

Plymouth Congregational Church
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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*
- *Youth Rally*
- *Sunday School Help*
- *Moderator's Note*
- *Pennies from Heaven*

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The Chronicle

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
 Volume 10 Issue 10
 October 2010

Pastoral Ponderings

Greetings as we move into autumn, I'd like to share thoughts from some of my favorite speakers, writers, and theologians.

First, from "Let Your Life Speak" by Quaker Theologian Parker Palmer, on p. 98 he writes:

AUTUMN

Autumn is a season of great beauty, but it is also a season of decline: the days grow shorter, the light is suffused, and summer's abundance decays toward winter's death. Faced with this inevitable winter, what does nature do in autumn? It scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring—and scatters them with amazing abandon.

In my own experience of autumn, I am rarely aware that seeds are being planted. Instead, my mind is on the fact that the green growth of summer is browning and beginning to die. My delight in the autumn colors is always tinged with melancholy, a sense of impending loss that is only heightened by the beauty all around. I am drawn down by the prospect of death more than I am lifted by the hope of new life. I often feel this way, too.

Second, a quote from the Tao Te Ching. It is

yet another concise reminder about a major driving force in human life. "Whoever can see through all fear will always be safe." The biggest task we have on earth is to live toward God despite our human failings and fear.

Third, from the conclusion of Charles A. Lindbergh's "Autobiography of Values," "The growing knowledge of science does not refute human's intuition of the mystical. Whether outwardly or whether in space or in time, the farther we penetrate the unknown the vaster and more marvelous it becomes." God is so far ahead of us calling us forward.

Fourth, from Vietnamese monk, and poet T.N. Hahn, "A life that is too comfortable makes spiritual growth difficult. Food, clothing, and lodging need be adequate, but not excessive."

In conclusion, Jesus taught disciples of his time and teaches us as disciples today that we are expected to be faithful in every day life to the best of our abilities. We are to examine ourselves and carefully use our God given talents, gifts and resources to love and serve God who created us. In this the season of abundance may we

remember and give thanks. Today, in the first decade of the 21st Century, Christian churches are organized and founded to be as they have always been—to be caring communities which act in cooperation with individuals and other groups striving for the greatest good for all. This is God's plan (but just as Jesus taught us) for us. However easily stated it is not easy to do in every day life.

Yet, despite all human error...Even with all our mistakes... God trusts us! God trusts us to do our best!

Despite the chaos in our world, we can go boldly and courageously into our world striving to bring light and benefit to all on our shared journey not perfectly but mightily.

Blessings on your journey, Pastor JoBeth

P.S. As we travel, remember, God's conditions this year are ripe for a magnificently colorful autumn. May we enjoy it secure in the knowledge of the seeds God has already

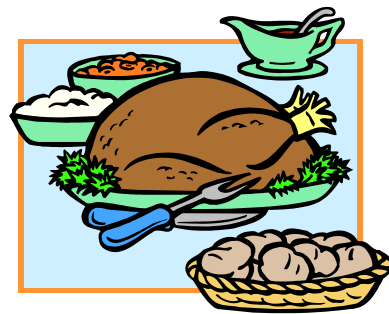




Margaret Sherwood Circle will be making jelly on Oct. 26th. If you want to order several jars contact Judy Maxson or Irene Saylor.



- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2-James Davis | 8-Darren Neiss | 18-Irene Saylor |
| 2-Andrea Oswald | 10-Dale Lura | 25-Rene Vargo |
| 3-Stephanie Trindade | 12-Linda Trindade | 28-Mark Walstead |
| 3-Janelle Smith | 12-Carlee Cameron | 28-Tony Fries |
| 4-Cole Bjugson | 13-Ross Sperial | 29-Eastin Heisler |
| 5-James Ochsner | 13-Doug Sylvester | 30-Ann Smith |
| 5-Morgan Laite | 13-Maranda Borg | 30-Paul Meidinger |
| 6-Betsy Sylvester | 16-Brandon Neiss | 31-Adisyn Schenck |
| 8-Debbie Saylor | 18-Jill Martin | |



Please mark your calendars for the Plymouth Church Turkey Dinner Sunday November 14 following church. Good food, games and fellowship so save the date.

