

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

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AUGUST 2021



Special points of  
interest:

*Marion Rockwell  
Memorial*

*Town Hall Meetings*



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# The Plymouth Epistle

## WORDS FROM PASTOR

The following article came from Guideposts and was written by Bob Hostetler. I thought it was worth sharing here. Thank you to the Wrens for bringing it to my attention. -Rev.

Becky

More than 170 years ago, French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr penned the saying "The more things change, the more they stay the same." That no longer seems to apply.

The 2021 version might be "The more things change, the more things change."

Change can be good or bad, fun or difficult, but it always causes stress, whether we realize it or not. And we have seen more change in recent months than many of us could ever have imagined. Even when we face a difficult transition, our response can make all the difference. If we can somehow embrace the new state of affairs, rather than resisting it, we become agents of change rather than its victims. For most of us, that will take some doing—and more than a little prayer. With that in mind, here are four prayers for embracing change.

"The Lord is with you"

Long ago, the young nation of Israel was facing transformation. An angel appeared to a backcountry nobody named Gideon, who was hiding from the nation's oppressors. The angel greeted him (perhaps without irony): "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior" (Judges 6:12, NIV)

That phrase, turned slightly from greeting into prayer, reminds us that, even when we may not feel like mighty warriors, God is with us and for us during times of transition.

"With your help..."

David faced daunting challenges: giants, a murderous King, a rebellious son and more. In a verse perhaps written after surviving Saul, David said, "With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall" (Psalm 18:29, NIV).

This prayer encourages and strengthens us, a reminder that, whether we survive or thrive in change, God supplies all we need.

"Let it be"

What did a teenage peasant named Mary say when she learned that God had chosen her to give birth to the long-awaited Messiah? Her response is a model prayer: "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38, ESV).

Mary's humble acquiescence was an act of great faith amid dramatic shifts for her—and the world. Her words suggest a powerful prayer: "Let it be to me according to your will." By treating change as a way to enlist in God's wise and loving purposes, we defuse apprehension and activate the miraculous.

"Make us bold"

When Christians faced persecution during the first century, they didn't pray for things to stay the same. They said, "Give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word" (Acts 4:29, NLT). They prayed for courage to meet what lay ahead.

That's the spirit we need when we face changes...a spirit that doesn't shrink from change but instead embraces it, knowing that God can use us—and our shifting circumstances—come what may.

Change is constant. Inevitable. But with prayer, God who never changes, can give us the grace to change and lead us into a future of his choosing.

## Worship Opportunities for August

### August 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a

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

### August 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 18:5 - 9, 13, 31 - 33

### August 15 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 2: 10 - 12; 3: 3 - 14

### August 22 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 8: 22 - 30, 41 - 43

### August 29 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

**Scripture:** Mark 7: 1 - 8, 14 - 15, 21 - 23

## MODERATOR'S WORDS

There is no news to report at this time.



## **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

Getting all one's ducks in a row is no simple feat. Working in the hub of Plymouth family's church office, I can assure you that many work behind the scenes to get all of your ducks in a row. I also know from my own experience that each church family has many needs which multiply as congregations grow and/or age. Different seasons of life allow each one to give of their time, talents, or tithes. It takes all three forms of generosity and commitment to keep a church family strong so that it can reach others for Christ.

Considering the many opportunities to become involved and serve, of which I am informed weekly and then pass along to the congregation, I hope that each of you will offer yourself to one or many ways you can serve Plymouth Church as Plymouth serves others.

Remember the DUCKS

**Do Unto - Commitment, Kindness, Service**  
as a reflection of the Gospel.

~ Kathy O. , your office secretary

(This is what happens when there are spaces to fill in the newsletter.)

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Romans 12:11 NRSV



## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Rev. Becky is hosting several town hall meetings to talk about leadership for Plymouth UCC. If you would prefer to attend these virtually, that will be arranged. You have been asked over the past few months to prayerfully consider what qualities are important in your new pastor. We will discuss these; Pastor Becky will collate the conversations and provide the information to the search committee. In order to allow everyone an opportunity to join the conversation, we will limit each group size to 8-10 people. You can sign up by calling the church or using the sign-up sheets in the parlor. If none of these dates work for you, contact Rev. Becky and she will set another date.

