

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XII ISSUE V
MAY 2017



Special points of
interest:

Spring Clean Up Day

New Women's
Fellowship Group begins!

Community Prayer
Breakfast

Annual Meeting!



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The Plymouth Epistle

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

WORDS FROM WANG – “That None May Have Died In Vain”

We have all heard it said that every life may be such that we seek to *live every day*; with a sense of purpose, integrity, and the will for doing good as we seek to make the world a better place just as God envisioned it for all God's people.

I am not one to romanticize war regardless of the plain or soil where battles have been fought. Neither do I feel that any war marked by time and casualties makes sense when it comes to promoting life on earth. Never the less, I am one who understands the need to give honor to those who gave their lives to something that in their hearts was a worthy cause; that none may have died in vain. Edgar A. Guest captures these sentiments well in a poem that he wrote entitled *Memorial Day*.

The finest tribute we can pay unto our hero dead today,
Is not a rose wreath, white and red, in memory of the blood they shed;
It is to stand beside each mound, each couch of consecrated ground,
And pledge ourselves as warriors true unto the work they died to do.

Into God's valleys where they lie at rest, beneath the open sky,
Triumphant now o'er every foe, as living tributes let us go.
No wreath of rose or immortelles or spoken word or tolling bells
will do today, unless we give our pledge that liberty shall live.

The finest tribute we can pay unto our hero dead today
Is not of speech or roses red, but living, throbbing hearts instead,
That shall renew the pledge they sealed with death upon the battlefield:
That freedom's flag shall bear no stain and free men wear no tyrant's chain.

Although we do not consider Memorial Day a “church holy day,” never the less, we think it still important to remember when it comes to the topic of preserving freedom and the right to worship God in whatever way we see fit; so long as we, first and foremost, give honor and praise to the God of all the ages; the One who gave us life.

So remember our challenge this coming Memorial Day weekend: If not in worship, if not in community, or if not with gathered family, we ask that you do consider some time set aside for sacred and sanctimonious praise before you fire up the grill or gas up the boat or whatever it is that you do to gear up for summer.

And as always, I hope to see ya' in church.
Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities for May

May 7 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Theme: “*Having the Goodwill*”

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

May 14– 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 7:55-60

Sermon Theme: “*The Promise Comes With a Price*”

May 21 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Sermon Theme: “*Finely Fostering Our Faith*”

May 28 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Esther 9:18-23

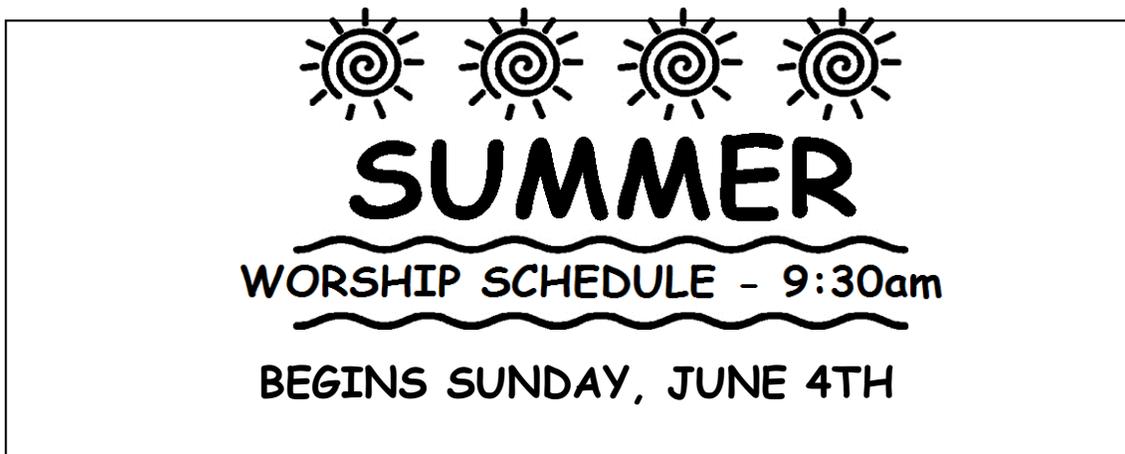
Sermon Theme: “*From Mourning Into A Holiday*”

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: “*Wind Song*”

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion



PLYMOUTH PRAISE IN WORSHIP – May 28

Now is the month of Maying so the madrigal goes and so goes the spirit of music making at Plymouth. Though we intend to keep that spirit moving over the course of the summer on occasion, this month marks the last formal month for the efforts of those who help Plymouth Praise bring newer music to the Plymouth worshipping community. So don't miss.

