

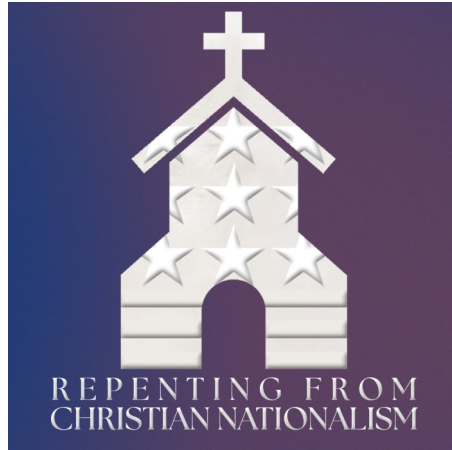
# The Herald

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

# APRIL

## 2025

*From the Pastor....*



## Lent: A Season of Repentance

The church year follows a rhythm. We begin in Advent, with God's promises of sending something new into this imperfect world. Then, Jesus is born on Christmas! We celebrate for 12 days, until Epiphany. In the season after Epiphany, we recognize God's presence in the world in new ways, while also acknowledging that we do not always welcome or understand God's presence.

Then we come to Lent. This 6-week season is a time to reflect on our humanity, to recognize that we have not always welcomed God respectfully, and to repent from those actions that have kept us apart from God. At the end of Lent, we find Jesus on the cross, suffering as a result of the failure of humans to respond faithfully to God's call.

But death doesn't have the final word. After Lent, we celebrate new life on Easter! This season is about both the resurrection of Jesus,



**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:

#### Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday

8 am - 2:00 pm

### Pastor:

Pastor Katya Ouchakof

[puccdodgeville@gmail.com](mailto:puccdodgeville@gmail.com)

608-616-5075

### Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5727

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

### Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

and the renewed chance that humanity has to respond faithfully. Easter continues until the day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit moving among all people. For the next several months, in the season after Pentecost (or “ordinary time”), we see the many ways that the Spirit is active among the ancient prophets, the ministry of Jesus, and our world today.

Right now, we are in the season of Lent. We are called to reflect on those things that separate us from God, and that we need to change moving forward in our lives of faith.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches created a resource for Lent this year called “Repenting from Christian Nationalism.” Their website explains the need for this series:

“Christian Nationalism has been in the headlines, and we know many faith leaders have been wondering how to respond. We invite you to join with congregations exploring how this is more than a *them* problem - it's an *us* problem, too.”

As we reflect on our relationship with God, barriers to that relationship, and where we can grow in faithfulness, it is important to remember that our lives of faith happen alongside the rest of our lives. Relationships, work, volunteering, and public engagement are all interconnected to our relationship with God.

We cannot separate our faith from our political viewpoints, our shopping habits, or the way we treat other people. There is constant temptation to turn some aspect of our life into an idol – something that is more important to us than God. Specifically, in this country at this point in history, many are being tempted to place love of country above love of God.

This Lent, we are invited to examine how we interact with the world around us, and remember that our relationship with God is more important than anything else. When we find ourselves prioritizing a person, hobby, occupation, or belief system more than we value God, our faithful response is to repent, to return to God, and to reprioritize our lives. Thank you for joining me in this Lenten journey.

In Christ,  
Pastor Katya

## Usher/Reader/Communion

### March

30 - Chuck and Jill

### April

6 - Earl and Shirley

13 - Mary and Rick

20 - Chuck and Jill

27 - Mark and Lisa

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

### Joyful Noise

#### March

2, 9, 16, 23 Hodan Center  
30 One Great Hour of Sharing

#### April

6, 13 - Friendship Center  
20, 27 - Feeding Friends

### Fellowship

#### March

2 - Rod and Mary Stellick

9 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

16 - Steve Pieroni

23 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

30 - Jan Helmich

#### April

6 -

13 -

20 - Easter

27 - Pepelea



**Watch Worship online via  
our Facebook page, Sun-  
days, at 10 am.**

# Plymouth UCC Holy Week Schedule

## Holy Week Worship Schedule



### Palm Sunday Worship

April 13th at Plymouth UCC 10:00 am



### Ecumenical Maundy Thursday

April 17th at Dodgeville United Methodist Church 6 pm



### Ecumenical Good Friday Worship

April 18th at Plymouth UCC 6 pm

Midday Worship at Grace Lutheran 1:30 pm



### Easter Sunday Worship

April 20 at Plymouth UCC 10 am.



# Order Your Easter Lily Now

Easter Lily order forms are available in the sanctuary, on the bulletin board across from the coat hanger downstairs, or if you would like, you may print this order form and returned filled out with the information for the cards. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Pepelea or a Diaconate member. All orders must be in by April 3rd.

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily the cost will be \$19.95 for a single stem and \$32.95 for a double stem. Let us know who the Easter Lily is in honor of, and we will put a name tag on each plant and place it at the altar for the April 20 service. Please print clearly so that there are no errors. All orders are due by April 3. Please make checks payable to Plymouth UCC. You may put the order form and the payment in the collection basket on March 30<sup>th</sup> or turn it in to the church office.

