



the Herald January 2017

God is Still Speaking

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ Dodgeville, WI

Greetings Beloved,



We made it! 2017 is finally here! I have noticed that many people are eager for 2016 to be over, and are filled with hope that 2017 will be a better year. 2016 was rough, no doubt about it, but we have to remember that the concepts of 2016 and 2017 are measurements of time and nothing more. The Greek language has a couple of words that mean "time." The first is most familiar—*chronos*. It means the chronology of days, governed by the carefully calculated earth's sweep around the sun. But another word for time is also used in the New Testament—*kairos*. This speaks more to specific, God-ordained times throughout history, sometimes called the "right time" or "appointed season" (Titus 1:3). *Kairos* is God's dimension—one not marked by the past, the present, or the future.

A 'kairos moment' is God's appointed time to act. A 'kairos moment' is a moment in time when the Holy Spirit draws near to do a special work in and through a person or group. The Holy Spirit creates and orchestrates kairos moments, and I believe that we are in a kairos moment here at Plymouth. Many things have changed for us. Many things have changed for the church at large and are changing still. Where the church used to be a major influence in our world it is now becoming

more of a "fringe movement." And isn't that where it all began? I don't know, but I suspect this kairos moment is our time to step back and take stock of where we're at and where we plan to go. We are a much smaller congregation now, but that does not mean that we cannot be an effective and powerful ministry. That does not mean we cannot continue to spread the good news through our active presence in the lives of others.

In November I sent a letter to you all about creating a vision and mission statement for us here at Plymouth. In our community conversations over the last year, we have been doing a lot of talking, but now it is time to put something on paper – something we all agree on – something definitive about who we are and what we are about. This is going to take some work. It is going to take some commitment and it is going to require us to show up and speak up. During the next 6 months our community conversations will be about developing these statements.

But this is not just about putting something on paper and then calling it a day. This is about renewing our commitment to God and to each other. This is about intentionally committing to our community of faith and the work we dedicate ourselves too. We are a smaller congregation, but when we pull together, when we work together, we are a mighty force. We are the body of Christ – all of us – and all parts are loved and needed.

January 5 is Epiphany Sunday. It is on that day that Jesus was baptized by John, and it is on that day that we will be remembering and rededicating our own baptisms. This is when we will be renewing our commitment to God. On January 15, the day of our Community Conversation, we will be renewing our covenant with each other. We will have a formal ceremony during worship for this as well.

As we step into the *chronos* New Year, let us remember that we are *kairos* people of God. We live in God's dimension, waiting and preparing for the Holy Spirit to draw near to do a special work in and through us. I am looking forward to this renewal in our ministry, and I am grateful for each and every moment I get to spend with you!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Joy

December 2016 Pastor's Report

Attendance:

Nov 20 - 25

Nov 27 - 23

Dec 04 - 22

Dec 11 - Cancelled due to weather

Dec 18 - 24

November Calendar*

<p>Nov 16 – Office Hours Pastor's Group Wacky Wednesday</p> <p>Nov 17 – Office Hours Community of Practice</p> <p>Nov 18 – Lunch with Member</p> <p>Nov 19 – Potluck</p> <p>Nov 20 – Worship Community Conversation</p> <p>Nov 21 – Social Concerns Meeting</p> <p>Nov 22 – Office Hours Meeting with Moderator & Admin</p> <p>Nov 23 – Pastor's Group Special Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service</p> <p>Nov 24 - Office Hours</p> <p>Nov 27 - Worship Adult Discussion Group</p> <p>Nov 29 - Office Hours Meeting with Moderator & Admin</p>	<p>Nov 30 - Pastor's Group Office Hours Meet with Admin Wacky Wednesday</p> <p>Dec 1 - Office Hours Phone Meeting Spiritual Direction</p> <p>Dec 3 - Open House in Member home</p> <p>Dec 4 - Worship Adult Discussion Group</p> <p>Dec 6 - Office Hours Pastoral Care Provided</p> <p>Dec 7 - Pastor's Group Office Hours Wacky Wednesday</p> <p>Dec 8 - Office Hours Lunch with Member Visited 2 members in their homes</p> <p>Dec 11 - Worship cancelled due to weather</p> <p>Dec 13 - CCFC Board Meeting Office hours</p>	<p>Dec 14 - Pastor's Group Office Hours Wacky Wednesday Feeding Friends</p> <p>Dec 15 - Community of Practice Meets</p> <p>Dec 16 - Christmas Open House</p> <p>Dec 18 - Worship</p> <p>Dec 19 - Office Hours Diaconate Meeting Council Meeting</p> <p> <i>* Note: Office hours are hours of availability which typically means from 10 - 2. During these hours, I am available to spend time with people. This might be for lunch, or a meeting in my office or a visit by me in person. Not all office hours occur at the office. If I am not meeting with anyone I might be in my office at the church or working in my office at home. Regardless of where I am, I am available for calls and requests.</i></p>
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Moderator's Report

