

The Herald

PLYMOUTH UCC DODGEVILLE



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ

January 2019



The Longest Night - A Night To Remember Ecumenical Worship with Dodgeville United Methodist Church and Grace Lutheran Church. Pictured in middle picture, from left to right, Pastor Jim Droste, Vicar Kate Kieckhafer, Pastor Joylynn Graham, and Pastor Mark Williamson.



December 2018

Christmas Eve.



The cast of the Live Nativity Christmas Eve.



Plymouth UCC Choir at local nursing home December 16, 2018.



A Note from the Pastor...



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Christmas season was full of many blessings, as we moved through the weeks of Advent anticipating the hope, peace, joy and love that comes into our world through the new born Christ child.

And as the last candle was extinguished before we made our way out into the night on Christmas Eve, I couldn't help but remember the words of Howard Thurman reminding us that the work of Christmas now begins.

For Plymouth, the work of Christmas doesn't just begin – it continues, although many of us are starting to wonder how in the light of recent budget conversations. This brings to mind one last Christmas story that I would like to tell, although the story could be seen as an Epiphany story too.

According to this particular legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the baby boys of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided that they too would accompany the Holy Family on their journey.

Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, certain that his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task. There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be of much use. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. But, the spider begged and pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

Unfortunately, as the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else were distracted. They ended up returning home or embarking on a more appealing adventure of their own. With Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired, Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try and hide. Finding a small and inconspicuous cave, they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider as their only remaining companions.

Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air. The spider, seeking to be of help in some small way, decided to carefully weave a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby warm.

The spider had just finished weaving the web when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening.

Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees – to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove – but more importantly, to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

The work of Christmas begins and continues. We might not have such keen ears, sharp teeth, strong bones and long claws as we used to, but as long as we desire to be included in the journey there will always be a place for us, and as long as we stay focused on the work of Christmas, we will find ways to use the gifts we have.

May the gift of Emmanuel continue to live through us in the years to come!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Joy

Church Office:

Pastor Availability

Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesday

2:30 - 5:30 pm

Office Administrator

Hours

Tuesday-Thursday

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Pastor:

Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

pastor-

joylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5727

plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Lisa Duwell

Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator:

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 2	31
DECEMBER 9	31
DECEMBER 16	41
DECEMBER 23	33
DECEMBER 21	30
DECEMBER 24	57



Newsletter Deadline

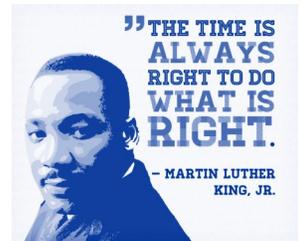
January 22 at 8 am.

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

plymouth@mhtc.net

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

- January 4 Jayne Harrison
- January 4 Gretchen Bruegger
- January 4 Max Bruegger
- January 20 Gretchen James
- January 29 Jean Brown



JANUARY WAS NAMED AFTER JANUS, THE GOD OF BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS.

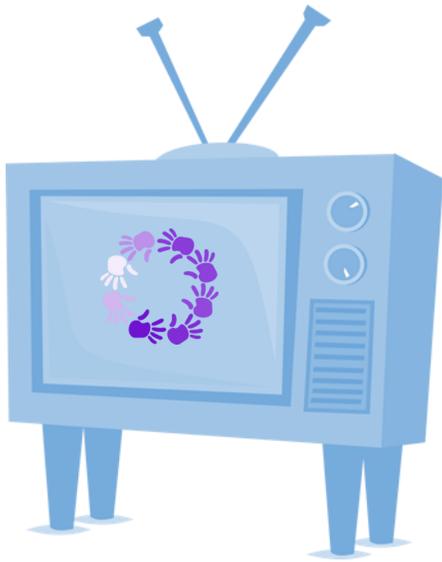
THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN NOVEMBER

- FEEDING FRIENDS \$150.00
- HOMELESS COALITION \$396.66
- WACKY WEDNESDAY \$325.00

JANUARY JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS DESIGNATED FOR:

