

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

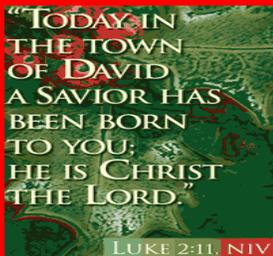
VOL XI, ISSUE XII
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Special points of
interest:

TIME YET TO GRAB A
GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS
FAMILIES!

Still also looking for
Coordinators for
Christmas Dinner!!



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The Plymouth Epistle

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

WORDS FROM WANG – “Holiday Greetings”

Well the election season is over so people don't have much to argue about on FB these days. Wrong! And so it's the annual “I want-to-say-Merry-Christmas-out-loud-in-a-public-place-and-don't-care-if-I-offend-someone” debate.

It was still a week before Thanksgiving (one of the holidays of the season I might add) and someone had already posted the comment defending this self-centered argument. Ugh. Here we go again! Someone else defended him suggesting that no one really means any harm and that most people have good intentions and do it because they have strong convictions to their holiday of preference. More power to them but that just doesn't cut it for me.

Truth be told, those who are more sensitive to the issue are not questioning or critiquing someone's good intentions. We all have good intentions when we are communicating with others around us. So, for me it continues to be about working toward a theology of inclusion. It's about asking the question “is it possible that someone in my midst will not feel included with my words?”

Consider the following analogy. You are hosting a dinner party. As you prepare the menu you learn that one of the guests you invited has a special dietary need. Say they are a vegetarian. Do you only offer meat as a main course and risk excluding that guest from eating at your party? Of course not; you choose a menu that is inclusive of their taste and/or need.

May I invite you, therefore, to think of our language as a banquet of greetings and ask that you consider the fact that the words we choose at any given time may be exclusive; or simply insensitive to the feelings or beliefs of someone “other” than us.

All that I'm asking is that we are courteous enough to choose words from our vocabulary buffet that will be inclusive of those whom we direct them. Think, then perhaps, of your holiday “greetings” as Hallmark greeting cards; you wouldn't send a Christmas card to your Jewish neighbor would you? If you sent anything at all you would probably send them a Happy Hanukkah or generic Happy Holidays card. And so it goes with our holiday greetings.

Some say that when we consider “common denominators” or “happy mediums” that we are watering down the message. I disagree. Furthermore, I truly dislike the term political correctness. I prefer using “inclusive language” and seek to use it 24/7.

We live in a very diverse society and the least that we can do is acknowledge that fact in what we say and do; and consider it common courtesy in spite of our own personal convictions. It really means getting outside of ourselves once in a while.

Therefore, knowing the audience to which I write now: May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. I trust that **includes** all of you.

See ya' in church.

Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities for December

December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-11; Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Theme: “Look No Further!”

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Church children and youth to lead worship; drama, singing, and bells

December 18 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Church choir to present – “JOY; a Gospel Christmas Celebration”

December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 - Family Friendly Service with Candle lighting Ceremony

7:00 – Traditional Candlelight Service (w/choir)

December 25 – Christmas Sunday

Join us for more singing and celebrating.

10:00 Worship service to be very informal and to coincide with preparing and serving our annual free Christmas dinner.

January 1 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Theme: “The Jesus in You”

Packer Party—Sunday December 4th at Noon

Join us after worship to cheer on our Packers and watch the game on the big screen. There will be a sign-up sheet at church on November 27.

GO PACK GO!



PACKER PARTY



PLYMOUTH PRAISE IN WORSHIP – December 24

It's the most wonderful time of the year especially when we get to make music together sing the songs that have survived the test of time; but perhaps even when we sing a new holiday song. Given, however, the way the Sundays play out on the calendar we will not be leading worship on any Sunday in December. Pastor Bob, will however be seeking musical support for the early (4:00) Christmas Eve service. We will therefore get together briefly after church on the 18th to run through a couple songs together. Hope many of you will be able to join us.

December 18 @ 11:30 – Rehearse for the next Sunday

December 24 @ 3:00 - Rehearsal with 4:00 worship to follow.

We always welcome new singers or players. Come help us make a joyful noise.



Adopt -a- Family

There are still gifts remaining on the Adopt-A-Family Tree!!

If you would like to help with this Mission project you still have time to stop in and take a look at what's left.

Gifts need to be brought to church by **Sunday, December 4th**, so feel free to stop in during the week if you don't have an opportunity to on Sunday morning.

Monetary contributions are also welcome if you would rather have Betty and Karen do the shopping for you! Simply put a check in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off at the church office and put "Adopt-A-Family" in the memo line.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Shoebox
Project

Our 200 shoeboxes are on their way! We want to thank all those who contributed items for the boxes and helped us reach our goal this year.

