

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVII ISSUE IV
APRIL 2022



Special points of
interest:

EASTER!

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The Plymouth Epistle

Monthly Newsletter

WORDS FROM PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC,
This month I have decided to share some educational materials from the curriculum being used by IMPACT. May you embrace these holy seasons of Lent and Easter.
Rev. Becky

A WORD ABOUT EASTER/PENTECOST

For 40 days of Lent, we have been anticipating Easter – the high point of the Christian year. But Easter is not just one day. Easter is a season that begins with the festival of the resurrection, continues for 50 days, and culminates with the festival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of Easter over an eight-week period reminds us that the disciples did not wake up on Easter morning and say “Alleluia! Christ is risen.” Those are the words of the early church. The disciples at first did not believe what the women told them and remained both confused and wondering through the weeks that followed as Jesus appeared to them in different places. The impact of what they were experiencing and what it meant for their lives did not fully dawn on them until their experience on Pentecost Day.

The colors for the Easter season are white or gold/yellow except for Pentecost Day which is red. The mood of this season is one of celebration which is expressed in music (lots of Alleluias) and in decorations (lots of flowers and symbols of new life.) In some traditions, a prayer of confession is omitted in this most joyous of seasons. Easter is a time for hearing the resurrection stories from the gospels, remembering the stories from Acts of the beginnings of the early church, and listening to letters of encouragement to this early church through readings from the epistles and the book of Revelation. Readings from the Hebrew scriptures are set aside for a brief time during the Easter season in order to allow the church to become immersed within the story of its own beginnings as an Easter people. We celebrate the rebirth and renewal of a group of discouraged, broken-hearted, fearful individuals who were seized with an unquenchable joy, and whose lives were filled with new meaning and purpose. Because of the Easter experience, these people were dramatically and qualitatively different with an inner power which attracted others and started a spiritual movement that has rippled through the centuries to the present.

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WORDS FROM PASTOR CONT'D

Pentecost is the joyous culmination of the great 50 days of the Easter season. It is a festival of fire and wind and spirit. The color for this day is a vivid red signifying the “tongues of fire” which rested on each disciple. Red is also the color of martyrdom, a symbol of what was in store for the early Christians and so many who would come after them. At Pentecost we celebrate not only the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples but God’s Spirit at work today, and the gifts of the Spirit we have each been given.

EASTER SKIT

All Ages



NEEDED

Easter is just around the corner, and we need some volunteers. We have a skit that would work really well with intergenerational participants. Please let Rev. Becky or Tracy know if you are able/willing to help.

WCUCC ANNUAL MEETINGS

Consider the following:

Southeast Association 2022 Annual Meeting

Date: May 7

Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Brookfield Congregational UCC

16350 Gebhardt Rd Brookfield WI 53005

Phone: 262-786-4155

Wisconsin Conference UCC-Annual Meeting

Start: June 10 @ 12:00 pm

End: June 12 @ 12:00 pm

Website: <https://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/annual-meeting/>

Green Lake Conference Center

W2511 WI-23 Green Lake 54941



Symbols Of The Easter Season

We hope teachers will work with the children to transform classroom areas into “Easter People places” with the colours and symbols of the Easter Season. Use yellow and white crepe paper streamers, flowers, pictures from the Resurrection stories, and Easter symbols to help children recognize through their senses that this is the most important time of the Christian year. Perhaps all through the fifty days of Easter the children’s own symbols of new life and resurrection could be added.

Butterfly

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, new life, the glorified (changed, resurrected) body.



Chick, Egg, Lamb, Flowers

Each of these symbolizes new life. An egg looks lifeless but miraculously out of it comes new life. An egg can also represent the stone that was rolled away from the tomb.



Lily

The lily is a sign of life coming from death as a bloom comes from a dry, seemingly lifeless bulb. The lily looks like a trumpet sounding the good news of the resurrection.



Sunrise

The women came to the tomb at sunrise on the first day of the week, to anoint Jesus’ body, and found that the tomb was empty, and that Jesus had risen. Sunrise can also symbolize resurrection as a new dawn in our own lives.



Empty Tomb and Empty Cross

Symbols of the resurrection: A crucifix represents Good Friday and the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus,

while an empty cross represents forgiveness, resurrection and new life.