“Plymouth Praise” is a group of singers and players who lead with a more contemporary style of worship music and do so typically on the 4th Sunday of the month.

May 21 Rehearse immediately following the annual meeting

May 28 @ 8:-45 - Rehearsal with 10:00 worship to follow.

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

JOIN GOD'S GALS (GG)

Curious about what GG is all about? Recognizing a growing need for support, love, and comradery for all women in our church, the Mission Team is reaching out to try to fill that void with the formation of **God's Gals**.



Women's Fellowship

Who can join? Any woman in our church and their friends.

How can I find out more about God's Gals? On Sunday, May 7, please plan to attend a salad luncheon after the service. Bring a salad to share and your ideas on how often the group should meet, activities, guest speakers, projects, etc. – THE SKY IS THE LIMIT! All suggestions are welcome.

GOD'S GALS will be a comfortable environment to express your needs, concerns, and to make new friends or to renew past friendships.

The Mission Team is excited to get started and looking forward to seeing each & every one of you at the salad luncheon in May. If you can't make it that day, we will make sure that future meetings will be posted on the church calendar and in the Sunday bulletin. A Facebook page may be established at some point in the future too.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 13

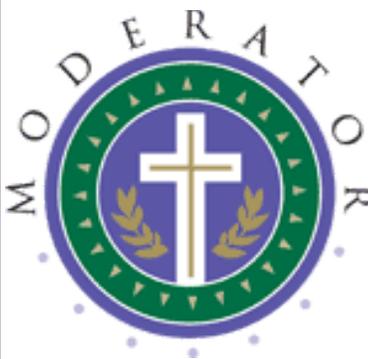
8:30am—Noon

We have inside and outside tasks to do, so come lend a hand and help clean things up around Plymouth Church! Bring your own cleaning supplies or yard tools. The more hands, the lighter the load!!



Church Camp

Visit www.ucci.org to see all the camps that are available and for registration and for scholarship information!!



Here are some random thoughts about church, and about life, that I just want to share with everyone....

First, if you haven't already noticed, check out the new flooring in the parlor bathroom and kitchen. And also check out the new faucet in that bathroom. Some much needed and appreciated improvements. But what you probably don't know is that we owe a great deal of thanks to Pastor Bob and Jeff Hughes, our janitor. Bob got a great deal on the cost of the vanity and faucet and used his carpentry skills to install them. And in the process Jeff worked alongside him and learned some new skills. The end result is it saved the church a lot of money. Bob and Jeff: thank you very much.

Although it has taken longer than expected, good things happen to those who wait. The carpet in the sanctuary should be installed soon, and with that comes the installation of a special sound system for those of us with hearing impairments.

If you are like me and not handy with tools, don't worry, there is work we can do too. Operating Council still needs to fill some very important church positions, including church recording secretary and vice moderator for the next church year. If you are asked to serve I hope you will say yes. Better yet, just step forward and volunteer.

On a lighter note, Pam and I just got back from a family wedding near Augusta, Georgia. Our son Matt's step-daughter (Dana's daughter Bridgette) was married in an outdoor setting that was beautiful and things went just as planned. Several things impressed me that are worth mentioning. Pam just couldn't get over how lush and green the foliage was along the roads between the airport in Atlanta and the outdoor wedding venue near Augusta. Wisconsin is getting closer to being green but the scenery we saw was just beautiful.

