

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVI ISSUE IX  
SEPTEMBER 2021



***Special points of interest:***  
Student IMPACT resumes  
September 19th



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# The Plymouth Epistle

## **WORDS FROM PASTOR**

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,

As many of you are already aware, I will be gone a good portion of September. I want to take some time to explain why I'm going to be gone so long.

A couple of years ago, my best friend, also a UCC pastor asked if I would join her on a trip to Greece if she got a sabbatical grant. She did indeed receive the grant and we were scheduled to go to Greece in June 2020. Well, we all know how that worked out. She was given 18 months to use the grant or lose it, so we planned to go to Greece in September. We will be spending a week at a yoga retreat and then take a ferry to Crete for a week of kayaking around the island. I've had misgivings about the trip with the Delta variant and the wildfires, but we have decided to go ahead with the trip. One of the factors in deciding to go ahead with the trip despite my misgivings is that I lost a very close friend this past year and don't want to take any of my friendships for granted. Jenny and I lived together in Seminary and have stayed close all these years despite the miles that have separated us (she currently lives in Wyoming). I am really looking forward to some serious girl time.

It's not easy to take this amount of time for myself. While my husband is hugely supportive, it will be difficult to be away from him and Joseph for 2 ½ weeks (which translates to 3 Sundays). While I am looking forward to the yoga retreat and kayak trip, I am most looking forward to deep conversations and spiritual renewal. Jenny and I have kayaked the Apostle Islands and rafted through the Grand Canyon together so I know our time together will be physically, emotionally, and spiritually renewing.

Not everyone is into yoga and kayaking, but hopefully we all have a place (literally or figuratively) where we can go for physical, emotional, and spiritual renewal. Jesus tried several times to get away with his disciples only for the crowd to find them and disrupt their respite. We need not only to give permission for one another to take a break, but we need to encourage it. I encourage all of you to find time and space to renew yourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Overworking is not healthy and often is not productive. As a society we need to learn to breathe more deeply, pray more fervently, and pace ourselves so we can actually enjoy the journey and experience this creation which God has given us.

I want to thank the OC for understanding the timing of this trip and giving me the space to participate in it. If you are in need of pastoral care while I am gone, call the office and they will be able to arrange that for you.

Blessings as we continue the journey,  
Rev. Becky

P.S. Please see the moderator's message for an update on the search process.

**WORDS FROM PASTOR**

continued

**Church Committee Structure**

Your moderator, John Gibbon, and I have been discussing the current committee structure for Plymouth UCC. We both agree that the current structure is great for a church of 900+ members but not so great for a church our size. We would like to have a **meeting with ALL members of ALL committees** to lead you through a process so that we can address the structure together and come up with some solution to help us move forward. We're going to do this on **Wednesday, Oct 20th at 6:30**

**Worship Opportunities for September****September 5 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost****Scripture:**

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

**September 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost****Scripture:** Mark 8:27-38**Guest Preacher:** John Gibbon**September 19 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost****Scripture:** Mark 9:30-37**Guest Preacher:** Jeff Smith**September 26 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost****Scripture:** Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**Guest Preacher:** John Gibbon

1 - Wyatt Mitchell	13 - Tim Burd	22 - Toni Kranich
Sue Deyo	14 - Jenn Brenner	Chris Springer
3 - Juliana Pieters	16 - Reese Ammon	24 - Aveah Daniels
Teagen Oxley-Hase	Nate Bahr	Anne Klein
7 - Joe Iselin	17 - Tami Soetenga	25 - Marissa Escobar
Jess Moen	Adriana Burd	26 - Christine Schultz
8 - Ron Patla	18 - Kelsey Bonner	27 - Jill Rehberg
Allison Dukes	Ali Knight	Rod Benstead
9 - Chad Kane -Terhorst	20 - Ellen Gyger	Dave Kerkhoff
Spencer Warner	21 - Kim Kerkhoff	Chrystal Hameau
Crue Freitag	Kelly Iselin	29 - James Marty
11 - CJ VanSwol	Jared Spitzer	30 - Margie Jay
12 - Eliza Fricke	Jessica Spitzer	Kathy Kruse



Scott & Peggy Behnke – September 11  
 Dave & Pat Brown – September 12  
 Gary & Pam Peterson – September 13  
 Cory & Sue Deyo - September 14

Dave & Deanna Snyder – September 19  
 Rod & Lori Benstead - September 22  
 Nick & Anna Rothering – September 27  
 John & Leslie Wanasek – September 30

### MODERATOR'S WORDS

As we move further into our interim period, there are several important things we need to keep in mind.

