

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XVIII ISSUE III  
MARCH 2023



# The Plymouth Epistle

Monthly Newsletter

## WORDS FROM PASTOR

March 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth UCC

2023 has started out to be quite the year. We've hired a new Administrative Assistant, Becky Zuehlsdorf. We encourage you to stop in and get to know her. Steph and I are enjoying working with her. With this staff change comes a change in hours. Everyone is working on Monday morning so that we can have regular staff meetings. This means that the office will be closed on Fridays. Becky works Monday and Tuesday from 8-2 and Thursdays 8-noon. Steph continues her hours of Monday and Wednesday 8:30 -2. Due to health reasons Tom, our custodian has given me his notice. We decided it was time to hire a janitor and a maintenance person as our experience has been that most janitors aren't comfortable with some of our maintenance issues. We have yet to get a viable applicant for the janitor position, but we are still looking. We decided on a candidate for the maintenance position and presently I am waiting for him to return my call.

Staffing is the mundane stuff of ministry. We want to be sure to get the right person so your next pastor can focus on getting to know you and leading you on your spiritual journeys. I almost feel like we started lent a little early this year because we are in-between and sometimes I feel like I'm wandering in the wilderness trying to put a staff together. Thankfully we had a great special congregational meeting which helps remind me of what a blessing this congregation is to serve. I am so grateful for your thoughtful questions and suggestions. I can't imagine any way that the meeting could have been better. Thank you so much.

On a personal note, thank you for your care and concern for my family. Joel and I are still trying to come back from covid. I'm just very tired. He unfortunately is in the hospital with pneumonia as I write this and will be there for at least a few more days. (I am writing this on Feb. 21)

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday, we will begin this season of wandering in the wilderness and self-exploration. We will hear stories of faith, healing, loneliness and questioning. May we enter this season with our hearts open to wherever God is calling us. The deeper we dive into the season of lent, the more joyous our Easter celebration can be.

Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Becky

Revised Final Constitution 2023**MODERATOR'S WORDS**

I want to extend a deep word of thanks to everyone who took the time to be part of our congregational meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February after worship. As a congregation within the United Church of Christ, and particularly with a Congregational Church heritage, we were able to come together, discuss, and make some important decisions about things that the Operating Council (oops! - Governing Body) believes will help move us into the near future in positive ways.

The constitution now reads more clearly and provides for some improved practices. The sometimes confusing timetable of how we operate within a year is simplified and hopefully reflects how most of us think and perceive the flow of the year. The approval to proceed with gathering the detailed information we need to conduct an in-house capital campaign will enable us to address a number of important needs in our church home that were set aside over the past years and will catch up with us in the future.

Although some of this may seem minor, it is actually very encouraging. After the past two plus years of lockdowns, uncertainty, and sometimes outright fear, we have made several substantial decisions that speak to the beginning of a new momentum at Plymouth Church. I hope to see this continue and gain additional drive as we look ahead to what our faith family can be and do.

As we begin our journey through the Lenten season, may it be a time for us all to reflect and pray about the future possibilities that await Plymouth. Be open to the Spirit to catch whatever glimpses it may be trying to reveal to us about where God needs us to go and be. With those reflections from within our deep prayers, we can be prepared to become an Easter people full of hope and vision.

**Share a Pair Shoe Drive (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

<https://www.stansfootwear.com/aboutstans/share-a-pair-shoe-drive/>



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 19**

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

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.



***Our IMPACT Youth Ministry had another successful Bake & Ham and Roll Sale! Thank you to all of you who made it possible. We would also like to thank our kiddos and their families for all their yummy bake goods! We are hoping to also have our Spring Bake Sale & Ham and Roll Sale in April before Easter!***

***The kids are looking forward to helping Missions with the Emergency Hygiene Kits and making more TLC Blankets.***

***We are still looking for volunteers to Signup to make lunch for our IMPACT group. The Signup sheet is on the bulletin board by the entrance. Please consider helping us out and signup. Thank you so much!***

***Keep spreading the word...***

***We invite ANY children ages K-8 grades to please come and join us!***

***If you know of any families that might be interested please let me know or have them just come and join us!***

***IMPACT- Youth Ministry meets on  
Sundays 11:00am-12:30pm (after church)***

***We would like to continue to thank everyone who helps out with  
IMPACT- Youth Ministry group in anyway! We truly appreciate it!***

***Looking forward to warmer weather!***

***Blessings,***

***Tracy Freitag***

***Plymouth Church- IMPACT Children's Ministry Director***

***(262)206-5572***

***[plymouthuccimpact@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccimpact@gmail.com)***



# COMMITTEE NEWS

## Pastoral Search Committee Report

We are starting to receive more profiles from Pastors who are searching. We review each one carefully and look for someone who matches the qualities we want in our next pastor. Right now, we have two candidates that we are having initial conversations with. We will keep everyone up to date as things proceed. In the meantime, we sincerely appreciate your prayers.

Ron Moersfelder, on behalf of the Search Committee



## LOVE THANKS

Our February 15th meal served our famous chicken and rice casserole, green beans, oranges, and dessert. Thank you to Betty P., Jackie K., Mary S., Barb F., and Peggy V., for the delicious and nutritious dinner. A special thank you to the Impact Program for the sweet treats so close to Valentine's Day!!! Our next Love Meal will be held on Wednesday, March 15.

