

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVI ISSUE VII
JULY 2021



Special points of
interest:

New Fiscal Year
New Moderator



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The Plymouth Epistle

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

PASTOR'S WORDS

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,
This summer the Revised Common Lectionary is taking us on a tour of the Saul – David – Solomon monarchy for the Israelites. These texts are fun to read from the perspective of a church about to embark on a search for a new pastor. The people beg Samuel for a king, why? "Because everybody else has one." In consultation with God, Samuel warns the people of the problems of having a king, but they insist. Saul is chosen but doesn't obey God and therefore is rejected by God. Next, David is chosen. As I write this we are just beginning to learn of David's reign. Even though David is remembered as the greatest King of Israel in history, we will soon find out he wasn't perfect, far from it, in fact. We know for sure that David commits adultery and murder, it is highly likely that he also commits rape, and yet he is remembered as the greatest king of Israel. Finally, we come to Solomon, who is remembered for his great wisdom, but his reign is troubled and doesn't end well. So, what can we learn from the reigns of these three monarchs in relationship to calling a new pastor?

Be careful how you decide what qualities the next pastor should have. Don't look on the outside, look on the inside – their heart and soul.

No matter who you call to be your next pastor, they will be human and they will be flawed. It's a given.

When their flaws are made known to you, forgiveness is crucial.

Whomever you call will not be able to lead if you, as a congregation, are unwilling to follow.

Your next pastor can't do it alone. When the Israelites went into battle it wasn't the king at the head of the battle line, it was the men in the troops.

In August and September I will be holding some sessions to talk about leadership and what the priorities for Plymouth UCC are in this time and moving forward. (I had hoped to do these beginning in July, but jury duty got in the way). While these sessions will be focused on what are important qualities in the next pastor, they will also be asking what you as members of the congregation are willing to do to make sure your ministry together is successful.

I want you to be thinking about what your expectations of a pastor are, and I will work with you to make sure your expectations are realistic. No one can guarantee that your next pastor is going to be the perfect fit, but during this interim we can do some things to prepare you as a congregation to provide a space where the next pastor can thrive in ministry with you.

Once again, I invite you into a space of prayer. Pray for this congregation, pray for that person who might be your next pastor that he or she might be right now discerning whether or not it might be time to embark on a search for a new ministry, and pray for yourselves individually that you might discern your role as a leader in this church. Ministry doesn't just happen, and it never happens with just one person. Ministry is a shared journey that is intentionally and prayerfully engaged.

Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Becky

Worship Opportunities for July

July 4 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

July 11 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

July 18 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

July 25 – 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Other Opportunities

Liturgy: What does it mean?

Liturgy comes from the Greek word “leitourgia” which literally means “work of the people”. Notice it is not singular, person, but rather it is plural, PEOPLE.

Now that we’re back worshipping in our sanctuary we need some volunteers. There are sign-up sheets to volunteer for the following: usher, acolyte and liturgist. Worship is fuller and more meaningful when we all participate, not just a few. Please take time to sign up and participate.

Plans are underway for the beginning of the program year

What does this mean? We are researching curriculum so that we can provide a fun and engaging opportunity for our children and adults this fall. Faith Formation will take place on Sunday mornings. However, for this program to be a success we need volunteers. If we want to attract younger families we have to provide a quality program for them. If you are interested, please reach out to Tracy Freitag. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

Book Study:

Are you interested in a book study that discusses current events, social and/or ethical issues? This will be a monthly gathering where we would read a book and then discuss. Our first book will be “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng. Email Rev. Becky if you are interested and she will put together a doodle poll to figure out a good time for the discussion.

Online Giving Convenience

Reminder: We have set up the ability to do online giving either through the GIVE menu option on the church website at plymouthucc.church, or by using the Tithe.ly mobile app. You can make a secure, one-time or recurring gift using your credit card, debit card, or bank account.

On the website, click the GIVE menu option, then click the green “Give Now” button.

You can download the Tithe.ly app for iPhones at the App Store or for Androids at Google Play. It only takes a couple of minutes to set up your account and then you’ll be able to see your giving history and manage your account.

Download the **Tithe.ly** app from the App Store or Google Play.



Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV

Moderator's Words

Greetings as we move into a “new” church fiscal year here at Plymouth. As the new moderator, I thought it might be a good idea to provide a little bit about my background since I am still a somewhat new member to the congregation.

I was raised in Ohio and earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Heidelberg College in Tiffin. Later I attended Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis to earn my Master of Divinity degree in 1984. I was ordained that same year in the Northwest Ohio Association, United Church of Christ.

Over the past thirty plus years I served two local churches as their pastor – one in Michigan, the other in upstate New York. However, most of my ministry was done as an army chaplain in both active duty and reserve capacities. I retired from the military in 2011. Prior to moving to Burlington, I lived in Bloomingdale, a west suburb of Chicago.

There are two other new members coming onto the OC as well. Karen Iselin is taking the place of Nicki Stoll as the Christian Educator Facilitator, and Deanna Snyder is taking Lori Benstead's role as the Spiritual Enrichment Facilitator.

