

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XII, ISSUE VII
JULY 2017



Special points of
interest:

**Worship at the Pond
and
Church Picnic**

God's Gals

Mission Notes!



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The Plymouth Epistle

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

WORDS FROM WANG – “Lest We Become Complacent”

Complacency: a feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities or situation that prevents you from trying harder.

It is unfortunate that the word *complacency* is so often hurled, in a rather scornful manner, at people who are unwilling to be political. It connotes a sense of ease and contentment with the status quo. It is a rare thing to hear the word *complacency* used in a purely positive way; there's almost always a sense of scolding to it. More often than not, it takes on a political tone, as with large bodies of people who are unwilling to address corruption because it doesn't really impact them on a personal level.

But as people of faith, I say without scolding, it is crucial that we consider complacency, simply put, as something quite contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ when it comes to basic human rights. And that we confess, repent, and ask for God's mercy for all the ways that we have been satisfied or failed to confront the status quo because that was the easy way out.

And this is often because we want to avoid conflict; we don't want to engage in controversy, we fear backlash or angry rhetoric being heaped upon us because we dared to speak out on behalf of those who are marginalized, condemned, or excluded. This is no truer than it is on or around the topic of homosexuality. It is therefore, the clarion call to people of **all faiths** to address these injustices lest we become complacent. And one more thing; we need to stop referring to discrimination against the LGBTQ community as a political issue because it is not. Because, it is an issue of basic human dignity; an issue that any compassionate person must empathize.

In a sermon preached by D. Curtis Minter, Minter writes: “Oh, it's a complicated subject to be sure. But it will help us to look at history and remember some of the other issues with which the church has struggled and see how the bible has been used to justify oppression, exploitation, and abuse. Take the issue of slavery for instance. There were those who argued fervently that slavery was part of God's plan and were armed with countless biblical texts to argue this claim. But these beliefs were being challenged by abolitionists; many who were Christian and who believed with all of their hearts that the institution of slavery was inconsistent with the meaning and application of the Christian gospel.”

As we know, this led to a civil war; all because a small minority of folk refused to be complacent on this matter and who therefore sought an end to the practice of human slavery. These “resistors” were seen as divisive trouble makers even in their own local churches. Well, we know history proved that even proof-texting in the bible was simply not going to cut it and the world saw a paradigm shift.

Here at Plymouth there is not one among us who I would consider a “trouble maker.” What I believe we have here at Plymouth are some very caring people who simply want to do what is right when it comes to practicing hospitality and “being the church” that loves and accepts all people for who they are; namely children of God.

See ya' in church. Pastor Bob

Worship Opportunities for July

July 2 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon Theme: “Yes, It Is That Simple”

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 9 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon Theme: “Finding Rest For Our Weary Souls”

July 16 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 8:1-11

Sermon Theme: “Spirit of the Living God”

July 23– 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a

Sermon Theme: “Power Points”

July 30 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 8:26-39

Sermon Theme: “Superseding All Things”



**Confirmation
NEWS**

CONFIRMATION CORNER –

Fall Orientation – **Sunday, September 10 @ 11:30**

If someone in your family will be in the 7th or 8th grade this fall then it's not too early to begin making plans for Plymouth Church Confirmation. Every other year we offer a comprehensive and fun-filled opportunity for young people to reflect on their spiritual walk with God. Weekly sessions are coordinated with our LOGOS program which meets on Wednesday nights during the school year.

The process always begins with an orientation meeting (parents/kids) as we lay out the schedule and program year that will culminate on Confirmation Sunday which is usually on or around Pentecost which in 2018 will be May 20. Our fall

orientation will be **September 10** and lunch will be provided for all participating families. More information will be forthcoming but be sure to get these two important dates on your calendar if you will have a participant in this year's program.

Summer time is here.....and I hope you all are staying cool. VBS will be August 8th-10th from 5:30pm -7pm, for ages 3 years old thru 2nd grade. We look forward to having a lot of fun with our kids again this summer. Please contact me with any questions and to sign your child up for VBS.

Enjoy your summer but don't forget about our fall program, LOGOS. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our youth.

If you feel called to help out this year please contact me. We always love new faces!!

