

The Plymouth Bell

Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ



2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

web site: www.pcucc.org

November 2018

What's Going On?

- Worship
 - Joint worship service with Lake Edge UCC 11/4
 - First Sunday of Advent 12/2; Hanging of the Greens
- Events
 - Rev. Mayer public talk at Plymouth 11/3
 - Rev. Mayer preaching at Lake Edge UCC 11/4
 - Chili Cookoff (3rd Annual!) 11/10
 - Stewardship Sunday & Potluck lunch 11/11
 - Family Game Night 11/17
- Education
 - Church School each Sunday
 - Confirmation class 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
- Service
 - Volunteers needed to organize/facilitate this year's Santa's Helpers event
- Community
 - Prayers, cards, calls, visits for those in need and shut-ins
- Always
 - Love of God
 - Love of neighbor
 - Give thanks!

How Can I Help?

- Mayer public talk: attend, greeters, hospitality
- Loaves & Fish project: do good, then report on index cards
- Sundays: lectors, greeters, ushers, Social Hour hosts
- Community: food pantry collection, PEP collection, bell ringing
- Get involved: team work
- Always: prayers, cards, calls, visits, helping hand
- Give thanks!

Note: more information on events and ways to help are included later in this issue.

From the Pastor's Desk

I don't know about you, but although I love the season of autumn, with the clean crisp air and the beautiful colors, one of the tough things about it is the darkness. It's tough to get going in the morning when it is still dark, and I miss those hours of light in the evening when one can get so much more done, especially outdoors.

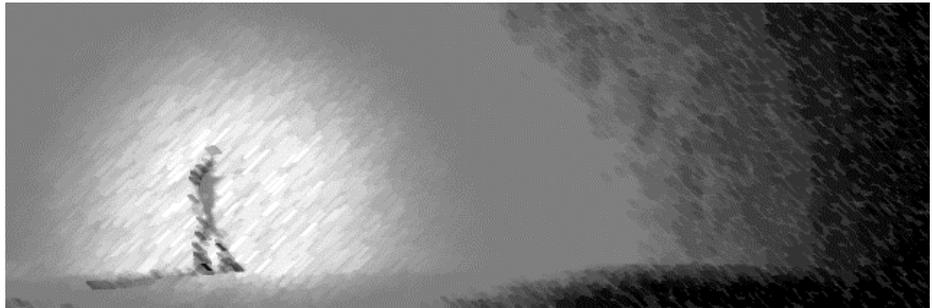
For all humanity's fear of the dark, we seem to choose it often enough, don't we? I worry about those who have turned from the light offered through a life of faith, and instead just rely on the world, with all its sources of darkness. I worry about others (even myself, from time to time, I must admit, if I'm being honest) who turn to negativity, despair, hopelessness when the ongoing struggle to bring the values of God's kingdom to our world seem to be thwarted at every turn by materialism, greed, selfishness, stupidity, fear, hatred, and violence.

What we can do, with God's and each other's help, is to keep the light of God's spirit burning? Our faith calls us to do such radical things, like keep our doors and our hearts and our minds open, because we are children of God, God who is doing a new thing every moment. Sometimes the newness that God guides us through happens in the light, but sometimes the new paths we are led to as people of faith and as human beings bring us into the shadows. The shadows are a part of life, part of this world we have been given. And the shadows are where people are who most need our help, most need to hear from us about God's love and grace.

How do we negotiate such shadows? Some do it poorly, always struggling and never finding their way out to the light again, cursing others who they blame for creating shadows. But for me, and I think for you, faith is the thing that helps us negotiate the shadows. As the Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard said, "Faith is walking as far as you can in the light and taking one step more."

We experience this time and time again along life's journey:

opportunities turn to struggles which then turn to opportunities, sorrows lead us to the next phase of life, despair leads to hope, fear leads to



understanding, even hatred can be turned to love. The shadows are a part of life, part of this world we have been given, and we can move from shadow to light, if we but trust in God to guide us.