The other thing to note was the way Matt and Dana's friends supported our family and came to the wedding, from Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Ohio. Pam and I don't get to see this group of friends often enough so being able to spend the whole weekend together was a gift. The friends in Augusta shared their homes and food and were a huge help in getting last minute details done. Our daughter-in-laws Katie (son Tim's wife) and Brooke (Mark's wife) no sooner got to the wedding and jumped right to work to take care of a last minute snafu with some flowers. Katie always says that when the chips are down the "Moersfelder Team" gathers together to get the job done. Well, this weekend, I could not have been prouder of "Team Moersfelder" and all our friends. One last piece of useless trivia that just made my jaw drop in amazement. We flew through Atlanta which is probably the busiest airport in the US. How busy is it you ask? Well we had to look that up but on average 250,000 people PER DAY go through Atlanta's airport (folks: that's almost 100 million passengers a year!!!). And somehow they handle it all pretty smoothly. By comparison Milwaukee's airport handled approximately 7 million passengers in all of 2016.

Thanks for listening...Ron

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST – May 4th (Vet's Terrace)

It's not too late to get signed up or even show up and register that morning. The event begins at 7:30 and concludes before 9:00 a.m.

By holding such an event, we are hopefully sending a strong message to the Burlington area that, as churches of varying backgrounds and traditions, we are able to cross boundaries that we may unite in support of and prayer for our community and country; this is part of the traditional *National Day of Prayer*.

We, at Plymouth are committed to filling two tables (16) with members and friends of Plymouth Church so please notify (and pay) the church office if you are interested in attending. If we exceed that number we will add on to our total, of course. The \$10 fee covers breakfast and expenses for the event. As the poster states, BASD superintendent, Peter Smet, will be speaking about his faith and calling as a key leader in our community and how his spiritual life sustains him in his role as an educator. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and will conclude before 9:00. Refer questions to the church office or Pastor Bob.



The year of LOGOS is over!! I can't believe how fast it flew by!! We had a great year, as usual. Nothing warms my heart more than spending time with all these wonderful kids.

We enjoyed seeing the LOGOS kids singing and being liturgist at our last LOGOS Sunday for the year. I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to ALL my volunteers that help make this multi-generational program a success!!!

Sunday School is almost over for the year as well. Our last Sunday school session is on Mother' Day. Thank you to ALL my Sunday school teachers that volunteer their time to educate our little ones on Sunday morning.

Vacation Bible School dates have been changed.....We will be having VBS on Tuesday, August 8th, Wednesday, August 9th and Thursday, August 10th from 5:30pm - 7pm. Stay tuned for more details.....

Thank you for your continued support as your Children's Ministry Director! Blessings to all!

Nikki Burd

ONA 2017 “Delving Deeper while not pushing or rushing our decision”

Thank you to those who have (and continue to be) been engaged in reading the book *Torn* as a Lenten study. Although we did not have many attend the formal discussion group a number of you are conversing in more informal settings and we encourage you to continue. The hope is to have more planned discussion groups this spring and even into the summer months.

Some of the comments that have come from *Torn* discussions are:

- ◆ He really struggled as he came to terms with his being gay and Christian
- ◆ He really did his homework when developing a biblical understanding and perspective on being gay and remaining faithful to God’s word
- ◆ Wow. I never thought of those scriptures that way; they really don’t apply to being gay or simply being “attracted to the same sex” in the way that some people suggest it.
- ◆ No matter who he went to in his “conservative Christian tradition” they still all “threw the Bible” at him with the same literalistic interpretation
- ◆ Others simply told him “don’t be gay” like you command a dog “to sit” like it was that simple
- ◆ Parents or the environment “growing up” really have nothing to do with a person “coming out” as being gay
- ◆ I have no doubt Jesus would accept and spend time with gays. I think that’s a powerful argument
- ◆ On this issue I don’t presume to know what God intends for certain. But I am not to judge others.
- ◆ Stereo types of gay behavior are exaggerated and often distorted
- ◆ Science has contributed much to the debate though there are no theories (pro or con) as to “the causes” of a person being gay
- ◆ I’ve always believed gay people were “wired” differently from straight people. By that I mean I’ve thought it wasn’t a choice they made
- ◆ I didn’t buy into the idea that how a person was raised had much influence
- ◆ God may have created man and woman for the reproduction of our species but God also created men and women who have an attraction to their same sex. As it says in Timothy I 4:4-5 “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Let’s keep the honest and respectful discussions going. And remember, we will not have a congregational meeting to discuss and finally vote on the motion to become ONA until we are confident that all members and friends of Plymouth Church have engaged in the resources being shared and that we are prepared to make a well informed decision.

