

# THE BEACON

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
ucc

"NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE  
YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE  
WELCOME HERE.

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December



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### Baptism Class Sunday, December 1st, 11:30 am

Have you or your family members been thinking about being baptized, and would you like to learn more about how this relates to your relationship with God and community?

Join Pastor Wendy for a time of scriptural insight, denominational perspective, and Q&A after service on Sunday, December 1st!

### Let's Connect!

Staying connected is important, especially during the upcoming Christmas season when there will be so many events for our church community to participate in! Opt-in to receive texts from us through Breeze so that you never have to miss out on a message or reminder!

You can opt-in yourself through your own profile on Breeze, or just send an Email to Lucy in the church office stating that you would like to receive texts 

# PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



“Look around.”

Twice in the last few weeks I've asked that we stop mid-service, shift in our seats and look around the sanctuary. In various social settings, including church, this could be considered rude or inappropriate.

We talk a lot about “seeing” each other—in our needs, in our distress, in the beauty of whatever we bring to the table—and we do this pretty well. Looking around on a Sunday morning (maybe with more subtlety) should prompt us to prayerfully consider who we might connect with in the moment.

But it also makes us aware of who we might not have seen in a while. It reminds us to check on friends and loved ones, let them know they're a vital part of church community, and that it makes a genuine difference when they're around.

This is a notoriously hectic time of year, making it an even better time to pray, “God, who do you want on my radar, and how can I encourage them?” The reminder that we love each other—and that our presence matters—is one of the best gifts we can both give and receive.

And to each of you reading this, thank you for making a difference. May peace and joy bless and encourage us, now and in the year ahead.

With gratitude,

*Pastor Wendy*

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

~ Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) ~



## December Services



Sunday, December 1st	Sunday, December 8th	Sunday, December 15th
<b>“The God of Christmas Past, Present, and Future”</b> Matthew 1:18-25	<b>“Squeaky Clean”</b> Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 3:1-1	<b>“Louder Than Words”</b> Luke 3:7-18
Sunday, December 22nd	Christmas Eve	Sunday, December 29th
<b>“For Those Seeking Refuge”</b> Luke 1:39-45, 46-55	<b>“A Sign for You”</b> Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	<b>“First Sunday After Christmas”</b> Colossians 3:12-17

## A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

It is a wonderful time of the year. A magical time of the year. Advent starts Dec 1. We will light an advent candle every Sunday with an explanation of the significance of that Sunday. It is something nice you could do at home as well.



Diaconate board is providing Fellowship Dec 1. Trustees will provide it on Dec 8, Youth and Family Dec 15, Missions and Outreach, Dec 22, and Men's Bible Study on Dec 29. You don't want to miss any of those Sundays. I love to see all the tables full of people visiting and snacking. Pick a Sunday in January or February to sign up.

Please bring a poinsettia to place in the front of the church. It looks beautiful when it is a sea of red poinsettias. Any Sunday, you can bring it into the sanctuary.

If you have wanted to be a liturgist or a greeter but have not been asked, let us know. It takes no training.

Christmas Eve Service is on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM. It is always a lovely and meaningful service. Make a point of being in church all the Sundays of Advent. There is not a more caring or friendly Church than Plymouth. **We are so blessed.**

Christmas Blessings, Sharon Rowe  
Head of Diaconate



# Youth Ministry

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## A NOTE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

Hello all, and happy December! This month will be full of youth & family Christmas events, and we would love to have you join us for them.

We will be holding youth rehearsals for our Christmas Eve service every Sunday after service for about 30 minutes. We will be rehearsing December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd this month. All of our church youth who are interested in participating are welcome and encouraged to join us in whatever capacity works best for them. We still have some roles available in both the youth play and the service as a whole, so it's never too late to join in!

The first Tuesday of the month, December 3rd, is when John Svinth coordinates our Plymouth Cares meal preparation and serving for our homeless community members. Our Plymouth youth have been invited to help out this month to serve our holiday meal for the unhoused people in our community! Meals will be prepped during the time most of our youth are in school, but any who are able to help out are invited to join us at the ECHO shelter in Paso Robles at 4:45PM to help set up, and we will be serving meals from 5-6PM. Please join us if you can and help to spread some holiday cheer!

