



JULY 2018

GENERAL SYNOD ADVOCATES RALLY FOR IMMIGRANTS, PROTEST THREATENED ICE RAIDS

June 24, 2019
Written by **Alice Foltz**

More than 500 delegates and visitors to the United Church of Christ General Synod took to the streets of Milwaukee Monday, joining more than 100 local activists in a rally calling for a change in policies that separate immigrant families.

Delegates first voted that morning to delay the start time of the afternoon session to allow all Synod-goers to participate in the mile-long march from the Wisconsin Center to the local office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

UCC advocates, chanting, "Don't be a hater; Love your neighbor," "Classrooms, not cages," and "UCC is loud and clear; Immigrants are welcome here!" filled the sidewalks in a massive wave of people that flowed almost a mile through the streets of downtown Milwaukee.

A small knot of early arrivals, mostly local activists, handed out signs and organized a picket line, then watched as a huge wave of UCC members approached down the street, chanting, singing and waving handmade signs and banners.

Members of The Good Shepherd UCC, Suhuarita, Ariz., brought a banner from home: "Don't build a wall, build a larger table!"

Virginia Summerville, from West Palm Beach, Fla., said she was marching on behalf of a friend who was deported. "We have a lot of immigrants who are mistreated and living in fear. We need to send a message that there are a lot of us in favor of having immigrants here."

Lydia, a youth marcher from Milwaukee who did not provide her last name, said that "a lot of time people have misconceptions about churches and church groups, but it's also important to those in the same faith to see that people like us are standing here in solidarity."

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, associate general minister, UCC Justice and Local Church Ministries, who stood shoulder to shoulder with other clergy reminded the crowd near the end of the hour-long rally, "We understand that if we are not all free, none of us is free."

Blackmon declared: "We will go to every state, we will open our churches for sanctuary, we will block this action with our very bodies."



"But here's the thing," Blackmon added. "We realize that we don't just do it for those who are caged by steel. We do it also for those who are caged by hatred. We do it also for those who are held hostage by white supremacy. Also for those who are held hostage by not understanding the Gospel message. . . . But we will not be silenced anymore."

Local groups, including La Voces de la Frontera, planned the rally, [in response to the deportation of Betty Rendón](#), a student pastor who served Emaus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine.

Rob Ellinger, a retired Evangelical Lutheran Church pastor, told the crowd that Rendón came to the United States to escape death threats in her native Colombia, and "now

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A Note from the Pastor...



I have just returned from my very first United Church of Christ General Synod, and I am so excited to be able to share with you some of what I experienced!

I have gathered with our church in many different contexts and in many different situations, but never on such a large scale, and the energy of this past weekend was nothing short of amazing! Jesus said that wherever two or more gather together, he's right there with them, and I'm quite certain this is true. But I'm also pretty certain that wherever two thousand or more gather together, not only is Jesus there but we as a church, become even more sensitive to the workings of the Spirit amidst the gathering.

It's like we need each other to make our worship come to life and shine, and the more of us that show up, the more life and light we discover in our worship. In today's world of declining numbers, showing up is more important than it has ever been in the history of the church.

Gathering and worshiping is not the only reason for our General Synods. The General Synod of the United Church of Christ convenes every biennium to determine who we are and what our denominational values are. It is the national decision-making body for the entire denomination, and it is responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC.

The Synod itself is composed of delegates, either clergy or lay, that are elected from the 38 conferences of the UCC. The delegates meet to discuss and discern resolutions that have been put before the Synod, and then vote on them. There are three kinds of resolutions, 1. Pronouncements, which are statements of conviction on matters of moral or social principle, 2. Proposals for Action, which are recommendations for specific directional statements and goals in implementing a Pronouncement, and 3. Resolutions.

The work of a delegate is not easy. They are at the table as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 10 p.m., and often-times proposed resolutions are quite contentious. I was not a delegate, but many of my friends were, and the work was exhausting for them. But these conversations and ensuing decisions are necessary for shaping our mission and purpose as a denomination. They are necessary if we are to move forward in the ever-changing landscape of the church.

Because the UCC holds to an explicitly congregational polity, any decisions made by the Synod are not binding upon the UCC's congregations. Although the UCC's Constitution and Bylaws do expect that serious consideration is given to them, each congregation is free to determine the course of their ministry. In order to do so, we must show up at the discussion table ready to have some serious and sometimes difficult conversations if we are to move forward in the ever-changing landscape of the church.