## Scholarship News:

Scholarship Application Forms are now available in the office. You may also request a copy be sent to you by email or postal mail.



# MEMBER NEWS

Dick Peterson has moved to the Memory Care Unit of Waterford Senior Living. His new address is:

## Prayers for the following families who have lost loved ones recently.

**Pat VanSwol** passed away on January 12, 2023. Her service was at the church on January 22.

**Albert Fritz Hahn** passed away on February 10, 2023. His service was held at the Schuette-Daniel Funeral Home on February 18.

**Janet Wren** passed away on February 11, 2023. Her service will be held at the Integrity Funeral Home on March 5, at 3:00 p.m.

**Patricia Johnson** passed away on February 20, 2023. Her service will be held at Schuette-Daniel Funeral Home on March 3, at 12:00 p.m.

# THANK YOU

**David Brown** would like to acknowledge all those who had a part in his wife's service this past year. He was happy with the luncheon and pleased to see Pat's friends

who came to express their condolences to her family,

The **Missions Team** would like to thank all who baked and donated cookies for our Valentines Cookie Project. "We were able to bring a lot of smiles to those who needed a pick-me-up with your wonderful donations. We appreciate all who helped us make this project possible."

**Greg & Chris Hoffman** "Thank you very much for thinking of Greg and sending the delicious plate of cookies."

**Greg, Scott, and Marge Hoffman** "Thanks so much for the delicious plates of cookies we received on Sunday. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated."

**Margie Jay** "Thank you very much for the large plate of Valentine cookies. Also, a big thank you to Carolyn Schoneck for her many visits and help with many things."

**Ellen Gyger** "I would like to thank Jackie Kastengren for delivering a huge plate of delicious cookies to my home. I appreciate being remembered, surprised, and enjoyed eating them."

# Worship Opportunities for March/April

**March 5** – 2nd Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

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

**March 12**– 3rd Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John 4:5-42

**March 19**—4th Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John 9:1-41

**March 26** – 5th Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** John 11:1-45

**April 2**— 6th Sunday in Lent

**April 6** – Maundy Thursday

**April 7** - Good Friday

**April 9** - Easter

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



Wally & Gidget Brown – March 10  
Dick & Kathy Pieters—March 14

Ron & Mary Lou Nebinger—March 19



# March Volunteers



SUNDAY	March 5 10:00 am	March 12 10:00 am	March 19 10:00 am	March 26 10:00 am
AV OPERATOR	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson	Aaron Jenson
ACOLYTE				
COMMUNION PREPARERS/ ASSIST	Steph Eveland Lor Benstead Deanna Snyder			
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Peggy Voss Jackie Naughton	Kathy Pieters Lori Benstead	Steph Eveland Diane Hanson	
LITURGIST	Ron Moersfelder	Troy Moldenhauer	Jamie Kennow	Nikki Burd
USHERS	Barb Freeman Lori Benstead	Beth & Steven Picazo	Steph Eveland Diane Hanson	Katie & Terry Simenson

**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE PLYMOUTH EPISTLE IS MARCH 16.**



**PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF**

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Interim Minister  
 Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary  
 Rebecca Zuehlsdorf, Office Secretary  
 Tracy Freitag, Children’s Ministry  
 Tom Reda, Custodian  
 Jamie Kennow, Choir Director  
 Diane Olson, Organist & Bell Choir Director  
 Marty Baker, Wedding Coordinator

**PLYMOUTH CHILDREN’S CENTER  
 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Sara Trewyn, Program Director  
 Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director

**REV. REBECCA A. JOHNSTON,  
 INTERIM MINISTER OFFICE HOURS**

**PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS**  
 By appointment only; please call or  
 email Pastor for availability.  
 Steph: Mon & Wed 8:30am—2:00pm  
 Becky: Mon & Tues. 8:00am—2:00pm  
 Thurs. 8:00am—12:00pm  
 Church Office: 262-763-6890

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

Children’s Ministry Email: [plymouthuccimpact@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccimpact@gmail.com)  
 Financial Secretary Email: [plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccfinance@gmail.com)  
 Minister Email: [plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccpastor@gmail.com)  
 Office Secretary Email: [plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthuccoffice@gmail.com)



# March Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tues- day	Wednes- day	Thurs- day	Friday	Saturday
<b>ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MONTH</b>	<b>February 27</b> Bells 6:00pm	<b>February 28</b> Choir 6:30pm	1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 Impact	<b>6</b> Bells 6:00pm	<b>7</b> Prayer Mtg 10:30am Choir 6:30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Missions Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00 Impact	<b>13</b> Bells 6:00pm	<b>14</b> Prayer Group 10:30 Choir 6:30pm	<b>15</b> Love Meal 4:30- 5:30pm	<b>16</b> <b>April</b> <b>Epistle</b> <b>Dead-</b> <b>line</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00am Worship OC after worship 11:00 Impact	<b>20</b> Bells 6:00pm	<b>21</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00 Impact	<b>27</b> Bells 6:00pm	<b>28</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>



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**

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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY  
MARCH 2022  
EPISTLE**

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**LENT**