- FOOD PANTRY
- WACKY WEDNESDAY





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Our Sunday Worship Service
may be viewed this month
on our website:
plymouthuccdodgeville.org

Or

On Facebook look for Plym-
outh United Church of Christ,
Dodgeville

Or on YouTube
[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k-NdBxPS-0&t=7s)

Members present- Chuck Roethe, Dave Pearson, Earl Barnes, Mark, Pepelea, Gary McHone, Pastor Joylynn, Lisa Pepelea, Eric Lenninger and Denise Whitish.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Joylynn.

Welcome by Chuck to Eric who is taking on the position of vice moderator. Eric gave background on his decision to take the position.

November council meeting minutes reviewed and approved with changes to the active shooter training. Motion made to accept by Dave and second by Gary. Passed unanimously.

Old Business-

Active shooter training discussed- Gary informed council that he did some research. Spoke with Sgt. Pepper with the Dodgeville Police Department- many churches in the Madison area have already had training. Training could consist of a one hour power point presentation up to a full simulation. Some discussion ensued. Chuck would like to table further discussion until after holidays in 2019- possibly February.

New Business-

Pastor's Report-

Brought up concern regarding pointsettias- found a note stating that she had paid for three which she did not. Dave confirmed that there was no problem- all paid for.

Joylynn reported that she had conversation with Mary- Joylynn happy with Mary's work as she serves as the hub of the church. She does ask that members give her more information in a timely manner so she can answer questions from members appropriately. Discussion ensued with some examples given. Council agrees with giving Mary timely information.

Eric interested in joining in discernment with this church pursuing ordination. Has already been to seminary- his desire is to be a chapel minister. Our church would need to put together a discernment committee - approximately 4-5 members- to work with Eric and the conference. He needs to be a member of the church for one year prior to starting which will be April 2019. Council members supportive- will discuss more in early 2019.

Joylynn would like to bring back community conversations in February.

Diaconate Committee Report-

Christmas Eve service discussed- ready to go for "no rehearsal" pageant.

Member mailboxes not in good place for members to check. Moved them to top of stairway.

(Continued on page 6)

Schedules

Usher

**January 6 - Chuck and Jill
Roethe**

**January 13 - Rod and Mary
Lukes**

**January 20 - Earl and Shirley
Barnes**

January 27 - Denise Whitish

Reader

January 6 - Julie Neal

January 13 - Rod Lukes

January 20 - Earl Barnes

January 27 - Denise Whitish

Communion

January 6 - Julie Neal

January 13 - Rod Lukes

January 20 - Jan Helmich

January 27 - Gary McHone

Joyful Noise

January 6, 13, 20 - Food Pantry

January 27 - Wacky Wednesday

Trustee Committee Report-

Budget passed at December budget meeting.

All kitchen work completed.

Repair of the ceiling behind altar along with the room will be starting soon.

Discussion with the trustee committee regarding subdividing into finance and building committees. Mark would like to table until new members installed.

Budget reviewed and all questions answered by Mark, Dave and Earl. Discussion regarding budget and stewardship. Currently stewardship is down over last year.

Mission Committee Report-

Circle of Care update- still compiling returned forms. Will get to Mary by the end of the year. There was a circle of care errand done today.

Joyful Noise calendar set for 2019. Mary already has the information.

Welcome brochures being reprinted- Faith Explorers meeting time has changed to Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

Moderator's Report-

Discussion about the education committee which is not active currently. Decided the church does need volunteers for attending nursery during worship. Chuck will contact members to obtain suggestions regarding education committee and nursery coverage.

Nominations for new committee members discussed- Chuck would like chairpersons to report on their committees as to who is going off. There is an amendment in the new constitution that members of committees may remain on the committee for more terms without taking a year off.

Dates set for the annual meeting- January 27 and installation of new committee members- February 3.