Cross of Glory

The cross with rays symbolizes the glory of the risen Christ.



Alpha and Omega

The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing eternity and the joyous message that Christ has risen and reigns forever. Based on Revelation 1:8 “I am the first and the last . . . who is, and was, and is to come.”



Chi Rho

Chi and Rho are the first 2 letters of the Greek word meaning “the Christ.”



Dove

The coming of the Holy Spirit is described as a dove descending at Jesus’ baptism and is also pictured that way as a Pentecost symbol.



Paschal Candle

This is usually a large white candle, often inscribed in red wax with a Greek cross, with the 4 numerals of the calendar year in its corners. An Alpha and an Omega are above and below, or to each side of this cross. The Paschal candle symbolizes the light of Christ shining eternally.

Note: Don’t be too concerned if the symbols of Easter and Pentecost become intermingled. According to the gospel of John the empowerment of the community happened simultaneously with the resurrection of Jesus. (See section below called “Luke/Acts and the gospel of John.”) The 2 festivals which bookmark the season simply provide wonderful opportunities for special focus in a season of nonstop celebration.

Traditionally it stands at a central place in the church and is lighted throughout the 50 days of the Easter season and then at funerals and baptisms throughout the year.



Wind

The coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples at the Pentecost festival is described as a noise from the sky like a strong wind blowing.



Tongues of Fire

In Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit is described as tongues of fire spreading out and touching each one in the room. Fire is a symbol used in Hebrew scriptures to represent God.



Ship

Symbol for the church, which was given birth at Pentecost. The large assembly part of a church building is sometimes called the “nave” which means ship. The church is seen as the means by which we journey together in faith on the sea of life. The wind of the Spirit fills the sails of our ship. ■



Lenten Symbols

Symbols are an important ingredient during our Lenten preparation for Easter. They remind us of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and what happened there. Most of the Lenten symbols below are taken directly from the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

Palms

Branches of the palm tree, regarded as sacred from early Semitic times, were waved triumphantly as Jesus entered Jerusalem.



The Number 40

The 40 days of Lent are symbolic of Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness after his baptism and before the beginning of his ministry.

40

Forty is a number used repeatedly in the Bible, signifying "a period of transformation."

Ashes

A symbol of our mortality and an ancient sign of sorrow and repentance for sin. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of worshipers in the sign of a cross. Traditionally these are the ashes from the burning of the previous year's Palm Sunday branches or crosses.



Loaf and Cup

Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples during the Last Supper. (Luke 22:19–20)



Basin and Towel

At the last supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to love and serve one another. (John 13:5)



Bag of Coins

Just before the last supper, Judas met with the chief priests and temple guard and agreed to betray Jesus to them for 30 pieces of silver. (Matt. 26:15)



Lantern

On the night of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, Judas and a group of Roman soldiers and temple guards entered the garden of Gethsemane with lanterns and torches. (John 18:3)



Rooster

Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny 3 times that he knew Jesus. (Luke 22:34)



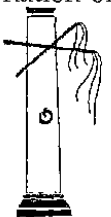
Rope

A rope was used to bind Jesus when he was led away to the High Priest. (John 18:12)



Pillar and Scourges

The scourges and pillar are representative of the trial and condemnation of Jesus. The type of pillar shown is traditional, as it was supposed that this was the type to which Jesus was tied when the soldiers stripped and flogged him. (John 19:1)



Crown of Thorns

The soldiers mockingly placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Robe and Dice

The soldiers gambled to see which one would have Jesus' woven seamless robe. (John 19:23–24)



Nails

Jesus was nailed to the cross. (John 20:25)



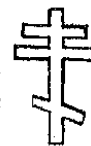
I.N.R.I.

These are the first letters of the Latin inscription which Pilate put on the cross of Jesus – *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. (Matt. 27:37)

I.N.R.I.

Eastern Cross

The upper horizontal arm represents the place of the inscription over the head of the crucified Jesus. The lower slanting arm represents his footrest.



Passion Cross

This cross is distinguished by its pointed ends. It is also known as the cross of suffering. Symbolically it indicates Maundy Thursday or Good Friday (as contrasted to the empty plain cross – a symbol of resurrection).