**Your Name:**

**Plant in Honor/Memory of:**

**Message:**

## Important Updates

Council is now meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Diaconate meets the same day at 6 pm.

The monthly newsletter deadline is Sunday after the Council meeting. If you have anything to include, please submit it to the office at [Plymouth@mhtc.net](mailto:Plymouth@mhtc.net) in a timely fashion.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Moderator

Lisa Pepelea

### Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

### Clerk

Mary Stellick

### At Large council members

Shirley Barnes

Denise Whitish

Chuck Roethe

### Meetings

**Council and Diaconate meet on the 3rd Wednesday monthly. Diaconate meetings start at 6 pm, and Council meetings start at 7 pm.**

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 submissions are due the Sunday following council meetings.**

# Nature Contemplation in the Driftless *Rewilding Series*

of Seeking Peace & Justice,  
as we interact with the Natural Environment God created.

**"Outdoors we are confronted everywhere with wonders;  
we see that the miraculous is not extraordinary but  
the common mode of existence. It is our daily bread. -Wendell Berry**

## SATURDAY MARCH 22 - 10 AM

### Spring Equinox Celebration

Rev. Daniel Cooperrider

Sardeson Preserve  
Mineral Point

Wild Church Service  
& Fire Pit

Hwy 39 & Betty Lane  
Mineral Point, WI

## SUNDAY APRIL 6 - 9:30 AM

### Creation Care Service

Pastor Kate Kieckhafer

Hope Lutheran  
555 Commerce Street  
Mineral Point

## SUNDAY MAY 4 - 10 AM

### Wild Church Service

Eric Anglada

Catholic Worker Farm

Soldiers Memorial Park  
Mineral Point

## SATURDAY MAY 17 - 10 AM

### Wild Church Service

with Rev. Daniel Cooperrider

Oak Savanna at Mineral Point Elementary School  
611 Cothorn Street  
Mineral Point

## SUNDAY MAY 18 - 10 AM

Indoor Creation Care Service  
Congregational UCC  
300 Maiden Street, Mineral Point

### Saturday, March 22 - 2 PM

#### Book talk on

***Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You***

by Daniel Cooperrider

Hosted by Republic of Letters Bookstore,

151 High Street, Mineral Point

Reception at The Book Kitchen

## SUNDAY MARCH 23 - 10 AM

Indoor Creation Care Service  
Congregational UCC  
300 Maiden Street, Mineral Point

*These events are all  
FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC  
Families Welcome!  
Participate in all 5 sessions, or just  
one. All are welcome!*

*Isn't it time we rediscovered the astonishments of nature?*

**Thank you to our Sponsors for making this Creation Care Series possible:**

Wisconsin Conference UCC

Master Gardeners of Iowa County

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

The Republic of Letters

The Book Kitchen

Congregational UCC

Hope Lutheran Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

Generous, Earth Conscious Members of our Community

# Plymouth UCC Council Meeting Summary

February 19, 2025

Members Present: Lisa Pepelea, Mary Stellick, Steve Pieroni, Chuck Roethe, Denise Whitish

Absent: Shirley Barnes, Pastor Katya Ouchakof

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Lisa Pepelea at 7:02. Lisa offered a prayer. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

## **Pastor's Report**

In addition to prepping worship in advance, I spent time coordinating the event with Professor Nesson last Saturday, which I think went very well! It was helpful to be in community with folks from various churches, and to hear the perspective of an expert in the field.

Mary H is going to update the office hours to be 10am-2pm Tues and Thurs, and 8am-2pm Wed. She will also add hours on Sunday, 9:30-11:30am, as currently Google lists the church as closed on Sundays!

## **Committee Reports**

### Missions

The distributions for Joyful Noise (JN) collections are up to date or are in progress.

### Financial

Steve submitted report of checking account balance. There was no report from Zander for January. Stewardship was up in January (some members making their contributions for the year). The gross receipts from pasty sales in January was around \$4000.

### Trustees

Three things are on the Trustee plate right now.

- 1) Steve and I will be meeting with Dave Brick next week to discuss repairs to the two closets off the Fellowship Hall.
- 2) The Fire Marshall finally came to check our fire extinguishers. He removed all of ours and replaced them with certified extinguishers. He will now come annually. Mary Haag is to keep a record of these visits.
- 3) We have talked with the artist Lisa Humke about the possibility of designing a mural for the unused outside door on Main Street. She will submit ideas and a bid.

### Diaconate

The Diaconate did not meet this month.

### **Old Business**

Pastor Katya's contract extension – Chuck moved to extend her contract with no changes for three months, Steve seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

- 1) Lisa reported that Mark recorded the February 8 event and it is available on a USB or to watch on the church laptop.

Steve shared the sketch by Lisa Humke for the "History Wall" to be painted in the Overflow room.

- 2) Denise requested a possible change in dates for Council meetings in March, April and June due to schedule conflicts. Lisa will check with Pastor Katya re her available days, will either change meeting dates to Wednesday or change the week.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47. March meeting date TBD.

Submitted by Mary Stellick, Clerk

Complete meeting minutes and Treasurer's report are available on request.