

# The Plymouth Bell

Plymouth Congregational  
United Church of Christ



2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

web site: [www.pcucc.org](http://www.pcucc.org)

April 2019

## What's Going On?

- Worship
  - Sundays at 9:30 am
  - 4/18 at 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service at Plymouth
  - 4/19 at noon Good Friday service at St. Stephens ELCA in Monona
  - 4/20 at 8:00 pm Easter Vigil service at St. Luke's Episcopal
  - 4/21 at 9:30 am Easter service at Plymouth
- Events
  - Association/Conference joint Annual meetings 4/5-6, Wisconsin Dells
  - Mission trip presentation 4/13
  - Easter Egg coloring 4/20 at 1:00 pm
  - Easter Egg breakfast/hunt 4/21
  - Celebration for Sally 4/28 after worship
  - Gallery Night 5/3. 5-9 pm
- Education
  - Church School each Sunday
  - Confirmation class 4/7 at 5 pm (no class on 4/21)
- Community
  - Prayers, cards, calls, visits for those in need and shut-ins
- Always
  - Be present to God's Spirit
  - Love of God and neighbor
  - Give thanks!

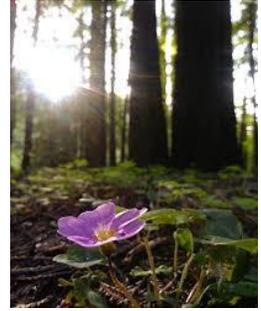
## How Can I Help?

- Sundays:
  - Lector
  - Children's message
  - Greeters
  - Ushers
  - Social Hour hosts
  - Join the choir
  - Offer musical anthem
  - One Room Church School
- Wider Church
  - Volunteer for UCC General Synod
- Community:
  - food pantry collection
  - PEP collection
  - Seeds of Peace
  - MOSES
- Get involved:
  - Participate in a team meeting
  - work
- Help needed:
  - Easter Egg decorating
  - Easter breakfast
- Always:
  - Prayers
  - Cards, calls, visits
  - Helping hand
  - Rides to events/Sunday service
- Give thanks!

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*



This is the first verse of “In the Bulb There is a Flower,” a hymn much beloved for its imagery that brings hope to times when hope seems in short supply. Natalie Sleeth composed this hymn, originally titled “Hymn of Promise,” as she was “pondering the death of a friend (life and death, death and resurrection), pondering winter and spring (seeming opposites), and a T. S. Eliot poem which had the phrase, ‘In our end is our beginning’ (see below). These seemingly contradictory ‘pairs’ led to the thesis of the song and the hopeful message that out of one will come the other whenever God chooses to bring that about.” (from <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/html/h/y/m/hymnprom.htm>)

Seasonally we are in a time of contradictions – warm and sunny one day, and another cool and grey (and a few snowflakes still). Many years for the beautiful days of full spring and summer, with all the greens and colors of the rainbow flowers and the flitting of butterflies to delight our eyes and enliven our steps. But we know that while the coming of spring brings relief to those suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder and makes it easier to get around, that it does not cure all ills or make everything easier. Each problem, each difficulty has its own season, and some mysteries we know may take a long time, if maybe beyond a lifetime, to be revealed. And yet we live in hope, for if a harsh winter can turn into glorious spring, what better can be revealed, in God’s time, for those whom God loves more than the lilies of the field!



*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn for every darkness, bring hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Natalie Sleeth’s husband Ronald heard this hymn shortly before his death, and asked that it be sung for his funeral, as many others have since. It is at such times, when we are facing our own mortality, that we are most blessed by the mystery of God’s promise, made in Jesus Christ, that there will be a resurrection, a life for our souls after this life, a victory over death.

As we walk with Jesus this month through the end of Lent, into Jerusalem, to the cross and the tomb, and then to the wonder revealed in the empty tomb, may we remember that Jesus walks with us through our own journey, unrevealed until its season, but nonetheless blesses, no matter what the season brings, by God’s love and grace, all ways and always.