Thank You!

- Thank you to everyone who helped provide food and help for the Fry Bread Taco Dinner. It was a lot of fun and we made about \$600. Thank you to everyone for making it a success.
- Women's Fellowship thanks everyone for their treasures to make it possible to hold our Rummage sale and most of all to the MEN and WOMEN who help as it is a lot of work. The MEN are really appreciated as the women used to have to do all the heavy work as the men were still working. Thank you! Thank you! We made a little over \$850.00.

SANDWICH MINISTRY

I want to thank the people who have been helping with and bringing items for sandwiches the last few months. We are soon going to be in need of peanut butter and jelly. We have the ongoing need for bread, meat and cheese.

We have had several larger donations as of late and I want to list them.

- Henrietta Fiechtner
- A donation in honor of Pastor Aaron Roberts' birthday
- In memory of Betty Schimming
- In honor of Joyce Bradshaw

These donations are greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate supplies, please let me know so that we have coordination of what is needed. If you would like to donate cash to be used in purchasing supplies, the money can be designated and sent to the church. Just let me know so I know what is available.

-Margaret Kloster



Karibu!

(Welcome)!

Northern Plains

2010 Fall Youth Rally

October 21 – 23

For Grades 6-12

To be held @
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Wishek

Featuring: International Storyteller - Dancer /
Drummer - Educator - InterPlay Leader
Mr. Masanhko Banda

The 2010 Fall Rally theme will revolve around

Psalm 95:

"Come, let us sing for joy to GOD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Bring you instruments to play... Enjoy the story and make your own drum

Registration Forms will be available at
www.npcucc.org soon

August 31, 2010

Plymouth Congregational Church

Financial Secretary's Report

Income:

| | 2009 August | 2009 Year To Date | 2010 August | 2010 Year To Date | Budget |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Pledges | 4,423.50 | 45,299.25 | 5,470.50 | 47,920.50 | 48,000 |
| Contributions | 994.00 | 14,942.00 | 1,269.00 | 10,638.00 | 16,667 |
| Funeral | | 150.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Initial Offering envelopes | | 90.00 | 5.00 | 49.00 | |
| Bakeless Bake Sale | | 0.00 | | 39.53 | |
| Christmas Offering | | 0.00 | | 25.00 | |
| Church Auction | | 2,739.50 | | 0.00 | |
| Church Maintenance | | 13.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Copy Machine | | 0.00 | | 453.50 | |
| Coffee Money | 38.98 | 277.84 | | 98.93 | 267 |
| Great Plains Food Bank | | 250.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Insurance Payment-Pension Boards | | 0.00 | | 1,892.41 | |
| Church World Services | | 0.00 | | 677.00 | |
| Literature Table | | 3.00 | | 0.00 | |
| 125th Anniversary Dinner | | 0.00 | | 1,045.00 | |
| Loose Offering | 250.10 | 2,513.09 | 180.00 | 1,442.31 | 2,333 |
| Emily Moran Benefit | | 25.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Memorial Fund | 4,680.23 | 5,180.23 | | 0.00 | |
| Picture directory | | 10.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | | 88.00 | | 199.00 | |
| Mugs | | 0.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | |
| Music Donation | | 0.00 | | 10.00 | |
| O.G.H.S. Offering | | 589.37 | | 420.00 | |
| Pop Money | | 62.60 | | 5.50 | |
| Pennies from Heaven | | 0.00 | | 12.00 | |
| Serving Committee Donation | | 25.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Sandwich Ministry | 25.00 | 493.25 | 30.00 | 65.00 | |
| Strengthen the Church Offering | | 143.00 | | 271.00 | |
| Sunday School Offering | | 103.53 | | 57.85 | 83 |
| Interim Pastor Housing | | 0.00 | 250.00 | 750.00 | |
| Kevin Scufsa Benefit | | 25.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Tops Club Donation | | 120.00 | | 0.00 | |
| UCC Foundation Endowments | | 4,135.96 | | 5,101.11 | 5,250 |
| UCC Foundation Parsonage | | 1,276.11 | | 1,254.85 | 1,500 |
| UCF Parsonage 2 | | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 7,000.00 | |
| UCC Foundation Stocks | | 9,602.30 | | 10,725.70 | 10,500 |
| Urban Plains Concessions | | 410.42 | | 600.00 | 667 |
| Use of Church | | 150.00 | | 50.00 | |
| Weddings | | 100.00 | 255.00 | 1,010.00 | 400 |
| Wish List | | 350.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Womens Fellowship Donation | | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| Womens Fellowship Bulk Mailing | | 29.37 | | 0.00 | |
| Youth Group | | 428.65 | | 0.00 | |
| Total | 10,441.81 | 90,655.47 | 9,464.50 | 92,818.19 | 98,723 |
| Parking lot pledge income | | | 323.00 | 3,014.00 | 3,000 |
| Principal Reduction-Bank Note | | | | 7,875.00 | 3,000 |
| Rent - 906 5th St N | | | 9.01 | 2,694.19 | 4,000 |
| Rent - 513 9th Av N | | | 79.88 | 619.88 | 4,000 |
| Rent - Parking lot | | | 560.00 | 4,480.00 | 3,840 |
| Total | | | | 18,683.07 | 17,840 |

