

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XII, ISSUE IX
SEPTEMBER 2017



Special points of
interest:

Hurricane Harvey Relief

Fall Fundraiser!

Feed My Starving
Children

Share A Basket!



September

Inside this Issue

Confirmation 2
News

Music & ONA 3

LOGOS, Sunday 4
School & VBS

Mission News 7

Scholarships 7
granted

Birthdays etc. 8

Calendars 10 & 11

The Plymouth Epistle

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

WORDS FROM WANG – “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

“What I Did On My Summer Vacation” by Bobby Wang. Somewhere out there I know there exists such a piece; maybe two or three from my years in grade school. It was back-to-school time and every teacher’s go to assignment; write a theme about something you did that summer. Needless to say, if called upon to complete such an assignment today, I would surely write about our trip to the wild west (and now I know how it got its name); a name that still applies today from the simple reality that most every state west of the Mississippi maintains a certain **wild**-ness about it.

In all fairness to our western brethren and sisters, there is surely great beauty and majesty if that’s what you’re looking for or have time to take in. However, from the vantage point of the US Interstate system, combined with a “make good time” agenda, there are two words that Judy and I agreed on. They were “vast” and “desolate;” which of particular note one can experience in all of North Dakota, Montana, Washington, and parts of Oregon, Idaho, and Utah, and most of Wyoming, and Nebraska. There is a certain “**wideness**” in our nation’s western states that is beyond compare. And the other two words we came to dread as we approached many exits in those states; “no services.” Fortunately, we always planned ahead with the exception of the rest area with signs that read - “Rattle snakes may be present. Keep on the path.”

After it was all said and done, 4,736 miles later we looked back and were able to say, “mission accomplished.” Mollie and her dog, Soprano are settled into their new digs to begin her degree at Pacific University. Our family got to spend what may have been our last vacation together as a family of four. And, we spent some quality time with my Utah brother and his family; highlighted with Josh playing the pipe organ in the Mormon Tabernacle (thanks to my brother Dave pulling a few strings).

Consequently, we now have some wonderful new memories and some most indelible images of mountains, valleys, prairies, deserts, rivers, oceans, and highways; all reminding us of how small we are midst all that is God’s creation. It’s times like these that put life in perspective and remind us how vast and great is the love of our Creator God. And to think that our God thinks the world of even the tiniest of God’s creatures, that how much more it pleases God that there are those who seek God in all things and who regularly give God the glory. There is a wideness in God’s mercy.

I trust many of you made some good memories with your own summer adventures these past few months. And that as you traveled near or far you had the blessed experience of seeing God in all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. As always, I look forward to seeing ya’ all together in church again.

Pastor Bob

P.S. If you really wish to annoy me call me “Bobby.” I hated it when people called me by that name as a kid!!!

Worship Opportunities for September

September 3 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Sermon Theme: “*I Appeal to You - Part II: Let Love Be Genuine*”

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

September 10 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

Sermon Theme: “*What’s the Big Rush?*”

September 17 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Theme: “*Seriously! No One Likes A Hypocrite*”

Note: Brief Congregational Meeting

September 24 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15

Sermon Theme: “*It’s What’s For Dinner*”

October 1 – World Communion Sunday

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

Sermon Theme: “*Is the Lord Among Us Or Not?*”

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



**Confirmation
NEWS**

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.

PLYMOUTH PRAISE IN WORSHIP – September 24

We’re back! After a wonderful summer of special music the Plymouth Praise worship team (contemporary song) gang is rearing to go. As usual, we plan on having rehearsals after worship the Sunday prior to leading the service. To kick things off that means we practice on September 17th following worship and lead worship on September 24th.. We will gather on the 24th at 8:45am for a final run-through prior to the service.

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



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 17 at the end of worship

The business at hand will be to vote on Don Howell as the Membership and Involvement Facilitator on the Operating Council and to present the ONA Resolution. We will NOT be voting on the resolution at this meeting.

Our Choirs start their season!

The voice choir will have its first practice on Tuesday, September 5th at 7 pm. The first Sunday that the choir will be singing for the worship service is Sunday, September 10. New members are always welcome! Please come join us!



The Bell Choir will begin their season with practice on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30. They will play during worship on Sunday, September 17th. We'd love to have new ringers! Even if you've never played before, but think its something you might enjoy, come check us out!

