

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVI ISSUE V  
MAY 2021



**Special points of interest:**

**Wayne Jensen Memorial**

**Annual Meeting**



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# The Plymouth Epistle

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

## WORDS FROM PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,

There have been many who have asked (and not just about Plymouth), "I wonder if the church will survive through this time?" I have heard that question in relation to specific churches, and I have heard that question in relation the Church as a whole. My short answer is yes. However, I have a much longer answer to that question.

Yes, the church will survive, but wouldn't it be better if the church didn't just survive, but rather thrived? The church will survive if we come back to worship when it is safe; the church will thrive if it is engaged in transformational mission that is relevant to the community and world at large.

The church will survive if we can pay our bills and maintain the building; the church will thrive if we work at building community and finding ever new and creative ways of sustaining and growing our relationships with one another.

The church will survive if we can get new members; the church will thrive if we stop counting who is not here and start celebrating who is, whether that be physically or virtually. Phone calls and notes in the mail go a long way to ensuring this.

The church will survive if we can return to some of our previous programming; the church will thrive when we use our creative energy to create new programs that fill a gap for the people we are serving.

I think you get my drift. I hope the church doesn't just survive, but rather I hope it thrives. As I listen to stories from my colleagues, it is clear to me that the churches who aren't preoccupied with getting back to normal are the churches that are thriving. Those who are focused on getting back to "normal" are barely surviving, even struggling.

I would like to see us thrive. To that end I would also like to see us form some affinity groups so that we can stay connected during this time. My relationships with family and friends have thrived over this past year because we have continued to get together via Zoom and stay connected. I want us as a church to do the same. If you have an idea for a Zoom affinity group, please contact me and let's reconnect with one another and make sure our church is a thriver, not a survivor.

Blessings for the journey,  
Rev. Becky

## Worship Opportunities for May

### May

#### 2 – 5th Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 8:26-40

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

#### May 9 – 6th Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17

#### May 16– 7th Sunday of Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 2:37-42

#### May 23 – Pentecost Sunday

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-21

#### May 30 – Trinity Sunday

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

This is Strengthen the Church offering month.



### *The Wisconsin Conference focus on our:*

**Did you know that 50% of the money raised by our gifts to the “Strengthen the church” offering stays in the WI Conference?**

**That typically amounts to \$20,000 from the \$40,000 we donate each year. So please give to the “Strengthen the Church” offering on June 9th.**

The funds collected help two special programs for our congregations and clergy: conflict resolution and coaching. It used to be that if a church hit a snag (either with the pastor or because of a conflict between church members) and needed expert help in conflict resolution, the members would have to hire an outside expert. A lot of churches simply could not afford this. The result was that no expert came in with the right tools to help folks talk things out and the situation would end badly.

**But our Conference has been training our own people to do conflict resolution so money is no longer a problem and, in addition, the trainees understand us because they usually come from the same background as we do. Further...**

Churches that achieve their base pledge to “Our Church’s Wider Mission” and donate to all 4 national UCC fundraisers each year are counted as “5 for 5” churches for supporting every special national effort. These offerings give our churches a way to be a small (or large) part of something big! Local churches and people are helped by these offerings in our state, across the nation, and around the world. Giving to these offerings means that our funds added together can provide more support in much larger ways that we can do alone. Thanks for your help through these annual UCC fundraisers and other emergency and special-need offerings:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** • **Strengthen the Church** • **Neighbors in Need**
- **The Christmas Fund** • **Our Church's Wider Mission**

All donations are appreciated, and are used toward disaster relief, mission trip scholarships, help to local churches and clergy, immigrant and refugee assistance, social justice action, overseas ministries and more as we join hands across our communities, the nation, and the world in service of Christ.

**This information and encouragement is sent to you from the Northwest Association’s Division of the Mission of the Church in the World.**

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

...Our Conference is also training experienced ministers from our own people to coach pastors who would like a broader understanding of their churches and how to interact with parishioners. The Lay Academy, Outdoor Ministries, and Communities of Practice also benefit from this offering. Giving to “Strengthen the Church” offering does a lot of good on our behalf.

## MODERATOR'S WORDS

Aloha Church Family!!

So sorry that I did not get an article out in last months' Epistle. I am sure you missed hearing from me! Looking out my window today I realize Spring is definitely among us, minus mother nature playing jokes on us once in a while. I love seeing the trees budding, listening to the birds chirping, and watching the flowers starting to bloom. It is amazing to me how much God blesses our lives everyday with just the simple things in life; I hope you get moments to just sit back and enjoy his creation. I know we are all getting anxious to get back to in-person church, and we as members of the OC are trying to make this happen as soon as we know it will be safe for ALL of our members. We ask for patience and trusting us to do the right thing by our church. I would also like to thank Rev. Becky for all that she has done and is continuing to do for our church. I hope when you get a chance, you can reach out to her as well to express your gratitude for all that she does for our church.