Chi Rho

These 2 joined letters represent the first 2 letters in the Greek word "Christos" or "Christ" (God's anointed one). This is what we confess in our celebration of Easter – that we believe Jesus is the Christ, God's anointed one.



Worship Opportunities for April

April 3 – 5th Sunday in Lent
Scripture: John 12:1-8, Isaiah 43:16-21

April 15 - Good Friday
Scripture: John 19:1-30

April 10 – Palm Sunday
Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

April 17 – Easter
Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

April 14 - Maundy Thursday
Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

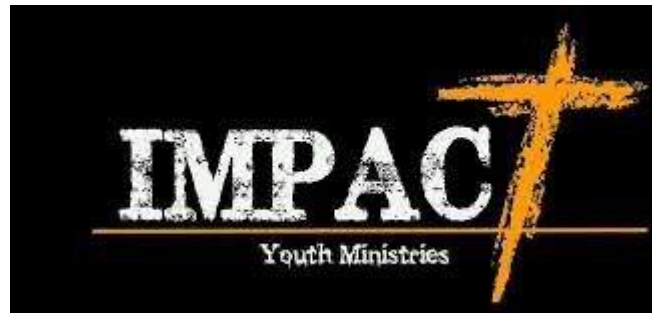
April 24 – 2nd Sunday of Easter
Scripture: John 20:19-31

DEVOTIONALS

Copies of The Upper Room and These Days are available in the church parlor.

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

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



We hope everyone is enjoying this warmer weather!

At the end of February the kids worked on putting together the Hygiene Kits for Missions. This project is one that they always enjoy working on together!

In March our IMPACT Youth kids worked on Lenten coin boxes for each family to take home, collect money during Lent, and bring back afterwards.

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, our IMPACT youth will be having a BAKE SALE and are participating in the church service that day! The kids will also be selling yummy ham which was generously donated by Scott Wilson! We hope you can come by after church and purchase some of the delicious ham and baked goods made by IMPACT families!

Looking forward to seeing you! Check out our IMPACT bulletin board as well!

Blessings,

Tracy Freitag

IMPACT- Plymouth Children's Ministry Director



Please note that there is no IMPACT on Easter Sunday- April 17th.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Aurora Health at Home Hospice

Become a Volunteer

with Aurora Health
at Home Hospice



All it takes is a big heart, a little time and a giving spirit.

The Value of Volunteering

When you become a hospice volunteer with Aurora Health at Home, you help to make every day count by bringing joy, decreasing anxiety and enhancing the patient and family's quality of life. You'll also benefit by:

- Impacting the lives of others
- Developing new skills
- Meeting the needs of others

Flexible Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to help as a hospice volunteer. We help you find the right fit for your unique interests, skills and abilities.

Patient Support

- Visit patients' homes to offer a smile and companionship, share stories, play games or read aloud.
- Veterans share their military experiences while visiting with other veterans.

Family Support

- Provide respite time for caregivers to get out of the house or enjoy some downtime.
- Help with household tasks and maintenance jobs.

Abilities and Skills

- Provide homemade comfort by creating blankets, hot/cold packs, memorial items, scrapbooks and more.
- Share your musical talents by playing or singing for patients, families and caregivers.
- Help out with general clerical duties at the Aurora Health at Home office.

Certified/Licensed/Specially Trained Care

- Provide specialized assistance, such as comfort touch, meditation, pet visits and services such as haircuts/styling.
- Comforting companions sit with patients during their last hours of life, ensuring no one ever dies alone.

Volunteer Together

- Share this special experience by volunteering together with a spouse, friend or companion.

Share your time to make every day count.
You can visit aurora.org/volunteer for more information or to start the application process.

Erica Reed – Racine/Kenosha Counties
(262) 757-2579 or Erica.Reed@aah.org

VJ Johnson – Walworth County & Burlington Area
(262) 757-2587 or Vera.Johnson@aah.org