Members present: Tom Payne moderator, Pastor JoBeth Marshall, Howard Etson, Steve Larson, Dick Maetzold and Beth Begg.

The meeting was convened with prayer.

Minutes of the May 4th meeting were read. **Motion:** to approve the minutes. Seconded; carried.

Financial Secretary's report dated August 31, 2010 was distributed. In his written report Walt noted that pledged income is right on target with the budget, but contributions of non-pledged income are down \$6,000. Also, an additional \$7,000 was taken out of the parsonage foundation account. In reality we are \$13,000 below budget as of August 31st. **Motion:** to approve the report. Seconded; carried.

Treasurer's report not available.

Trustees report: maintenance of the grounds continues; the roof needs repair, so painting of the stripes on the parking lot has been deferred; we have a good renter next door; we now have a contract with Sanford for the use of our parking lot; the stewardship team needs to be organized—John Whartnaby will be contacted.

Congregational Care: a meeting had been scheduled, but no one came.

Christian Education: Pastor JoBeth reported that Roxanne will be chairperson of the team. A letter of invitation will be sent to parents of Sunday School children and a post card to the children about Rally Sunday. The Sundays of September will be a flexible program. Following worship on Rally Sunday, there will be an ice cream social. To involve our youth, they will be asked to participate in the September services with the children

New Business: Motion: that we abandon the team concept and go back to the old structure of leadership at the next annual meeting. Seconded. In the discussion of the motion several concerns about our team approach were cited. Team representation on the Council is poor. There seems to be a lack of understanding of the responsibilities of each of the teams. It needs to be clear who each team leader is, who is on each team, and what the goals of each team are. Lack of communication has been a factor leading to confusion. The motion failed by a vote of 3 to 1.

Tom plans to visit the teams at one of their scheduled meetings. Team leaders will be asked to present to the Budget Committee their expenses for the coming fiscal year the week of the Budget Committee's meeting. That date has yet to be determined.

Community Homes: Dick reported that things are going more smoothly now.

Pastor's report: pastor JoBeth gave us a report of her activities during August. She has been a busy person!

It is noted that the organizing of ushers needs to be done.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Begg, Secretary

A Note from the Moderator:

My first council meeting as Plymouth UCC Church Moderator was held on 9/6/10. With the resignation of Moderator Margaret Kloster and the first meeting with Interim Pastor JoBeth Marshall, this meeting had much on its agenda. Thank you for the opportunity to be your leader this coming year. With God's help, I will do my best to be an effective leader. I have set a few goals during my term as Moderator.