Typically, our Youth Bible Study is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, but events are moved up this month to accommodate for the holidays. So please join us on the first Wednesday of the month, 12/4, at the Youth House from 6:30-8PM! Youth Group (6th grade and up) are invited to our Bible study led by Trago Wallace, to come talk about different scripture and Bible passages and discuss them with peers. There will also be pizza! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please reach out to me or Trago Wallace. We hope to see you there!

On Wednesday the 18th, we will be holding our monthly "Let's Talk About That" meeting for our Youth Group. Youth 6th grade and up are invited to join me and Pastor Wendy at the Youth House from 6:30-8:00PM. This is a night of youth-led conversations over pizza, where we discuss the topics our church youth most want to talk about, from faith, church, school, friends, family, and beyond. On this night, we will also be continuing our work on the Care Kits our youth have been assembling, full of comfort items and designed to be handed out to unhoused people in our community, especially during this cold season. And this is a good reminder that if you have items you would like to donate for our kits, it's not too late! Remember, this event is usually the 4th Wednesday of the month, but was moved up for the holidays. We hope to see you there!

In place of Date Night this month, we will be having a family Christmas party and potluck for our church on Friday December 20th! Bring your favorite holiday potluck dish and join us in the Youth House and Fellowship Hall from 5-8PM for a night of crafting Christmas ornaments, playing games, fellowship with our church friends, and singing Christmas carols. Everyone in our Plymouth family is welcome to attend, so we hope to see you there! We will also be having a small rehearsal for our Christmas Eve play during the night, at about 6:30PM.

After the Christmas party ends, our Youth Group members (6th grade and up) are invited to stay afterwards for a White Elephant gift exchange and an overnight at the Youth House. Bring a silly wrapped gift and participate in a gift exchange, and also don't forget a blanket and pillow so that you can sleep over in the Youth House! Pickups will be Saturday 12/21 at 10AM.

After service on Sunday 12/22, we will hold a Christmas Eve rehearsal with our youth where we will incorporate using microphones, especially for our narrators. After this rehearsal, all Plymouth folks who are interested are invited to join us for Christmas caroling! We will be going to a few local senior centers to share holiday cheer through singing Christmas carols. Exact times and locations are still TBD as of now, but we would love to have many voices singing with us!

On Monday 12/23, we will be having a youth Christmas Eve rehearsal in the sanctuary from 3-5PM, where we will run through our youth program and incorporate costumes! We will also be running through the songs we will be singing in service on Christmas Eve, and our Youth Group will help prep candles for our candlelight service the following night. And the next day, those who will be participating in our Christmas Eve service are invited to come to church early to join us for our final rehearsal of all of our youth parts, music, and more. We will be meeting at 3PM to run through the youth portion, and then our music participants will get together at 4PM to fine-tune our songs. The Christmas Eve service begins at 5PM; we hope you can join us!

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, 12/29, will be our monthly Youth Sunday. Youth of all ages are invited to participate in our service in whatever way they would like, such as liturgist, acolyte, greeters, musicians, and more! It's a great way for them to be involved in our service and to showcase their talents and dedication to the congregation, so please let me know if they would like to be involved and what they would like to do.

I hope that everyone has a beautiful month and holiday season, and I hope that we see you at all of our December festivities!



# MISSION OUTERREACH NEWS



## **An amazing 33 people contributed to our Plymouth Cares meal on November 5th**

which served 112 dinners and all 75 PBJ sack lunches on a cool and breezy evening at the ECHO Paso Shelter. We were blessed with eight youth who were excellent servers, Hazel and Hanna and the following six Cub Scouts of Pack 92: Aiden, Amelia, Danielle, Hunter, Lila and Max. Supervising parents were Meghan, Diane, Brian, Karina, Mary Beth and Travis. Other server supervisors were Stu and John S.