When it gets dark so early at night or stays so dark in the morning, I don't feel like going out, I want to hibernate away at home. But hiding from the world limits life so much – in fact, it would not be life. So too with the metaphorical darkness – if we avoid the shadows of life, we would never grow, never get stronger emotionally or spiritually. So we dare, with God's help, to walk with each other, even in (and especially in) the shadows, and fear no evil, for we walk with the one we call Christ, our good Shepherd. We minister to the homeless, and feed the hungry, and sit with the lonely or grieving, and help those afraid of deportation, and welcome those who have been turned away from others and speak out for those whose voices have been ignored, and comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.

Our faith takes us to the shadows of life, because God is there, and we want to be with God and those whom God loves. This is what it means to walk in faith. It is not just about what our heads or our hearts are telling us, but what our soul seeks for us – living each day doing what we can to fulfill Go’s will for us and for our world.

So, let us continue together, wherever it may take us, ever moving forward *in faith*, with the love and grace of God to sustain us in the journey. And thank you for your company on this journey; I give God thanks for you – you are a gift to our church, to our community, and to our world! Peace and blessings!



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Among Our Friends and Members

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November Birthday Blessings

11/02 – Elizabeth Katt-Reinders

11/07 – Marianne Mollway

11/07 – Lily Reiner

11/17 – Melissa LeBlanc

11/20 – Gert Lang

11/26 – Donna Salzwedel;

11/27 – Andre Scott

11/29 – Kate Mickle

The Plymouth Bell

A Newsletter of

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

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Church School News

Our October UNICEF fundraisers were a huge success, thanks to everyone who volunteered and contributed. We raised \$278.67 at the Carnival (that's a lot of quarters and pennies!) and \$170.54 at the Bake Sale, for a total of \$449.21 in support of the work UNICEF does around the world.

November starts with worship and children's activities at Lake Edge UCC on the 4th starting at 10 am. This special joint service will focus on immigration and border issues with worship led by Reverend Randy Mayer from Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona.

On November 18th we will have our Thanksgiving One Room Sunday School. Regular classes will meet on November 11th and 25th.



Plymouth's Game Night!

On Saturday, November 17th, beginning at 5:00 pm (until 7pm or whenever we are tired) all are invited to Plymouth's Game Night. We will be playing board games, games made up by church youth and anything else we wish.

We will also share a meal of Tacos with all the fixings, including a veggie option. Please feel free to bring a snack/dessert to pass. Come for an evening of fellowship and fun! If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Roskowic at 608-698-1008.

Just Bakery Treats, Nov. 25

Satisfy your sweet tooth on November 25th, by enjoying scrumptious bakery sweets made by the team at Just Bakery. Their freshly baked goodies will be our coffee hour treats with additional items available for purchase.

Just Bakery is a unique, four-month training program designed to prepare formerly-incarcerated men and women to work in commercial bakeries. Students create, bake, market and sell their products with proceeds used to support the program. This is an initiative of Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM), a non-profit interfaith organization that helps underserved populations.

Please come on the 25th, ready to eat and purchase delicious treats. Not only will it satisfy your sweet tooth, but it is also a way for Plymouth to show support of the Just Bakery program and to actively help its participants work towards their goals of self-sufficiency. Proceeds from all items purchased will go directly to Just Bakery.

Santa's Helpers

Volunteers are needed to help organize and facilitate this year's Santa's Helpers event. This event is a gift we give to parents in our church, as we provide for their children an afternoon of lunch, crafts, games, movies, and general fun while parents get a few hours off to shop, clean, organize, or rest! Our main Santa's helper the past few years, Zoe Rickenbach, is in need of a year off to focus on school work, but is willing to provide helpful hints on the event to this year's organizers. We typically do the event the first Saturday or Sunday of December, for about three hours or so, but can be flexible on this. Please contact Pastor Leslie if you can help with this fun event for our children (and their parents). Thanks!

Stewardship Sunday

We will celebrate our stewardship of Plymouth Church and its ministry on Sunday, November 11th, with the offering of our pledges of support for 2019 during our worship service, followed by a potluck lunch. If you did not receive the stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail, please contact the church office and we can get them to you. As the letter notes, we are doing a "We-are-too-busy-doing-the-work-of-the-church-to-do-a-stewardship-campaign" stewardship campaign this year. So there hasn't been people getting up during worship to give their witness as to why they like Plymouth or how great our congregation is (hey, we know that already, right!). Instead, we are witnessing to the blessing that is Plymouth by our deeds, that is, what we've been doing this year, and it's quite a bit. So, we have a lot to celebrate, and a lot to support with our pledges as we accept Jesus' call to another year of ministry and mission to bring God's love and peace to our church, our homes, our community, and the world. Thank you for helping us continue this holy work!