At this time Joylynn was asked to leave the meeting. Discussion regarding Christmas bonuses for Joylynn and staff. Motion to have bonus amounts remain the same as last year made by Dave. Second by Lisa. Passed unanimously.

Also discussion about pastor being present at budget meetings where her salary is discussed but should be able to attend other budget meetings.

Discussion about the pastoral relations committee. The committee has not been active. Tenure is up for all members. Chuck would like to discuss doing away with this committee. Will discuss with Joylynn and other members and revisit.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting- Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

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.”



DIACONATE NEWS

The Diaconate Committee met December 18 th. Present were Gary, Harry, Julie, Jill, Pastor Joy and Jan.

The following items were discussed:

The canceled Living Nativity - Due to inclement weather the Living Nativity and Open House were cancelled. We discussed having our own Living Nativity/Open House next year instead of just cooperating with the Chamber and their festivities. Some costumes and props need some updating.

Ecumenical Solstice Service - this will be held at Plymouth and will include remembrance and prayers for those touched by global, national and local disasters.

Christmas Eve Service - this will be at 7:00 on Christmas Eve and will be a traditional service with a simple pageant involving both children and adults, special music and a candle lighting service.

Fellowship - with a small congregation it is sometimes difficult to fill our fellowship schedule each week. We discussed simplifying by serving only coffee, juice and cookies if this would encourage people to sign up or just not have Fellowship if no one signs up. People would still be able to gather in Fellowship Hall for conversation even if no food was served.

Cecelia Farren presentation - we all enjoyed her presentation on December 16th. She also has one centered on St. Patrick's Day and we would like to invite her back for that day as we will plan to have our traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner following church.

We will plan to take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary following church service on January 6th with fellowship served in the overflow room.

The mail boxes have been moved to the area at the top of the stairs up from the lower level. We thought this would be more convenient for people to check if they have anything in their box after church. All members have their name on a box and this is a way to communicate with everyone.

Our next meeting will be January 15th.

Respectfully submitted - Jan Helmich, secretary

Monthly Meetings/Events

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

Sundays

Special Music Sunday - once a month, usually the last Sunday of the month.

Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of the month:

Diaconate 5:30 pm

Council Meetings 7 pm-

Wednesdays

Faith Explorers - 10:30 am

Wacky Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:30 pm, September through May.

Choir 7 pm, September through May.

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.





January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!	2 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	3 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	4	5
6 Epiphany Worship 10 am Fellowship following service	7	8 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	12 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm Feeding Friends, 5	10 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Trustees, 7 pm	11	12 Pasty Sale 
13 Baptism of Christ Worship 10 am Fellowship following service	14	15 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Diaconate, 5:30 pm Council, 7 pm	16 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	17 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	18	19
20 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service	21 Martin Luther King Jr Day 	22 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	23 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	24 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	25	26
27 Worship 10 am Fellowship following service Annual Meeting	28	29 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	30 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Wacky Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	31 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm		



General Synod 32 Volunteering

June 21-25, 2019

The Wisconsin Conference is excited to host the 32nd General Synod of the UCC! Three to four hundred volunteers will be needed throughout the five days of General Synod next June and we will need your help! Here are some FAQs, (Frequently Asked Questions), to answer What, Who, When, Where, Why, How and more!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What & Why: General Synod is the bi-annual gathering of the United Church of Christ drawing delegates and visitors from across the nation, and abroad. We gather to remember who we are as a denomination, to explore and reignite our call to ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ, to learn, to worship, to reach out to our brothers and sisters most in need of our advocacy and compassionate presence and to attend to the business and leadership needed for the denomination.

Who: Volunteers will be engaged through the Local Arrangements Committee, (LAC), whose ministry it is to assist the National UCC staff for General Synod 32. Can you stand, sit, walk or run? Volunteers from congregations in the Wisconsin Conference will fill a variety of positions. You will be asked to provide at least 4 hours of volunteer time. Note that some positions will require a background check – such as anyone working with children or youth.