The main dish of Creamy White Chili with Chicken was Stu's recipe and prepared by Stu, Alex, Becky and Susan. Chris prepared her wonderful green salad with Ranch dressing. John T and Linda provided Hawaiian Sweet Rolls and were assisted in buttering by Mary and Chuck. Meghan and Hazel baked scrumptious big chocolate chip-M&M cookies for the dessert. The impressive PBJ sack lunch crew was Anne, Chuck, Britt, Olivia, Nikol, Mary, Nanette, Carlie and John S., who enjoyed delicious peanut butter cookies dropped off by Terri. At the end of the dinner only portions of the main dish remained as the other items were all eaten.

Throughout the preparation and serving was heard delightful conversation and frequent laughter, which is a usual byproduct of a group doing God's work to serve those in need. If you would like to be a helper in this wonderful ministry, you are welcome to join us at our next Plymouth Cares meal on Tuesday, December 3rd, with food prep starting at 1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and in the church kitchen, while serving is from 5-6PM at the ECHO Paso Shelter. If you will be a first-time helper, please contact John Svinth.

## **The Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering was initiated on October 6**

and collected a wonderful \$255 that was forwarded to the UCC. The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering funds a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC through the Council for American Indian Ministries. The theme for this year's offering is "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right." Our donations will contribute to this important work.

## **Donations Box for the Unhoused**

The Donations Box for the Unhoused received a wonderful assortment of items consisting of a jacket, pair of cowgirl boots, a travel mat, toddler shoes, and assorted ladies pants and shirts. These were delivered to the ECHO Paso Shelter on November 5th. These donations are a welcome expression of caring and sharing.

## CHRISTMAS SEASON MISSIONS

An important part of the Christmas season is helping those in need. As you are able, please support our Christmas missions with gifts that share hope and love.

### **Zozu Youth Christmas Donations are requested by Sunday, December 1st**

We invite the congregation to share in a donation of Christmas and birthday gift money for Daniel and Kizito, our ten-year-old boys in Uganda whom we sponsor through the Zozu Project. Donations can be given using the checklist offering envelopes in the Sunday offering plate or delivered to the Church Office. Checks should be payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for Zozu.

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Walmart on Friday, December 6th:**

The Salvation Army provides Christian love and relief to suffering at home and abroad. Plymouth Church will ring the bell for the Salvation Army red kettle at Walmart on Friday, December 6th, in eight one-hour shifts from 10 AM – 6 PM. Bell ringers can sign up on the schedule on the Outreach board or contact John Svinth at [jsvinth@pacbell.net](mailto:jsvinth@pacbell.net) or 805-674-9464.

### **Paso Robles Toy Bank Collection through Sunday, December 8th:**

A Toy Bank collection box is in Fellowship Hall for donations of new, unwrapped toys for ages up to 12-years-old, which are given to children in need in Paso Robles, San Miguel, Bradley, Shandon and Heritage Ranch. Recommendations can be found online at [www.prtoybank.org](http://www.prtoybank.org). To let the Toy Bank do the shopping, money is donated directly to the Toy Bank at the website or by mailing checks payable to "Toy Bank of Greater Paso Robles," to PO Box 2801, Paso Robles, CA 93447. Please do not send money or checks to Plymouth Church for the Toy Bank. The last Sunday for donations to the Toy Bank box in Fellowship Hall is December 8.

### **UCC Christmas Fund Offering on Sunday, December 22nd:**

The Christmas Fund is an annual special mission offering providing support for financial need among active and retired UCC clergy, lay employees, their families, and their surviving spouses. Checks should be payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for Christmas Fund. Donations can also be made online at [plymouthchurchpaso.com](http://plymouthchurchpaso.com) using the "Give" tab; be sure to include a notation for Christmas Fund.

### **Heifer Project "Living Gift Market" throughout December Sundays:**

The Heifer Project helps to end world hunger and poverty through success in agriculture. It helps farmers succeed through training, resources and marketing support, after which the successful farmers pass on their skills and resources to the next generation. Donating to the Heifer Project is a two-step process:

1. A Living Gift Market Order Form is available after worship in Fellowship Hall, in the Church Office, and included in this Beacon.
2. Completed order forms with money or checks payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for Heifer, can be sent to the Church Office or given to John Svinth on Sundays after worship in Fellowship Hall.

