

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XIV, ISSUE VIII  
AUGUST 2019



Special points of  
interest:

Pride Fest

Save the Date!!!



Inside this Issue

Worship 2  
Opportunities

Birthdays & 3  
Anniversaries

Share a Basket 4

August Calendars 6 &  
7

# The Plymouth Epistle

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

## WORDS FROM WANG – *“Open and Affirming 201”*

Did you know that one-third of millennials say they left churches because of homophobic practices and teachings? This fact alone is enough for us at Plymouth to want to explore how we can take our Open and Affirming status to the next level. And let’s just refresh our memories a bit and reflect on the covenant we agreed to:

*We, the members and friends of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, recognize that the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) community has been the target of discrimination and judgment and we consciously choose to renounce any such discrimination or judgment.*

*We are an inclusive and diverse church; a place of unconditional love that inspires all individuals in our community. We seek to be an expression of God’s Love in the world by declaring ourselves an open and affirming (ONA) church, and by embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, since we are all created in God’s image.*

*In so doing we will intentionally invite and welcome into our faith community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure.*

*We will thus live out the creed; no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here; to minister with us and among us, to receive the grace of a “still speaking God,” to share your time, talents, treasures and energy in worship and all the rites and sacraments, in community life, education, and missions, and in filling staff and/or leadership positions.*

I had the opportunity to attend a couple workshops last month when we welcomed the bi-annual UCC national meeting (general synod) to Milwaukee. One of those workshops was entitled, *Open and Affirming 201* led by Andy Lang, the executive director of the national ONA Coalition. One of things that struck me the most was his comment “your Open and Affirming covenant is the starting point, not the endpoint, of your relationship with the LGBTQ community.”

I am so proud of the hard work we put in to prepare, study, and approve the resolution to become an open and affirming church and our create our ONA covenant. But now that we have been living into it, I believe it is time we prayerfully consider how we might “come out” (Lang’s synonym for ONA evangelism) as a congregation; in short, be more present and visible to those in the Burlington area who might want to know us.

October 8<sup>th</sup> of this year will mark our two year anniversary as an ONA church. *Wouldn’t it be lovely* if we were able to roll out “next steps” in our work together as a truly all-inclusive church? In the meantime, be cool and stay cool!

See ya’ in church. Pastor Bob

### Worship Opportunities for August

**August 4 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**The Rev. John Gibbon, preaching**

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served

**August 11 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Luke 12:32-40

**Sermon Theme:** *“Fastening Our Belts For the Journey Ahead”*

**August 18 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Luke 12:49-56

**Sermon Theme:** *“Forecasting More Than the Weather”*

**August 25 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Luke 13:10-17

**Sermon Theme:** *“Sabbath Works”*

**September 4 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Sermon Theme:** *“The Table of Friendship and Love”*

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served

### PRIDE FAIR 2019

**Saturday, August 17 (10:00-3:00)**

**Veterans Park**

**100 West Walworth Street**

**Elkhorn, WI 53121**

This is what the planners are saying about Pride Fair: We are very excited about this event. We are always asked by members of the LGBTQ community, "What's around here for us?" We hear you and share your frustration about not knowing what services are in our area, or what businesses are LGBTQ friendly. Now, more than ever, we all want to feel safe...at home, when looking for help, or wanting to socialize.

We are giving local service providers, businesses, churches, vendors, and artisans the opportunity to set up booths and share with Walworth County's LGBTQ community and its supporters how they may be of service to them.”

And this is what Plymouth Church is doing as an Open and Affirming Church. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year now, we have signed up to have a booth with our church name and rainbow flag adorning our canopy. Pastor Bob is looking for a few volunteers to “show up” and gather unto our church canopy. It’s quite possible that those who stop by our booth may want to hear from us just what it’s like to be a religious organization that lives up to its call to be a church that welcomes ALL.

And this year, Pastor Bob will have his guitar and is compiling a list of songs that we can sing that reflect our open stance and practice. So, naturally those willing to participate will be welcome to sing a long; whether they have a good singing voice or not. In addition to our singing and the usual sharing about our church, we’ll have some literature, giveaways, and/or treats to share with our visitors. If you are willing to participate please notify the church office or speak to Pastor Bob directly.



August Shoebox  
Donation Item:

## School Supplies

(pencils are most important)

Watch your ads for sales!

Game Day  
August 17th  
11am—5pm



Bring something to play,  
but be prepared to play something  
else fun! Young, old and in  
between, all are welcome!