### Available Dates:

August 1, 8, 15 and 29 after church service

August 11 11:00 am

August 16 & 17 11:00 am

August 16 & 23 6:30 pm



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 & Elaine Burd – August 29

1 - Kyle Harder  
Kevin Deyo  
Isabel Jaimes  
2 - Amanda Willick  
5 - Eric Behnke  
Isaac Tremmel  
6 - LaVonne Howell  
Kyle Reich  
Raegan Rediger  
Isaiah Jones  
8 - Nicki Stoll  
Chad VanSwol  
9 - Amanda Bigelow  
10 - Sara Foster  
11 - Debra Hill  
Krista Klaehn  
John Krikie  
Jane Dukes  
12 - Jackie Kastengren

13 - Troy Everson  
15 - Isaac Bahr  
Tyler Daniels  
16 - Bo Coleman  
17 - Sandy Striegel  
Justin Foster  
Jack Sulik  
18 - Allie Zusan  
19 - Don Striegel  
21 - Tristan Ammon  
Peyton Daniels  
Isaac Witte  
23 - Rylee Wightman  
24 - Jessica Schultz  
25 - Julie Sullivan  
28 - Bill Greeter  
Sumay Oh  
29 - Michele Oxley-Hase  
31 - Jake Reich

### August Milestone Anniversaries:

Mike & Julie Springer—50<sup>th</sup> on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Paul & Ann Edwards—60<sup>th</sup> on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Jim & Elaine Burd—62<sup>nd</sup> on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! It's going fast!

It may seem a little early, but planning for fall is already underway for 2021-2022 IMPACT Youth Ministry. The first bit of exciting news is that we will be able to gather in person. We are planning to meet on Sunday mornings. We are also using a new curriculum that provides us with fresh material for our youth and leaders. We plan to split classes by grade levels K-2nd, 3rd- 5th, and 6th-8th.

We are searching for volunteers!!!

We are looking for 2 adult leaders for each of these 3 groups. (Due to safe sanctuary requirements, 2 adults must be present with students at all times.)

The curriculum is based on 5-week units, providing an opportunity to rotate leaders with each unit. Depending on the number and needs, for volunteer leaders, we can be flexible with creating shorter commitment periods.

Won't you please consider helping out with this fun, personally rewarding volunteerism? We'd love it if you join our team. Please sign-up at the parlor table or contact Tracy if you can help in anyway.

We want IMPACT to be the best that it can be for our youth this coming year!

Have a blessed summer!

Tracy Freitag  
Children's Ministry Director



### **Church Beautification**



Thank you to Marty Baker for providing the flower arrangements on the communion table. Also, thanks for tending the outdoor flowers to beautify our entryway.



**MISSIONS:**

Thank you to all who contributed to the July Love Meal, especially to Jackie for coordinating! August 30 is our next date. Please call Julie at 262-492- 4713 if you want to be a contributor!



**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.



In remembrance of Marion Rockwell, the Children’s Center has installed one of these units at each of its facilities. These were made possible by donations made in Marion’s memory. Much like a mini-library, it will house books, games, and toys to be used outdoors in the children’s play area.



SUNDAY	Aug 1 10:00 am	Aug 8 10:00 am	Aug 15 10:00 am	Aug 22 10:00 am	Aug 29 10:00 am
COMMUNION SERVERS	Aug 1: Due to recent changes, prefilled communion packages will be available to take as you enter the sanctuary.				
USHERS	Nikki Burd & Jackie Kastengren	Barb Freeman & Don Howell	Steph Eveland & Diane Hanson	Nikki Burd & Lori Benstead	Joe & Karen Iselin
LITURGIST	Don Howell	Jackie Kastengren	Lori Benstead	Carolyn Schoneck	John Gibbon
ACOLYTE					
AV OPERATOR	Ron Patla	Aaron Jenson	Ron Patla	Aaron Jenson	Ron Patla

**Please Join Us**

Consider joining one of the volunteer teams by signing up at the parlor table or contacting the office with your information.

**Deadline for the September Epistle  
Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> Thanks ~Kathy**

**PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF**

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

**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 or email Pastor for availability.

**PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS**

Steph: Mon & Wed 8:30am—12:30pm  
 Kathy: Tues & Thurs 8:00am—2:00pm  
 Fridays: \*8:00am—12:00pm

\*Labor Day-Memorial Day only.  
 Church Office: 262-763-6890

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

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

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

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



# AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 10:00 Town Hall Mtg	2	3  7:00 Book Study	4	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 Worship 10:00 Town Hall Mtg	9	10  7:00 Book Study	11 Prayer Group 10:30am  Town Hall Mtg 11:00am  OC Mtg 6:30pm	12	13 Office Closed	14
15 Worship 10:00 Town Hall Mtg	16 Town Hall Mtg 11:00am  Town Hall Mtg 6:30pm	17 Town Hall Mtg 11:00am  7:00 Book Study	18	19	20 Office Closed  Epistle Deadline	21
22 Worship 10:00	23  Town Hall Mtg 6:30pm	24  7:00 Book Study	25	26	27 Office Closed	28
29 Worship 10:00 Town Hall Mtg	30 Love Meal	31  7:00 Book Study				



**PLYMOUTH  
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262-763-6802 FAX**

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DELAY  
AUGUST 2021  
EPISTLE**

*Enjoy our newsletter filled with church events. If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us by mail -  
124 W Washington St, Burlington, WI 53105  
telephone -  
262-763-6890  
or email -  
[plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com)*



**Enjoy the rest of your  
Wisconsin Summer**

**before the orange barrels and  
warm temperatures are gone.**