

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVII ISSUE III
MARCH 2022



Special points of
interest:

Lent Begins



Inside this Issue

Words from Pastor	1
Moderator's Words, Search Committee & Operating Council Contact Names	2
Missions, One Great Hour of Sharing	3
Children's Ministry	4
Worship Schedule, Birthdays, Anniversaries	5
Volunteers, Contact Information	6
Calendar	7

The Plymouth Epistle

Monthly Newsletter

WORDS FROM PASTOR

March 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,
Sometimes I feel like I say the same thing over and over in newsletters. That's probably because I do. My Dad once told me, "Becky we get at best 2 hours a week, the school get 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, we have to repeat ourselves to get our message across". So, if this sounds familiar, it probably is.

During the search process we often hear people saying things like, "We need a pastor that can attract young people" or "We need a pastor that's good at (fill in the blank)" or "We need someone who can _." The message being, we need a magician who can magically transform our church. When you set such goals for your next pastor you will be disappointed because no matter how diligent the search committee is you are going to get a fallible human being.

Ordination doesn't magically transform us from being ordinary human beings to being perfect pastors. At the service of ordination, we make vows to be the best pastors we can be, but it doesn't make us perfect, erase our pasts, or somehow make us more than what we already are.

As we work through this interim period, we should focus a little less on our expectations of the pastor and focus more on our expectations of who we want to be as a church. The pastor is one person. The church is made up of all of the people. If we all use the best of our abilities and all participate in the ministry and mission of the church, we don't have to worry about it falling apart because one person leaves the church.

1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that the body is made up of many members and no one member is more important than another. Yes, pastors are ordained to perform certain tasks of ministry, but all of us are equipped by the Holy Spirit to do other tasks of ministry. I like to compare the church to a hospital. You can have the best surgeon in the world, but if the custodial staff isn't doing their job the likelihood of infection is very high. It takes a team to make any institution stellar.

During this interim time it is necessary to pray for our search committee and the one they might call. It is also necessary to pray for ourselves to understand and claim each and everyone's part in this new chapter of the church's life.

Lent is often a season when people take on a particular prayer journey. This lent pray for your church, pray for yourself, pray for being a part of the best your church can be. Pray.

Blessings for the journey,
Rev. Becky

Just a reminder that we do have a Lenten devotional available to those who are interested. The devotional is from "A Sanctified Art." It is the same resource that will be used all of the Sundays in Lent.

MODERATOR'S WORDS

We will begin the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd. This is a traditional time for reflection and rooted in three historical practices: prayer, fasting, and the giving of alms. With our search committee in full swing, I suggest to you that this Lenten season our efforts may want to include an extra dose of the discipline of prayer. It is a way for us to provide extra support to them in their tasks as well as making each of us a special part of the process and connect us all in a greater whole. I know some of you are concerned and/or frustrated with how long this process may take. However, we need to remember and frequently remind ourselves that this will take place in God's time, Divine time, and not on a forge ahead human time. The Holy Spirit will stir and move in its own way and rhythm that rarely matches the pace or goals we set within our human schedules. Here again, it is the discipline of prayer that allows us to shift gears and create the open space necessary for the Spirit to do its work. It is also the best tool to help us occasionally sense and touch that Divine time in which all good things develop and come to fruition. Let us make the most of this season by renewing and deepening our personal and collective prayers.
~ John Gibbon

Glenn Stoll	SEARCH COMMITTEE	Jill Albrecht
Steve Picazo	Continue in prayer for the search committee and the (unknown) person who will be our new pastor.	Gidget Brown
Jackie Naughton	Ron Moersfelder	Joe Iselin

OPERATING COUNCIL POSITION	NAME	GROUP FACILITATOR OF
Minister	Rev. Rebecca (Becky) Johnston	n/a
Moderator	John Gibbon	n/a
Vice Moderator		Mission & Social Action
Past Moderator	Nikki Burd	Stewardship & Budget
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Schoneck	n/a
Treasurer	Mary Ellen Close	Finance
Member at Large	Tasha Escobar	Membership & Involvement
Member at Large	Deanna Snyder	Spiritual Enrichment
Member at Large	Karen Iselin	Christian Education & Fellowship



Soles for Souls

Start your spring cleaning early by checking your closets for new or gently-used shoes you have either outgrown or have never worn. From March 1-31, we will once again be collecting shoes (adult, children, & infant) for Soles4Souls/Share a Pair of shoes. Many pairs of shoes were collected last year so let's make this year's collection even more successful.



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE PAIR AT A TIME



As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
Ephesians 6:15 (NRSV)

Our February Love meal was packed with nutrition and comfort food. Our meat was provided by Wilson's Farm Meats. Betty, Katie, Kathy, and Barb baked the tater tot casserole. The nutritious salad and oranges were brought in by Karen and Peggy. Evelyn baked the homemade cookies. Assembly of the food went quickly with Amber, Joe, and Karen Iselin, and Lori Benstead. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 40 meals!
March meals will be organized by the music folks.