I just wanted to remind everyone to SAVE THE DATE for our annual church fundraiser!! With the vaccines on the rise, lets hope that it will be much safer to have it in November. The new date is Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The venue is at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva, and our entertainment is The New Piano Guys. We are very excited, and we will do whatever we can to make this happen, and hopefully it will be the best fundraiser Plymouth has had yet!! Stay safe and healthy and remember to enjoy life's little blessings all around you.

Mahalo and Blessings to you all!!  
Nikki Burd  
Moderator



### Annual Meeting Reminder:

Plymouth Members:  
Our annual meeting will be May 16th at 9:30 a.m.

Leaders:  
All annual reports are due to the office no later than  
May 7th.

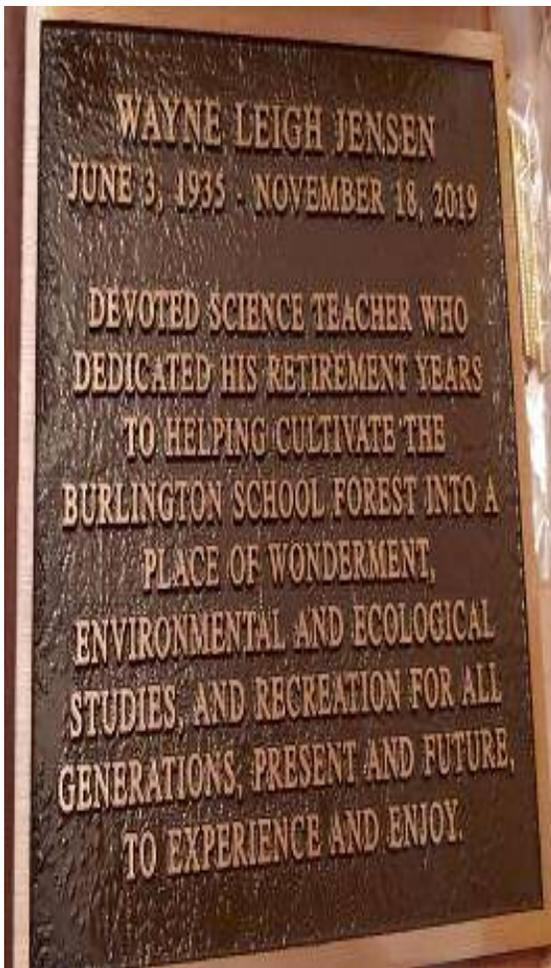


### OUR BELLS

Thanks to Glenn Stoll for sharing these photos of our church bells:  
Original and Current



### Wayne Jensen Memorial





## IMPACT

Our children's ministry, will be wrapping up for the school year in May. We will have two more meetings: May 2 and May 16. Our plan is to try and recreate our previous "end of the year bash" that we would typically have in-person to celebrate the end of the year! Although things looked completely different for us this year, we managed to do our best to keep the kids involved, engaged, and keep their faith strong during our twice per month Zoom meetings. We really hope when we return in the fall, things will be a bit more normal - maybe even seeing each other in person! Stay tuned for more details as planning for the new year continues.

### Thank you, IMPACT youth!

Thank you to the sweet bunnies who hopped over and left some sweet goodies at my door. ~ Marlene Peacock

Thank you to the IMPACT team for the goodies. ~ Al Hahn

Thank you for the treats. ~ Jeff Hughes

What a kind bunch of youth you are. Thank you for the jelly beans to remind us of the Easter story. That was a pleasant surprise. I hope that you all will forever remember that Easter is our most important holiday because it gave us all the opportunity to share in saving grace and live eternally in heaven. ~ Kathy O'Brien



## COMING SOON: SUMMER!

With summer approaching, many relish the thought of a change of scenery during Wisconsin's milder season. If you would like more information about camp offerings,

please check

United Church Camps Outdoor Ministry.

