

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XI, ISSUE VII
JULY 2016



Special points of
interest:

Worship at the Pond
and
Church Picnic

"Oliver the Musical"

Mission Notes!



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The Plymouth Epistle

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

WORDS FROM WANG – “Grief and Despair: A Call For Action”

Rev. John C. Dorhauer, the General Minister/President of the United Church of Christ shared the following in response to the Orlando shooting. Some of you who attended worship the Sunday after appreciated his thoughts as I shared them in my sermon that Sunday.

“While it is too soon to speak about motives, the United Church of Christ nonetheless calls upon all leaders of religious and political bodies to end the constant rhetoric that demonizes same gender loving people. Our speech has consequences, and this is not the first time violence has been directed at the LGBT community with very tragic consequences.

It is long past the time that we end this, including tolerating what amounts to hate speech and homophobia masquerading as religion. It is also long past the time that America enacts sane gun control legislation. Our souls and spirits cannot abide for long when this kind of tragedy is commonplace; and when no substantive action is taken in response to these mass shootings. Our grief, all too real, is not assuaged by what can be the redemptive act of doing all we can to reduce the likelihood of it ever happening again.”

As I reflected in my 6.19.16 sermon, those of us who embrace the ideologies and doctrine of our rather progressive United Church of Christ faith and who support John Dorhauer are feeling the pinch as we live in the in-between-times; as we balance “traditional thinking and practices” with an “expansive and more progressive theology and philosophy;” and as we seek to interpret and **gently** communicate it to our constituents. Let us remain respectful and responsible in our work together in the days to come.

Today one fact remains true as we continue to struggle with our response to a conflicted and wounded America. And that is that “if despair is all that we can feel then hatred wins (Stephen Colbert’s monologue on June 13th).” And therefore we will not stand by and wring our hands in despair without doing something. BTW, if you have not watched Colbert’s monologue I recommend it. It was almost scriptural.

Finally, as I write this I am preparing for a week on Washington Island for the annual clergy forum there; a well-balanced time of spiritual, theological, and ecclesiastical reflection with time for rest and renewal. Blessings and Shalom, sisters and brothers of Plymouth Church.

Stay tuned and see ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities for July

July 3

– 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sermon Theme: “Peace Be to This House”

Note: The sacrament of Holy Communion

July 10 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon Theme: “Good Sam Frantastic”

July 17 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Sermon Theme: “Choosing the Better”

July 24 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Sermon Theme: “To God be the Glory, Amen”

July 31 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Sermon Theme: “Soul Searching”

August 7 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Sermon Theme: “Spiritual Moving Sales”

Note: The sacrament of Holy Communion



OLIVER THE MUSICAL

(Opens July 22 and runs through August 7)

As he occasionally does, pastor Bob is in a show this summer with the PM&L Theatre family in Antioch, IL. This time it's the classic; *Oliver*, the musical version of Charles Dickens *Oliver Twist*. With memorable songs like “Consider Yourself,” “Who Will Buy,” “Food, Glorious Food,” this classic show is always a crowd pleaser. Pastor Bob has been cast in the roll of Mr. Bumble who is described as a “self-

righteous, self-appointed beadle who oversees the operations of the workhouse where Oliver lives as a child. He preaches Christian morality but behaves without compassion towards the paupers in his care.” Mr. Bumble’s big numbers are “Boy For Sale,” “I Shall Scream,” and “Oliver.”

It certainly goes without saying the PBob would love to see some Plymouth Church people in the audience but what say we organize a Plymouth Church day where we might attend together making it a church fellowship opportunity. Therefore we would like to propose the Sunday matinee (2:30) performance on August 7th. We would also like to invite those interested to join us for lunch at the Colony House in Trevor (which is about half way between Burlington and Antioch). We can reserve a block of tickets and actually receive a group discount which will make the ticket price around \$17. Dinner cost would be on the individual’s tab. So let’s see if we can make this happen. There will be a sign up sheet in the parlor on Sundays but you can always call the church office to commit. If you wish to see the show on a different date then go to pmltheatre.com for tickets and consider yourself at home!

It's July, and I am already gearing up for another great year with our Children's Ministry programs!! First I would like to say that I am SO blessed to have so many volunteers that help me with our youth in our church. Thank you again to all that took part of LOGOS and Sunday School this year! Like I have said before, I couldn't do my job without YOU!! I am looking forward to a new year with a new office, as soon and things are ready.

