



Plymouth Congregational Church ~ UCC ~ 1301 Oak Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 ~ (805) 238-3321
Plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com ~ "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Reverend Wendy Holland ~ Pastor's Letter ~ February 2024

Lent is coming.



My first exposure to Lent was through my Catholic grandmother. When she got married she stopped going to church (a whole other story), but when she returned later in life she embraced her religion, and Lent was one of the most visible practices of her faith. Not because she was overly pious or made a big deal out of it, but because it was just about her and God. At this time of year during our weekly visits we would get together and consume no See's, no Cadbury, no chocolate cake . . . And it's not as if she purged the house. It was still around, and she encouraged me to have whatever I wanted.

Giving up chocolate in itself doesn't feel like a big deal. But for someone who didn't drink, didn't socialize besides immediate family, and whose greatest joy beyond loved ones was TV shows about babies, and videos featuring Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli, it was a sacrifice.

As someone who was previously unfamiliar with the practice, I watched and learned, and observed some interesting things about both her and myself.

For many of us, our grandparents' homes were - or are - places of indulgence. But during Lent, in giving up something she loved, I saw in my grandmother serenity without angst. She just lived in the season and found contentment in other areas. It was also the time where we had some of our deepest conversations about faith.

I myself found a willingness to honor her commitment to God and put her comfort before my own. And, it was another reminder of God's strength, and personal will power, and realizing that when we're willing to let go of something, God often replaces it with something more valuable.

I want to shift gears by saying that Lent is also the time to consider giving up a burden, or a fear. It's a time where we can let go of something that might have been right for a time but is no longer what God's call.

Be gracious to yourself. Think, pray, and meditate on what Lent might look like for you in this season. And anticipate God showing up.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Wendy

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<sup>3</sup> We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because we have been given the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with God's love.

~ Romans 5:3-5



## February is upon us and we have some great things happening at Plymouth Church.

Lent will be observed from February 14 to March 31 this year. It is a period of religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar, marking the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring temptation by Satan. It is a period of grief that ends with joy and grand celebration of Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later.

On Ash Wednesday February 14 there will be no service, but the church will be open from 8:00-9:30 AM and 3:30-5:00 PM for those that want to observe the day.

Palm Sunday is March 24 and Easter is March 31. More on the services for those dates in the weeks coming up.

There are some new faces on the Diaconate Board. The members are Cynthia Anthony, Anne Crabbe, Jim Hawkins, Rev. Wendy Holland, Sandy Levoe, Gail Lloyd Tannehill, Shirley Mark, Sharon Rowe, JoAnne Stoddard, and Mary Sayne. We find liturgists and greeters, prepare communion, launder the tablecloths for fellowship, and order supplies for worship and fellowship.

Thank you all for providing Flowers for the sanctuary and goodies for fellowship. It is wonderful to see so many people staying after church and visiting. Check the signups for dates that need to be filled.

See you at Church,  
Blessings, Sharon Rowe



### SERVING THOSE IN NEED ~ NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2024 ~ By John Svinth

Our Plymouth Cares meal on January 2nd served guests at the ECHO Paso shelter with 92 dinners and all 75 PBJ sack lunches that were prepared by 17 wonderful participants.

Shepherd's pie was the delicious main dish organized by Melinda and prepared by her, Gail and Ronny. A crisp green salad with Ranch dressing was prepared and delivered by Becky and Alex. Tasty buttered Hawaiian sweet rolls were provided by Linda and John T. The always popular Scottish shortbread returned as the dessert by Alison. The sack lunch crew was Cole and Dylan; Dawn and granddaughters Ruby and Opal; and Olivia, Sally, Carlie and John S. Our serving crew was Melinda, John T., Carlie and John S. Please join us if you are available for part of an afternoon, where you will be a blessing to those in need and be blessed in return, and enjoy wonderful fellowship. The Plymouth Cares meals are always the first Tuesdays of each month, so the next is February 6th. Helpers are always needed and appreciated.

A Prayer Box is being used at Plymouth Cares meals to collect requests from guests that are sent to our church prayer group. A sandwich-board sign invites guests to fill out a request slip and insert it into the prayer box. This ministry was the idea of Pastor Wendy and provides another avenue for Plymouth Church to connect with and serve those in need. The prayer box is available to be used at other church activities.

The UCC Christmas Fund Offering received wonderful donations amounting to \$360. This holiday blessing helped make Christmas time and its aftermath merrier for active and retired UCC clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses experiencing financial need. The spirit of Christmas is eternal.