We appreciate your overwhelming generosity. Small gifts really do touch the hearts of many children.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING...

For 113 years, the **Christmas Fund** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a leading light in the mission of the United Church of Christ. A Veteran of the Cross is a term historically used by the UCC Christmas Fund to describe clergy and lay employees who have served and are serving the church.

The Christmas Fund is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ and provides our denomination with a means to directly assist those who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

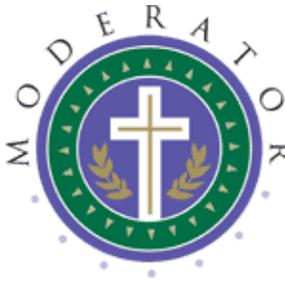


The theme of the 2016 Christmas Fund Offering is ***“God’s Love Colors Everything”***. The UCC’s goal this year is to raise \$1.7 million to help support the ministries of love and care. In the spirit of love, we invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider and support this year’s appeal, and to spread the word so that others will also join in this vital ministry. This year’s offering will be taken on **December 18th**.

Plymouth UCC
Game Night!



Because of the Holidays, we will be cancelling Game Day for December -- Happy Holidays! We will resume in January, weather willing, and may even have our postponed movie night then. Stay tuned for further information!



FROM OUR MODERATOR....

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”, or is it?

I struggle each year getting into the Christmas Spirit; Pam will tell you I can be a real “bah humbug” type of guy. The Christmas music starts too early. I’ve stopped putting up outside lights. The media tells me every year that it won’t be a good Christmas unless I buy just the right gifts for my loved ones. The Christmas season does seem “most wonderful” when I stop to think about how God has blessed me and my family with his love and generous gifts. And I think it’s the same for many of you. But I know that for many other people the Christmas season is a real time for basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, a show of love. Let’s focus on the real story of Christmas, the gift of love that God gave us in the birth of his son Jesus Christ. Whenever possible this holiday season, let’s return God’s love by giving generously to others in need. And in doing so, we will make this the “most wonderful time of year”.

It was great to see our church family gather in fellowship at the recent potluck dinner in our newly remodeled space. And the same can be said for the spaghetti dinner. Both were very successful so watch for more of those opportunities to come. Thanks go out to Nikki Burd and many others for making that happen.

The recent community event that Pastor Bob organized in October to learn more about Muslims and the Islamic faith was very timely and successful. Since then I’ve heard many people express an interest that they want to learn more about other faiths, particularly Islam and how the Koran compares to our Bible. Studying other religions is certainly worthwhile, but a part of me realizes how little many of us know about our own faith Christianity. Like my college German professor once told me, “Herr Moersfelder, you could learn German a lot faster if you had a better understanding of the English language first”. How true. So I’ve been thinking...maybe we need to have some classes (discussion style) about what it means to be a Christian. What were we taught in confirmation a long time ago? What have we learned along the way? Where are we now? Perhaps this is something we could do during Lent. For now it is just my thoughts being put down on paper. Let me know what you think and watch for more information to come.

Merry Christmas to all....

Ron Moersfelder

The Plymouth Church Choir presents.....

“Joy!”

*A Gospel Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 18 at 10:00am*



Another month has flown by with our Children's Ministry.....

We had our first Spaghetti dinner, which we raised \$300.00!! The profits went back to our Hahn Endowment Fund, that helped our confirmation kids go on their retreat last year. Some of our youth/confirmands helped with serving, cleaning up and socializing with our dinner guests. We will be making this annual church event for years to come. What a great way to share our beautiful fellowship hall with our community.

We had our ButterBraid fundraiser and raised \$312.00!! Thank you to all our church members that purchased these yummy items from our youth. And thank you to all our LOGOS kids that sold them to friends and family. This is just another fun way to help support the kids in our church. The money we raised will be added to the tuition dues for our Haiti student.

Our 8th graders helped deliver the Christmas Shoeboxes to Our Savior Lutheran Church that were put together by our Missions Committee. Those kids really enjoy giving back and helping out in our community. That same night the 7th and 8th graders put together a cheese and sausage tray for our local police department, to say Thank You for their service in our community. We are teaching these wonderful kids what it's like to give back to the community, to be a good Christian, and to love our neighbors no matter who they are. This is what Plymouth Congregational UCC is all about right??

We will be having our Children's Advent Program/LOGOS Sunday on December 11th. Please come and enjoy our kids in church, we guarantee it will warm your hearts and get you ready for Christmas!

Blessings to ALL!!

Nikki Burd
Children's Ministry Director





Pastor Bob has a new home phone number.....(262)308-4180

Please make the church office your primary way to contact him, but in emergencies during non-working hours he may be contacted at this number.

Urgent need for a COORDINATOR!

We are still looking for a couple people to help get this year's Christmas Dinner off the ground! We have lots of information from previous years so you certainly won't have to start from scratch.