The summer is busy for all of us, so our Youth Group will meet again in the fall. LOGOS and our Sunday School program will begin in September. BUT.....we do have Vacation Bible School coming up!! We will meet on Monday, August 1st - Wednesday, August 3rd from 5:30pm till 7pm. This is for all children from 3 years old thru 2nd grade. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out or if your child will be joining us. You can reach me on my cell phone: #262-206-4943 or by email: massnikburd@yahoo.com. Please let me know by Wednesday July 27th if you will be bringing your child to VBS. And anyone who would like to help out please let me know ASAP. Thank you!! I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!! - Nikki Burd, Children's Ministry Director



Church Picnic: 12:30
Bring: A Dish to Pass,
Lawn Chairs,
Swimming and Fishing gear



Worship at 1the pond at
11:30am
(worship at church
still at 9:30)

Sunday July 17th Annual Worship at Wilson's Pond & All Church Picnic

See sign-up sheet and directions on ushers table or call the church office.



By the time you read this, my year as moderator will have come to a close. It has been a pleasure to serve during this busy and eventful time. Last July, we were finalizing plans for how to spend the money raised by the *Forward in Faith* campaign. Now the office staff welcome visitors to the church from their new office space by the front door. We have a new kitchen and dining area and had the opportunity to put them to the test at the dedication in May. (They passed with flying colors.)

We said good bye to some familiar faces, and welcomed others. Our long-time director of the hand bell choir, Carol Berndt, left in the fall, but Charis Mitchell stepped in until we find a permanent replacement. The Operating Council faced some unexpected changes as Vice-Moderator Julie Klaehn had to step down for health reasons, and Kylara Horner moved from the area. With the start of our new governing year, we say hello to our new Moderator, Ron Moersfelder, our new Vice-Moderator, Laura Murin, and new members Nikki Bird and Jamie Edwards.

As a congregation, we had the joy of welcoming eight young people who were confirmed on Pentecost. We have seen the future, and it lies with them.

Kiffie Scott and Steve Sullivan have completed their terms on the Operating Council, and I would like to thank them for all they have done with their many years of service. Stepping into the job of Vice-Moderator and then assuming the role of Moderator was made much easier for me by having Steve as a mentor and leader.

For many of us, change is hard, but it is also hard to avoid. Embracing it may be our best choice. The start of a new (fiscal) year is a good time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. Pastor Bob has already talked of a new focus as we move from maintenance to mission. Steve's impassioned plea that we continue to extend our extravagant welcome into our community may lead us in as-yet unknown directions. I look forward to being a part of it.

- Mary Ellen Close



- 3 - Kathy Hartlage
- 4 - Hadsady Sirimanotham
- 5 - Amber Wilson
- 6 - Toni Meinel
Paul Schultz
- 7 - George Sandstrom
Ian Lunderskov
- 8 - Elaine Burd
- 10 - Tim Ellingstad
- 12 - Natalie Dukes
- 13 - Olivia Wanasek
- 15 - Mary Kastengren
Jenna Lindell

- 17 - Rachel Jones
- 18 - Nikki Burd
Eli King
- 20 - Gary Jagodzinski
- 22 - Rob King
- 24 - Kay Burd
- 27 - Isabelle Jagodzinski
- 28 - Joyce Bateman
- 29 - Olin Ellingstad
Saije Foster
- 30 - Dan Iselin
- 31 - Christian Brenner

- Don & Julie Klaehn – July 8
- Chris Warner & Robyn Kay – July 9
- David & Judy Heinz – July 10
- Lee & Barb Freeman – July 11
- Steve & Tami Soetenga – July 14
- Joel & Sara Graham – July 22
- Ben & Allie Zusan – July 24
- Anson & Marcia Harlfinger – July 30
- Bob & Judy Wang – July 30
- Phil & Stephanie Rediger – July 31



To My Plymouth Church Family,

Thank you to all who attended my April recital! It was great to visit with so many of you who I have not seen in years! Thanks to the financial support I received that weekend, my study-abroad trip is now **FULLY FUNDED!** Thank you for your generosity and love.

Sincerely,

Josh Wang

We send blessings and congratulations to Ben and Allie Zusan on the birth of their daughter Emerson Lee on April 19.

Also to Steve and Kylara Horner on the birth of their daughter Emma Eileen on May 22nd.



Looking Ahead

A MISSION TO SERVE...

Thank you. It has been my pleasure to serve you and Plymouth as part of the church's leadership for a number of years, first in the Board of Trustees, and later in the three Moderator Track positions – Vice-Moderator, Moderator, and (currently as I write this, but soon to be former) Past-Moderator.

During that time, Plymouth has changed, and I like to think for the better: We've modernized and reformed our system of government, we've shifted our budgets from emphasizing frugality to emphasizing the church's missions and service, and we've completed a spectacular new addition to the facility which will allow us to serve both ourselves and our community better.