Question Box: It’s actually a “Question Bucket” (thanks to Christine Schultz who made it). There is a rainbow colored bucket located in the church parlor for submitting thoughtful and respectful questions regarding the ONA process and the colorful arena that is the LGBTQ reality. Any and all questions will be addressed to the best of our abilities at the next scheduled listening session. You can identify yourself or remain anonymous.

Our church Annual Meeting is May 21 (after church); there will be a report on the ONA process but otherwise no listening session in May.

Next ONA Listening Session #4 – June24 @ 11:00-12:00 (in the sanctuary)

MISSION MOMENTS

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY COLLECTION DATES

Sunday, May 14 & 21

It's that time of the year again when the kids will soon be out of school and some families may be struggling to provide lunch for their children during the summer months. We can all help by bringing in jars of peanut butter and jelly on Sunday, May 14 and 21st. All donations will be taken to LOVE, Inc. for distribution.



SHOE BOX ITEMS FOR MAY & JUNE

- May – combs & small hand mirrors (plastic or travel type)
- June – T-shirts (both long & short sleeve)

**Beginning Monday, June 5th
the church office hours are:**

Monday—Thursday 8:30-2:00



(Beth is only in the office until 12:30...Steph is in till 2:00.)

**Game Day
May 20th
11am - 5pm**

Bring a game to play or come learn a new one! welcome, however children must be accompanied by a parent.



New \$ Budget

There will be a Budget Hearing after worship on May 7, 2017 to review and discuss the proposed church budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.

May Birthdays



- 1 - Bryce Clark
- 2 - Pam Wanasek
Barb Freeman
- 3 - Nan Wilson
- 4 - John Olisar
- 6 - Sara Wanasek
- 7 - Sam Jagodzinski
Sebastien Rediger
- 10 - Margaret Mihalyi
Dorothy Winkler
- 11 - Christine Brauning
- 12 - Barb Church
- 13 - Ann Edwards
Kate Bonner
Jaeda Mendez
- 14 - Kim Wessinger
- 15 - JJ Kastengren
Breanna Volling
- 18 - Jack Simenson
- 19 - Katie Simenson
Tina Wightman
- 23 - Molly Keller
Erik Kerkhoff
- 24 - Casey Reich
- 25 - Carmen McKinney
- 27 - John Kranich
Alex Wilson
- 31 - Jayne Bella



- Bob & Jackie Kastengren – May 3
- Ken & Sue Nelson – May 10
- Rollie & Debbie Witte – May 15
- Rob & Jennie King – May 22
- Joe & Karen Iselin – May 25
- Bill Wald & Penny Yanke – May 26
- Steph Eveland & Diane Hanson – May 27
- Steve Sullivan & Kiffie Scott – May 28

Special birthday blessings to Nan Wilson who turns 93 on May 3rd.



Dear Missions Committee,
Thank you so much for sending me the survival basket for finals week. I appreciate your kindness and it will definitely come in handy.

Thanks again!
Eric Behnke

Dear Missions Committee,
We wanted to thank you, and the rest of the congregation at Plymouth Congregational UCC, for the generous study buddy gift baskets you sent us! It was a welcome surprise to have some treats that fueled us to focus, as well as some thoughtful and uplifting words of support. We are so lucky to have a community of friends and family that are thinking of us, even when we're halfway across the country.

Thank you again!
Amanda Gyger & Bill Ryan

Dear Members of the Missions Committee,
Thank you so much for the finals care package. It was such a nice surprise! I've been sharing it with my roommate, and its helping us both get through the last month of the semester.

Thanks for thinking of me!
Mollie Wang



We extend our deepest sympathy to the Hoffman Families after the passing of Marge Hoffman's brother Ted Zaspel on April 14th.



