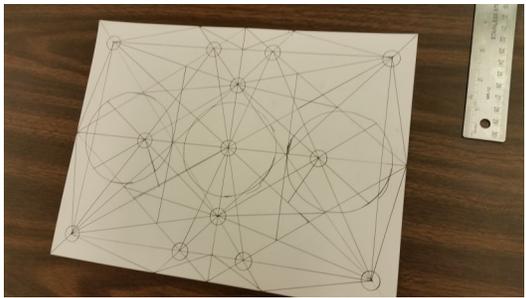
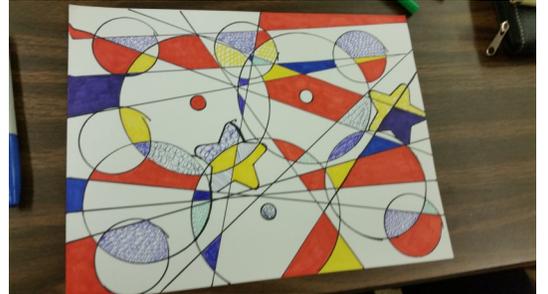
April 29 - Julie Neal

Joyful Noise

April 1 - Blessing Bags

April 8, 15, 22, 29 - Homeless Coalition





Wacky Wednesday



...a fun place to play and learn!

Plymouth Congregational

United Church of Christ

115 West Merrimac Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533



Phone: 608-935-5727

Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Website: plymouthuccdodgeville.org