That change and growth will continue forever, as Plymouth adapts and changes to better serve and spread the word of our Loving God in both Burlington and the world beyond. I will be a part of it, along with the rest of you.

But for now, because of our new governance rules – which attempt to ensure diversity in our church leadership (rather than just having the same leaders in semi-permanent positions) – I won't be doing it on the Operating Council. That's good, because we all need a change of work and perspective once in a while. There are plenty of jobs at Plymouth that still need doing. And you don't need to be part of the governing structure to get them done.

That's part of the beauty of our new system. If you see something that needs doing – something that you're passionate about – you can go and get it done with the church's blessing and a minimum of red tape. You can follow your own mission within the church. So, that's what I'll be doing.

As I write this, there's a lot of focus in the country on the struggles of LGBT brothers and sisters. Whether you realize it or not, that struggle extends even into Burlington and the surrounding communities – communities that Plymouth serves.

One of the missions that continues for our church is to extend the UCC's practice of Extravagant Welcome into our community. Even though most of us know that Plymouth welcomes everyone – including our LGBT brethren – there's still more that we can do to take that welcome outside our walls, and to stand with all people who are oppressed or ridiculed. Because we are all God's children.

I don't know exactly what my next mission to serve Plymouth and our community will be, but I suspect it will be to extend and strengthen our Extravagant Welcome. Because only when we serve all of God's children are we truly serving God. What's *your* mission?

See you in church!

– Steve Sullivan, (former) Past-Moderator



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

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
- toothpaste, toothbrushes
- hair spray, hand soap
- feminine hygiene products
- canned spaghetti
- brown sugar, sugar
- mayonnaise, mustard, catsup
- disposable razors

- mouth wash, shampoo
- tissues, toilet paper
- diapers (all sizes)
- macaroni, cereal
- jelly, peanut butter
- laundry detergent
- dish soap, deodorant



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

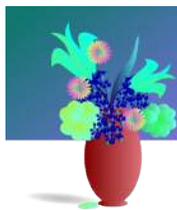
Plymouth Children's Center receives funds from grocery stores

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!!



JULY 18th - GAME DAY Games-11AM - 5PM

Bring something to play, but be prepared to play something else fun!

Young, old, and in-between, all are welcome!

Plymouth UCC Game Night!





SUNDAY	July 3 9:30am	July 10 9:30am	July 17 9:30am	July 24 9:30am	July 31
DEACONS	July 3: Karen Iselin – Bread Joe Iselin, Carolyn Schoneck, Toni Kranich				
USHERS	John Kranich Sue Alby	Dick & Joan Shecterle	Scott Hoffman Barb Freeman	Scott & Peggy Behnke	Paul Schultz Don Howell
LITURGIST	Pam Moersfelder	Paul Gander	Margaret Mihalyi	Toni Kranich	Kiffie Scott
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Gidget Brown Christine Schultz	LaVonne Howell Kathy Pieters	Marge Hoffman Marilee Hoffman	Steph Eveland Diane Hanson	Rod & Lori Benstead
AV OPERATOR	Jamie Edwards	Ron Patla	Al Murin	Dave Snyder	John Kranich



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch” Wednesday, July 6th
Pine Street Café (the old Foxville Restaurant)**

Come for fun and pleasant conversation.
Order from the menu and pay for your own lunch.
If you need a ride, call the church office at 763-6890.

**Deadline for the August issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Wednesday, July 20th . Thanks, Beth**

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Robert E. Wang, Minister (262-857-2237)
Beth Picazo, Secretary
Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary
Nikki Burd, Children’s Ministry Director
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. BOB WANG, MINISTER

– Office Hours:

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

PLYMOUTH UCC SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beth-Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Steph -Monday-Thursday, 8:30am – 2:00pm
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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6am Men's Breakfast	2
3 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Conversation	4  Church Office Closed	5	6	7	8 6am Men's Breakfast	9
10 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Conversation 10:30am Fair Trade Sales	11	12	13 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting	14	15 6am Men's Breakfast	16 11am Game Day
17 9:30am Worship 11:30am Worship at Wilson Pond 12:30pm Church picnic	18	19	20	21	22 6am Men's Breakfast	23
24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Conversation	25	26	27	28	29 6am Men's Breakfast	30
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Conversation	Notes:					



**PLYMOUTH
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REQUESTED
DATE MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT
DELAY
JULY 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 mail, telephone (262-763-6890) or email - plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org

CELEBRATE OUR



INDEPENDENCE



MONTHLY SHOEBOX DONATION LIST:

July - flip flops
August - school supplies (pencils are most important)

SMALL CHANGE DAYS - July 31st & Oct 30th

Please start saving your change and bring it to church!
Donations go toward purchasing oral hydration packets for
Starving people!