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

- Organic Tamari Roasted Almonds — \$5.00 per package
- Fair Trade 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:

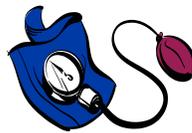
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup | mouth wash, shampoo |
| toothpaste, toothbrushes | tissues, toilet paper |
| hair spray, hand soap | diapers (all sizes) |
| feminine hygiene products | macaroni, cereal |
| canned spaghetti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



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

Blood pressure screening -May 14th

Blood pressure screening will take place 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!!

May Volunteers

SUNDAY	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
DEACONS	May 7: Beth Picazo- Bread Toni Kranich, Ron Moersfelder			
USHERS	Keith & Sue Krumholz Kiffie Scott	Bob & Jackie Kastengren Deb Lindell	Ron & Pam Moersfelder Paul Schultz	Larry & Ellen Gyger
LITURGIST	Ron Moersfelder	Don Howell	Jackie Kastengren	Margaret Mihalyi
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Paul & Marilyn Gander	Bob & Jackie Kastengren	Steph Eveland Diane Hanson	LaVonne Howell Carolyn Schoneck
AV OPERATOR	Dave Snyder	Jamie Edwards	Dave Snyder	John Kranich
NURSERY CARE	Sara & Joel Graham	Betty Peterson	Meghan Peterson	No nursery
ACOLYTE	Raegan Rediger	Elysia Escobar	Chloe Rediger	



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch”
Wednesday, May 3rd
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 June issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Monday, May 22nd . Thanks, Beth**

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Robert E. Wang, Minister - 262-308-4180
 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: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 If possible, please call ahead to make sure
 Pastor Bob is available

PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS

Beth: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Steph: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Church Office: 262-763-6890

Web Site: www.uccply.org

Email: Plymouth@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org

Minister Email: Miniser@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org

Financial Secretary Email:

steph@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org

May Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7pm Choir	3 Noon – Ladies Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Bell Choir	4 7:30am Prayer Breakfast at Veteran's Terrace	5 6am Men's Breakfast	6
7 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:30am New Member Meeting in Fireside Room 11:30am God's Gals Luncheon in Fellowship Hall	8	9 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	10 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir	11	12 6am Men's Breakfast	13 8:30 – Noon Clean up Day
14 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Last week of Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:00am Fair Trade Sales 11:00am Blood Pressure Screening	15	16 7pm Choir	17 6:30pm Bell Choir	18	19 6am Men's Breakfast	20 11am Game Day
21 8:45am Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:15am Annual Meeting 11:45am Plymouth Praise	22	23 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	24	25	26 6am Men's Breakfast	27
28 8:45am Plymouth Praise 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	29  memorial DAY Church office Closed	30 7pm Choir	31	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Summer worship time of 9:30am will begin Sunday, June 4.</p> 		



**PLYMOUTH
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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
124 W.
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53105-1478
262-763-6890
262-763-6802 FAX**

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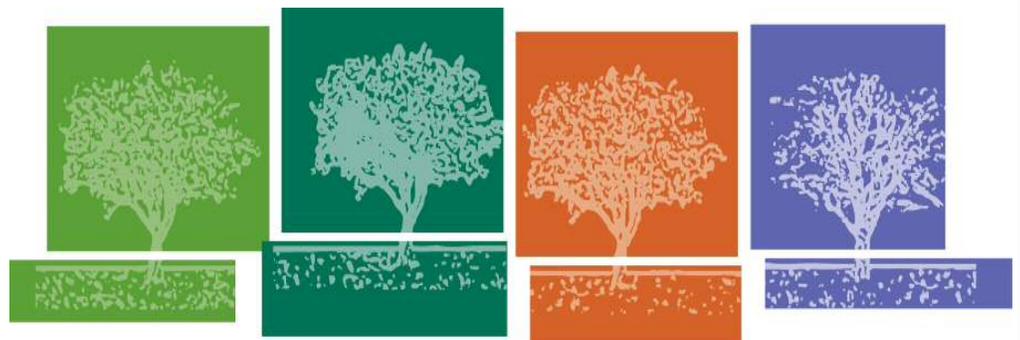
We hope you like our monthly newsletter. It is such a great communicator of happenings at our church. However, if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us by either mail, telephone

(262-763-6890)

or

email -

plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

11:15 AM