All I want for Christmas is my two volunteers! My two volunteers! My two volunteers! All I want for Christmas is my two volunteers! And I would be so happy!! If I were Uncle Sam I would be saying "Diaconate Needs You!" It's a great deal. You get zero hots and no cot. I would make a lousy politician and an even worse used car salesman. I am too prone to truth telling. The trustees need one person who will tackle the task of understanding what our church building needs or how to keep us all informed about Plymouth's Finances. Sound Sexy? You bet it is. No...not really. Sexy? No. Essential? Yes. I have heard though that Steve Freeman has put the "sizzle" into spreadsheets. I also heard that Jan, Julie and Gary are the to "di" for in diaconate. If you sign up, I'll throw in a set of bald tires. I can't promise a tour of duty on one of these two committees will be smooth sailing. I can only promise that it will be what you make it and that your efforts will be appreciated immensely.

I have a couple of important dates for you to engrain in your memory. Jan 15th is our next community conversation. The discussion topic is, "Plymouth Mission Statement". Now talk amongst yourselves. The second date is Jan.22nd. That is the date of our congregational meeting in which we vote yea or nea on the 2017 budget. The word is Steve will have pie charts to pass around. Trust me; you do not want to miss that.

Blessings,

Bill D

Scripture Readings for the Month of January

January 1

First Sunday after Christmas

Matt 2:13-23 Herod's world of compliance and obedience

January 8

Epiphany

Jesus' Baptism

Rededication of our own Baptisms

Luke 3:1-22 (Psalm 51:6-17 or 51:13) John baptizes, bear fruit worthy of repentance, share what you have

January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Covenant Renewal Ceremony

Luke 4:14-30 (Psalm 146 or 146:7b-8) Sermon at Nazareth (Isaiah fulfilled, Elijah and widow, Elisha and Naaman)

January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11 (Psalm 90:14-17 or 90:17b) Great catch of fish, Peter will fish for people

January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:1-16 (Psalm 92 or 92:4) Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (plucking grain, healing a man) and call of disciples

Plymouth UCC Council Meeting December 20, 2016

Submitted by,
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Present: Bill DuWell, Steve Freeman, Chuck Roethe, Gary McHone, Dave Pearson, Pastor Joylynn Graham, Gretchen Pearson

Excused: Julie Neal, Earl Barnes

Opening Reflection and Prayer-Pastor Joy

Agenda changes & approval: Dave moved, Chuck seconded to approve the agenda with additions

Corrections and Approval of Council Minutes of Nov. 15th, 2016: Chuck moved, Dave seconded to approve the minutes as written. Approved.

Pastors Report: Pastor Joy

- Pastor will send out her report before the Council meetings
- Office Administrator – Nancy Schmit is serving as interim secretary. Bill and Pastor Joy will continue to discuss working hours with her.
- Wedding Policy – If someone requests a wedding at the church, Pastor Joy should be the first person who is contacted. We need to decide the cost of renting the building for a wedding. We need an event calendar or building use journal so everyone, especially the trustees and custodian, know about what needs to be done to get the building ready.
- Community conversations (Third Sunday of each month): We have not had a conversation about developing a mission statement and vision statement by the whole congregation. The Statements need to be ready for a congregational vote by June 2017. Some Community Conversations have had to be cancelled. A commitment from the council to attend these meetings is essential. Suggestions to get people interested: begin talking about the topic during services; make phone calls to remind people about the meetings.

Mission: Chuck – the committee will develop the Joyful Noise calendar for 2017 in January. There is a budget item for the Pastor's discretionary fund if the Joyful Noise does not cover any special need. The Joyful Noise offering Christmas Eve will be for the Food Pantry.

Financial Report: Dave presented the financial reports through November, 2016. Gretchen moved, Gary seconded to approve the financial report. Approved.