**1. Patience.** The process of seeking a new minister is very much a journey rather than a race. To ensure that we seek and find the “right” pastor to guide us into the future, we must take the time to determine what skills are paramount for that person to possess.

This is the reason for the Town Hall Meetings Rev. Becky is conducting. Through the dialogue at each of those gatherings, she can gather many of the pieces of the jigsaw that will help us identify someone who will be able to lead us forward because their skill set matches our needs.

There is also a lot of questioning about when a search committee will begin its work. As noted above, we must first identify what it is we need in our next pastor. With that information, the next step is to put together our “church profile”. This is the document that will go out through the National Office of the UCC to the various Conferences for pastors to review and use to decide if they are interested in the position here.

Once we finish the town hall meetings and have a better sense of what we are looking for in a pastor we can start to put together a search committee. Their first task will be to create our church’s profile. That process should take several months to do it properly. Once the profile is completed, then we can start the search for a new pastor.

Only after these things are in place will we be ready to have a search committee begin its tasks of reviewing and interviewing prospective candidates.

**2. Participation.** As a congregation, we are a community and specific family of Christians. For us to be able to fully function in the absence of a permanent pastor, we need everyone participating as they are able.

It is tempting to think that we can sit back and wait until the new person is in place. However, that means that much of the routine work and ministry of our church stops or reduces to an anemic level that will certainly not attract new members. The church’s work needs to continue with or without a permanent pastor. Everyone’s participation is critical to maintain and build upon the foundation we already have.

**3. Re-Imagining.** Last year’s pandemic has forced us to understand that how we “do church” may not remain the same as it has always been. We have explored and expanded our digital presence and capabilities. We managed to continue weekly worship despite not being able to gather in person. Our primary committees continued to coordinate via the internet and phone.

These accomplishments demonstrate our ability to imagine and find new ways of doing things. There are, however, things we need to imagine further to create an environment that further facilitates meaningful participation and ministry opportunities. These in turn can help us attract new families in our congregation.

A few examples of possible venues are creating small interest groups around favorite activities, streamlining our organization so there are fewer committees thus freeing up more people to engage in ministry, finding additional missions to support and/or engage in.

**4. Communication.** To ensure the above things can grow and blossom, we need to communicate with one another. In all the military leadership courses I went through, this was always a critical element covered. One of the more useful lessons had to do with determining the lines of communication necessary throughout planning and execution phases. It basically taught us to decide: a - Who needed to know; b - What do they need to know; and, c - When do they need to know it.

If you have something on your mind, please share it with the appropriate person(s). If you have ideas about new missions, ministries, projects, present them to someone in leadership. If you have a complaint, please bring it to the person(s) involved.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As summer will be coming to an end soon unfortunately, we do have many things to look forward to this coming fall! We are excited about our new year and curriculum!

We are planning to gather for IMPACT Sunday mornings after church from 11:00-11:45 am. Beginning September 19th. Classes split by grade levels K-2nd, 3rd-5th, & 6th-8th.

We are still looking for Volunteers!!! Anyone who can volunteer their time, big or small would be greatly appreciated! Looking for leaders, leader (subs), aide, & helpers.

Please contact Tracy if you can help in anyway!

(262)206-5572 or [plymouthuccion@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccion@gmail.com)



Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Blessings,

Tracy Freitag

Children's Ministry Director

Please add the following email to your contacts:  
**[plymouthuccion@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccion@gmail.com)**

## GENEROSITY DAY

You're invited to make a difference. Please see below for our upcoming Generosity Day! Contact Jen Grimme at Thrivent if you have any project ideas and please share with everyone. We will be doing the following for sure:

Cemetery clean-up

Downtown Burlington clean-up

Looking for projects in the park and any on site projects that you would like to present. Looking forward to sharing in this day of Generosity in the Community with all of you.

The community needs you. We help you answer the call by providing the means to take action. We help our clients invest in others to make a real difference. Let's get started! Please join us at Generosity Day, hosted by Thrivent Community - Shoreline Group. Join us for a morning of volunteering in Burlington!

Sign up for an existing project or organize one of your own. Projects from 8:30am-11:30am, Lunch to follow. Double your impact and bring a guest.