Giving is Blessing

One Great Hour of Sharing – culminates March 27th

<https://www.wcucc.org/conference-giving/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation-page/>

The One Great Hour Sharing Offering (OGHS) supports the humanitarian and disaster relief of the United Church of Christ both domestically and internationally. This offering is received annually on the fourth Sunday in Lent. You can make a gift through your local congregation or by completing a form in the link.



We are all so excited to be back in-person for IMPACT! We ended up doing ZOOM for those few weeks. We were very happy that the kids still joined in & participated. We do know they much prefer to be in-person together! In February we were excited that some of our kids received their Bibles from Plymouth! Check out the smiling faces of Reese Mushel, Paige Bernau, Calia Freitag, Alyssa Jesse, Nathaniel Graham, Amber Iselin, Emma Iselin, & Jacen Arroyo as they received their own Bible! They were hand-delivered to each child instead of giving them during a service like in the past. We just weren't sure at the time when we would have been able to do so. At the end of February our IMPACT youth will be working on Hygiene Kits for Mission Projects. The kids have always liked being part of this project & enjoy helping put the kits together. We are hoping to have more opportunities for our youth to be involved in more missions projects in the future. We are trying to get back to a little normalcy by possibly having our Bake Sale in April! We hope to make it work! More details to follow. Looking forward to spring & the warmer weather! Blessings,
Tracy Freitag
Plymouth Children's Ministry - IMPACT



Worship Opportunities for March

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served

March 13 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35 (Psalm 27)

March 20 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9 (Isaiah 55:1-9)

March 27 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

April 3 – 5th Sunday in Lent

April 10 - 6th Sunday in Lent

The Worship Team will be taking orders for flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday as we've done in past years. Order forms will soon be on the parlor table or in Plymouth Points later in March. Keep watching the Plymouth Points and Bulletin Announcements for upcoming details.



Easter Flowers



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 - Laura Murin
Serena Wanasek
Tyler VanSwol | 8 - Jim Burd
Karen Iselin
Kathy Patla | 22 - Judy Heinz
23 - Hannah Lindell
27 - Dave Brown
Dennis Witte
Kylara Clark |
| 2 - Aaron Burd
John Ray | 10 - Ken Stier
15 - Kathy Pieters | 28 - Ben Zusan
29 - Ashley Volling
31 - Wally Brown |
| 4 - Manda Stack
5 - Nickolas Befort
Benjamin Graham
7 - Keith Krumholz
Shaunna Deyo | 16 - Willow Fiegel
Leah Henning
17 - Sedona Souther | |



- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wally & Gidget Brown – March 10 | Dick & Kathy Pieters – March 14 |
| Tom & Stacie Coleman – March 13 | Ron & Mary Lou Nebinger – March 19 |



March Volunteers



SUNDAY	March 6 10:00 am	March 13 10:00 am	March 20 10:00 am	March 27 10:00 am
AV OPERATOR	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson
ACOLYTE				
COMMUNION PREPARERS	Peggy Voss & Carolyn Schoneck			
LITURGIST	Lori Benstead	John Gibbon	Don Howell	Nikki Burd
USHERS	Dan & Kelly Iselin	Steve & Andrew Picazo	Ellen Gyger & Nikki Burd	Stephanie Eveland & Diane Hanson

Deadline for the April issue of The Plymouth Epistle is March 22nd.



PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Interim Minister
 Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary
 Kathy 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 A. JOHNSTON,
 INTERIM MINISTER OFFICE HOURS**

Please call ahead to make sure Pastor is available.

PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS

Steph: Mon & Wed 8:00am—2:00pm
 Kathy: Tues & Thurs 8:00am—2:00pm
 Fri 8:00am—12:00pm
 Church Office: 262-763-6890

Web Site: www.plymouthucc.church

Children's Ministry Email: plymouthuccimpact@gmail.com
 Financial Secretary Email: plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com

Minister Email: plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com
 Office Secretary Email: plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com



March Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MONTH	Bells 6:00pm	1 Choir 6:30pm	2 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm service ✦	3	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship 11:00 Impact 	7 Bells 6:00pm	8 Prayer Mtg 10:30am Choir 6:30pm	9 OC Mtg 6:30pm	10	11	12
13 10:00am Worship 11:00 Impact 	14 Bells 6:00pm	15 Choir 6:30pm	16	17 	18	19
20 10:00am Worship 11:00 Impact 	21 Bells 6:00pm	22 Choir 6:30pm April Epistle Deadline	23	24	25	26
27 10:00am Worship 11:00 Impact 	28 Bells 6:00pm	29 Choir 6:30pm	30	1 April	2	3



Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 Isaiah 58:6 (NRSV)



**PLYMOUTH
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262-763-6802 FAX**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY
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EPISTLE**

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mailing list, please notify us by
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(262-763-6890),
or
email -
plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com

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LENT