Don & Sandy Striegel – August 5

Chad & Heather Kane-Terhorst – August 6

Mike & Julie Springer – August 7

Scott & Marilee Hoffman – August 14

Steve & Jayne Bella – August 15

Bill & Toni Meinel – August 24

Eric & Deb Lindell – August 25

Paul & Ann Edwards – August 26

Jim & Jean Smithback – August 27

Jim & Elaine Burd – August 29

1 - Kyle Harder  
Steve Horner

2 - Amanda Willick

5 - Eric Behnke

6 - LaVonne Howell

Raegan Rediger

Isaiah Jones

8 - Evelyn Price

Nicki Stoll

Chad VanSwol

10 - Sara Foster

11 - John Krikie

Jane Dukes

12 - Jackie Kastengren

Dick McKinney

13 - Troy Everson  
Scott Behnke

15 - Tyler Daniels

16 - Bo Coleman

17 - Sandy Striegel

Justin Foster

18 - Allie Zusan

19 - Don Striegel

20 - Kirby Warner

21 - Peyton Daniels

23 - Rylee Wightman

24 - Jessica Schultz

25 - Julie Sullivan

29 - Judy Wang

Becky Thompson

*Special congratulations to Jim & Elaine Burd who  
celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on August 29.*

## SHARE A BASKET.....

We need baskets full of items that carry a theme for the Silent Auction at our Fall event "Missions Possible" on Saturday, October 19.

There will be tags on the bulletin board in the parlor with some suggested themes. Please consider taking one or two of the tags and sign your name on the list so we will know what is coming. I have several lovely baskets once again so if you just want to gather items (new) and give it to me I'll be happy to create the basket. If you have an idea of your own that you will be donating, WONDERFUL! Please list that on the signup sheet as well.



We will be needing at least six larger filled baskets (higher value) for a raffle. Please consider making one of these. This will all need to be completed by October 13th at the latest. Any questions, give Jackie a call at 534-3949. Thanks for sharing!

- Jackie Kastengren

### **Plymouth Praise** – *We'll See You...in September*

Thanks to those who have helped out with special music so far this summer. The next opportunity for Plymouth Praise to lead worship will be in September. So, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Our Plymouth Praise Band prepares and leads worship once a month from September through May; with more contemporary songs, typically, on the fourth Sunday of the month. We are always open to new folk joining us. No experience necessary; just a heart for music-making and a willingness to spend a little time in preparation.



## Fair Trade Coffee Project – Items sold 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 | 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.

## Plymouth Children's Center receives funds from grocery stores



Plymouth Children's Center collects grocery receipts from Richter's Marketplace. They 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!!





SUNDAY	Aug 4 10:00 am	Aug 11 10:00 am	Aug 18 10:00 am	Aug 25 10:00 am
COMMUNION SERVERS	Aug 4: Bread – Carolyn Schoneck Paul Gander, Jackie Kastengren			
USHERS	Glenn & Nicki Stoll	Barbara Freeman Nikki Burd	Larry & Ellen Gyger	Scott & Marilee Hoffman
LITURGIST	Ron Moersfelder	Jackie Kastengren	Jim Burd	Paul Gander
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Paul & Marilyn Gander	Jason & Tamra Fricke	Lori Benstead Gidget Brown	Kathy Pieters Julie Klaehn
AV OPERATOR	John Kranich	Dave Snyder	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch”  
Wednesday, August 7  
Charcoal Grill**

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.

Here’s where we’ll be the next few months...

September 4 – Pine St Café  
October 2 – The Waterfront

November 6 – Lucky Star  
December 4 – Napoli’s

**Deadline for the September issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :  
Monday, August 19th . Thanks, Beth**

**PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF**

Rev. Robert E. Wang, Minister - 262-308-4180 (H)  
Beth Picazo, Secretary  
Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary  
Becky Daniels & Tracy Freitag, Children’s Ministry  
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 am to 4:30 pm  
If possible, please call ahead to make sure  
Pastor Bob is available

**PLYMOUTH UCC SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Beth: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am. - 12:30 pm  
Steph: Monday-Wednesday, 8:30pm-2:00pm  
Fridays, Office Closed

Church Office: 262-763-6890

Web Site: [www.plymouthucc.church](http://www.plymouthucc.church)

Email: [office@plymouthucc.church](mailto:office@plymouthucc.church)

Minister Email: [pastor@plymouthucc.church](mailto:pastor@plymouthucc.church)

Financial Secretary Email: [finance@plymouthucc.church](mailto:finance@plymouthucc.church)



# AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Notes:</b> Pastor Bob will be out of the office July 29 - August 9.				1 5:30pm VBS	2	3
<b>4</b> 10:00am Worship Rev. John Gibbon preaching 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	5	6	<b>7</b> Noon – Ladies Lunch Bunch at Charcoal Grill	8	9	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	12	13	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Operating Council meeting	15	16	<b>17</b> 11:00am Game Day
<b>18</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>25</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	26	<b>27</b> 10:30am A.S.A.P.	28	29	30	31



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DELAY  
AUGUST 2019  
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 - [office@plymouthucc.church](mailto:office@plymouthucc.church).*



# **“SAVE THE DATE!”**

## **October 19, 2019**

**Our Fall Fundraiser at BELLA VITA.**

**Be thinking of donations or baskets  
you would like to contribute.**

**More info coming soon!!**