The Heifer Project "Living Gift Market" collected an incredible \$6,730 that was sent to provide selected agricultural resources to help struggling farmers become successful and pay it forward. The Heifer Project pursues an end to world hunger and poverty by providing struggling farmers with training, resources and marketing support, after which they will pass on their training and resources to the next generation. This year's donations went to providing a gift arc, clean water, goats, sheep, garden seeds, flocks of chicks, sending a girl to school, a hope basket of rabbits and chicks, and additional money to go where the Heifer Project deems it most needed. I learned that, in addition to Terry Reid, her husband, Don, who preceded her passing, were both big supporters of the Heifer Project, so I'm sure they both would be pleased.

The Box for Donations for the Unhoused in Plymouth's Fellowship Hall continues to collect a variety of gifts to comfort those needing protection from the elements. Recent donations included sweaters, shirts, shoes, quilts and a wide selection of toiletries. Our youth group used many of the items for Care Kits they distributed to guests at our warming shelter events, with other items made directly available to the warming shelter program, and remaining items welcomed by the ECHO Paso Robles Shelter.

The Blood Drive on January 20th collected 21 lifesaving donations. This quarterly outreach activity with St. James Church again saw the Plymouth Fellowship Hall as the scene of critical donations of blood as Vitalant staff collected this precious gift that saves lives. Blood donations are in dire need after the COVID pandemic where one donation can save up to three lives, including children and adults who experience traumatic injuries and those undergoing medical procedures. Our next blood drive is Saturday, April 27th and appointments can be scheduled up to two months prior using information on the next Vitalant flyer.



Wednesday 2/7; 2/21: Youth Band 6:30PM; Youth Bible Study 7:00-8:30PM  
Friday 2/16: Date Night 5:30-8:30PM at the Youth House; Youth Group  
Overnight (6th grade and up) in the Youth House  
Saturday 2/17: Overnight pickups 10AM at the Youth House  
Sunday 2/18: Youth to Yogurt (6th grade and up) after service  
Sunday 2/25: Youth Sunday  
Wednesday 2/28: "Let's Talk About That" 6:30-8:00PM at the Youth House  
(6th grade and up)

Hello Plymouth Church families, and happy February! I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to your month, and that winter is treating you kindly.

We'll be kicking off the month with our weekly Youth Band and Bible study. Every Wednesday at 6:30PM, Youth Group (6th grade and up) are invited to join us for band rehearsal, followed by Bible study from 7-8:30PM at the Youth House. We'll engage in a Bible-based activity and conversation with the youth, based on the book "3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future". Youth are welcome to bring friends!

The 4th Wednesday of the month will still be "Let's Talk About That", where we meet with Pastor Wendy to discuss topics chosen by our youth. This month, that will be Wednesday 2/28, at the Youth House from 6:30-8:00PM.

Our monthly Date Night will be the 3rd Friday of this month, February 16th from 5:30-8:30PM at Plymouth's Youth House. Youth of all ages are invited to join us for a night of themed crafts, games, snacks, and time with church peers. Youth are also welcome to bring friends! Parents, if you are available this month to provide food for the night and/or serve as parent volunteer, please let me know, and thanks so much in advance! Date Night will be followed by an overnight for our Youth Group, 6th grade and up. We will stay overnight at the church for games, snacks, and time with friends. Don't forget a blanket and pillow! Youth are welcome to bring a friend.

Pickups will be Saturday morning 2/17 at the Youth House at 10AM, and breakfast snacks will be provided. See you there!

Sunday February 18th is our monthly Youth to Yogurt! Youth Group members 6th grade and up are invited to join me after service to walk to the downtown Paso park for a frozen treat. We spend some time discussing upcoming youth events and plans. We are typically out for about half an hour before heading back to the church around 11:30AM.

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, 2/25, will be our monthly Youth Sunday. Youth of all ages are invited to participate in our service in whatever way they would like; they can read as liturgist, light the candles as acolyte, pass out bulletins as greeters, help with music, run slides, 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.

I hope to see everyone around at our events this month, and I hope that you are all doing well!  
Take care all,

Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director

*Ahhhhh... The Beauty of California in February !!!*



# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

|                    |   |                       |    |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|----|
| Meghan Ball        | 1 | David Fairchild       | 11 |
| Amelia Peterson    | 1 | Wynter Carroll        | 14 |
| Swan Carroll       | 2 | Jim Schaefer          | 14 |
| Ben Hoffman-Wood   | 3 | Rev. Wendy Holland    | 16 |
| Brett Van Steenwyk | 3 | Warren Juhnke         | 16 |
| Dix DeGraff        | 5 | Abhaya Kathleen Clark | 24 |
| Vicki Teague       | 9 |                       |    |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Brett & Debbie Van Steenwyk | 14 |
| Hart & Nancy Junge          | 17 |
| Jim & Jean Ball             | 22 |

**COFFEE AT CIDER CREEK BAKERY AND DELI**  
**205 OAK HILL RD., STE #102**  
**Paso Robles, CA 93446**



PCC singles and anyone who feels the need for a coffee get together every Tuesday at 9:30am at Cider Creek Bakery and deli. If you are interested in starting this group, please call or text Kathy Johansing (805) 440-5758. This is Very informal just a nice cup of coffee with some friends.