When we gather for worship on Sundays, we are offered spiritual nourishment at an open table where all are welcome. It is a gift – freely offered – to all. And all we have to do is show up. Our worship time at Plymouth is special because Jesus is right there with us with the Spirit weaving in and through us, as together, we worship our God.

But we must be willing to show up for the hard stuff too. We must be willing to roll up our sleeves and get down to the hard business of BEING the church. We must be willing to have difficult conversations and make the hard choices that have to be made. Showing up is the most important thing we will ever do. It is the most important thank-you we will ever say to God for all that we have and all that we are.

The theme for Synod this year was "Let your light shine." I couldn't tell you exactly how many were present, but I did notice a particular glow emanating from the city of Milwaukee over the weekend as thousands of UCC members showed up to shine. Now let's light up Dodgeville. Let's show up and "Let it Shine!"

Blessings and Peace, *Pastor Joy*

Summer Sermon Series for 2019

BE THE CHURCH



July 7 – Protect the Environment —

Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

July 14 – Care for the Poor —

Matthew 25:35-36

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

July 21 – Forgive Often (or Live into Forgiveness) —

Matthew 6:12

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

July 28 – Reject Racism (or Dismantle Racism) —

Romans 10:11-13

The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no

distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

August 4 – Fight for the Powerless (or Fight with the Marginalized/ Confront the Powers) —

Psalm 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

August 11 – Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources —

Luke 3:10-11

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

August 18 – Embrace Diversity —

Genesis 1:27

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

August 25 – Love God —

Luke 10:25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

September 1 – Enjoy This Life —

Philippians 4:4-7

(Continued from page 4)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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our government sent her back. But we say 'no more, no more.' "

Jim Cusack, a veteran from Lake Geneva, about 50 miles northwest of Milwaukee, said he has been coming to the ICE office to do a silent witness, usually the first Thursday of the month, for the past 13 years. "We are here to show our rage," he said as he joined Monday's rally. "The shame of discrimination brings me here."

"I do it because we are all immigrants," Cusack added. "An injustice to one of us is an injustice to us all."

Local union veteran George Martin said immigration and labor are connected, and Milwaukee needs more workers. "We don't have enough workers to handle the DNC (Democratic National Convention next summer in Milwaukee.) He added, "This is really all about how we see people who don't look like us."

Pastors who were prepared for arrest lined up, arms linked in front of a rear entrance to ICE headquarters, then joined others out in front after police made room on the street for the speeches that ended the rally. The Rev. John Gage, pastor of the Congregational Church in Need-

ham, Mass., helped to lead the chants on the line. Pastor Kristin Gorton of Memorial UCC, Fitchburg, Wis., said that ICE rounded up six people in her community last September, and the community has since been providing accompaniment for more immigrants who live in fear.

Pastor Vanessa Cardinale of South Congregational Church, UCC, of Amherst, Mass., said that her congregation offered sanctuary for two years to a Guatemalan man and is working with others to provide a home for transgender immigrants at risk. The Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, associate pastor, The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Conn., walked in honor of a Pakistani family that her church supported in sanctuary for eight months. "They gave us so much!"

From across the national church, clergy and advocates, young and old, shouted for justice for their immigrant neighbors. As the action concluded, the five-year-

old granddaughter of Pastor Betty Rendón said bravely, "I'm so happy to see you! Thank you, thank you for coming here!"

Alice Foltz, a Synod Newsroom volunteer, is a member of Wellspring UCC in Centreville, Va. Connie Larkman and Synod Newsroom volunteers Sara Fitzgerald and Tim Kershner contributed to this story.



UCC Link

Madison
365

JSOnline



I participated in Lafayette County Relay for Life in Darlington at Collins Park on Saturday, on June 15, 2019.

Again this year, I relayed for Pastor Joylynn, Jan H., Karla W., Kris K., Lorraine K., Bob K., Arron, Cathy, Chester, and Janette K., Mary M., Laverna, Anne, Oscar W., Jim K., Ron K., Frank K., Julie D., and Kathleen M.

Between personal donations and corporate donations, and the church's Joyful Noise donation, I not only beat my goal of \$1,500, but I surpassed \$2000 by raising \$2,012 towards cancer research.

Due to weather concerns, we didn't stay until the end, but it was a very significant success. Most of the cakes at the auction went for over \$400 each. Football game tickets went for \$1,025.

I was very honored to be chosen to sing the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies. I will be on a team for next year's relay in Lafayette county.

Thank you to everyone who helped me with donations and encouragement.

Kayla Kottke



July Events



July 4	Independence Day
July 13/14	Farmer's Appreciation Days

Volunteers are needed for Fellowship and Feeding Friends in July and August. If you have time during this busy summer season, please contact the office and let us know when you can help. Plymouth UCC hosts Feeding Friends the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning at 5 pm.