Blessings,

Nikki Burd, Children's Ministry Director



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



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

Sunday July

9th

Annual Worship at Wilson's Pond & All Church Picnic

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



God's Gals spent 2 hours on Saturday, June 17 in Libertyville, IL packing over 2,300 meal packs for the "Feed My Starving Children" project. In addition to what they helped pack, they also brought a \$250 donation from our Mission Team. Through this project, our donation alone would be able to feed a family of 3 for an entire year! WOW!

Their next gathering will be on Sunday, July 23 at I am and will be a "Brunch on the Deck" at the home of Jackie Kastengren. They will be making cards for the Waterford Senior Living and ladies are encouraged to bring a book to share as an exchange.

Please contact the church office by Monday, July 17 to RSVP for this event.



3 -Kathy Hartlage
4 - Hadsady Sirimanotham
5 - Amber Wilson
6 - Toni Meinel
Paul Schultz
7 - 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
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

ONA 2017 - *The Journey Continues*

To our newer readers, ONA (Open and Affirming) is a status claimed and proclaimed by churches in the United Church of Christ who identify themselves as being non-discriminating to those of any sexual orientation. The ONA church does not judge or condemn any single member of the human race for being the person God has created them to be. The ONA church truly lives out its call that “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey – you are welcome here.”

Through study, prayer, and thoughtful discussion, Plymouth Church is currently engaged in considering what it would mean for us to become a member of this growing faction of our parent denomination; the United Church of Christ. This feature is the 7th one in a series which began in January of this year; those previous articles are archived on our church website. Public listening sessions have also taken place since we began discussions (see below).

Next ONA Listening Session #5 – (movie and pizza) August 20 @ 11:00-1:00

We will be watching together the documentary film entitled “*Call Me Malcolm.*” *Call Me Malcolm* is an amazing story of the human spirit and God's spirit, and the liberating struggle to realize and express with confidence the marvelous gift of one's truest sense of self. As Malcolm shares his own story and through the stories of others we meet, *Call Me Malcolm* offers us a glimpse into the real lives of real people who are transgender. But it is only a glimpse. There are many stories to be told and *Malcolm* helps us make connections to our own stories, encouraging us to share them. That can seem daunting in a culture which has done more to heap shame on persons who identify as transgender. The good news of *Malcolm's* story is the way in which shame and fear are overcome by grace, compassion and knowledge. Viewers cannot help but come to a deeper understanding of faith, love, and gender identity, and by doing so, arrive at a deeper understanding of their own journey.



Fair Trade Coffee Project - on sale JULY 16th after worship

- 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.



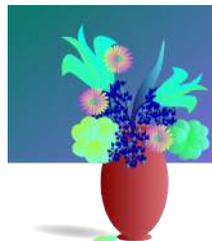
Plymouth Children's Center receives funds from grocery stores

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 their 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 Flower Chart. It is located by the door in the parlor that leads to the nursery. 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. We have truly appreciated her gifts of time and talent!!



JULY 15th - GAME DAY 11AM - 5PM

Bring something to play, or come and learn something new!

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





SUNDAY	July 2 9:30am	July 9 9:30am	July 16 9:30am	July 23 9:30am	July 30 9:30am
DEACONS	July 2: Lori Benstead – Bread Barb Freeman, LaVonne Howell, Kiffie Scott				
USHERS	Joe & Karen Iselin	Tim & Kay Burd	Don Howell Barb Freeman	Nikki Burd Deb Lindell	Tyler & Becky Daniels
LITURGIST	Ron Moersfelder	Toni Kranich	Charis Mitchell	Pam Moersfelder	Carolyn Schoneck
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Becky & Tyler Daniels	Keith & Sue Krumholz	Rod & Lori Benstead	Joel & Sara Graham	Steph Eveland Diane Hanson
AV OPERATOR	Jamie Edwards	John Kranich	Dave Snyder	Ron Patla	Ron Patla



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch”
Wednesday, July 5th
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 August issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Monday, July 24th. Thanks, Beth**

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Robert E. 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



**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 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

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

PLYMOUTH CHILDREN’S CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sara Trewyn, Program Director
Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director



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



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT
DELAY
JULY 2017
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 30th & Oct 29th

Please start saving your change and bring it to church!
Donations go to the "Give Safe Water for Life" project,
which provides water filtration and clean water access to the
most vulnerable around the world.