PLEASE prayerfully consider *Christmas Dinner* this important gift to our community and contact the church office if you can help organize this year's dinner.



- 2 -Chuck Alby
- 3 - Gabe King
Jay Bigelow
- 4 - Ellen Krikie
Holly Hines
- 5 -Gloria Powell
Randy Wessinger
- 6 - Janet Hamric
Anna Rothering

- 8 - Stephanie Rediger
Kirby Befort
Jack Dukes
- 10 - Lisa Mushel
Angelina Olson
- 13 - Judy Yonk
- 14 - Terry Simenson
Levi Wilson
- 17 - Abby Miller

- 19 - Bernice Zygowicz
- 21 - Calia Freitag
- 25 - Nancy Foster
Denise Bigelow
- 26 - Sara Graham
Nathaniel Graham
- 27- Mikayla Murin
Breck Keller
- 29 - Deanna Snyder
- 31 - Don Howell



- Craig & Tina Wightman – December 3
- Tyler & Becky Daniels – December 19
- Dick & Betty Peterson – December 20
- Bill & Kerry-Anne Greeter – December 22
- Fenton & Marge Harder – December 29
- Don & LaVonne Howell – December 29
- John & Lisa Kastengren – December 31

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bob Zygowicz who passed away on November 1, 2016. We hold them in our prayers during this difficult time.



**Pictures from Heritage Sunday
November 20, 2016**





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
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.



Blood pressure screening -

Blood pressure screening will take place December 11th in the Fireside Room 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!!



December Volunteers



SUNDAY	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Dec 25
DEACONS	December 6: Karen Iselin - Bread Joe Iselin, Carolyn Schoneck, Toni Kranich				
USHERS	Joe & Karen Iselin John Kranich	Larry & Ellen Gyger Paul Schultz	Dick & Betty Peterson Scott Hoffman	4pm Nikki Burd, Tristan & Marissa Post 9pm Volunteers needed	None needed
LITURGIST	Margaret Mihalyi	None needed	None needed	4pm Volunteer needed 9pm Volunteer needed	None needed
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Joel & Sara Graham	Christine Schultz Julie Klaehn	Karen Iselin Betty Peterson	None needed	None needed
AV OPERATOR	Jamie Ellingstad	Dave Snyder	John Kranich	4pm Volunteer needed 9pm Volunteer needed	Al Murin
NURSERY CARE	Joel Graham	Ev Price	Nikki Burd	No nursery care	No nursery care
ACOLYTE	Chloe Rediger	Elysia Escobar	None needed	None needed	None needed



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch”
Wednesday, December 7th
Pine Street Café**

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 January issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Friday, December 16th. Thanks, Beth**

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Robert Wang- Minister - (262)308-4180 (H)
Beth Picazo, Secretary
Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary
Nikki Burd, Children’s Ministry Director
Jeffrey Hughes, Custodian
Marty Baker, Wedding Coordinator
Diane Olson, Organist & Bell Choir Director
Jamie Edwards, Choir Director
Lisa Carnahan, Choir Accompanist

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. – 3:30p.m.

Fridays, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.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



December Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Burlington Christmas Parade	3
				4 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation Noon Packer Party	5	6 7pm Choir
11 8:45am Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship – Children's Program NO Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:00am Fair Trade Sales 11:00am Blood Pressure Screening	12	13 10:30 A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	14 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir	15	16 6am Men's Breakfast	17 9am Cantata rehearsal NO GAME DAY THIS MONTH
18 8:00am Cantata Rehearsal 10:00am Worship – Choir Cantata 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:30am Plymouth Praise	19	20 7pm Choir	21 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	22	23 NO Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24 4pm Worship w/Praise Band 7pm Worship w/ Choir
25 10am Worship NO Sunday School 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 NO CHOIR	28 NO LOGOS NO BELLS	29	30 NO Men's Breakfast CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31



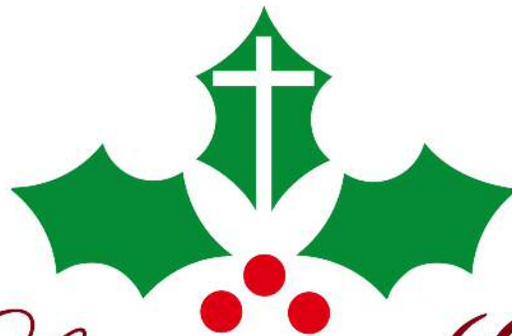
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53105-1478
262-763-6890
262-763-6802 FAX**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED
DATE MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT
DELAY
DECEMBER 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.



"It's the perfect Christmas gift - Hope on a Rope."



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm Family Service with Praise Band
7:00pm Traditional Service with Choir