BY JOHN SVINTH  
MISSION OUTREACH

**Wishing you a blessed Christmas season!**





# LIVING GIFT MARKET ORDER FORM 2024

LIFE-CHANGING GIFT		QTY	PRICE	DONATION
Help a Mother Feed Her Children			\$25,000	\$
Gift Ark	<small>2 each of cows, oxen, sheep, pigs, water buffalo, beehives, goats, trio rabbits, trio ducks, trio guinea pigs, flocks geese, flocks chicks, schools fish, community animal vet kits</small>		\$5,000	\$
Community Solar Kit			\$5,000	\$
Honeybee Farm (honeybees, 10 hives)			\$2,500	\$
Joy to the World Gift Basket (2 sheep, 4 goats, 1 heifer, seeds)			\$1,500	\$
Share of Joy to the World Gift Basket			\$150	\$
Biogas Stoves for a Village (20 biogas stoves)			\$1,000	\$
A Biogas Stove			\$50	\$
Mating Pair of Cattle			\$1,000	\$
Milk Menagerie (2 goats, 1 water buffalo, 1 breeding heifer)			\$1,000	\$
Share of Milk Menagerie			\$100	\$
Water for Life (solar powered well, kiosk, irrigation system)			\$750	\$
Heifer			\$500	\$
Share of a Heifer			\$50	\$
Gift of Clean Water (pump, rainwater tank)			\$300	\$
Send a Girl to School (family gets resources & training to pay for school)			\$275	\$
Family Solar Kit			\$250	\$
Water Buffalo			\$250	\$
Share of a Water Buffalo			\$25	\$
Goat			\$120	\$
Share of a Goat			\$10	\$
Sheep			\$120	\$
Share of a Sheep			\$10	\$
Pig			\$60	\$
Share of a Pig			\$10	\$
Garden Seeds (fruit & vegetable seedlings & saplings)			\$50	\$
Share of Garden Seeds			\$30	\$
Hope Basket (trio of rabbits & flock of chicks)			\$20	\$
Honeybees (honeybees, hive, bee box)			\$20	\$
Flock of Chicks (10-50)			\$20	\$
Food Basket (includes fresh produce, honey, coffee, dairy)				\$
Where Most Needed			\$	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>				<b>\$</b>

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Method (circle one): CHECK CASH

Make checks payable to PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH with a notation for Heifer.

Two ways to turn in your order form and tax-deductible donation: 1) Deliver them to the Church Office, or 2) give to John or Chris who will deliver them to the Church Office.

Ask about sending a free honor card to a person in whose name you made a donation.

# CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS



- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Kitty Hoffman    | 20. Argentina Dudley  |
| 5. Finn Railsback   | 20. Vicki Fairchild   |
| 9. Sandy Tuttle     | 24. Carlie Svinth     |
| 16. Leslie Wallace  | 25. Jason Cybulski    |
| 18. Jim Davis       | 29. Dawn Stemper      |
| 18. William Wallace | 31. Jessica Fullerton |



29. Cynthia & Andy Anthony

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- Continued prayers for five-year old Scarlett in remission: healing, comfort, and peace for her and loved ones.
  - Prayers for Renee Athey, for healing & strength, body & spirit, as she undergoes chemo f/pancreatic cancer.
  - Lily Kate Comstock and her family ~ For healing and comfort as she lives with a rare form of epilepsy.
  - Dix DeGraaf ~ Has an upcoming surgery for an aortic embolism. Prayers for healing.
  - Pete DeGraaf ~ Parkinson's
  - Maisie Egger
  - Rachana Feit ~ Prayers for comfort of Cancer
  - Barb Hill
  - Rev. Wendy Holland and family
  - Mary Hyatt ~ Friend of Pearl Munak. Extreme trouble breathing-AST, COPD, Crohn's Disease, etc.
  - Prayers for Hart & Nancy Junge.
  - Carolyn Kelso
  - Anita Yates ~ Prayers for strength and comfort in the hospital as she deals with a blood clot in her lung
  - For multiple families dealing with health and cognition issues.
  - For the continued good health of all.
  - For God to bless PCC with continued, abundant, love and unity, and to add to our numbers, as we can be a mutual blessing to those who join us.
  - Prayers for all people in War Torn Countries.
  - May God heal, bless, comfort; and give wisdom to the doctors and all medical personnel.




# DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUN   DECEMBER 1	MON   DECEMBER 2	TUES   DECEMBER 3	WED   DECEMBER 4	THUR   DECEMBER 5	FRI   DECEMBER 6	SAT   DECEMBER 7
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Holy Communion Sunday  Christmas Eve rehearsal after service		Youth serving with Plymouth Cares, 4:45-6PM ECHO Shelter  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am  Youth Bible Study Youth House 6:30-8:00PM	Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	God's Garden 9am

SUN   DECEMBER 8	MON   DECEMBER 9	TUES   DECEMBER 10	WED   DECEMBER 11	THUR   DECEMBER 12	FRI   DECEMBER 13	SAT   DECEMBER 14
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Diaconate Board Meeting 11:40am  Christmas Eve rehearsal after service		Mission Outreach Library 4:15pm  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm  Trustees Meeting 6pm  Council Meeting 7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	

SUN   DECEMBER 15	MON   DECEMBER 16	TUES   DECEMBER 17	WED   DECEMBER 18	THUR   DECEMBER 19	FRI   DECEMBER 20	SAT   DECEMBER 21
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Christmas Eve rehearsal after service (NO Youth to Yogurt After Service)  Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am  "Let's Talk About That" and Care Kits Youth House 6:30-8:00PM	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Plymouth Christmas party & potluck 5-8PM; Youth Group White Elephant & overnight afterwards	Overnight pickups Youth House 10AM

SUN   DECEMBER 22	MON   DECEMBER 23	TUES   DECEMBER 24	WED   DECEMBER 25	THUR   DECEMBER 26	FRI   DECEMBER 27	SAT   DECEMBER 28
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Christmas Eve rehearsal after service; Family Caroling Day at local senior centers	Youth Christmas Eve dress rehearsal Sanctuary 3-5PM	Christmas Eve youth rehearsal 3PM  Music rehearsal 4PM  Christmas Eve service 5PM  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm		Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	

SUN   DECEMBER 29	MON   DECEMBER 30	TUES   DECEMBER 31	WED   JANUARY 1	THUR   JANUARY 2	FRI   JANUARY 3	SAT   JANUARY 4
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth Sunday  Youth and Family Board Meeting 11:40am		New Year's Eve				

## DECEMBER SERMONS

SUN   DECEMBER 1	SUN   DECEMBER 8	SUN   DECEMBER 15	SUN   DECEMBER 22	CHRISTMAS EVE	SUN   DECEMBER 29
"The God of Christmas Past, Present, and Future" Matthew 1:18-25	"Squeaky Clean" Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 3:1-1	"Louder Than Words" Luke 3:7-18	"For Those Seeking Refuge" Luke 1:39-45, 46-55	"A Sign for You" Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	"First Sunday After Christmas" Colossians 3:12-17

**On November 10th, we asked you all to write down something good/positive/transformational that someone did for you or taught you that makes the world around you more loving and engaged, or how God has shown up in your life in discouraging situations. Below are some snippets of the lovely responses we received from you all:**

“This church has definitely been God showing up in my life at a low moment”

“I found community in church and bible study”

“This church gives meaning to my life, and a support system”

“Plymouth Church has been my rock in difficult times. It has given me the opportunity of serving others, which is a balm for my soul”

“You can still support people even if you’re not sure how to do it, just by being present and there”

“I thank my parents for modeling hard work and commitment”

“God has shown up in my life whenever hopeless situations arise; never am I alone”

“My “peace”, or lack of peace, is not dependent on outside conditions, but solely on my relationship to God”

“During difficult times, God has placed the right people in my life”

“Grateful to the first people who really invited me to church to get a relationship with God”

“Be a relentless encourager to others”



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To access our online worship, to find out more about Plymouth Congregational Church, or to make an offering online, please visit: [plymouthchurchpaso.com](http://plymouthchurchpaso.com).  
May God bless us all!

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