**HOPE AND HEALING ~ “DEAR GOD, PLEASE BLESS US WITH GOOD HEALTH AND STRENGTH. HELP US TO TAKE CARE OF OUR BODIES AND MINDS, AND TO ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE. AMEN.”**

- † Vivian Borden ~ A close friend of Chris Macy's who was just diagnosed with lung 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 ~ Cancer
- † Mary Hyatt - ~ Friend of Pearl Munak. Extreme trouble breathing-AST, COPD, Crohn's Disease, etc.
- † Rev. Wendy Holland and family
- † Prayers for Hart & Nancy Junge.
- † Carolyn Kelso
- † Alyssa Reid ~ Alyssa is 35 and her liver has failed. She's waiting for a transplant at Scripps in San Diego. Please pray for Alyssa and her family. Her mom works for Marlyn and Chuck Hope.
- † Prayers for Strength & Recovery of Emily, JoAnne Stoddard's niece, diagnosed w/Stage 3 breast cancer.
- † Anita Yates
- † 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 the people in all War Torn Countries.
- † May God heal, bless, comfort; and give wisdom to the doctors and all medical personnel.



To add to the prayer list, or make changes, please call or email Ronny in the church office:

(805) 238-3321, or [plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com)

*“Make the most of yourself... for that is all there is of you.” Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# Plymouth Congregational Church, February 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                                                 | Monday                       | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                | Wednesday                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                  | Friday                                                                                                                                                           | Saturday                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>It's February and the almond trees are starting to bloom...</i></p>                                                              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
| 4 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am <b>HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>                                                                            | 5 PCC Office Closed Mondays  | 6 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am <b>Plymouth Cares - Dinner Prep 1:30 - 4:30pm (PH)</b><br>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)                                                               | 7 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH)<br>*Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM (Y/H)<br>Warming Center (P/H)               | 1 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH)<br>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)<br>Warming Center (P/H)  | 2 * Just for Today NA Mtg. Location Library 6PM (Pls Note: use 13th St. Entrance) ~ Held Each Fri except the 3rd Friday of the Month- to accommodate Date Night  | 3 God's Garden 8:30 A.M.  |
| 11 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am <b>*Diaconate Mtg. 11:30AM (L)</b><br><b>Plymouth's 'Annual Meeting' Immediately Following Service</b> | 12 PCC Office Closed Mondays | 13 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am <b>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)</b><br><b>*Mission Outreach Mtg. 4:15pm (L)</b><br><b>*Trustees Mtg. 6pm (L)</b><br><b>*Council Mtg .(L) 6:45pm</b> | 14 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH)<br>Ash Wed -<br>*Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM (Y/H)<br>Warming Center (P/H) | 8 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH)<br>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)<br>Warming Center (P/H)  | 9 * Just for Today NA Mtg. Location Library 6PM (Pls Note: use 13th St. Entrance) ~ Held Each Fri except the 3rd Friday of the Month- to accommodate Date Night  | 10                                                                                                           |
| 18 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am <b>Youth to Yogurt After Service</b>                                                                   | 19 PCC Office Closed Mondays | 20 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am <b>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)</b>                                                                                                                 | 21 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH)<br><b>Youth: Let's Talk About That ~ 6:30-8:30pm (YH)</b><br>Warming Center (P/H)            | 15 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH)<br>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)<br>Warming Center (P/H) | 16 Youth Date Night (YH) 5:30-8:30<br>Followed by an Overnight for 6th graders and up. <u>Please bring a blanket/pillow</u>                                      | 17 *Youth overnight pick ups at Youth House 10AM                                                             |
| 25 WORSHIP~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>                                                                                     | 26 PCC Office Closed Mondays | 27 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am <b>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)</b>                                                                                                                 | 28 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH)<br>*Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM (Y/H)<br>Warming Center (P/H)              | 22 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH)<br>Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)<br>Warming Center (P/H) | 23 * Just for Today NA Mtg. Location Library 6PM (Pls Note: use 13th St. Entrance) ~ Held Each Fri except the 3rd Friday of the Month- to accommodate Date Night | 24                                                                                                           |
| <p><i>Have a wonderful month!</i></p>                                                                                                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |

February Worship Plans ~ We hope you are able to join us for our February Service, 10am, in the Church Sanctuary

## FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERMONS:

- Week One (2/4/24): "All Things to All People" ~ Mark 1:29-39
- Week Two (2/11/24): "Overshadowed" ~ Mark 9:2-9
- Week Three (2/18/24): "Covenant" ~ Genesis 9:8-17
- Week Four (2/25/24) : "Get Behind Me" ~ Mark 8:31-38

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