

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVI, ISSUE IV  
APRIL 2021



Special points of  
interest:

**Church Blog  
Registration**

**Book Study**

**Spring Cleaning  
Opportunity**

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# The Plymouth Epistle

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

## **WORDS FROM PASTOR-**

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,  
While cleaning out some of the flower beds we saw some signs of new life as the tips of crocuses and tulips were peaking through the soil. The weather seems to be getting warmer and the sun is certainly coming up sooner and staying longer in the evening. Spring is definitely here and with it comes the celebration of the Resurrection on April 4.

I remember last year thinking we might be back to in-person worship and yet, here we are an entire year later. Yes, some of you have asked when we will be back, but many more have let me know you think we should err on the side of caution. I know some of you have been watching what other churches are doing; well, I have, too. Sadly, some of my colleagues have been playing this game all year, they went back, then they closed again, they went back, then they closed again. Their congregations are deflated and frustrated. It's not to say that none of our folks are frustrated and maybe a little deflated, but I do think it is better to stay the course rather than play a game of yo-yo with open again closed again.

Many of us are getting vaccinated so I believe we will be back sooner rather than later, but we want to make sure we understand how the vaccine works with the variations of the virus that we're seeing. During this past year I have kept in touch with colleagues and observed how different churches have fared during this unprecedented time. Those who understand that the church is a building, but ministry and mission happen outside of the building, are fairing very well: giving is up, participation is strong, and some have even attracted new members. Those who are convinced they can't be the church outside the building are struggling. Giving is down, participation is minimal, and many are wondering if they will be able to recover. I encourage us to be strong during this time. Continue the great things you are doing as Plymouth United Church of Christ, and continue to be safe. Remember the resurrection happened only after denial and death, and it didn't take place in a building.

I continue to be available to you through email and phone calls. Some of you have stopped in to say, "Hi," and introduce yourselves. We will get through this; we will be strong and in the meantime we will BE the church in important ways.

Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Becky  
[Plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:Plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com)

920-918-3654

PS I'm still looking for an apartment. For now I will be in town Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am willing to come earlier or stay later if there is a need.

# Worship Opportunities for April

**April 1 - Maundy Thursday**

**April 2 – Good Friday**

**April 4 – EASTER**

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

**Scripture:** Mark 16:1-8

**April 11 – 2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Scripture:** John 20:19-31 Service provided by faculty and students of Lakeland University

**April 18 – 3rd Sunday of Easter**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:36b-48

**April 25 – 4th Sunday of Easter**

**Scripture:** John 10:11-18



Thank you to the following donors who beautify our sanctuary with Easter flowers:

Jill Albrecht  
 Lori & Rod Benstead  
 Gidget & Wally Brown  
 Mary Ellen Close  
 Don & Julie Klaehn (in memory of their parents)  
 Gloria Powell



**Thank you**  
 A big thank you to Joe Iselin who delivered Valentine cookies to my home and walked through a pile of snow to get to my door.—Bob Kohout

**DEVOTIONALS**  
 Copies of The Upper Room (March/April) and These Days (April - June) are available in the church office.

**In Loving Memory:**  
**Lois Hahn**  
 Prayers for comfort go to the family and friends of Lois Hahn who recently passed away and went to be with the LORD on March 9th, 2021.



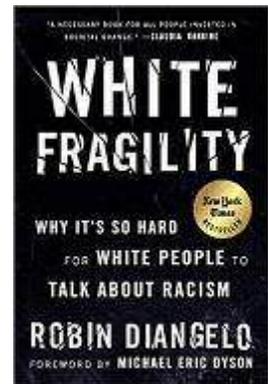


**Book Study  
Open to All**

It's time to get our book study back together. I have had a couple conversations with folks, and one talked about reading something to heighten our understanding of racism. A book that comes highly recommended is "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin Diangelo. It is available on Amazon for \$8.16. You can also do a search for black owned bookstores and find other alternatives. They will be more expensive, but it will be supporting a small business. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM. At that meeting we will discuss if that is the best time for everyone. Email me at [plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com) and I will send you a zoom link for this meeting. If you want to participate, but that time does not work for you, please let me know and offer an alternative day and time.