*(continued next page)*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
 in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
 In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.*



“We shall not cease from exploration  
 And the end of all our exploring  
 Will be to arrive where we started  
 And know the place for the first time.”  
 — T. S. Eliot, **Four Quartets**

Peace and blessings,

**Contents**

From the Pastor’s Desk ..... 2  
 Among Our Friends and Members ..... 4  
 Church School News ..... 5  
 Office Hours ..... 5  
 Open Doors Forum at Plymouth, April 17 ..... 5  
 Update on the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen renewal plan ..... 5  
 Enjoy Music, Art, Cookies and Community at Gallery Night ..... 6  
 Help to sew Capes (April 14) for Schenk Elementary’s Ally Superhero Night-Capes for Kids  
 to Express their Strengths ..... 6  
 General Synod 32 Volunteering June 21-25, 2019..... 7  
 Discipleship Team Update..... 8  
 Interfaith Gathering..... 9  
 April Birthday Blessings..... 9  
 March Council Meeting Highlights ..... 10  
 Your 2019 Church Council Leaders are: ..... 10  
 The Mission of Plymouth Congregational UCC ..... 10  
 Worship News ..... 11  
 Life & Ministry of God’s People of Plymouth UCC, April 2019..... 12

# Among Our Friends and Members

Redacted for privacy.



## Church School News

April is packed with excitement for the Church School students. Most of the month we are in the season of Lent. Remember, our mission project for Lent this year is PEP, the Personal Essentials Pantry. We are collecting money for the Pantry this spring, and we will have a follow-up project this summer.

April 13<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday. All classes will meet for a "walk through Holy Week" beginning with the procession of palms at the beginning of the church service.

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> we will meet downstairs at 1 pm to color Easter eggs for the Easter breakfast.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter egg hunt at 9 am (plastic eggs with prizes inside), and the children will be singing at the church service. There will be no Sunday School classes

The following Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, is our Earth Day one-room Sunday School. We will celebrate spring with some garden activities.



## Office Hours

### Office Hours

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment. Monday is the Pastor's day off; emergency contacts only, please.

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

Deadlines: Articles for the weekly bulletin insert and weekly newsletter are due by Thursday, 8:00 am. Please email articles to Sally at [swolf@pcucc.org](mailto:swolf@pcucc.org).

## Open Doors Forum at Plymouth, April 17

Open Doors for Refugees is a non-faith-based volunteer organization founded to help refugees arriving in the Madison area. Open Doors works both independently and in conjunction with Jewish Social Services (a refugee resettlement agency in Madison). A few of our activities include collecting furniture and household donations, setting up apartments, providing transportation, cultural orientation, and English conversation sessions. Plymouth is hosting a meeting on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> which is open to the public and will be a forum for people to learn more about what we do and how to possibly get involved with Open Doors.

## Update on the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen renewal plan

SpaceCom and the Business Team are working together to iron out the details of the plan, including reviewing contracts and bids. SpaceCom is also connecting with the Teams of the church and with our regular user groups to assess and reorganize storage in the various closets and other areas around Fellowship Hall and in the kitchen. We also welcome input on the bulletin boards that are currently hanging in Fellowship Hall. Connect with Pastor Leslie or SpaceCom chair Ann Lacy ([annwilsonlacy@gmail.com](mailto:annwilsonlacy@gmail.com), (608) 213-4469) for more information.



## Enjoy Music, Art, Cookies and Community at Gallery Night

Gallery Night will take place on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00-9:00 pm. The exhibit will be hung in the Sanctuary and Narthex, where refreshments will be served. As usual, The Discipleship Team expects a lot of visitors for this event and we're going to need help with hospitality.

We served 24 dozen cookies and 6 gallons of punch and juice at the October 2018 Gallery Night. Many people contributed refreshments. In addition, cash donations were used to purchase cookies from Madison Sour Dough Company. Cash, cookies, and juice will be needed again this May! Please contact Carol Martell if you can help with refreshments. (Phone: 608-249-4854 or [carolmartell16@msn.com](mailto:carolmartell16@msn.com))

The Discipleship Team will need help hanging the exhibit! It has to be on the walls by Friday afternoon. We're asking for volunteers to hang art on Thursday and Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We need others to host and serve as ambassadors for Plymouth on Friday evening. Contact Carol Martell if you can assist in any way.

Last year, Plymouth included live music at our Gallery Night venue. One adult and several children played instrumental music in the Sanctuary during the exhibit. I would like to do this again because it made the evening even more interesting. Anyone can participate. It might be one song, or several played by an individual or a group of musicians. Young people are welcome to invite their school friends to join them. A variety of music genres would be especially fun! You can schedule as many 15-minute periods as you wish.

