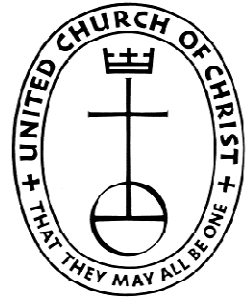


Herald *January 2012*

Plymouth Congregational UCC

515 W. Merrimac St.* Dodgeville, WI 53533 * (608) 935-5727 www.plymouthucc.com



From the Pastor:

As we move into January, we shift from celebrating the birth of the Christ child to hearing the call to discipleship. I read a story recently that reminded me how deeply challenging the call from Christ will always be. This comes from “The Burden of the Gospels” in *The Way of Ignorance* by Wendell Berry.

“In 1569, in Holland, a Mennonite named Dirk Willems, under threat of capital sentence as a heretic, was fleeing from arrest, pursued by a “thief catcher.” As they ran across a frozen body of water, the thief-catcher broke through the ice. Without help, he would have drowned. What did Dirk Willems do then?

“Was the thief-catcher an enemy merely to be hated, or was he a neighbor to be loved as one loves oneself? Was he an enemy whom one must love in order to be a child of God? Was he “one of the least of these my brethren?”

“What Dirk Willems did was turn back, put out his hands to the pursuer, and save his life. The thief-catcher, who then of course wanted to let his rescuer go, was forced to arrest him. Dirk Willems was brought to trial, sentenced, and burned to death by a “lingering fire.”

This is haunting story, one that reminds us of the risk of Christian faith, of the foolishness of God. It’s also a story that shatters the protective glass that we often place around our faith, and shows us how untamed the life of discipleship can truly be. We need to be reminded that discipleship isn’t always rational, sensible, or normal. Love isn’t always safe.

In the article Berry asks whether we would offer such love if we were in Dirk Willem’s circumstance, and he encourages us to be honest and humble in our reply. He says, “We humans, as we well know, have repeatedly been surprised by what we will or won’t do under pressure.”

Christianity often offers us the choice between love and fear, and I know I frequently choose to stay with fear. But it’s important for me to be reminded of how powerful love can be, what love can risk, and the courage that love can nurture. It’s important to imagine how different our world would be if people like Dirk Willems were the heroes we chose to celebrate. How might our lives change, if this year, we forgave more quickly and served with less fear? How different would the world be if we were free of our hate, if we pulled our enemies from danger and then pledged not to put them in danger in the first place?

Christ invites us to walk a different path. It is not without risk, but along this road we will see a better future.

May our new year be filled with grace.

Pastor Todd

Member Updates

* Sally Martin & Hazel Kelly would both appreciate visits, cards or calls at CrestRidge

Please email the church office of any other updates to be included in future newsletters.

Board Members

As we near the end of the year, several church boards will be in need of new members as current members complete their commitment. If you are interested in learning more about a specific board, please contact the church office. Boards typically meet approximately once per month.

Committees in need of volunteers for 2012:

Diaconate

Christian Ed

Trustees

Other open positions: Vice Moderator & Clerk

Iowa County Homeless Shelter

A family moving out of the Iowa County Homeless Shelter is in need of items for a living room, two bedrooms (including linens for one full size & one twin size bed) and a kitchen. Please bring these items to the church office – do not wrap.

Please contact Heather Davis at SWCAP with any questions. 935-2326 x223

2012 Mission Trip

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 7pm at UCC in Mineral Point. Dates and details will be finalized at this meeting with Joplin, MO being the most likely location.

January Birthdays

4 Jayne Harrison
4 Gretchen Bruegger
4 Max Bruegger
6 Diane Halverson
8 Ayden Halverson
9 Jeanie Bettner
20 Gretchen James
22 Chris Nuzum
23 Phoebe Hanson
25 Vince Bryant
26 Todd Smith Lippert
29 Jean Brown
30 Bonnie Balk

Food Pantry Needs...


* Jelly/jam
* Peanut butter
* Pancake mix/syrup
* Ketchup
* Boxed desserts
* Boxed potatoes
* Canned meals
* Jello/pudding
* Hamburger Helper
* **Monetary donations**

Joyful Noise

(Nov 20-Dec 21)
Food Pantry \$35
Pastor Discretionary
\$664.14

You are welcome here

**Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ**
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Plymouth Staff

Pastor

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert
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home 341-8931
Email tslippert@mhtc.net

Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
Office 935-5727
home 930-8212
Email plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance

Keely Thomas

Interested in officially
joining the church?
Contact Pastor Todd at
tslippert@mhtc.net or 935-5727

TV Broadcast Schedule – Sunday worship is on
Dodgeville’s Local Access channel (MHTC channel 10).
The schedule is as follows:

- * Sunday at 4 pm, Tuesday at 7 pm, Thursday at 8 am
- * *Sermons online* Pastor Todd’s sermons are now available for viewing on our website, plymouthucc.com and on YouTube.com
- * *Facebook* – Plymouth has a Facebook page. You can link directly from the church website or search pages under Plymouth United Church of Christ, Dodgeville on Facebook.

Please Contact Us

If you, or another member of the congregation is in the hospital, or is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office or notify Pastor Todd @ 341-8931.

Thank you.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship 9:00 am	Junior Worship takes place during the service					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Bible Study 1:30 @MP	11	12	13	14 Pasty Sale
15	16	17 Bible Study 1:30 @ Plymouth 7pm Council	18 7pm Choir	19	20	21
22	23	24 Bible Study 1:30 @MP 7pm Yoke Council @ Plym	25 7pm Choir	26	27	28
29 Annual Meeting after worship	30	31 Bible Study 1:30 @ Plymouth				

Usher:

1 David & Marie Fry
 8 Earl & Shirley Barnes
 15 Jill & Chuck Roethe
 22 Denise Whitish
 29 Maureen Teubert

Reader:

1 Jill Roethe
 8 Lisa DuWell
 15 Chris Nuzum
 22 Shirley Barnes
 29 Chuck Roethe

Fellowship:

1
 8 Anne Bachner
 15
 22
 29