ONA Discussion: Welcoming vs Declaration By Charis Mitchell

Since January, we've been meeting and discussing what it would mean for our congregation to become Open and Affirming – to declare openly to the public that we do not discriminate based on sexual orientation, and that we strive to fully live out the call that “no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.”

A number of times, I've heard, “The UCC is already open and affirming, and we're already welcoming; why do we have to actually go through the process and take this vote too?”

Have you ever had someone say, “We should get together sometime”? As a single person with no kids and a relatively static schedule, my common response is, “I'm usually free any day after 5, give me a call when you're free!” Do you know how often that get together happens? Never. The offer is genuine, but there isn't any real substance to the invite. I have one friend who ends every email with, “We need to go get a beer sometime!” She's been saying this for the past 3 years. Every time, I tell her some times I'm free and tell her to pick a day. It has yet to happen.

Currently, our congregation is welcoming. We have LGBTQ+ members who are out and an important part of our congregation and we love them dearly. That being said, our welcome to the greater community is currently like that nebulous “We should do something sometime.” If they walk in our doors, we know that they will be welcomed with open arms. That being said, how does the community at large and LGBTQ+ individuals in particular know that *they* will be welcomed? How do they *know* that when we say everyone, we mean *everyone* and our offer of welcome is more than just “sometimes”?

Taking the step to declare our congregation officially ONA to the broader community is like, rather than saying, “We should do dinner sometime,” saying, “You who don't feel welcomed elsewhere, or wonder if there's really a place for you in this thing called Christianity, we have a plate at the table set just for you. You, yes, YOU are welcome here. We'll be right here with a place for you, willing to share our dinner with you no matter where you are on life's path and we hope to be able to walk with you on your journey to becoming everything God has hoped and dreamed that you could possibly be.”

As someone who gets a lot of invites to “do dinner sometime” and yet eats a lot of dinners alone, that knowledge that someone literally has a place set for me at the dinner table is a very heartwarming message. Being willing to declare our congregation ONA is the difference between hollow words and taking a solid, declarative stand for those who don't *know* that they will be accepted or have been turned away elsewhere.



Hello Plymouth Family!

It's that time of year again.....LOGOS, Sunday School and Fellowship Fun!! I have been busy getting things ready for our new year and I am very excited to see all our youth in September. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 10th during the church service. LOGOS will start on Wednesday, September 20th from 5pm-7:30pm. Please contact me with any questions regarding either of these programs. #262-206-4943 or email massnikburd@yahoo.com.

VBS was a great success this year thanks to Tracy Freitag, Pam Peterson, and Stephanie Rediger. We had 8 children that attended and they had a SUPER time!! Our theme this year was Jesus is our Superhero. The kids just loved it!! Here are pictures of some of the fun...



We will be having our first "Church family" outing on Sunday, October 1st. We will be meeting at Towne and Country Lanes in Burlington, as we have fellowship with pizza and bowling. Stay tuned for more details.....

We will also be having a Children's Ministry Bake Sale on Sunday, October 8th after church. So mark that on your calendar and help support our youth by buying some delicious treats.

Blessings to all!

Nikki Burd, Children's Ministry Director



Church Potluck in October!!
Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 22nd!
Bring a dish to pass and
plan to stay after worship for
Food and Fellowship!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Several of our ladies from God's Gals went to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville, Illinois back in June. We all felt it was a very worthwhile experience and would like to give others the opportunity. The project is packing dry food into packets of six meals which will consist of vegetables, vitamins, soy and rice. Everything is carefully measured so anyone over the age of six (with an adult) can participate. We have reserved 25 slots for **October 7th, 9-11am**. We plan to car pool from the church departing at 8am and should be back around noon. If you would like to know more about this organization, check out their website at www.fmsc.org. Our Mission Team has already donated \$250 to this project which will provide enough meals for a family of four for a year. If you can not participate but would like to donate please do that through our church marked to FMSC. Please call the church office to sign up for October 7th.

Thanking you in advance, Mission Committee

You are invited to pack food at 



Every day, at least **6,200** children die from starvation...

...but **YOU** can make a difference by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.