Bell Ringers Needed!

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding way to volunteer as an individual or as a family this holiday season? The Salvation Army of Dane County has an opportunity for you! By ringing bells for only two hours, you will raise over \$90 to help house the homeless, feed the hungry, and provide mentoring and education to at-risk children. The Christmas Red Kettle Campaign runs from November 9th through December 24th, with many locations and shifts available. Please go to ringbellsdane.org to sign up or call 250-2235 for more information.

Mayer visit

Want to learn more about how the church is ministering to those in need at the border, and what we can do to help? Plymouth is co-sponsoring, with Lake Edge UCC, a visit to the Madison area by Rev. Randy Mayer on November 2-4. Rev. Mayer is pastor of Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, AZ, which is the location of our border mission trip in January and also the church whose "Samaritan" ministry helps sponsor the El Comedor pantry/food kitchen in Nogales, Mexico, helping migrants deported from the US (which we helped with a clothing and essentials drive this spring).

The events are:

- Public talk on Saturday Nov. 3 at 3:00 pm at Plymouth.
- Preaching on Sunday Nov. 4 at 10:00 am at a joint worship service at Lake Edge UCC. **Note: there will not be a worship service at Plymouth that day, so we can join with our friends at Lake Edge to worship together and hear Rev. Mayer preach.**

All are welcome: invite your neighbors and friends.

Office Hours

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment. (Monday-Pastor's day off). Note: Pastor Leslie will be gone November 12-13.

Office Administrator's hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Deadlines: weekly bulletin – Thursday 8:00 am; monthly newsletter – 25th of each month by 8:00 am (email to Sally at swolf@pcucc.org).

Discipleship Team Page

Discipleship Team to meet Sunday, Nov. 18

Instead of our usual “first Sunday of the month” the Discipleship Team will meet November 18th. We’ll be thinking ahead, even doing some visioning, about outreach and social justice work at Plymouth as we discuss our team’s budget request for 2019. If you’ve been wondering what the “D-Team” is all about, this would be an interesting place to start.

Look for more from the D-Team in the December newsletter!

For any Discipleship Team questions or comments, please connect with Discipleship Team Leader Ann Lacy, (608) 213-4469, annwilsonlacy@gmail.com



Food pantry update & Thanksgiving Baskets

To date in 2018, we have delivered 446 nonperishable items—as well as many bags of vegetables from the garden beds—to the Goodman Community Center Food Pantry! We’re hoping to make it to 600 (or more!), which will be easy if everyone uses this list to pick up a few Thanksgiving items:

Thanksgiving basket shopping list



Aluminum roaster pans
(big enough for a turkey)

Cranberry sauce

Broth, any kind

Fruit (canned)

Gravy

Mac & cheese

Stuffing

Vegetables (canned)

Please bring donations

to Plymouth by

Sunday, November 18

For more information on the baskets, or to donate money or frozen turkeys, please visit goodmancenter.org/thanksgiving

Take and Give – Sharing the Loaves and Fishes

On Sunday, October 21st, each person attending Sunday service was given an envelope containing money: \$100 for each adult, and \$20 for each youth. The money was given with one condition – *take the money and do some good in the world!* Those receiving envelopes were asked to anonymously complete a blank index card (included in the envelope) briefly describing how they shared the gift. The cards will be posted on a Narthex display as they are returned, so that we can all be uplifted and inspired by these blessings.

The money is a part of Ruth Vetter's generous bequest allocated to the Discipleship Team to support Plymouth's mission and ministry. The Discipleship Team believes that, like loaves and fishes, this money will multiply to bless others and change lives.

Members who missed church on Sunday, October 21st, but who would like an envelope, should contact Pastor Leslie no later than Friday, November 30th.