Looking ahead at this year, the OC will be working on improving communication skills between the council and the congregation and considering some organizational changes to the church's committee structure. As we all journey into this new phase of Plymouth's story, the OC welcomes suggestions and input from all members as we seek to build a strong foundation for a bright future.

- John Gibbon, Moderator



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 -Kathy Hartlage | 17 - Rachel Jones |
| 5 - Amber Wilson | 18 - Nikki Burd |
| 6 - Toni Meinel | Eli King |
| Paul Schultz | 20 - Gary Jagodzinski |
| 7 - Ian Lunderskov | 22 - Rob King |
| 8 - Elaine Burd | 24 - Kay Burd |
| 10 - Tim Ellingstad | 27 - Isabelle Jagodzinski |
| 12 - Natalie Dukes | 29 - Olin Ellingstad |
| 13 - Olivia Wanasek | Saije Foster |
| Peggy Voss | 30 - Dan Iselin |
| 15 - Jenna Lindell | 31 - Christian Brenner |



- Don & Julie Klaehn – July 8
 Chris Warner & Robyn Kay – July 9
 David & Judy Heinz – July 10
 Steve & Tami Soetenga – July 14
 Joel & Sara Graham – July 22
 Ben & Allie Zusan – July 24
 Phil & Stephanie Rediger – July 31
 Mark & Peggy Voss - July 31



SUNDAY	July 4 10:00 am	July 11 10:00 am	July 18 10:00 am	July 25 10:00 am
COMMUNION SERVERS	At this time, communion is individually packaged.			
USHERS	Barb Freeman & Jackie Kastengren	Lori Benstead & Don Howell	Steph Eveland & Diane Hanson	Joe & Karen Iselin
LITURGIST	Carolyn Schoneck	John Gibbon	Nikki Burd	Jamie Kennow
AV OPERATOR	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson

Deadline for August Epistle July 20th

PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Johnston, Interim Minister
 Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary
 Kathleen O'Brien, Office Secretary
 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

By appointment only; please call
 ahead to check Pastor's availability.

PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS

Steph: Mon & Wed 8:30am—12:30pm

Kathy: Tues & Thurs 8:00am—2:00pm

Fridays: Labor Day-Memorial Day only.

Church Office: 262-763-6890

Web Site: www.plymouthucc.church

Minister: plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com

Office Secretary: plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com

MISSIONS

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY FOR LOVE, INC.

Thank you to all who donated peanut butter & jelly to our annual collection to fill shelves at Love, Inc. this summer. We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our congregation!

OPERATION HELP A HERO PROJECT

Please join us in our annual Help a Hero collection to send care packages to our troops. We will once again be collecting new, unused travel-size toiletries. Hotel soaps, lotions, shampoos and conditioners are great! Please feel free to purchase and donate travel-size shaving cream, mouthwash, deodorant, hand sanitizer, razors, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, etc.

If you prefer, they are collecting gift cards for service people or their families. They have suggested gift cards to the following: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Kohl's, grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants.

If you would like to order on Amazon and ship directly to them, use this address:



Operation Help a Hero
c/o Wendy Ruiz
26247 Enterprise Court
Lake Forest, CA 92630

We will run this collection until
after Labor Day.

JULY SHOE BOX ITEM:
Flip Flops



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.



REMINDER:

CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE TIME IS

10:00 a.m.



Invite a friend to join the Plymouth family. Service is available weekly in-person and available for viewing on the church website plymouthucc.church or You-tube channel.

Church Camps - UCCI

Don't forget the many opportunities for outdoor recreation at our church camps. Visit their website @ <https://ucci.org/events/> for all the details.

Here is just one sample:

Moon Beach offers a Memory Camp 8/16/2021 3:00 PM - 8/19/2021 11:00 AM. Registration ends 07/18.

Memory Camp: A time for relaxation and inspiration for people living with dementia and their families.

This special camp program is designed for people living with mild to moderate dementia and their care partners (spouses, adult children, friends). Experience a holiday at Moon Beach in the beautiful Northwoods with trained volunteers and camp staff who will provide a variety of programs. If you've ever been to a memory café, picture this camp session as resembling a café with all meals provided for several days along with a cozy cabin that can accommodate small or large groups or entire families. Grandchildren are welcome! Sit by the lake, go fishing, swim, take walks, do arts and crafts projects, chat with others living with dementia, all in an environment that invites you to feel relaxed and renewed.

Recently, Don Howell spent some time at Moon Beach Camp. He can share his experience with you.



JULY CALENDAR

July 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4 Independence Day 10:00 Worship 	5 Independence Day Observed	6 7:00pm Book Study	7	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 10:00 Worship	12	13 7:00pm Book Study	14 Prayer Mtg OC Mtg	15	16 Office Closed	17
18 10:00 Worship	19	20 Epistle Deadline 7:00pm Book Study	21 Love Meal	22	23 Office Closed	24
25 10:00 Worship	26	27 7:00pm Book Study	28	29	30 Office Closed	31



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

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

We hope you like our monthly newsletter. It is such a great resource 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

