

Plymouth Congregational Church
 PO Box 1901
 Fargo, ND 58107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

We leave judging to God.



We welcome guests any & every Sunday of the year! Worship is central to our life together and our worship facilities are accessible. We seek to come together to experience God's Spirit every week as we pray, sing, cry, & laugh.

Come as you are! Following the example of our teacher & guide, Jesus, we welcome you no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. You are welcome here.

Plymouth Congregational Church
 901 North Broadway
 Fargo, ND 58102
 Phone: 701-235-9226
 E-mail: info@plymouthfargo.org
www.plymouthfargo.org

Amelia's office hours: Monday – Friday; 10 a.m.– 1 p.m.



Special points of interest:

- **Pastoral Ponderings**
- **Missing camera**
- **Rummage Sale**
- **Congregational Meeting on May 15**

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The Chronicle

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
 Volume 11 Issue 5
 May 2011

Pastoral Ponderings

"A journey of a thousand miles starts from beneath your feet." - Tao

In celebrating Easter this year, we have all begun a new journey once again. When we purposefully walk throughout the days of Lent and arrive in our hearts and souls, we again find that Jesus the Christ is there journeying with us. Christ the Lord is Risen!

In the midst of the chaos of life on earth, God's Holy Spirit carries each of us when we are overwhelmed...if we but ask. Prayer is our means of communication to ask and send love. Prayer is our means to connect with our God and all of God's creation.

At the beginning of 2011 Eastertide (and Spring I hope), I am reminded of one of my favorite books, The Prophet, by K. Gibran. In it, the Prophet answers questions on topics varying from love to houses to pain to self-knowledge to marriage to good and evil to death and to joy and giving. Near the end of the day having been asked about all the topics of life, the Prophet answers an old priest's questions about Religion and Prayer. Since

this is a hot topic today, I too, was as curious to hear again the Prophet's answers and share them with you.

Religion: "Have I spoken this day of aught else? Is not religion all deeds and all reflection, And that which is neither deed nor reflection, but a wonder and a surprise ever springing in the soul, even while the hands hew the stone or tend the loom? Who can separate their faith from their actions, or their belief from their occupations? Who can spread their hours before their mind saying, 'This for God and this for myself; this for my soul, and this other for my body?' All your hours are wings that beat through space from self to self. And those to whom

worshipping is a window, to open but also to shut, have not yet visited the house of their soul whose windows are from dawn to dawn. Your daily life is your temple and your religion. Whenever you enter into it take with you your all. Take the plough and the forge and the mallet and the lute, The things you have fashioned in necessity or for delight. For in revery you cannot rise about your achievements

nor fall lower than your failures. And take with you all people: For in adoration you cannot fly higher than their hopes nor humble yourself lower than their despair. Look about you and you shall see God playing with your children. And look into space; you shall see God walking in the cloud, God's outstretching arms in the lightning and descending in rain. You shall see God smiling in flowers, then rising and waving hands in trees.

Prayer: "You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance. For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the living ether?"

Easter helps each of us rethink and reignite in our hearts and souls what we've learned from our faithful Lenten and Easter journey. Let us leave in Holy Week those painful burdens and life mistakes at the foot of the cross or in the tomb. Let us then arise to joyfully travel the journey of life for which God created us. All good blessings on your life journey.

Shalom, Pastor JoBeth



Special Congregation Meeting

Put a note on your calendar of a special meeting of our congregation on May 15, 2011 after our normal church service. It is of great importance for as many members to attend this meeting as possible. We will discuss the financial options available to meet our current operating expenses.

What's Happening at United Campus Ministry

Spring is finally upon us, which for the students of United Campus Ministry this means finals. To kick off this time of year we hold our All-Nighter event to relieve some stress before the students start their last week of classes. As we get closer to the end of the year we also hold our biannual Pig Roast/Free Meal event, which will be on Monday, May 2. This is our biggest event of the year with approximately 200 students coming through our building for a meal and fellowship.

Although we are coming to the end of the school year, work here at UCM does not end. The summer is a busy time for us, even though our programming mostly comes to an end. We have several NDSU registration days to attend to promote the ministry to new students. We attend professional conferences, write grants and fundraise, attend high school camps to tell upcoming students about UCM, plan and organize for fall, and plan our annual Gala and Silent Auction (October 16, 2011), among other things. We'll be sad to see the students go, but we look forward to a good summer full of planning to make UCM the fun and spirit-filled place the students want.

Amelia Shoptaugh, UCM Associate Campus Minister

May Serving Group

- CO-CHAIR:**
Margaret & Jonathon Kloster
- CO-CHAIR:**
Beth & Mark Walstead
- Cynthia & Matthew Mohr
Linda Murrey
Michelle & Michael Strang
Gordon & Beatrice Kartenson



- 1-Clay Schenck
8-Beth Walstead
17-Parker Fiechtner
19-Kennede Fiechtner
21-Kris Cummings
23-Marcia Mohr
28-Melanie Walstead
29-Jacob Cummings

Rummage Sale



Plymouth Women's Fellowship's Annual Rummage Sale has been scheduled for September 9th and 10th. Good quality items are needed, so if you feel the urge to clean the basement, kitchen, garage, attic, or any other part of your home, keep us in mind. Clean, gently used items are welcome and may be brought to the church for storage in the Women's Fellowship rummage room in the basement at any time.

ATTENTION:

The Northern Plains Conference will be held June 3-5 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo. **On June 5th Plymouth's worship service will be at First at 10:30 am** as part of the conference with Rev. Geoffrey Black, Gen. Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, preaching and leading communion.

Our confirmands are serving and Plymouth will be asked to share bars and healthy snacks throughout the conference. Look for more information coming

MISSING

A Canon Powershot camera was purchased several years ago for the purpose of recording Sunday School events, etc. Does anyone know where that camera is? If so please leave word at the office.