SpaceCom update

In response to feedback on the proposed renewal plan for Fellowship Hall and the kitchen received from members of Council and of the congregation in September, SpaceCom is busy revising parts of the plan. This involves getting new estimates, and having some preliminary exploratory work done around leakage and mold issues.

SpaceCom's current timeline:

- The revised plan will be presented at November Council meeting; if approved, plan will be included in 2019 budget planning.
- Informal congregational information sessions on the revised plan are tentatively scheduled for November 25, December 9, and January 13.
- Plan will be voted on by the congregation (as part of the budget or as a separate Endowment Fund request, as determined by the budget committee and Council) at the Annual Meeting in January of 2019.
- If approved, the plan would be implemented in the summer of 2019, beginning if possible in mid-May, for an early August end date.

Please direct questions, comments, and concerns to SpaceCom Chair Ann Lacy, 213-4469, annwilsonlacy@gmail.com

Plymouth Events for Which to be Proud

By Carol Martell

On September 23rd, I attended the Singing for Sanctuary concert at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church. The concert was facilitated by Ritt Deitz who arranged for two hours of music. The performers included Ritt and Wilder Deitz, Ken Lonquist, and several members of the East Side Acoustic Ensemble. James Reeb provided hospitality. Members of Plymouth helped set up and sell tickets at the event and at least 10 of us attended the concert. The concert was a fundraiser to help James Reeb raise funds to remodel part of their space to become the first sanctuary site for immigrants on Madison's East Side. I was proud to help with this project.

This is only one of the many times I've been proud to be a member of Plymouth UCC. Our congregation has provided a home for PEP, contributed many items to the Goodman Center food pantry, and helped support many other social justices causes. We've welcomed our neighbors into our building for art exhibits, concerts and recitals. I can't begin to list all the causes Plymouth members are involved in. I'm proud to know how much love and support is offered to our community.

Since Immigration justice was adopted as Plymouth's strategic focus in 2017, we have contributed a lot of energy to this cause. In mid-2017 the Immigration Group received a \$16,210 grant from the Ecumenical Housing Corporation Fund for Faith Communities to be used for Plymouth's Immigration Focus. We also received \$5,000 from the Vetter Fund (that the Church Council approved) to support our immigration justice efforts. These funds allowed us to do significant work in our Community. We have become an immigrant welcoming church. We've helped fund DACA applications and passports for children who are US citizens. Some of us have participated in rallies and news conferences.

The Immigration Group is working on a new project to expand our involvement and understanding of immigration issues. On January 16-20, 2019 eight Plymouth folk will attend a mission trip to the 2018 Common Ground on the Border Fair in Sahuarita, AZ. They are Wilder Deitz, Kat Klafka, Ann Lacy, Carol Martell, Bill Mollway, Leslie Schenk, Laura Stalder, and Rain Zephyr.

The purpose of the trip is to learn about border issues from the perspective of immigrants as well as people living in the area and to see what The Good Shepherd UCC of Sahuarita is doing to help migrants with aid and advocacy. After the trip, the mission team will tell the congregation what we learn about how we can help fight for more humane immigration justice.

Worship News

- November 4th: joint worship service at 10:00 am with Lake Edge UCC, with Rev. Randy Mayer preaching. Rev. Mayer is pastor of Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, AZ, hosts of our border mission trip in January. Lake Edge UCC is located at 4200 Buckeye Road (parking lot accessed on Hegg Avenue, additional parking at Frank Allis School or street parking). See the related article on Rev. Mayer's visit to Madison for more info.
- Stewardship Sunday: we will celebrate our continued support of the ministry and mission of Plymouth church by dedicating our 2019 pledges of support at our worship service on Nov. 11, then enjoying a potluck lunch together.
- Thanksgiving: an ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at Lake Edge Lutheran church (4032 Monona Dr., parking lot accessed via Hegg Ave.) at 6:00 pm on Sunday Nov. 18th, with reception to follow. This is a Seeds of Peace event for near-eastside churches. If you want to participate in the ecumenical choir that will sing that evening, there will be a rehearsal at Lake Edge Lutheran at 7:00 pm on Wednesday Nov. 14th.
- Advent: keep these dates in mind – Advent begins 12/2 (with hanging of the greens after service); Children's program will be on 12/16, the Chancel Choir will bless us with special seasonal offerings on 12/23, and our traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve service will be on 12/24 at 7:00 pm

Help needed: Blessings are experienced by all in attendance when they hear many voices, and are greeted, helped, and serviced by many of their friends, so be sure to sign up to help as liturgist, greeter, children's messenger, and/or coffee hour server. See below for the schedule of worship assistants who have signed up so far for June (lots of opportunities still available, as you can see), and be sure to **sign up to help!** Thank you.