First, our church needs everyone to actively participate on one of the established teams. Our church cannot survive with just names on lists; everyone needs to take part on a chosen team. Next, it is very important for all team leaders to attend the council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month or have a representative from each team present to update the council about its activities and accomplishments. The council is willing to help the team establish and attain goals they have set. Please put the dates on your calendars. They will be on the Chronicle calendar each month.

Times are changing. Our congregation is changing. We need to work together to become part of the times in which we live and Plymouth UCC finds itself today. We need to integrate our great traditions with functioning members' schedules today and combine those with fresh ideas, new techniques, and technology to be the very best we can be. Today, Plymouth UCC is like a train on God's track connecting our history with God's vision for our future. God bless each of us as we discover our best ways to contribute to the continuing advancement of Plymouth UCC.
Tom Payne
Moderator

October 2010

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 4:30 p.m. Abbott/ Hummel Wedding Rehearsal | 2 4 p.m. Abbott/ Hummel Wedding |
| 3 10:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service, Sandwich Ministry & Stewardship Meeting | 4 | 5 6:30 p.m. Trustees 8 p.m. Church Leadership Council | 6 7 p.m. Bell Choir 8 p.m. Chancel Choir | 7 | 8 11 a.m. Church Women United | 9 |
| 10 9:30 a.m. Called to Care Meeting 10:30 a.m. Worship Service | 11 | 12 | 13 7 p.m. Bell Choir 8 p.m. Chancel Choir | 14 9 a.m. Men's Retirees Group Meet at Fry'n Pan | 15 | 16 |
| 17 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Sandwich Ministry | 18 | 19 1 p.m. Mayflower Circle at Villa Maria | 20 7 p.m. Bell Choir 8 p.m. Chancel Choir <i>Deadline for November Chronicle</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 4-7 p.m. Serve at Churches United |
| 24/31 10:30 a.m. Worship Service | 25 | 26 9 a.m. Margaret Sherwood Circle— Jelly Making | 27 7 p.m. Bell Choir 8 p.m. Chancel Choir | 28 | 29 | 30 |

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.

OCTOBER SERVING GROUP

CHAIR:
Judy & Ken Maxson
CO-CHAIR:
Marvel & Paul Haag

James & Jodie Anderson
Sherry & Ron Lusk
Darla Quam
Darryl & Cathy Hummel



New Keys

Because of unaccounted keys, the Plymouth Church building will be rekeyed on Tuesday, October 5. If you have need of a key please come into the office during Amelia's hours to register and sign for your new key.

Called to Care

Sunday, October 10 @ 9:30 AM

Come to a meeting in the library if you are interested in joining or learning about either Called to Care or Congregational Care. We'll be discussing the difference between the two and what you do as a member.



Jesus Christ calls us to address and to help those who are in need now.

Supplies needed for the YWCA Women's Shelter

Plymouth Church supports the YWCA Emergency Shelter with needed items for women & children requiring safe housing, along with advocacy & education, as the look for alternative housing. This shelter serves hundreds of people each year who need shelter from domestic violence, homelessness, & economic devastation.

As of Sept. 20, 2010, their most urgent needs include:

- Disinfecting spray/wipes
- Gas & grocery gift cards
- Tylenol (children's)
- Cold medicine (adult & children's)
- ANY AND ALL FOOD IS NEEDED (especially fresh/frozen meat, produce, dairy, box dinners)

The basket for these items is in the entryway on the north side of the church. Our Women's Fellowship sponsors this mission activity.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
cass clay



Sunday School & Nursery Help Needed

In October, November, and/or December can you teach Church School one Sunday or one Sunday per month so others may attend church? Could you help with the nursery so 1 person doesn't miss church every week? When we take turns everyone benefits! Can you help? Please contact Pastor JoBeth or the church office and let us know what fits into your schedule.



