

The Herald

Plymouth UCC Dodgeville

December 2024



Plymouth Congregational
United Church of Christ

From the Pastor...

Greetings, Church!

Several years ago, I knew a family that genuinely followed the rhythms of the church year in their daily lives. The father in the family had spent his career working in the church, and his wife was church member and volunteer extraordinaire. One of their daughters became a pastor. The church really was their life.



I met this family after the father had retired from ministry, and both he and his wife had some chronic illnesses. A few years later, the husband passed away, on Saturday December 2nd. The next day was the first Sunday of Advent, the start of the church year. The family members noted how appropriate it was that he was starting his new journey into eternal life as we were beginning a new church year. Honoring the church year gave the family a sense of completion and comfort in their grief.

This year, the first Sunday of Advent is on December 1st. On that day, we begin a new year and a new season in the church calendar, and a chance to renew our lives of faith.

Plymouth friends, as we enter this next church year together, we are experiencing similar emotions to the family I described. We hold grief for what we have lost, and for what we leave behind as we step forward into this new season. We also recognize that our community is beginning a new journey, starting a new chapter in our life as a congregation. Some things will remain the same, but some things may change entirely, as we seek God's calling for us.

Happy new year, friends. Let us honor what has been, and together move forward with faith into this new year.

Pastor Katya

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

OUR MISSION "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."

Church Office:

Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor:

Pastor Katya
Ouchakof
ouchakof@gmail.com
608-616-5075

Office Administrator:

Mary Haag
935-5727
plymouth@mhtc.net

Organist:

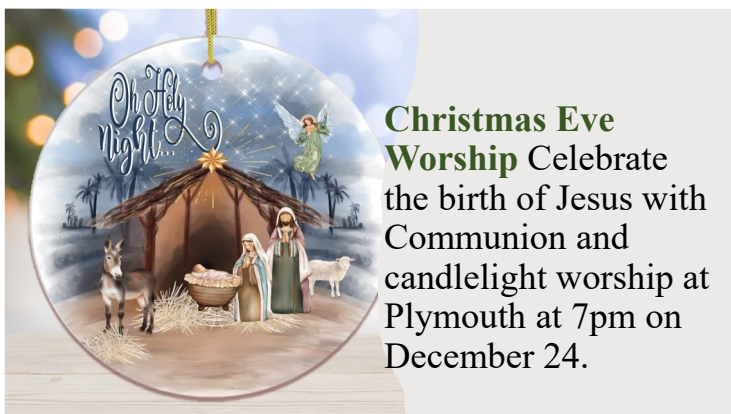
Marilyn Dunn

Announcements/Coming Up...

December 15 - Budget meeting following worship. Please plan to attend.

January 26 - Annual Meeting following Worship.

Faith Explorers - meets by Zoom on Wednesdays at 11:00 (contact Earl for a link). The current book that we are discussing is "The Book of Joy," by Benjamin Tutu and the Dalai Lama.



Christmas Eve - Is 7 pm a bad time for your work or family commitments? Please worship with one of our Dodgeville ecumenical partners For Christmas Eve Worship:

3:30pm - Grace Lutheran Church

4:00pm - Dodgeville United Methodist Church

5:30pm - Grace Lutheran Church

Upland Hills Health is looking for additional volunteers to join their hospice team. Being a hospice volunteer is a very rewarding experience. Training is provided for all volunteers. If you are interested, we would love to talk to you. Please call Volunteer Services at 608-930-7113 or email mcconnelld@uplandhillshealth.org.

February 8 - Workshop on Healthy Leadership in the Church, by Professor Craig Nesson of Wartburg Seminary. Cosponsored by Grace Lutheran and Plymouth UCC, at Plymouth UCC, 9 am until noon.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Gary McHone

Vice Moderator

Trustees

Shirley Barnes

Diaconate

Mark Pepelea

Mission

Chuck Roethe

Clerk

Mary Stellick

Christian Education

Treasurer

Steve Pieroni

Financial Secretary

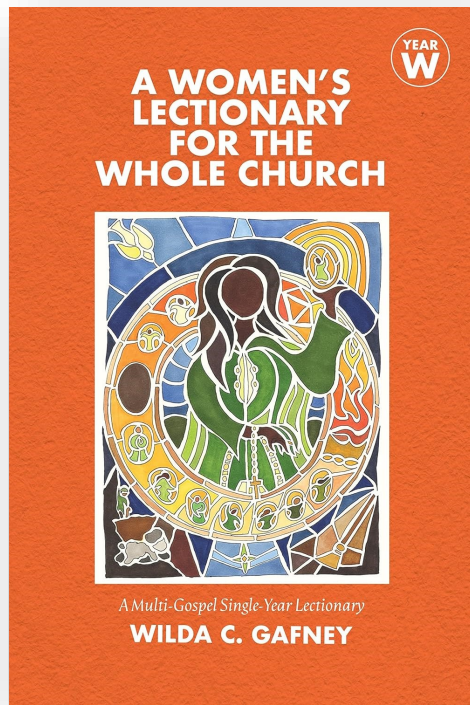
Earl Barnes

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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

December 30



What does it look like to tell the good news through the stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture and often set up to represent bad news? How would a lectionary centering women's stories, chosen with womanist and feminist commitments in mind, frame the presentation of the scriptures for proclamation and teaching?

The scriptures are androcentric, male-focused, as is the lectionary that is dependent upon them. As a result, many worshippers know only the biblical men's stories told in the Sunday lectionary read in their churches. A more expansive, more inclusive lectionary will remedy that by introducing readers and hearers of scripture to "women's stories" in the scriptures.

For the season of Advent, we are using texts from A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, by Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney. You can learn more about Dr. Gafney and her scholarship at www.wilgafney.com.



Join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 am.

Schedules

Usher/Reader/Communion

December

1 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

8 - Mark and Lisa Pepelea

15 - Mary and Rick Stellick

22 - Chuck and Jill Roethe

24 - Earl and Shirley Barnes

29 - Gary McHone and Steve Pieroni

*If you would like to volunteer to help with Worship, please contact Lisa Pepelea or the church office.

Joyful Noise

December

- 1, 8 - Homeless Coalition
- 15 - Sierra Leone Orphanage
- 22 - The Christmas Fund
- 29 - Mini Pantry

Fellowship

1 - Pizza Party

8 - Stellick's

15 - Pepelea's

22 -

29 -