1 - Joel Graham Jacob Szemborski	13 - Debbie Witte Matt Lahti Christine Quinn	24 - Dick Peterson
2 - Glenn Stoll	15 - Mary Lou Nebinger	25 - Avery Peterson Tom Coleman
3 - Natalie Stier	18 - Lois Hahn	26 - Max Lindell
4 - Betty Peterson Jeff Tremmel	19 - Marilee Hoffman Amber Iselin	27 - Debbie Pieters Pam Peterson Marissa Post
5 - Bernard Yanke Justus Brenner	20 - Dave Hill	28 - Deb Lindell Sawyer Wightman
6 - Bill Schellpfeffer	21 - Dick Pieters Tristan Post Steve Ilger	30 - Finn Peterson
7 - Bill Meinel	22 - Megan Madenwald	
8 - Lucille Witte	23 - Betty Anderson Scott Wilson Jill Albrecht Beth Ilger	
9 - Jack Wightman		
10 - Mike Springer Aidan King		



Dave & Kim Kerkhoff – April 1	Jon & Betty Anderson – April 16
Dennis & Jill Witte – April 5	Scott & Meghan Peterson – April 18
Brad & Jenn Brenner – April 12	Randy & Kim Wessinger – April 18
Jonathan & Katie Striegel - April 12	Otilio & Tasha Escobar - April 30

~ Deadline for the May issue of The Epistle is ~
Thursday April 22nd.

UCCI

[ucci](https://ucci.org/2022-events/) (<https://ucci.org/2022-events/>) Information about events and registration at United Church Camps, Inc. can be seen via the link by scrolling down and opening the digital brochure. Take the opportunity to experience some of their camp offerings at Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, Camp Awesum, and or Cedar Valley. There are camps for all ages and people groups. Scholarships are also available to those in need.





The Missions Team will continue to collect monetary donations through the month of April to cover the costs of Emergency Buckets. Each clean-up bucket costs approximately \$75 to complete. You may earmark your donations and leave them in the office.

We are providing the following for emergency relief:

- 25 Emergency Clean-Up Buckets
- 25 Emergency School Kits
- 25 Emergency Hygiene Kits

For more information, please visit <https://cwskits.org>.

(Ctrl + left click the above link.)



Our Missions Team will be matching up to \$1,000 in donations for Ukrainian assistance. Please consider donating to this urgent, humanitarian need. For more information about how UCC seeks to help, visit the website:

(Ctrl + left click the following link.)

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-appeal-for-ukraine-calls-on-u-s-to-provide-humanitarian-aid/>

THANK YOU

You have done it again Plymouth church members. The Missions Team would like to extend a heart-felt thank you for all the shoes that were donated during our March collection for Soles4Souls/Share a Pair. Many people in need of shoes will be very grateful for your continued generosity.



LOVE MEALS

Special thanks to Lori Benstead and the musical folks for providing all the food for the March 16 Love Meal.

April Donations for Operation Christmas Child Boxes: Stuffed animals.



APRIL VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY	APRIL 3	APRIL 10	APRIL 17 EASTER	APRIL 24
ACOLYTE	Crue Freitag	Emma Iselin	Calia Freitag	
AV OPERATOR	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson
COMMUNION PREPARERS	Stephanie Eveland, LaVonne Howell (bread)			
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Deanna Snyder	Karen & Joe Iselin	Gidget Brown & Carolyn Schoneck	Jackie Kastengren
LITURGUST	Jim Burd	Jackie Kastengren	Carolyn Schoneck	Steve Picazo
USHERS	Barb Freeman & Pat Sandstrom	Joe & Karen Iselin	Glenn & Nicki Stoll	Jackie Kastengren & Ellen Gyger



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

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

APRIL

Soon it will be Resurrection Sunday.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10:00am  Fellowship 11:00am Impact 11:00am	4 6:00pm Bells	5 6:30pm Choir	6	7	8	9
10 Worship Service 10:00am  Fellowship 11:00am Impact 11:00am ~ Baked Goods & Ham Sale	11 1:30pm Call to Care Mtg 6:00pm Bells	12 10:30am Prayer Group Mtg 6:30pm Bells	13 6:30pm OC Mtg	14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	15 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Good Friday Service	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY Worship Service 10:00am  Fellowship 11:00am	18 6:00pm Bells	19 6:30pm Bells	20 Love Meal	21 Epistle Deadline	22	23
24 Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship 11:00am Impact 11:00am	25 6:00pm Bells	26 6:30pm Bells	27	28	29	30



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EPISTLE**

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plymouthucc.church

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**Maundy Thursday Service — April 14th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service — April 15th, 2022 @ 7:00pm**

Easter Service — April 17th, 2022 @ 10:00am