5:00-5:15	5:15-5:30	5:30-5:45	5:45-6:00
6:00-6:15	6:15-6:30	6:30-6:45	6:45-7:00
7:00-7:15	7:15-7:30	7:30-7:45	7:45-8:00
8:00-8:15	8:15-8:30	8:30-8:45	8:45-9:00

## Help to sew Capes (April 14) for Schenk Elementary's Ally Superhero Night-Capes for Kids to Express their Strengths

As one of the Eastside Seeds of Peace Churches, Plymouth will be participating in cape-making for Schenk School's 4th annual Ally Superhero Night. This May event is a celebration of their Welcoming Schools work which has helped create a school environment where all students feel safe, valued and respected. Students will be sharing their published writing about being an ally superhero in order to help celebrate their ally leadership. As part of the event, all students will be creating their own superhero capes!

If you can cut, sew or pin, you too can help make this night a huge success! How? By making simple capes that the students will decorate with their own, superhero shield that will be sewn onto their ready-made capes.

After worship on **April 14** we will have materials and equipment available for making capes. So if you are able, please stay for a bit and help get us started on this project. If you want to help but can't come on the 14<sup>th</sup>, or if you can donate fabric that is at least 1 yard in length, please be in touch with Laura Stalder ([lhstalder@gmail.com](mailto:lhstalder@gmail.com); 698-8759). Pattern & materials will be provided.



## General Synod 32 Volunteering June 21-25, 2019

**YOUR HELP IS KEY** to the success of the Wisconsin Conference hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod of the UCC at [the Wisconsin Center](#) in Milwaukee. Over 3000 people are expected to attend and we need 300 to 400 volunteers to assist the Local Arrangements Committee over this 5-day event. Here is an opportunity to experience the wider United Church of Christ and to learn about our denomination and the many ministries we are engaged in on behalf of Jesus Christ. Here are ways you can volunteer:

- **Extravagant Hospitality and Welcome:** Welcome and direct attendees at Mitchell Airport, the Intermodal Station downtown and in designated hotels.
- **Registration Table:** Assist with the check-in process at the Wisconsin Center.
- **Guides and Greeters:** Welcome and provide directions to attendees in the Wisconsin Center.
- **Accessibility:** Assist with motorized scooters, or other accommodations.
- **Childcare and Children's Ministry:** Provide supervision and program leadership for age-appropriate child care and children's activities for infants through age 12. All volunteers in this area will have a background check.
- **Word Processing for Education and Committees;** use your word processing skills to maintain edits in pronouncements of assigned committees.
- **Floor Stewards:** Assist delegates during plenary sessions as needed.
- **Exhibit Hall Support:** Assist in the area designated for UCC and related agencies and vendors.
- **Worship Ushers:** Usher during worship services of Synod.
- **Volunteer Support:** Support volunteers before and during General Synod.
- **App-bassadors:** Help delegates and visitors to access the General Synod app.
- **Outdoor Festival:** Direct and assist attendees at the Sunday Festival at Frank Zeidler Square Park. *All members of the Wisconsin Conference are invited!*
- **Flexible On-Call:** On-call volunteers will cover needs which arise unexpectedly.
- **For more information check out [wcucc.org/synodvolunteer](http://wcucc.org/synodvolunteer).**

All registrations for Volunteering will be done electronically including indicating the positions available and the dates/times volunteers are needed. Fill out the form and schedule yourself for a specific opportunity/ies and specific times. To qualify for a reduced Synod registration fee, volunteers must sign up for 6 hours. Once confirmed as an Official Volunteer you will receive a code and can register on the UCC General Synod website, [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod).

After registering as a volunteer, Volunteers must register with the General Synod site and pay a reduced fee of \$60. As a registered volunteer you are able to attend all 5 days of the General Synod as a visitor volunteer at this reduced rate. *DO NOT Register on the Synod website until you have been confirmed and received the volunteer code.*

***We hope you consider volunteering at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! We want you to help give an extravagant welcome to the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Conference.***

General Synod 32 LAC Coordinators Bonnie Andrews, Debbie Payden, Tom Payden, Tim Perkins

## Discipleship Team Update

The Discipleship Team and the Immigration Group are holding alternating meetings in 2019. The next Discipleship Team meeting will be on Sunday, May 5. To be added to an email list for updates, please contact Ann Lacy (213-4469, [annwilsonlacy@gmail.com](mailto:annwilsonlacy@gmail.com))

### **Community volunteer need spotlight: help refugees make a home in Madison!**

Although fewer refugees are being admitted to the United States this fiscal year even than last year, refugees *are* being resettled in Madison, and Open Doors for Refugees is always in need of more volunteers to help with that process!