	Liturgist	Greeter	Children's message	Coffee Hour Organizers
Nov. 4	Service at Lake Edge	None	Non	Service at Lake Edge
Nov. 11		Janet Imhoff		Church Potluck
Nov. 18				Church School
Nov. 25				Just Bakery
Dec. 2				Shelley Hagan

Doctrine of Discovery Discussed

On October 14th a small group gathered to discuss the Doctrine of Discovery and what the church's response should be. There was support in the discussion for the resolution before the Wisconsin Conference to repudiate this doctrine, used throughout this country's history to justify the taking of lands from Native Americans, killing them, and segregating them onto reservations on marginal lands, leading to generations of poverty and despair.

A booklet and copy of the resolution before the Conference are still available on the sign-up table in the narthex (or online at www.wcucc.org). If there is interest expressed, we will hold a second discussion session in January for those not able to attend the first one.

Sunday Lectionary Readings for November:

Nov. 4: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Nov. 11: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 18: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 25: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Dec. 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

The Mission of Plymouth Congregational UCC

To joyfully celebrate God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ in our worship, our teaching, and our lives;

To create a diverse, accepting faith community that welcomes all and empowers all to accept the grace God freely offers to each of us, no matter who we are or where we are in life's spiritual journey; and

To develop, demonstrate, and strengthen Christian discipleship by reaching out to all God's people, caring for those in need, and seeking to lead the world toward love, justice, and peace.

Adopted by Church Council on August 16, 2007

Life and Ministry of God's People of Plymouth UCC, Nov. 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				11:30am-3pm PEP	5:30pm OA 6:30pm IA	8am Women's AA B'fast 10am KIS 10:30am ACA 3pm Rev. Mayer Speaks
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00am Choir 10:00am Worship at Lake Edge UCC 12-2 PEP 5pm CONFIRMATION	5:30 pm ACA 6 pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	6:45pm CoCounsel 3pm Girl Scout 8219	Noon PLYMOUTH BOOK CLUB 5:30 pm YFWG 6:30pm SOTS 7pm RECORDERS	11:30am-3pm PEP 7:15 pm BUSINESS TEAM	5:30pm OA 6:30pm IA	8am Men's AA B'fast 10am KIS 10:30am ACA 5 pm Chili Cookoff
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship & Church School 10:30am Potluck Lunch EDUCATION TEAM 12-2 PEP & YFWG	5:30 pm ACA 6 pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	3 pm Girl Scout Troop 7026	6:30pm SOTS 7pm RECORDERS	11:30am-3pm PEP 7:30pm CHURCH COUNCIL	9:30am MDG 5:30pm OA 6:30pm IA	10am KIS 10:30am ACA 5pm Game Night
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship & Church School 10:30am Coffee Hr. CONG'L LIFE Discipleship & Immigration Meet 12-2 PEP 3pm AA Committee 5 pm Confirmation	5:30 pm ACA 6 pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	2pm Contemporary Reading Group Group 6:45 pm CoCounsel	5:30 pm YFWG 6:30pm SOTS 7pm RECORDERS	THANKSGIVING	5:30pm OA 6:30pm IA	10am KIS 10:30am ACA
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship & Church School 10:30am Coffee Hr. Just Bakery Bakesale WORSHIP TEAM 12-2 PEP& YFWG	5:30 pm ACA 6 pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	3pm Girl Scout Troop 8267 6:30 pm CoCounsel	5:30pm SOTS 7pm RECORDERS	11:30am-3pm PEP	5:30pm OA 6:30pm IA	