Committee Reports

Diaconate: Gary – January 8th, Epiphany and the tree and decorations will be taken down. Lunch will be served. There will be a "Fat Sunday" Pancake Lunch February 26th, a Community Conversation, January 15th, and a Community conversation and St. Patrick's lunch March 19th.

Trustees: Steve

- Building Maintenance Updates – nothing new at this time.
- Budget – The final proposal for the 2017 budget will be available to the congregation two weeks before the Congregational meeting.

Other Business: Bill:

- Pastoral Contract and Duties – Language related to the yoke has been taken out and Wacky Wednesday is included.
- Wacky Wednesday is continuing to have a consistent number of children attending the program. Preparing a budget for next year, Bill and Judy are working on Grant proposals.

- If anything needs special cleanup at the church, contact the trustees and they will inform Keely.
- There is a clipboard hanging near the kitchen door for any maintenance problems noticed that need attention.
- New committee members are needed for the Trustees and Diaconate.
- Year End Reports – Get reports in as soon as possible.
- Year End Bonuses – there is a budget item for bonuses for paid staff plus choir director.
- **Date for Annual Meeting is January 22, 2017** immediately following the church service. Notice needs to be given to the congregation by January 7th. The Annual Report should be ready to given out by January 15th. Announcement will also be in the newsletter.

Dave moved to adjourn, Chuck seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk

Next Council meeting January 17, 2017 at 7pm

Annual Congregational Meeting, immediately following the service – January 22, 2017





JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship, 10 am Adult Ed, 11:30 am	2	3	4 Wacky Weds, 2:30-5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship, 10 am Adult Ed, 11:30 am	9	10	11 Wacky Weds, 2:30-5:30 pm Feeding Friends, 5 pm Choir, 7 pm	12	13	14 
15 Worship, 10 am Community Conv. After Worship Adult Ed, 11:30am	16	17 Diaconate, 5 pm Council, 7 pm	18 Wacky Weds, 2:30-5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	19 Trustees, 7 pm	20	21
22 Worship, 10 am Annual Meeting Adult Ed, 11:30 am	23 Newsletter Items Due 	24	25 Wacky Weds, 2:30-5:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	26	27	28
29 Worship, 10 am Adult Ed, 11:30 am	30	31	<p><u>Joylynn's Office Hours</u> Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 2 pm</p>			

Pastor

Reverend Joylynn Graham
Cell 553-0149
pastorjoylynn@gmail.com

Interim Office Administrator

Nancy Schmit
Office 935-5727
Email: Plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance

Keely Thomas
Home 935-9259

Organist

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director

Lisa Duwell

Council Moderator

Bill Duwell

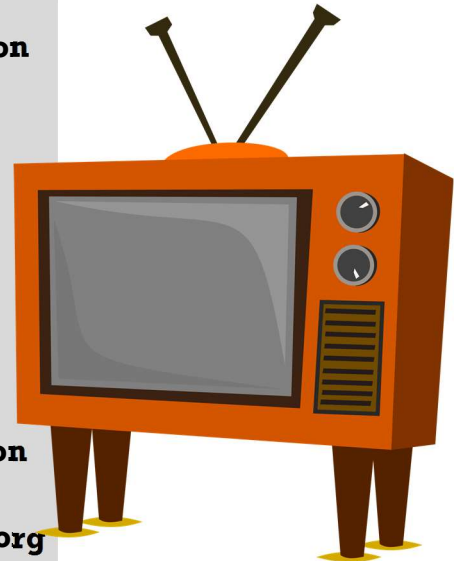
Vice Moderator

Chuck Roethe

**Our Sunday Worship
Service may be viewed on
the Dodgeville
Local Access Channel
(MHTC channel 10)**

- **Sunday at 4 pm**
- **Tuesday at 7 pm**
- **Thursday at 8 am**

**Sermons are also
available for viewing on
our website:
plymouthuccdodgeville.org
and on
YouTube.com**



*Are you looking for the
January Birthdays?*

*My apologies, I couldn't
find the birthday file.
Does someone out there
know where it is? Please
let me know.*

*Thanks,
Nancy S*



*P.S. January Birthdays,
I'll make it up to you . . .
I promise.*



Church Council

Bill DuWell, Moderator
Chuck Roethe, Vice Moderator
Steve Freeman, Trustees
Gary McHone, Diaconate
Chuck Roethe, Mission
Gretchen Pearson, Clerk
Julie Neal, Christian Ed
Dave Pearson, Treasurer
Earl Barnes, Financial Secretary

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