Churches United Meal Crew

On the fourth Saturday of each month, our meal crew serves the evening meal at the Churches United for the Homeless Shelter. Call the church office to be part of this service crew or if you are able to help one time. We always need new people to serve!

Churches United—
a mission partner in the fight against hunger & homelessness



Shelter and Support in a Spiritual Setting.

Nokomis Donations

Nokomis Day Care has been a part of Plymouth's missions for many years. "Friends of Nokomis" has a representative from 15 Fargo Churches who will bring the needs of the Day Care back to each of the Women's Groups. Since many people that use the Day Care have limited funds, many scholarships are given to these families which can limit the revenue for Nokomis. They are always in need of monetary help as well as day to day supplies. Right now with the flu season approaching the need is for kleenex, antibacterial wipes and liquid hand soap. The end of November we will have the names for the Christmas Giving Tree ready so you will again be able to adopt a child by purchasing a Christmas gift.



Nokomis
Child Care Centers
of The Village Family Service Center

What's Happening at United Campus Ministry

Hello Lovely Readers! My name is Ashley Rosser. I am a new intern for United Campus Ministry (UCM). I grew up in southern California and have been in Fargo for almost a month now! I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to work with this ministry for the next two years! We have been off to a great start this semester! We had more of a welcome month than a welcome week, and the students enjoyed every minute. From the student fairs to worship, and the ice cream social to the canoe trip, you could feel God's presence moving in the lives of all involved. The weekly programming is off to a great start as well! Worship was very well attended with about forty students coming the

first week! Choir is up and running and the students are very eager to share their musical gifts with each other as well as the community. UCM downtown (a partner outreach with First Presbyterian Church serving close to 100 students for lunch each week) has been such a unique and great experience. The hosts/volunteers from the church (about 15 people) have been very welcoming and helpful towards the NDSU downtown students who come for lunch every Wednesday. The number of students attending the weekly lunches has been growing every week, with even an entire class coming to eat and spend time together. Dorris, a church member and host, captured the nature of the lunches best when

she said, "They all come and chat. And some stay and study. They are so polite! They seem very appreciative too don't they?" This ministry is a wonderful way to connect people of different generations, allowing them to share their insight and lives. Students from MSUM have become more active in the ministry this semester. They have been attending a local Moorhead church (Grace UMC) and are enthusiastic about getting involved. They have started a small group that will do community service, study God's word, and serve as mentors for the youth at the church. The next big event for UCM is its 2nd Annual Gala on October 10th. The Gala consists of a dinner, a silent auction, and a worship service. The hand made invitations are beautiful and we are all really pleased with

the items that were donated for the silent auction. It is going to be a wonderful Christ centered event. UCM is off to a wonderful start this semester due to the support from the students, board members, local churches and community, and most importantly God. Thank you all in advance for your continued support and prayers for the ministry! We want to connect and be in ministry with you and your church community. Please drop us a note at www.fmucm.org, our Pastor Rev. Theta Miller has many ideas and would love to visit with you! Have a blessed day!
Ashley Rosser
UCM- Intern (UMC US-2)

Support Farmers and their families—Buy Fair Trade

You can support this cause by purchasing Fair Trade Coffee in our Dining Fellowship Hall for \$7.99/bag.



The United Church of Christ Coffee Project sells certified organic products from Equal Exchange.

Discipleship Groups

Women's Fellowship Groups and Quarterly Lunches

Two women's circles—Mayflower & Margaret Sherwood—meet each month. These circles are open to all women of Plymouth Church.

Men's Retiree Group
Retired men meet the

second Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant.

Chancel & Bell Choirs
Our Chancel & Bell Choirs practice music to offer in worship of God. You are always welcome! Come & make music to the LORD.

"Pennies from Heaven" Needs Your Gifts

Almost every day we have people come to Christ's church looking for help. Our collection called "Pennies from Heaven" provides this help for those in need, but we also need YOUR support!



We are out of money orders for State IDs, so consider buying a money order in the amount of \$8 made out to NDDOT.