

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XI ISSUE III
MARCH 2016



Special points of
interest:

World Day of Prayer-
March 4th

One Great Hour of
Sharing - March 6th

Fish Boil - March 11th

Joshua Robert Wang-
Concert - April 10th

Easter Volunteers Need-
ed!



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The Plymouth Epistle

A Newsletter for the Members & Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC, Burlington, WI

WORDS FROM WANG – “The Ides of March and Easter”

Have you ever wondered about the origins of *The Ides of March*? Me too. The *Ides of March* is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to March 15th. Originally, it was marked by several religious observances and became notorious as the date of the [assassination of Julius Caesar](#) in 44 BC which, of course, was a turning point in Roman history.

Although March was the third month of the Julian calendar, in the original Roman calendar **March was the first month of the year**. The Ides (middle) were supposed to be determined by the [full moon](#), so on the earliest calendar, the *Ides of March* would have been set around the first full moon of the New Year. It would seem reasonable then that the [holidays](#) observed by the Romans for the first half of the month were New Year celebrations.

Similarly, the early church came up with a plan for determining the date for Easter. Early in the 4th century the church decided that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday *after* (never *on*) the Paschal full moon which is the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox (March 21st). Easter thus always falls between March 22 and April 25.

One final point of intersection for the Ides of March and Easter is this New Year thing. For many believers, the occasion of Jesus’ resurrection was paramount to the start up of what is known as Christianity. BTW, that’s us. And with all our sacred and secular Easter observances (including the Easter bunny, eggs, chicks, etc.) and, of course, its correlation to spring planting and outdoor rituals, how can we consider the occasion anything but an occasion for starting anew.

May all our spring and Easter observances be filled with the promise of new life and growth as we “spring” forward in life and faith.

See ya’ in church. Pastor Bob

FYI: we lose that hour of precious sleep in the wee hours of March 13- (Daylight Saving Time)

Worship Opportunities for March

March 6— 4th Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon Theme: “*Radical Prodigal Father*”

Note: Rev. Jim Burd will be preaching.

March 13— 5th Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Sermon Theme: “*Essential Oil*”

March 20 — Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Sermon Theme: “*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*”

March 24 — Maundy Thursday

7:00 – Worship at Table

March 25 — Good Friday

7:00 – Joint Worship with Burlington Methodist (we host)

March 27— Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service: 7:30a.m.

Easter Celebration Service: 10:00

April 3 – The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon Theme: “*Believing is Seeing*”



PLYMOUTH PRAISE IN WORSHIP – March 27 (Easter Sunrise Service)

Our March worship appearance (4th Sunday) happens to be Easter Sunday which means the Sunrise Service for *Plymouth Praise*. So many great songs to sing and so little time to sing them.

We are truly blessed with the gift of music and those who can help deliver it as we glorify God in song throughout the season. *Plymouth Praise* celebrates by leading worship once a month. Here’s what’s happening in March.

Rehearsal: March 20 @ 11:30

Worship: March 27 (7:00 run through /7:30 worship)

Be it with your voice or your instrument, come and make a joyful noise. So if you have a voice and ear for the more contemporary worship songs then consider joining the praise team. We typically lead worship on the 4th Sunday of every month with rehearsals the Sunday prior (usually after worship 11:30ish)



Faith Formation Sessions Continue

Following a great time at the *Faith Formation* retreat last month, our March continues to be focused on just that. March 2 and 16 will be our March gathering times with Holy Week and spring break weeks being weeks off for obvious reasons.

A REMINDER: Confirmation students should be meeting monthly with their **mentors** for regular discussions using the books provided. To keep up this month you should be working on Chapter 21 (the series begins with Chapter 16). Please keep on task so you don’t have to play catch up in the spring.



FROM THE OPERATING COUNCIL....

To paraphrase what our moderator, Mary Ellen Close, said at church on a recent Sunday: Participation by the congregation is key to making our church, and our system of governance, work.

She's right.

People need to step up and help fill the job positions that need filling. If you don't see the person next to you standing up to help, maybe that's a sign that you should.

There are many people in our church who are capable of doing all the jobs that need filling -- even the Moderator Track job, which, as Mary Ellen and I have pointed out, is not nearly as hard as people fear. You also get a lot of help and support while doing it. And it is very rewarding.

So, what are you waiting for? Here's your personal invitation.

WANTED – VICE MODERATOR – NOT HARD!

Help shape the future of Plymouth. Not hard! No experience necessary. On-the-job training from existing Moderators. Rewarding! Work with great church members on the OC.