Information on volunteering through Open Doors:

<http://www.opendoorsforrefugees.org/projects>

Interested in learning more about refugee resettlement in the United States? Here are a few places to start:

- Locally, Jewish Social Services (<http://jssmadison.org/>) is the organization that resettles refugees. JSS is a partner organization of international refugee services organization HIAS (<https://www.hias.org/>)
- UNHCR (the United Nation's Refugees Agency): <https://www.unhcr.org/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html>
- A 2019 fact sheet from the National Immigration Forum: <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-u-s-refugee-resettlement/>

**Featured pantry items for April:** canned chicken and fish (tuna, salmon, sardines) for Goodman; for PEP, we continue to encourage donations of money to purchase most-needed items. Many thanks to all who donated in March!

We are continuing to seek signatures for a petition in support of Voces de la Frontera's "**Driver Licenses for All**" campaign. So far 52 people have signed the petition at Plymouth! See Pastor Leslie or Ann Lacy if you would like to add your name. Find more information on the campaign and on Voces de la Frontera at <https://vdlf.org/drivercards/>

**Mark your calendars for these mission and outreach events happening at Plymouth in the next few months:**

- **Saturday, April 13, 3-4:30 pm: "Bringing the Border Home: Reflections on Immigration and the Wall"**, a public event organized by Plymouth's mission trip travelers. More information appears elsewhere in the newsletter.
- **Friday, May 3, 5-9 pm, Gallery Night:** lots of amazing Lowell Elementary School student artwork will be on display at Plymouth.
- **Friday, June 21, Make Music Madison:** Plymouth will again host live music as part of this annual citywide event.

## Interfaith Gathering

On March 24<sup>TH</sup>, Pastor Leslie, Laura Stalder, and Carol Walker went to “Faith Communities Addressing White Supremacy” at the Central Library. This event was a response to the recent mass killings in places of worship, including the mosque killings in New Zealand in mid-March. Local speakers from different faiths spoke about the need to work together as people of faith to end the horrific violence perpetrated by white supremists. After the speeches, the standing room only crowd broke up into small groups to work on responses.

For example, Carol reported that her small group discussed strategies and follow up ideas, including how to respond when someone expounds white supremacist views or promotes violence. One should refrain from confrontation or staying quiet. Instead ask “what do you mean when you said that” statement. Another thought shared in Carol’s group was to visit other places of worship especially as Muslims worship on Friday, Jewish temples worship on Saturday, and Christians worship on Sunday. You will not be fearful of new friends over a meal or other church events. You could get involved with community gatherings such as today. Be aware of the focus on the news on the white person perspective, and not mentioning community interfaith events. We also spoke about the neighborhoods in a community that are not inclusive which influence our comfort level with people. Education at the church or community level is vital to bringing more understanding and peace.

There will be follow-up gatherings to the March 24<sup>th</sup> event – if you are interested in learning more, speak with Carol, Laura, or Pastor Leslie.

And consider participating as an individual or family in “Faith, Fasting, and Friendship: An Interfaith Ramadan Break-the-fast Potluck Iftar” on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:45-10:00 pm at Edgewood College Edgedome, 1000 Edgewood College Drive, Madison. This will be “a wonderful evening of a delicious pot-luck dinner and conversation with people of all faiths! There will be activities for the kids, including face painting. RSVP by May 5<sup>th</sup> and sign-up to bring food and/or volunteer to help out at <http://evite.me/jtRZxfn6XV>.” This event is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Edgewood College, and Muslim Women United for Peace.

### April Birthday Blessings

04/01 – Dan Rolfs

04/03 – Chris Christofferson

04/04 – Dave Martin

04/04 – Chris Rickert

04/06 – Rea Solomon

04/07 – Fred Peterson

04/08 – Karen FASTER

04/11 – Nick Hatfield

04/11 – Kat Klafka

04/15 – Gail Holmes

04/19 – Lilly Hacker

04/19 – Ron Ohlsen

04/20 – Becky Martin

04/20 – Walter Thomsen

04/22 – Evelyn Anton



## March Council Meeting Highlights

Council met on March 21<sup>st</sup> with Bill Mollway leading in Marleen's absence. The main topic of discussion was a proposal by Wilder Deitz to form a Plymouth youth band to play at worship services on occasion. There was much discussion about how the group would be formed, when they would play, what equipment might be needed, among other questions and comments. The Worship Team made a Vetter request (from the old Vetter grant) of \$4,690 to cover various expenses for 2019 for the formation of the band and its expenses this year; that request was approved unanimously.