**RECAP**

- What: Book Study
- When: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM beginning April 13
- Book: "White Fragility: why it's so hard for white people to talk about race"
- Where: Via zoom
- Purchasing Information:
  - ISBN 9780807047415 (paperback)
  - ISBN 9780141990576 (e-book)



**Book Study  
Operating Council and PPRC**

Remember, we are reading *Creating a Healthier Church*. Please pick up your books at the church and have the first chapter read by our next meeting., April 14th.



## CHURCH BLOG

We encourage all church members to visit the church website <https://plymouthucc.church/> and scroll down to the bottom of any website page. There you will see a place to subscribe to the blog via email.

**Why subscribe?** Each time a church blog post is made you will get an email notification with the information posted and a link to the blog page.

**Why would you want that?** Many communications from church are currently made by an email blast from the church secretary. On weekends and after office hours that method is not quickly available. A blog post, on the other hand, can be made at any time and is automatically sent by email to folks who have signed up. That can help improve communications for time sensitive matters.

**Can you sign me up automatically?** Unfortunately, no. You have to sign up yourself to receive the email notifications.

**What if I want to stop getting the emails?** It's easy to unsubscribe. Each email sent has a link allowing you to do so if you wish.

Over the past few months, the children's ministry, or IMPACT as we are now called, has met a handful of times over Zoom™. We met on Valentine's Day, which happened to also be the kids' first time being able to meet and introduce themselves to Rev. Becky. The kids really enjoyed making Valentine's Day cards to hand out to some church members, as well as neighbors, family, and friends.

Even though we have been doing our best to have fun through Zoom™, we all cannot wait until we are able to be back together in person for our meetings. There's just something about sharing a meal together, being able to sing together (have you ever tried to sing on Zoom™?!), and enjoying each other's company. We are all saying some prayers that by fall this will become



## SPRING CLEANING & SPRUCING YOU ARE INVITED!

### Pride in Our Church:

Join us for spring clean-up on **Saturday, April 17th** (weather permitting) to pick up debris, prune, rake, and complete other miscellaneous exterior chores. Also, some interior cleaning projects are available; take your pick from a list. Cleaning supplies will be provided, and masks will be required for inside work.

**Please come out and give an hour or so of your time.**



### Painting Opportunity:

Our exterior doors and frames are looking a little ugly. Cleaning those will have to be done on Saturdays because of school. If you can paint or tape off door hardware, we could use your help. There are eight doors and frames in all. Social distancing should not be a problem. This project is slated to begin early May. Please contact [glennstoll34@gmail.com](mailto:glennstoll34@gmail.com)



**A BIG  
THANK YOU**  
to these volunteers

**Thank you!**  
Thank you to everyone who worked on the Holy Week services. I'm not even sure I know of everyone who had a hand in it, but please know I appreciate EVERYTHING EVERYONE did. ~ Rev. Becky

**A BIG  
THANK YOU**  
to these volunteers

### **Our Actors**

John Gibbon,  
Paul Gander,  
Don Howell,  
Lori Benstead  
Stephen Sullivan  
Rod Benstead  
Benjamin Graham  
Sara Graham



### **Our Musicians**

Diane Olson  
Jamie Kennow  
Mary Ellen Close  
Choir Members  
Handbell Choir Members

### **AV**

Ron Patla for putting it all together for us.



1 - Joel Graham Jacob Szemborski	13 - Debbie Witte Matt Lahti Christine Quinn	24 - Dick Peterson 25 - Avery Peterson Tom Coleman Gail Jentsch
2 - Glenn Stoll	15 - Mary Lou Nebinger Ashton Campbell	26 - Max Lindell
3 - Natalie Stier	18 - Lois Hahn	27 - Debbie Pieters Pam Peterson Marissa Post
4 - Betty Peterson Jeff Tremmel	19 - Marilee Hoffman Amber Iselin	28 - Marge Harder Deb Lindell Sawyer Wightman
5 - Bernard Yanke Justus Brenner	20 - Dave Hill	30 - Gladys Bublitz Finn Peterson
6 - Bill Schellpfeffer	21 - Dick Pieters Tristan Post Steve Ilger	
7 - Bill Meinel	22 - Megan Madenwald	
8 - Lucille Witte	23 - Betty Anderson Scott Wilson Jill Albrecht Beth Ilger	
9 - Jackson Wightman		
10 - Mike Springer Aidan King		



Dave & Kim Kerkhoff – April  
Dennis & Jill Witte – April 5  
Brad & Jenn Brenner – April 12  
Jonathan & Katie Striegel - April 12

Jon & Betty Anderson – April 16  
Scott & Meghan Peterson – April 18  
Randy & Kim Wessinger – April 18  
Otilio & Tasha Escobar - April 30

~ Deadline for the May issue of The Epistle is ~  
Thursday April 22nd.