WANTED – ANNUAL (BUDGET) FUND-RAISING TEAM MEMBERS – NOT HARD!

Help keep Plymouth funded. Not Hard! Some work a couple of times a year. No experience necessary. Fun team members! Past successful strategies to build on, or bring your new ideas!

Contact the Office, Pastor, or a member of the Operating Council: Mary Ellen Close, Steve Sullivan, Charis Mitchell, Kylara Horner, Julie Klaehn, Kiffie Scott, Joe Iselin or Al Murin.

Time to step up.

-- Steve Sullivan, Past Moderator



The Worship Team is again taking orders for flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Order forms will be in the bulletin on Sunday morning or available in the church office.

Orders must be received by **Sunday, March 6th**.

Options are: Easter Lily or Rainbow Mum - \$8 each
Rieger Begonia- \$14 each



The women of St. Thomas Catholic Church, Waterford will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4, 2016. This year's theme is "Receive Children, Receive Me". Fellowship will begin at 9:30am and the service will begin at 10:30am.

An invitation is extended to all women interested in gathering with other women from our area and from around the world to collectively worship on this day. If you are interested in participating please see Carolyn Schoneck.

From the Music Team....



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." That message is shown on the big screen every Sunday morning before worship, and it seems to be something the members of Plymouth embrace. We have an amazing pipe organ and a five-octave set of hand bells. We are blessed with musicians, both professional and amateur, both singers and instrumentalists, who enrich our worship services.



To keep the music flowing, we need an organist, a choir director, and a bell choir director. Right now two people are doing the work of three. Diane Olson has been serving as our organist and choir director, and she and Charis Mitchell have been teaming up to keep the bell choir going. Diane has indicated she would prefer simply to direct the choir; Charis stepped in to fill a need. Since last fall, we have been actively seeking an organist and a bell choir director. In the meantime, Diane has agreed to continue playing for us and directing the choir, and Charis has now temporarily assumed the position of bell choir director.

It is fortunate we have these two, but it would be good to fill the vacancies and have the music department fully staffed. Sometimes word of mouth is the best way to share information. If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming organist or directing the bell choir, or doing both, please encourage him or her to apply.



From our Moderator...

Last month, the Operating Council met in the church basement on a Saturday for a mini-retreat. There are time constraints at the regular monthly meetings, and after getting through the regular church business, there is not always time for brainstorming or looking at the big picture.

The retreat provided an opportunity for a relaxed and informal discussion of a variety of issues affecting the church. Much of the focus was on the continuing effort to “right-size” our governing structure as we approach the end of the three-year trial period after the last major reorganization. You will be hearing and reading more about this in the coming weeks before decisions need to be made at the annual meeting in May.

I appreciated the time spent with my fellow operating council members and feel we accomplished a lot, but that is not all that I came away with that day. Normally, our meetings begin with a short prayer. At the retreat, Pastor Bob suggested something different.

Each of us was asked to recount a memory of a favorite day. I shared one that came to mind immediately, but even as I did so, I found memories of other days creeping into my mind.

In the days and weeks since, I have revisited many happy days. The memories have always been there, but somehow being asked to pick one out brought them back in a new and vivid way.

If my mind wanders when I am watching TV, or driving down a familiar road, or shoveling a sidewalk, another contender for a favorite day will spring into mind.

“Count your blessings” is a phrase often heard. Picking out a favorite day is a good way to start.

Mary Ellen Close



One Great Hour of Sharing – March 6th

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we, as the body of Christ, have opportunity and power to help those who are living in despair as refugees. If refugees had the choice to return home, many would not have a place to return because their home most likely has been destroyed – either burned, severely damaged, or is still an unsafe place to live. This year as you consider your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, for one moment, think of what it would be like to not have a place to call home, and then make your very best gift. Let us live out the call of solidarity with all people, especially those displaced by disaster, war and famine. Look for special offering envelopes in your bulletin on March 6th. You may also make a donation by simply writing a check to Plymouth Church and writing OGHS in the memo line.

My name is Amanda Gyger and as a part of my Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program, seven of my classmates and I will be going on a global health trip to Uganda for three weeks in May.

During our first week in country, we will be creating and conducting in-services on manual therapy techniques for physical therapists at a Mulago Hospital in Kampala. In addition to helping develop Kampala's physical therapy program, we will be participating in co-treating patients with Ugandan physical therapists. During our second week, we will be working at Providence Home, an orphanage for children with disabilities in Nkokonjeru, where we plan to help build and repair rehabilitation equipment and teach functional exercises to the children and faculty. During our third and last week, we will be conducting home visits with Ugandan physical therapists for a community rehabilitation program, COMBRA (Community Based Rehabilitation Alliance) in Kampala to assist in developing exercise programs and classes that will be implemented long term.