REMINDERS

AUGUST 11 - ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT CENTENNIAL PARK

AUGUST 18 - PRIDE FESTIVAL AT WARNER PARK

AUGUST 25 - PICNIC BASH AT PASTOR JOY'S



Pride Festival

Warner Park

2930 N Sherman Avenue

1:00 pm until 6:00 pm

August 18

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville



**Our Sunday Worship Service may
be viewed this month on our
website:**

plymouthuccdodgeville.org

Or

**On Facebook look for
Plymouth United Church of Christ,
Dodgeville**

Or on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=5lk-NdBxPS-0&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lk-NdBxPS-0&t=7s)

Fun Facts about July

It is the second summer month after June.

There are many countries which have their Independence Day during the month of July.

July is the warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere on average. It is similar to January in the Southern Hemisphere.

Sometimes the hot, long days of July are called the "dog days of summer".

It is sometimes called the Hay month because the grass dries out due to a lack of rain and can be made into hay.

July's birthstone, the ruby, is often associated with contentment, love, passion, and integrity.



July was originally the month of Quintilis in the Roman calendar. It was the fifth month of the year until January and February were added in 450 BC. It got its original name from the Latin word for fifth. Later the name was changed to Julius in honor of Julius Caesar who was born on July 12.



Mission Statement

"To grow and share our faith, worship God, and follow Jesus Christ in the ways of love, peace, compassion, justice and the nurturing of God's creation."

Vision Statement

"To be a welcoming and thriving Christian Community, living our faith through reflection and action, while remaining grounded in God's love."

Schedules

Usher

July 7 - Rod and Mary Lukes

July 14 - Gary and Harry McHone

July 21 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

July 28 - Denise Whitish

Reader

July 7 - Rod Lukes

July 14 - Denise Whitish

July 21 Eric Leighninger

July 28 - Maureen Teubert

Communion

July 7 - Julie Neal

July 14 - Jan Helmich

July 21—Jill Roethe

July 28 - Gary McHone

Fellowship

July 7 -

July 14 -

July 21 - Liz Bothfeld

July 28 -

Joyful Noise

July 7 - Blessing Bags

July 14, 21, 28 - Food Pantry



JULY

Newsletter

Summer Time With Flat Jesus



The Barnes family in Alaska.

Flat Jesus has been on some great adventures already this season. Please remember to send in your Flat Jesus photos to the office so that we can include them in our newsletter.



Pastor Joylynn keeping cool with Flat Jesus on the homestead.



Rod and Mary Lukes with son's family in Rochester, Minnesota.



Mary Lukes with grandchildren.



A big Thank you! to everyone who helped Pastor Joylynn with landscaping!



Kayla at Synod with a prayer shawl she received.



Plymouth UCC members with Pastor Joylynn at Synod.



Alan Green and Eric Leighninger recently filled in for Pastor Joylynn while she was on vacation.



Pictures by Pastor Joylynn at Synod.

Would you like to see what it was about? Read the newsletter online to [CLICK HERE](#) and check it out. Search on the UCC website.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator

Trustees

Mark Pepelea

Diaconate

Gary McHone

Mission

Lisa Pepelea

Clerk

Denise Whitish

Christian Education

Treasurer

Dave Pearson

Financial Secretary

Earl Barnes

If your address, phone/cell number, or email have changed, please contact the office so that we may update our records . You may call the office at 935-5727, or email the office at plymouth@mhtc.net.



DIACONATE NEWS

The Diaconate Committee met June 18, 2019.

Those present were Gary McHone, chairman, Harry Zelhofer-McHone, Julie Neal and Jan Helmich.

Discussion was held regarding the Pride Celebration scheduled for August 18 at Warner Park in Madison. Our church will have a booth there jointly with Memorial UCC of Fitchburg. Gary and Harry have donated the entry fee for this event. Church business cards and a copy of our church brochure will be handed out. Our members are encouraged to attend to support the LGBT community and our Open and Affirming status. An insert will be included in our church bulletin closer to that date with more information and directions to Warner Park.

Upcoming dates of events to remember:

June 30. - Opening and Affirming Sunday. The sanctuary will be decorated for this.

August 11. - Ecumenical service at Centennial Park. More information about this later.

August 18. - Pride Celebration, Warner Park in Madison.

Aug 25 - Picnic at Pastor Joylynn's home. More information about this later.

Next Diaconate Meeting will be July 16th.