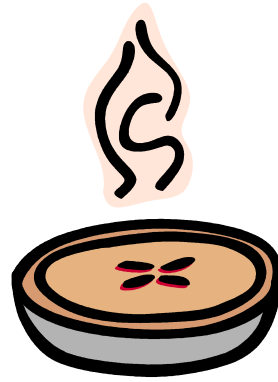


Margaret Sherwood Circle meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Betty Bauder and Joanne Andres are taking orders for geraniums and the money raised goes to Nokomis Child Care Center. The circle also has a paper shower and a non-perishable food drive for the Y.W.C.A. We are planning to make strawberry-rhubarb jelly this summer and chokecherry jelly in October. If you are interested in joining our circle please stop by a meeting!

Henrietta Fiechtner

Rosewood on Broadway

As a delegate from Plymouth Women's Fellowship, I attend the monthly meeting of Rosewood Auxiliary and report back to the Fellowship. The auxiliary has a "pie day" on the first Thursday of the month and Plymouth women provide 12 pies every April. In October we donate candy bars and quarters to be used for bingo prizes.



In addition to the \$1.50 charged for pie and coffee, the auxiliary raises money by selling dish cloths, having a bakeless bake sale, and collecting dues of \$5 for active members and \$10 for sustaining members. With the funds we provide four subscriptions to the Forum newspaper, a birthday cake monthly, seasonal flowers for each floor, money for resident gifts at Christmas, and gift cards for the staff Christmas party. In December we have a party for residents and guests and we light the Christmas tree. Auxiliary members provide baked goods. Another coffee party is held in May during Nursing Home Week.

The auxiliary celebrated its 50th year in 2010 and Plymouth has been a part of it for a long time. Since I have been attending the meetings (approximately 13 years) we have provided many extras to Rosewood to help make the lives of the residents a little more pleasant.

Tammy Breuer



Nokomis News

There is still time (until May 9th) to order geraniums from "Friends of Nokomis". Colors are red, pink, salmon, and white and cost \$4.50 each. For every flower sold Nokomis will receive \$2.05. Call Betty Bauder (281-0534) to place your order. This fundraiser helps children continue to "bloom" at the Child Care Centers.

May 2011

1 10:30 am Communion Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry	2	3 6:30 pm Board of Trustees 8:00 pm Church Leadership Council	4 6:45 pm Confirmation 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	5 6:45 pm Confirmation 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	6 6:45 pm Confirmation 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	7 6:45 pm Confirmation 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	8 10:30 am Worship Service	9 10:30 am Worship Service	10 9:30am Mayflower Circle	11 6:45 pm Confirmation 7 pm Bell Choir 8 pm Chancel Choir	12 9 am Men's Retirees Group meet at Fry'n Pan	13 9 am Men's Retirees Group meet at Fry'n Pan	14 9 am Men's Retirees Group meet at Fry'n Pan	15 9:30 am Called to Care Meeting 10:30 am Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry Congregational Meeting	16 9:30 am Called to Care Meeting 10:30 am Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry Congregational Meeting	17 9:30am Mayflower Circle	18 6:45 pm Confirmation 8 pm Chancel Choir	19 6:45 pm Confirmation 8 pm Chancel Choir	20 6:45 pm Confirmation 8 pm Chancel Choir	21 6:45 pm Confirmation 8 pm Chancel Choir	22 10:30 am Worship Service	23 10:30 am Worship Service	24 1 pm Margaret Sherwood Circle	25 NO Confirmation	26 NO Confirmation	27 NO Confirmation	28 4-7pm Churches United	29 10:30 am Worship Service	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	31 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED
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You can always find the latest calendar on our website—www.plymouthfargo.org. If you have anything to add to the calendar, please send it to info@plymouthfargo.org.

Easter is over and spring is going to be here before we know and then summer will be here with its blue skies and beautiful warmer weather.

Soon we will begin to travel to our summer homes at the lake. Will we abandon our church home for the summer? Or, will we attend weekly Sunday services at our home church? Will we forget the obligation we have to support our ministry? Have we thought about paying our pledge with the automatic withdrawal program offered by the church? Or, has thought been given for an automatic payment through your bank? These questions should be answered before we leave for the summer months. We have obligations to our church family and our institution.

Have you thought about our liberty and freedom to practice the belief we choose? There is a price we must pay for these freedoms. The price tag is the willingness to assume the responsibility of being free people. Payment of this price tag is a personal choice for each of us. To let others carry this responsibility with the work and worry that accompanies it, while we share only in the benefits may be a very human impulse but it is likely to be a fatal one. Let's look at our personal strengths, our finances and maybe find a solution to our budget shortfall.

We will have more discussion about the budget, budget shortfall, and possible solutions to cover the cash problem at our May 15, 2011 congregational meeting after church.

Remember God's words – "it is more blessed to give than receive."

Tom Payne, Moderator



For Membership Consideration

Pledge Report for Years

2011 46 Pledges \$77,169	Average Pledge \$1,678
2010 49 Pledges \$82,052	Average Pledge \$1,675
2009 55 Pledges \$80,330	Average Pledge \$1,461

Year to Date Average Income Per Week for Operating Expense Through 3/31/2011

\$2,720

Average Operating Cost Per Week Based on 2011 Expense Budget

\$3,200

Weekly Deficit

\$480

(this includes Church Foundation Distributions)

Pledge Sunday

2011	2010	2009
19-\$38,789	34-\$56,692	36-\$52,275

Treasurer's Report

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Operating Income and Expenses for 2011

March 2011		YTD
Operating Income	\$8,170.11 plus \$3,000 from savings	\$37,931.01
Operating Expenses	\$154,158.69	\$41,835.06