Amanda Gyger's MISSION TRIP

As one can imagine, a trip of this magnitude has a hefty financial cost associated with it. In order to participate, we must cover the study abroad tuition, airfare, meals, travel vaccinations, and volunteer visas totaling \$4,700 out of our own pockets. The Missions Team has graciously offered to support our global health trip, and I will be doing a presentation to the congregation upon conclusion of the trip this summer. If you are interested in making a personal donation to our trip, please make checks payable to "UW-DPT Global Health Service Trips" (memo: Uganda) and mail checks to:

DPT Global Health Program
Attn: Hannah Sutter-Balke
1300 University Ave, Room 5185
Madison, WI 53706

Thank you for your support and consideration.
Amanda Gyger, SPT



We ended the month of January with a Sunday afternoon of bowling!! It was our first family outing for the year and it was a success!! We had 42 people, of all ages, that joined us in bowling, fellowship, and good old fashion fun!! Thank you to all that participated and because it was such a great turn out, we will be doing it again!!

We had another wonderful month at LOGOS! We are making adjustments in our Family Time/Meal time because of the construction. I just wanted to say THANK YOU to our Kitchen Crew that helps with our meals on Wednesday nights. We know that after this project is done, it will all be worth the dust and craziness.

We have joined with Plymouth Children's Center for a fundraiser in March. We have reserved Timber Ridge Water Park in Lake Geneva from 12pm-8pm on Sunday, March 13th. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and we get to keep \$5.00 of it. All the money will go to our Children's Ministry program, so invite your friends to join us on that Sunday. It will be a great way to kick those winter blahs!! Contact Nikki Burd for your tickets. (email address: massnikburd@yahoo.com or cell #262-206-4943.)



FISH BOIL-MARCH 11TH
Fitzgerald's in Genoa City

Some of you may remember us organizing a previous *Friday Night Fish Night in Lent* a few years ago around St. Patty's Day and Bob and Judy Wang wish to host another outing this year. For around \$15 (no credit cards) you get all you can eat boiled North Atlantic Cod (absolutely no skin or bones!), boiled red potatoes, a whole boiled onion, Cole slaw, salted rye bread, and an apple square (however you only get one dessert trip). For a nominal cost you can either add chicken or chicken and ribs. Coffee and water is included but additional beverages of any kind can be purchased at the full service cash bar. If you wish to check them out online go to their website: <http://www.fitzgeraldsfishboil.com/>. Please look for a sign-up sheet in church or call the office if you'd like to attend.

Joshua Robert Wang
April 10 @ 6:00 p.m.



Most Plymouth Church folk are aware that Josh Wang (Pastor Bob's son) will be completing his Masters degree in piano performance this year. He is a resident teaching assistant/instructor at Bowling Green State University of Ohio where he will receive his degree. In most music masters programs, rather than write a thesis, students prepare and present a recital; Josh will complete this requirement in March. And in April he will take his recital on the road and one stop will definitely be his "home church;" Plymouth Congregational UCC in Burlington, WI.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce that on April 10th Josh will be performing Bach's Partita No. 5, BWV 829, Beethoven's Sonata in B-flat, Op. 22, Chopin's Polonaise in A-flat, Op. 53 "Heroique," and finish with 2 Rachmaninoff Preludes: Opus 32, nos. 2&4.

We are not keeping it a secret that this tour is also for the purpose of raising funds to help defray Joshua's costs for a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Austria this summer to attend *The Classical Music Festival*. Josh recently learned that he has been accepted into this select program as a student participant.

He describes it this way: "The Classical Music Festival is a well-established 2-week summer program in Austria which features master classes, lectures, and performances from world class music faculty. The festival takes place at the Haydn Conservatory in Eisenstadt where Joseph Haydn spent most of his career working for the Esterhazy family. Pianists will have the opportunity to perform in this historical Esterhazy palace, tour the birthplace of Franz Liszt in Hungary, and hear the festival choir and orchestra perform in the historic St. Stephen's Cathedral of Vienna."