Event details:

Saturday, September 18, 2021

8:00 a.m.

Wehmhoff Square

355 N Pine St

Burlington, WI

Please RSVP by 9/10 to Jen Grimme at (262) 806-4728.

Thrivent Community - Shoreline Group

262-806-7390



**MISSIONS:**

**Operation Help a Hero:**

Please join us in our annual Operation 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, shampoo, and conditioners are great! Please feel free to purchase and donate travel size shaving cream, mouthwash, deodorant, hand sanitizer, facial tissue, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.

If you prefer, they are also collecting gift cards for service people or their families. They have suggested the following gift cards: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Restaurants, Kohl's, Grocery Stores, Gas Stations.

Finally, if you would like to order on Amazon, you can have items shipped directly to them:

Operation Help a Hero  
 c/o Wendy Ruiz  
 26247 Enterprise Ct  
 Lake Forest, Ca 92630

**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.

**Mission News:**



**SHOE BOX ITEMS NEEDED**

We could still use more of the following items:  
 Tools, pens, and sewing kits

September – bandanas and socks  
 October - toys



**CALLED TO CARE**

A new team with seventeen volunteers that are being trained by Rev. Becky has been formed. The purpose is to make regular visits with some of our senior members and others that might like a caring visit. We see this as a very welcome service to our members, especially as we transition to a new minister in the future. It has been exciting to hear the response from our volunteers as well as those we will visit. We are calling ahead to create a list of those who would like a visitor, but if you are not contacted in the next couple weeks please don't hesitate to give a call to Jackie Kastengren (534-3949) or the church office (763-6890), and we'll be sure you are included.



**SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

SUNDAY	Sept 5	Sept 12	Sept 19	Sept 26
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Sept 5: Pandemic-safe protocol continues			
<b>USHERS</b>	Joe & Karen Iselin	Steve & Andrew Picazo	Barbara Freeman & Wally Brown	Mikki Burd & Don Howell
<b>LITURGIST</b>	Jim Burd	Jamie Kennow	Don Howell	Steve Picazo
<b>AV OPERATOR</b>	Aaron Jenson	Ron Patla	Aaron Jenson	Ron Patla

Belated CONGRATULATIONS to all of recent High School graduates! Your achievements have not gone unnoticed! High School graduates from Plymouth Church are Tristan Post, Ellen Graham, Chad VanSwol, and Grace Keller. Please notify the church office if we neglected to mention any students. In addition, we would like families to notify the church of any college graduates.



**Deadline for September Epistle is Tuesday, September 21st. Thank you. ~ Kathy**

**PLYMOUTH UCC ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

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

Children's Ministry, Tracy Freitag  
 Custodian, Jeffrey Hughes

Choir Accompanist, Lisa Carnahan  
 Choir Director, Jamie Kennow  
 Organist & Bell Choir Director, Diane Olson  
 Wedding Coordinator, Marty Baker

**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)



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Resumes this month!</div>			1  6:00 pm Auction Mtg	2	3  Office Closed	4
5 Communion Sunday 10:00 am Worship	6 Labor Day  Office Closed 	7	8 OC Meeting 6:30 pm	9	10  Rev. Becky gone through September 28	11
12 10:00 am Worship Guest Preacher John Gibbon	13	14 Prayer Grp 10:30 am	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship Guest Preacher Jeff Smith 11:00-11:45 Impact Begins!	20	21 Epistle Deadline  Office Secretary gone	22	23  Office Secretary gone	24  Office Secretary gone	25
26 10:00 am Worship Guest Preacher John Gibbon 11:00-11:45 Impact	27	28	29  Rev. Becky returns	30		



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

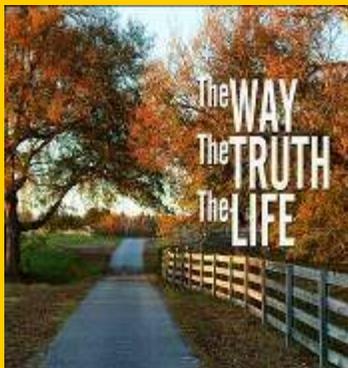
**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED  
DATE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DELAY  
SEPTEMBER 2021  
EPISTLE**

*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*



**Beginning September 19th - Student Impact  
Grades K-8 11:00-11:45 Sundays  
Come Join Us!**