When: Volunteers will be needed throughout General Synod Friday, June 21-Tuesday, June 25. Some additional help will be needed in the months, weeks or days before General Synod. *Please note that delegates will not be able to volunteer during Synod.*

Where: General Synod's plenary business sessions, worship, workshops and exhibits will be held at the Wisconsin Center (400 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee). <https://www.wisconsincenter.com>. Volunteers will also be needed at delegate hotels, the Intermodal Station in downtown Milwaukee and Mitchell Airport.



Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

How: In January 2019 Volunteer registration will be available on-line through the Wisconsin Conference website page for General Synod (wcucc.org/synod). Information with the link will also be emailed to local congregations. All registrations for Volunteering will be done electronically using the on-line form which will include the positions available and the dates/times volunteers are needed.

Once you are confirmed as an Official Volunteer by the LAC you will receive a code and can then register as an attendee on the UCC General Synod website. Volunteers attend the Synod at a reduced cost of \$60. *DO NOT Register on the Synod website until you have been confirmed by the LAC and have received the code.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Brief descriptions of volunteer positions available are listed here. More information will be available when you sign up in January:

Extravagant Hospitality and Welcome: Welcome and direct delegates and visitors at Mitchell Airport, the Intermodal Station downtown (bus and train) and at the hotels.



Registration Table: Assist with the check-in process at the Wisconsin Center.

Guides and Greeters: Provide information and an extravagant welcome to delegates and visitors at the doors and throughout the Wisconsin Center.

Accessibility: Assist those with motorized scooters, or who need other accommodations, on site at General Synod.

Childcare and Children's Ministry: Provide adult supervision and program teachers for age-appropriate child care and children's ministry activities through-

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.



out Synod for infants through the age of 12. This includes on-site care and programming as well as possible “off-site” field trips. All volunteers in this area will have a background check. Help will also be needed in procuring, delivering and returning equipment needed.

Word Processing for Education and Committee Process: Use a computer to maintain edits and changes in the language of Synod pronouncements to assigned committees.

Floor Stewards: Assist voting delegates throughout plenary sessions to make sure they have information needed.

Exhibit Hall Support: Direct visitors to exhibits, answer general questions, and help to clear the hall of people at worship and closing time.

Worship Ushers: Provide ushering services during the various worship services of Synod. Welcome, hand out materials, collect offering, distribute communion, etc.

Volunteer Service Support: Support volunteers before and during General Synod.

App-bassadors: Help delegates and visitors as needed to access and use the app which provides all General Synod information

Outdoor Festival: Direct and assist attendees at the Sunday Festival to be held at a nearby park. Enjoy food, fellowship and entertainment. All members of Wisconsin Conference Congregations are invited to attend the festival.

Flexible On-Call: On-call volunteers will cover needs which arise unexpectedly during General Synod.

And More: If other opportunities arise, more volunteers may be needed. We'll keep you posted!

Consider how you and others in your congregations can volunteer at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! Watch for more information and sign up in January!

Grace and peace,

General Synod 32 LAC Coordinators: Bonnie Andrews, Debbie Payden, Tom Payden, Tim Perkins





Circle of Care

We all need a little help from time to time...but who can you count on? Who better to turn to than our church family? Whether it's a ride when someone's car is in the shop or a hot meal because they're feeling under the weather, we at Plymouth want to show our Christian love by being available to help one another, forming a circle of care within our church.

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this circle, please fill out the information below. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Contact Phone:

Home: _____ *Cell:* _____ *Work:* _____

Email: _____

When are you typically available? *(please circle all that apply)*

Mornings

Afternoons

Evenings

Weekends

What type of help are you comfortable providing? *(Please circle all that apply)*

Drive locally (within Dodgeville)

Drive regionally (Madison or Dubuque)

Deliver a meal

Grocery Shopping

Pick up medications

Minor Home Repair

Friendly Visit

Other (please specify): _____



Plymouth Congregational

United Church of Christ

115 West Merrimac Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: 608-935-5727

Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Website: plymouthuccdodgeville.org