Members and friends of Plymouth Church are cordially invited by the Wang family to gather and enjoy Josh's performance here on our church's Steinway piano. Following the performance, we are hosting an informal reception which will include some tasty finger foods and beverage. Any monies generated from this event will, of course, go directly toward Josh's trip to Austria. Whether attending the concert or not, if you are interested in making a personal donation, please feel free to contact Pastor Bob. **The Wang family is grateful to the Plymouth Church family for the tremendous support they have given Josh these past 6 years.**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 - Laura Murin
Serena Wanasek
Tyler VanSwol | 7 - Keith Krumholz
Ryon Klein | 17 - Sedona Souther
22 - Judy Heinz |
| 2 - Brett Peterson
Aaron Burd | 8 - Jim Burd
Karen Iselin
Kathy Patla | 23 - Hannah Lindell
27 - Dave Brown
Dennis Witte
Kylara Horner |
| 3 - AJ Szemborski | 10 - Ken Stier | 28 - Ben Zusan |
| 5 - Nickolas Befort
Benjamin Graham | 13 - Eric Harder
14 - John Wanasek
15 - Kathy Pieters | 29 - Ashley Volling
31 - Wally Brown |



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wally & Gidget Brown – March 10 | Ron & Mary Lou Nebinger – March 19 |
| John & Ellen Krikie – March 12 | George & Pat Sandstrom – March 21 |
| Tom & Stacie Coleman – March 13 | Al & Lois Hahn – March 26 |
| Dick & Kathy Pieters – March 14 | |



Many thanks for the amazing varieties of cookies and jam. They looked so good, I didn't know which ones to eat first. Also enjoyed a delightful visit with Jackie Kastengren. Thank you for thinking of me.

– Fondly, Alice Peterson

Thank you so much for the delicious cookies and jelly. It was very kind of you to think of me.

– Trudy Leith

Many from Plymouth have sent cards, expressed well wishes and offered prayers to and for me in the last several months. This kindness has not gone unnoticed and I am very grateful as I address my current health issues. Also, I appreciate the cookie plate that we received recently. Pat and I will enjoy them. –Thanks, George Sandstrom



GAME DAY-MARCH 19TH-11AM TO 5 PM



If you can help out, "ANY" 3rd Wednesday during the year -

Every month a group from Plymouth provides dinner for local residents the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The number of those partaking of meals varies between 25 and 45 people. Sometimes it is mostly men and sometimes children are present. Families from the Transitional Living Center also dine at the center. It is an opportunity for delicious, nutritious meals, but also for socializing.

Please call the church office and we will add you to the list of volunteers to participate in this local mission.



Fair Trade Coffee Project – Items sold 2nd Sunday of the month

- Organic Tamari Roasted Almonds — \$5.00 per package
- Equal Exchange Teas - \$3.00 per package
- Regular Whole Bean and Ground Coffee — \$7.00 per bag
- Decaf Whole Bean and Ground Coffee — \$8.00 per bag
- Regular Flavored Coffees — \$8.00 per bag
- Hazelnut Decaf — \$9.00 per bag
- Hot Cocoa Mix — \$6.00 per can
- Equal Exchange Large Chocolate Bars — \$2.50 each
- Divine Chocolate Bars - \$1.50

We also have Women's Bean Project items:

- Soup Mixes - \$5.50 each
- Cookie Mixes - \$5.00
- Iced Tea Mixes - \$3.50
- Dip Mixes - \$3.75
- Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans - \$5.75

Sharing Sunday — 1st Sunday of every month — All items go to Love, Inc.

Love's food pantry continues to need your help! The following non-perishable food and other items are greatly needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup | dish soap, deodorant |
| toothpaste, toothbrushes | mouth wash, shampoo |
| hair spray, hand soap | tissues, toilet paper |
| feminine hygiene products | diapers (all sizes) |
| canned spaghetti | macaroni, cereal |
| brown sugar, sugar | jelly, peanut butter |
| mayonnaise, mustard, catsup | laundry detergent |
| disposable razors | |



Monetary contributions are always accepted. Just place your check in the offering plate or mail it to Plymouth Church.

Blood pressure screening -

Blood pressure screening will take place March 13
In the parlor kitchen following worship.



Plymouth Children's Center receives funds from grocery stores

Plymouth Children's Center collects grocery receipts from Richter's Marketplace. We receive 1% of the total on the receipts. Richter's Marketplace receipts require a *Funds for Friends* sticker on the back. There is a blue box on the table outside the office door that you can put the receipts in. Thank you for your continued support.



Flowers for Sunday

If you would like to supply flowers for the altar on a Sunday, please sign up for a date on our new Flower Chart. It is located by the door in the parlor that leads to the nursery and the church offices.