In 2015, more than **1 million** volunteers joined us to package nearly **273 million** meals for malnourished children around the world.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY LOCATION:
742 East Park Ave, Libertyville, IL 60048

DATE: **October 7, 2017** TIME: **9:00 - 11:00am**

SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS: **Call Church office by Sept. 29**

Turn Hunger Into Hope with Your Own Two Hands
 VOLUNTEER | DONATE | LEARN MORE | 763.504.2919 | FMSC.ORG

Support Hurricane Harvey victims through UCC Disaster Ministries



We are frequently asked if we know of ways to help with disaster relief. The UCC Disaster Ministries is gearing up for long-term recovery work in the Houston area and is a great resource for ways to help. 100% of financial contributions are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programs. You can donate online at http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey OR donations can be made to Plymouth Church marked "For Hurricane Harvey" and we will make the donation for you.



FALL THAT JAZZ

Sunday, October 29

4pm at Veteran's Terrace



SHARE A BASKET.....



We need baskets full of items that carry a theme for the Silent Auction at our "Fall That Jazz" Fundraiser on October 29th!

There will be tags on the bulletin board in the parlor with suggested themes. Please consider taking one or two and sign your name to the list so we know what is coming.

I have several lovely baskets if you want to gather items (new) and give them to me, I'll be happy to create the basket for you. If you have an idea of your own that you will be donating, please list that on the sign-up sheet as well. We will need all this completed by October 15th at the latest. Any questions, give me a call at 534-3949.

Thanks for sharing!
- Jackie Kastengren



Mission News:



On Sunday, August 27, the Mission team was out in our community at Riverview Manor serving the residents another delicious lunch. Every year we plan two themed luncheons for our friends there. A somewhat smaller group attended the butterfly themed one Sunday but the group never lacks in enthusiasm.

There are always special goodies to be had, this time decorated sugar cookies, little gift boxes and a lucky winner gets to keep the table centerpiece. They are already looking forward to our next lunch date with them to be hosted around

Valentine's Day. Over the years, we have developed many friendships so it's hard to say who enjoys this mission more, so very heartwarming for the Mission team members too.

Around the world, the Mission team continues to sponsor two student's education, one in Haiti and the other in Cambodia. Without these sponsorships, there would be no chance of obtaining an education and a more promising future for these deserving students. They must maintain a certain grade point level to remain eligible. In addition to their homework, the students work and help with chores in their households.

Now to our annual Operation Christmas shoe box project. Currently, we still need combs, t-shirts and flip flops (all sizes). School supplies are now on sale so please pick a few extra items while out shopping. September is bandanas and socks, followed by toys in October. Thank you all for your continuing support of this important mission.



PLYMOUTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following students have been awarded academic scholarships from Plymouth Church....

Rachel Novak—attending Kennesaw State University studying Theater

Olivia Wanasek—attending Saint Louis University studying Business

Jonathan Martin—attending Saint Louis University studying Flight Science

Jera Monaghan—attending UW-River Falls studying Animal Science

Cody Mather—attending Concordia University studying Exercise Physiology

Maegan Kreuzscher—attending UW-Platteville studying Animal Science

Eleanor Monaghan—attending MSOE studying Mechanical Engineering

Lawrence Meeks—attending Wisconsin Lutheran College studying Education

We congratulate them all and wish them much success!



- 1 - Paul Edwards
- 2 - Reid Moen
- 3 - Juliana Pieters
- 5 - Steve Sullivan
- 7 - Joe Iselin
Jess Moen
- 8 - Ron Patla
Heather Kane-Terhorst
Allison Dukes
- 9 - Jeff Keller
Chad Kane -Terhorst
Spencer Warner
Cruie Freitag

- 11 - CJ VanSwol
- 12 - John Wilson
Julie Springer
- 13 - Tim Burd
- 14 - Jenn Brenner
- 17 - Tami Soetenga
Adriana Burd
- 18 - Kelsey Bonner
Ali Knight
- 20 - Ellen Gyger
- 21 - Kim Kerkhoff
Kelly Iselin

- 22 - Toni Kranich
- 24 - Aveah Daniels
- 25 - Marissa Escobar
- 26 - Christine Schultz
- 27 - Jill Rehberg
Rod Benstead
Dave Kerkhoff
Chrystal Hameau
- 30 - Margie Jay
Kathy Kruse

 **Special birthday congratulations to John Wilson who turns 97 on September 12th**



- Jeff & Molly Keller - September 6
- Scott & Peggy Behnke – September 11
- Dave & Pat Brown – September 12
- Gary & Pam Peterson – September 13
- Ron & Carol Berndt - September 16

- Dave & Deanna Snyder – September 19
- Rod & Lori Benstead - September 22
- Nick & Anna Rothering – September 27
- John & Leslie Wanasek – September 30

Game Day
 Saturday, September 16th
 11am—5pm
 Bring a game to play or
 just come to learn something new!