Jan Helmich, secretary



Monthly Meetings/Events

Sometimes meeting times/dates will change. Please check the [website](#), [Facebook](#), or contact the church office 935-5727.

Sundays

Special Music Sunday - once a month, usually the last Sunday of the month.

Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of the month:

Diaconate 5:30 pm

Council Meetings 7 pm-

Wednesdays

Faith Explorers 10:30 am at CornerStone

Wacky Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:30 pm, September through May.

Choir, 7 pm, September through May.

Feeding Friends - 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays

Trustees - Second Thursday of the Month, 7 pm.

Plymouth Circle - Fourth Thursday of the month, noon, at Country Kitchen.

Saturday

Pasty Sales - Second Saturday of the month October through April.



Wacky Wednesday



The vegetable gardens were planted by our Wacky Wednesday friends this spring, and if we can outwit the rabbits, we will have fresh produce soon. The food we produce will go to help with Feeding Friends meals and to SWCAP for the Food Pantry. We weigh everything that comes out of the garden and last year, our two little beds provided almost 200 pounds of fresh vegetables. We think we can produce even more this year. If you know of others who could use fresh produce, please let us know.



WACKY WEDNESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL KIDS CLUB UPDATE

Wow, did this year fly by! At Plymouth Church, there was never a dull moment on Wednesday afternoons! This school year, we served 22 children from 16 families. 47% were single parent households. Something new happened this year. We had 7 returning students who had "aged out" but chose to return as "helpers". They ranged in age from 10 to 16 and helped us walk the children from the school, prepare the snacks, and supervise activities. We also had 16 adult volunteers share their talents and time with us this year. They sewed winter hats for us, taught us to crochet and do cross stitch, helped us build incredible marble runs and towers, and exploded volcanoes and rockets with us. Thanks to Bill Duwell, we wrote and performed a play, *Dodgeville by the Sea*. Making puppets and putting on hours of puppet shows has become a Wacky Wednesday tradition each year. Earl Barnes provided us with exciting math and science experiments each week. The U.W.Extension came in each month and "cooked" with us so we could learn about healthy eating. Pastor Joy joined us whenever she could. Dave and Gretchen Pearson were the backbone of our volunteer corps. They did anything and everything to make the program successful. Thanks to all the volunteers. We couldn't have provided the program without all of you!

And thank you all at Plymouth Church for your continued support both financially and by providing us the space to meet each week. On the last day, some of the parents expressed their gratitude for the after-school support and interesting programming we provided for their children. It really gave them peace of mind during their busy work day to know their children were engaged and well-cared for.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Mary Vacation	3 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 Mary Vacation	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5	6
7 Worship 10 am Fellowship	8	9 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	10 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30 am Feeding Friends, 5pm	11 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Trustees, 7 pm	12	13
14 Worship 10 am Fellowship Farmer's Appreciation Day Parade	15	16 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Diaconate, 5:30 pm Council, 7 pm	17 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30	18 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10 am Fellowship	22	23 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	24 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30	25 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm Plymouth Circle, Noon	26	27
28 Worship 10 am Fellowship Parent's Day	29	30 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 10 am - 2 pm	31 Office Hours 8:00 am - 12:30 pm Pastor Available 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Faith Explorers 10:30			

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

Church Office:

Pastor Availability

Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office Administrator

Hours

Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Pastor:

Joylynn Graham

Cell 553-0149

[pastor-](mailto:pastor-joylynn@gmail.com)

joylynn@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag

935-5727

plymouth@mhtc.net

Maintenance:

Keely Thomas

Home 935-9259

Organist:

Marilyn Dunn

Choir Director:

Lisa Duwell

Moderator:

Chuck Roethe

Vice Moderator:

Eric Leighninger

ATTENDANCE

JUNE 2	23
JUNE 9	29
JUNE 16	26
JUNE 23	SYNOD
JUNE 30	



Newsletter Deadline

July 18 at 8 am.

Please submit any items you would like to appear in the newsletter by this time. Email your newsletter submissions to

plymouth@mhtc.net



July 14

Pastor Joylynn Graham

July 23

Harry Zelhofer-McHone

July 24

David Neal

July 26

Bill Fitzgerald

July 26

Marilyn Dunbar



Did we miss a birthday? Please contact the church office and let us know. 935-5727

THANKS TO YOUR
GENEROSITY IN APRIL

HODAN CENTER \$117.21

HOMELESS COALITION \$485.95

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

\$359.79

JULY JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING IS
DESIGNATED FOR:

BLESSING BAGS

FOOD PANTRY





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