Look ahead to important dates in your life that you would like to commemorate by providing flowers for our church service. We thank Marty Baker for the exquisite arrangements she has been providing for the past several months. We have truly appreciated her gifts of time and talent!!



The Worship Team needs more volunteers for the following Sunday morning duties:

Usher, Liturgist, Fellowship Time servers, Communion servers and Nursery care. If you would like to help in any of

these areas, please contact the church office and we can put you on the schedules. Thank you!!



March Volunteers



SUNDAY	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27 Easter
DEACONS	March 6: Karen Iselin- Bread Joe Iselin, Carolyn Schoneck, Toni Kranich			
USHERS	Ron & Pam Moersfelder Jamie Ellingstad	Scott, Peggy, Halie Behnke	Tim & Kay Burd Paul Schultz	7:30am Volunteers needed 10:00am Joe & Karen Iselin Don Howell
LITURGIST	Kiffie Scott	Paul Gander	Toni Kranich	7:30am Volunteer needed 10:00am Kylara Horner
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Ron & Pam Moersfelder	Joel & Sara Graham	Keith & Susie Krumholz	Volunteers are needed to serve fellowship between the 2 Easter services
AV OPERATOR	Jamie Ellingstad	John Kranich	Dave Snyder	Al Murin
NURSERY CARE	Meghan Peterson	Nikki Burd	Sara Graham	No Nursery
ACOLYTE	Raegan Rediger	Sedona Souther	Ethan VanSwol	Chloe Rediger

Note: Please see the 3 spots we need to fill for Easter Sunday above, AND we are also in need of 2 ushers for the Good Friday Service at 7pm on March 25. Please call the church office if you can help.



**Ladies Lunch Brunch - Wednesday, March 2nd
Pine Street Café (the old Foxville Restaurant)**
 Come for fun and pleasant conversation.
 Order from the menu and pay for your own lunch.

**Deadline for the April issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Thursday, March 17th Thanks, Beth**

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Robert Wang- Minister - (262)-857-2237(H)
 Beth Picazo, Secretary
 Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary
 Nikki Burd, Children's Ministry Director
 Sue Krumholz, The Plymouth Epistle Editor
 Jeffrey Hughes, Custodian
 Marty Baker, Wedding Coordinator
 Diane Olson, Choir Director



**PLYMOUTH CHILDREN'S CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Sara Trewyn, Program Director
 Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director

REV. ROBERT WANG-MINISTER

- Office Hours:
 Tuesday- Friday, 9:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 If possible, please call ahead to make sure
 Pastor Bob is available

PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS

Beth-Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00p.m.
 Steph -Monday-Thursday, 8:30am – 2:30pm
 Church Office: 262-763-6890

Web Site: www.uccply.org

Email: Plymouth@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org

Minister Email: Minister@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org

Financial Secretary Email:

steph@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org



March Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: There will not be Monday Night Adult Bible Study this month. They will resume in April. Beth will be on vacation March 7-11.		1 7pm Choir	2 Noon – Ladies Lunch Bunch 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	3	4 6am Men's Breakfast	5
6 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 8:45am Adult Education 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	7	8 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	9 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir	10	11 6am Men's Breakfast	12
13 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 8:45am Adult Education 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation Fair Trade Sales Blood Pressure Screening	14	15 7pm Choir	16 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	17	18 6am Men's Breakfast	19 11am Game Day
20 8:45am Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:45am Adult Education 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:30am Plymouth Praise	21	22 7pm Choir	23 NO LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	24 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 6am Men's Breakfast 7pm Good Friday Service	26
27 7:30am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30am Coffee & Conversation 10:00am Easter Worship NO Sunday School NO Nursery Care	28	29 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	30 NO LOGS 6:30pm Bell Choir	31		



PLYMOUTH
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53105-1478
262-763-6890
252-763-6802 FAX

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DATE MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT
DELAY
MARCH 2016
EPISTLE

We hope you like our monthly newsletter. It is such a great communicator of happenings at our church. However, if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us by either mail, telephone (262-763-6890) or email - plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org.



"An Easter bonnet? I thought you were Lady Gaga."



March 25th - Good Friday Service -7pm - 2 ushers needed

March 27th - Easter Sunrise Service -7:30am - 2 ushers & 1 liturgist

Please contact Beth in the office if you can fill a spot!

March 27th - Easter Sunday - Fellowship Servers- approximately 8:30am-9:30am

(There will be no Easter Breakfast so we need Fellowship Servers between the two services. This would be great for two families to do together! **Please contact Karen Iselin: 763-8077 or kmiselin@hotmail.com if you can help.**