Investigate their offerings at

[UCCI.ORG](http://UCCI.ORG)



- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 - Jason Fricke<br>Bryce Clark          | 15 - Jj Kastengren<br>Breanna Volling |
| 2 - Pam Wanasek<br>Barb Freeman          | 18 - Jack Simenson                    |
| 3 - Nan Wilson                           | 19 -Katie Simenson<br>Tina Wightman   |
| 4 - John Olisar                          | Tamra Fricke                          |
| 6 - Sara Wanasek                         | 23 -Molly Keller<br>Erik Kerkhoff     |
| 7 - Sam Jagodzinski<br>Sebastien Rediger | 24 - Ross Katzman<br>Josh Katzman     |
| 11 - Christine Brauning                  | Casey Reich                           |
| 12 - Barb Church                         | 25 - Carmen McKinney                  |
| 13 - Ann Edwards<br>Kate Bonner          | 27 - John Kranich<br>Alex Wilson      |
| 14 - Kim Wessinger                       | 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

Deadline for the June issue of The Plymouth Epistle is :  
**Thursday, May 20th** Thanks, Kathy

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS:**

Thanks you all for your thoughts, concerns, love and support during my time of surgery and recovery.  
 ~ Jill A.

**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.

**MISSIONS**  
**May Shoebox Items:**

- Combs
- Brushes
- Compact Mirrors



**MISSION MOMENTS**

**LOVE, INC. MEALS**



Our volunteers planned on 50 meals again Wednesday, April 21. A huge thank to Betty and Ev for preparing 5 big pans of chicken and rice! Thanks to Jackie for all the soup contributions and Karen for her green beans. Lori and Julie prepared cantaloupe and grapes and Jane baked peanut butter cookies.

These meals are appreciated by the recipients. They always are very grateful! Please consider helping Plymouth church's mission next month. Mark Monday,

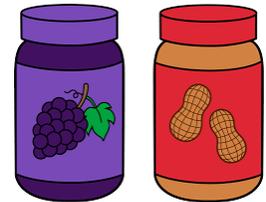
May 10 on your calendars.  
 Call Julie at 262-492-4713.



**MISSION MOMENTS**  
**Peanut Butter & Jelly**  
**Collections Dates**  
**May 2-30**



The Mission Team will be conducting our annual PB&J collection for LOVE, Inc. starting on Sunday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 30th. While grocery shopping, please purchase some peanut butter and/or jelly to donate. Children, who during the school year receive free or reduced meals, will now need to have those supplied at home. Peanut butter is a good source of protein for either breakfast or lunch. Love Inc. finds it difficult to keep the pantry adequately stocked with peanut butter and jelly during the summer months. Please place donations on the parlor table.



**TLC Tied Blankets Needed**

We do need more tie blankets to complete baskets for the TLC Cozy Night Project. Those each require two, new 1 1/2 yards fleece pieces, tied into blankets. Please drop off those blankets at church.

**SHOE COLLECTION SUCCESS**

Thank you all who donated shoes to our most recent collection. We had close to 100 pairs to share with the needy and homeless in Milwaukee and beyond. The "Share a Pair" project determines where the need is the greatest. They also clean shoes as needed and deliver them. We are grateful to each one of you for taking the time to search in your closets. Don't be concerned if you missed this collection since we will be doing this again in the Fall. Please pass the word along to friends and family.

Many thanks from your Mission Team.



**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.

**MAY  
SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**



SUNDAY	May 2 10:00 am	May 9 10:00 am	May 16 10:00 am	May 23 10:00 am	May 30 10:00 am
COMMUNION SERVERS	May 2nd Communion				
USHERS					
LITURGIST	Nikki Burd	Ron Benstead	Jamie Kennow	Steve Picazo	Lorin Benstead
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS					
AV OPERATOR					
NURSERY					
ACOLYTE					



Beginning **TUESDAY JUNE 1st**  
**Church Office Hours:**  
 Mon/Wed 8:30-2:00 Tue/Thu 8:00 - 2:00  
 Closed Fridays

**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 8:30am—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

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

Office Secretary: [plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Strengthen the Church Offering Month						1
2 Service 10:00 am	3	4 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting	6	7	8
9 Service 10:00 am  Mother's Day	10	11 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6pm Bell Choir	13 Ascension Day	14	15
16 Annual Meeting 9:30 am Service 10:00 am 	17	18 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21	22
23 Strengthen the Church Offering Service 10:00 am	24	25 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 6:30am Men's Breakfast Last Friday Church Office is open before summer: Fridays closed.	29
30 Service 10:00 am	31 Church Office CLOSED 					



PLYMOUTH  
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EMAIL:  
plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DELAY  
MAY 2021  
EPISTLE**

*Please enjoy our newsletter  
and learn of the many events  
at our church. If you have  
updated contact information  
or would like to be removed  
from Plymouth's distribution  
list, please contact us with  
your request via mail, phone,  
or email.*

# MAY 2021