Also discussed were upcoming training sessions for our Emergency Action Plan (and a Sunday morning fire drill sometime this spring). Updates on church finances and various projects were also given.

## Your 2019 Church Council Leaders are:

- Moderator—Marleen Lippert
- Vice Moderator—Bill Mollway
- Clerk—Adam Hinterthuer
- Treasurer—Rick Reiner
- Business Team—Dan Hacker
- Congregational Life Team—Dan Rolfs
- Discipleship Team—Ann Lacy
- Education Team—Melissa LeBlanc
- Worship Team—Sylvia Adrian
- Pastor Leslie Schenk (ex officio)



## 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*

## Worship News

- Maundy Thursday service at Plymouth on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- Ecumenical Good Friday service at noon, April 19<sup>th</sup>, service at St. Stephen's ELCA, (5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona; a Seeds of Peace partner)
- Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Episcopal (4011 Major Avenue; a Seeds of Peace partner)
- Easter Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>:
  - Breakfast at 8:15 am
  - Easter Egg Hunt at 9 am
  - Easter service at 9:30 am

### Sunday Lectionary Readings for April:

April 7: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 14: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

April 18: Exodus 12:1-14; Ps.116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corin.11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 19: Isaiah 52: 13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

April 20: Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; John 19:38-42

April 21: Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

April 28: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

May 5: Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

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 April (lots of opportunities still available, as you can see), and be sure to **sign up to help!** Thank you.

	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Children's message</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Organizers</b>
Apr. 7	Carol Berglund			The LeBlancs
Apr. 14	Shelley Hagan			Dan Rolfs
Apr. 21	Mark Rickenbach			Easter Breakfast
Apr. 28	Johanna Oosterwyk			Earth Day and Luncheon for Sally
May. 5				

## Life & Ministry of God's People of Plymouth UCC, April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4pm ACA 6pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	2:45pm Girl Scout 8219 6pm Depression Group	Noon Book Club 6:30pm SOTS 7pm Recorders	11:30 am PEP 6:30pm Neighborhood Meeting	9:30 am MDG 5:30pm OA 5:30pm IA	8am Men's AA B'fast 10am KIS 10:30am ACA AA Meeting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am Choir 9:30am Worship & Church School 10:30am Coffee Hr. Discipleship Team 12-2 PEP 4pm OA 5pm Confirmation	4pm ACA 6pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	3pm Girl Scout 7026 6pm Depression Group	6:30pm SOTS 7pm Recorders	11:30am PEP 7:15 pm Business Team	5:30pm OA 5:30pm IA	10am KIS 10:30am ACA 3pm Bringing the Border Home
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship & One Room Church School 10:30am Coffee Hr. Education 12-2 PEP & YFWG 4pm OA	4pm ACA 6pm SOTS 6pm Girl Scout 8035 6:30pm ACA	2pm Contemporary Reading Group 3pm Girl Scout Troop 8267 6pm Depression Group	6:30pm SOTS 7pm Recorders 7pm Open Doors For Refugees Event	11:30am PEP 7pm Maundy Thursday Service at Plymouth	Noon Good Friday Service at St. Stephen's 5:30pm OA 5:30pm IA	10am KIS 10:30am ACA 1pm Egg Dyeing
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:15am Easter Breakfast 8:45am Choir 9am Easter Egg Hunt 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hr. Congregational Life 12-2 PEP 4pm OA	4pm ACA 6pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	6pm Depression Group	6:30pm SOTS 7pm Recorders	11:30am-3pm PEP 7:30 pm Church Council	5:30pm OA 5:30pm IA	10am KIS 10:30am ACA
28	29	30				
8:30am Choir 9:30am Worship One Room Church School 10:30am Luncheon Worship Team 12-2 PEP & YFWG 4pm OA	4pm ACA 6pm SOTS 6:30pm ACA	6pm Depression Group				