*Our
Condolences*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Stephanie Eveland after the passing of her father, Steve Eveland on August 19th. We hold Steph, Diane and all of Steph's family in our prayers during this difficult time.



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 box
- 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.

Blood pressure screening -September 10th

Blood pressure screening will take place
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!!





SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY	September 3 9:30am	September 10 10:00am	September 17 10:00am	September 24 10:00am
DEACONS	September 3: Pam Moersfelder – Bread Ron Moersfelder, Toni Kranich, Kiffie Scott			
USHERS	Ron & Pam Moersfelder	Larry & Ellen Gyger	Sue Alby Scott Hoffman Ev Price	Glenn & Nicki Stoll Jim Burd
LITURGIST	Kylara Horner	Steve Picazo	Margaret Mihalyi	Steve Sullivan
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Julie Klaehn LaVonne Howell	Ron & Mary Lou Nebinger	Nikki Burd Beth Picazo	Keith & Sue Krumholz
NURSERY CARE	NO NURSERY	Meghan Peterson	Nikki Burd	Betty Peterson
AV OPERATOR	Jamie Edwards	Ron Patla	Dave Snyder	Ron Patla



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch” on
Wednesday, September 6th
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 October issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :
Friday, September 22nd. 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 am to 4:30 pm
If possible, please call ahead to make
sure Pastor Bob is available

PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am. - 3:30 pm
Fridays, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Church Office: 262-763-6890
Web Site: www.uccply.org

**PLYMOUTH CHILDREN’S CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Sara Trewyn, Program Director
Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director

Email: Plymouth@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org
Minister Email: Minister@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org
Financial Secretary Email:
steph@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: The Church Office will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, September 5. Beth's hours are Monday –Thursday, 8:30 – 3:30 and Fridays, 8:30 – 2:30. Steph's hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:30 – 2:30.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>					1	2
<p>3 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee & Conversation</p>	<p>4 Labor Day Church office closed</p>	<p>5 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6 Noon Ladies Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:00am Fair Trade Sales 11:00am Blood Pressure Screening 11:30am Confirmation Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir</p>	<p>13 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>16 11am Game Day</p>
<p>17 8:45am Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Special Congregational Meeting 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:30am Plymouth Praise</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7pm Choir</p>	<p>20 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 6am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 8:45am Plymouth Praise 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir</p>	<p>27 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>30</p>

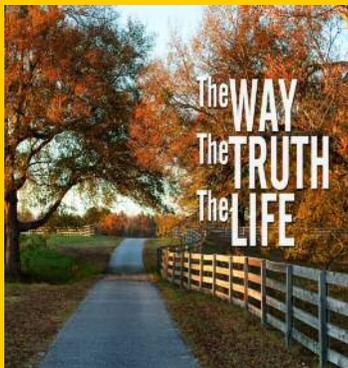


**PLYMOUTH
CONCREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
124 W.
WASHINGTON
STREET
BURLINGTON, WI
53105-1478
262-763-6890
262-763-6802 FAX**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED
DATE MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT
DELAY
SEPTEMBER 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 either mail, telephone (262-763-6890) or email -

plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org



Friends of the Waterford Public Library Sponsor:
MARRIOTT THEATRE Day Trip

“NEWSIES”

The Smash Hit Musical!

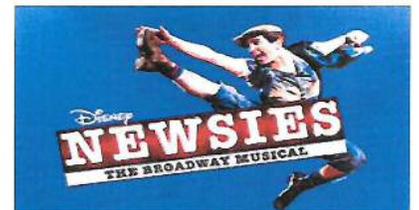
Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Only \$85 per person

*Tour Escorted by Library Friend
Jackie Kastengren*

Tour Includes:

- Roundtrip transportation in deluxe motor coach
- Lunch at Golden Corral, Gurnee IL
- Admission to “NEWSIES”



For questions and reservations contact:



Bon Voyage World Travel Experts
116 North Milwaukee Street
Waterford, WI 53105
262-514-2022 or 262-534-3949

Seats are limited. Book today with check payable to:
Bon Voyage World Travel Experts
*Payment is non-refundable unless minimum group size of 30 passengers is not met.
Deadline for reservations is November 6, 2017.