### UCC Camps

UCCI is excited to be welcoming guests to all three of our Outdoor Ministry sites in 2021! We have precautions and safe gathering plans in place for Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center and Cedar Valley.

Interested guests may always find more information on our website <https://ucci.org/>

and by following UCCI on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchCampsInc>

and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/unitedchurchcampsinc/>.



We look forward to when we can visit you in person and ask that you keep UCCI in your prayers. We will continue to keep your ministry family in our prayers as well.

Always United, Your Friends at UCCI [ucci@ucci.org](mailto:ucci@ucci.org)

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



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

### COZY NIGHT PROJECT MAKES POSITIVE IMPACT

The Missions Team would like to update you on our Cozy Night Project for TLC. We are pleased to announce that we have put together and delivered to TLC 13 baskets to date. Many have already been delivered to children entering the shelter. We would love donations to continue the success of this local project. The need is great!

You can sponsor a basket for \$35 (check payable to Plymouth UCC) or donate **NEW** items to be used in these baskets. Each basket consists of the following:

- New fleece, tied blanket (two 1 1/2 yards fleece pieces)
- Pajamas—various sizes
- Hygiene kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb)
- Educational age-appropriate book
- Collapsible storage bin
- Good quality stuffed animal



Currently, our greatest need is the homemade **NEW** tied blanket.

Thank you for your support, Plymouth Missions Team

### SHOE BOX ITEMS FOR APRIL

Tools and sewing kits



# APRIL

## VOLUNTEERS

**SUNDAY**

**APRIL 4**

**APRIL 11**

**APRIL 18**

**APRIL 25**

**EASTER**

**DEACONS**

COMMUNION

**USHERS**

**LITURGIST**

Don Howell

Paul Gander

Lori Benstead

Carolyn Shoneck

**FELLOWSHIP  
SERVICES**

**AV  
OPERATOR**

**NURSERY**

**ACOLYTE**

**PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF**

Rev. Rebecca Johnston, Interim Minister  
Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary  
Kathy O'Brien, Office Secretary  
Becky Daniels & Tracy Freitag, Children's Ministry  
Jeffrey Hughes, Custodian  
Marty Baker, Wedding Coordinator  
Diane Olson, Organist & Bell Choir Director  
Jamie Kennow, Choir Director  
Lisa Carnahan, Choir Accompanist

**PLYMOUTH CHILDREN'S CENTER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Sara Trewyn, Program Director  
Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director



**REV. REBECCA JOHNSTON,  
INTERIM MINISTER OFFICE HOURS**  
Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please call ahead to check Pastor's availability.

**PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS**

Steph: Mon & Wed 8:00am—2:00pm  
Kathy: Tues & Thurs 8:00am—2:00pm  
\*Fri 8:00am—12:00pm

\*Fridays: Labor Day-Memorial Day only.

Church Office: 262-763-6890

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

Email: [plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com)

Minister Email: [plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com)

Financial Secretary Email: [plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com)

# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Maundy Thursday Service	<b>2</b> Good Friday Service Office Closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Worship Service 10:00	<b>5</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>6</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship Service 10:00	<b>12</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>13</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>14</b> OC Mtg Prayer Group Mtg	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Spring Cleaning begins 9:00 a.m.
<b>18</b> Worship Service 10:00	<b>19</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>20</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>21</b> Love Meal	<b>22</b> Epistle Deadline	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship Service 10:00	<b>26</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>27</b> 6:00 Bells	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



**PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
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  
APRIL 2021  
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 - [plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com)*



**Easter Service — April 4th, 2021**

