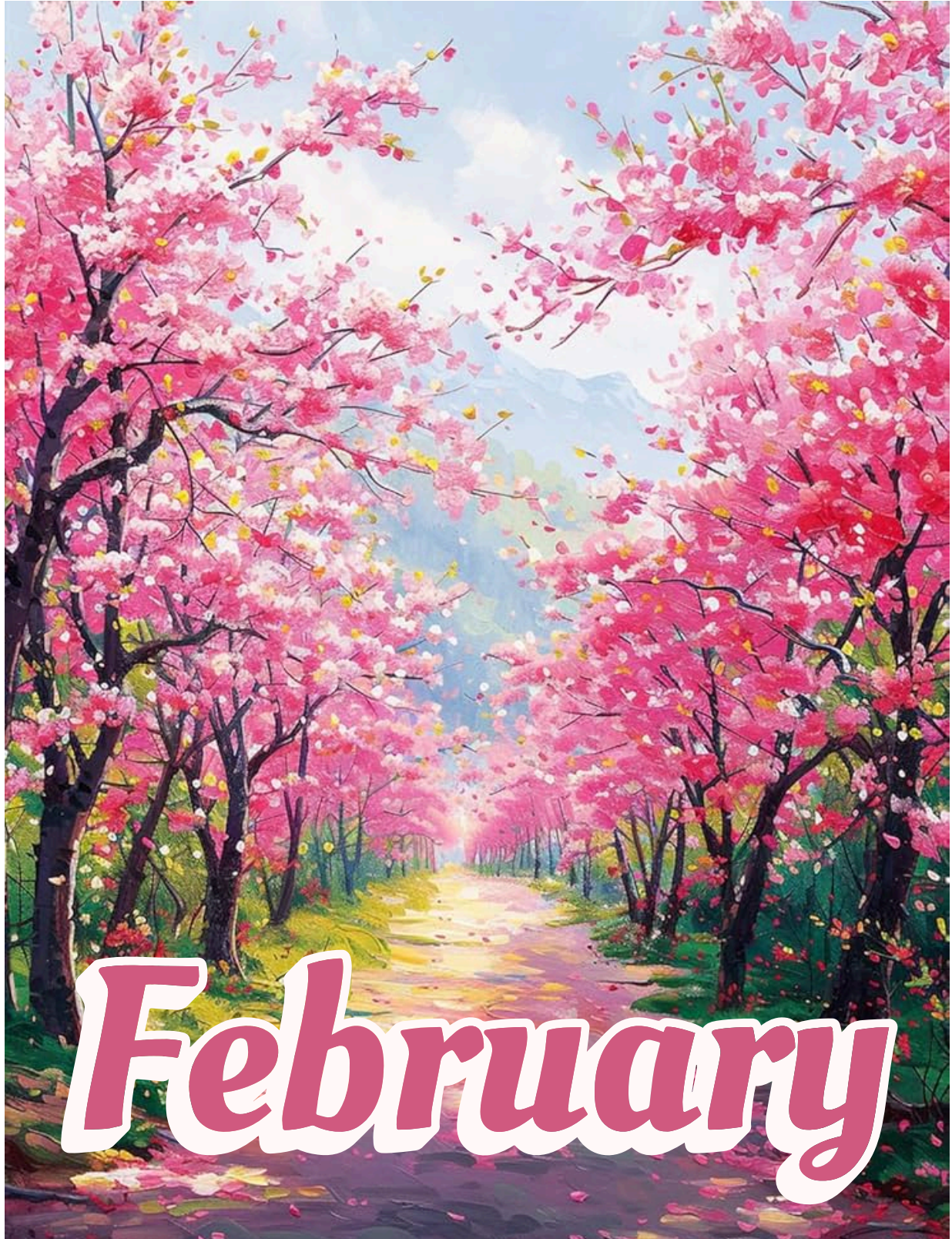


THE BEACON

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ucc

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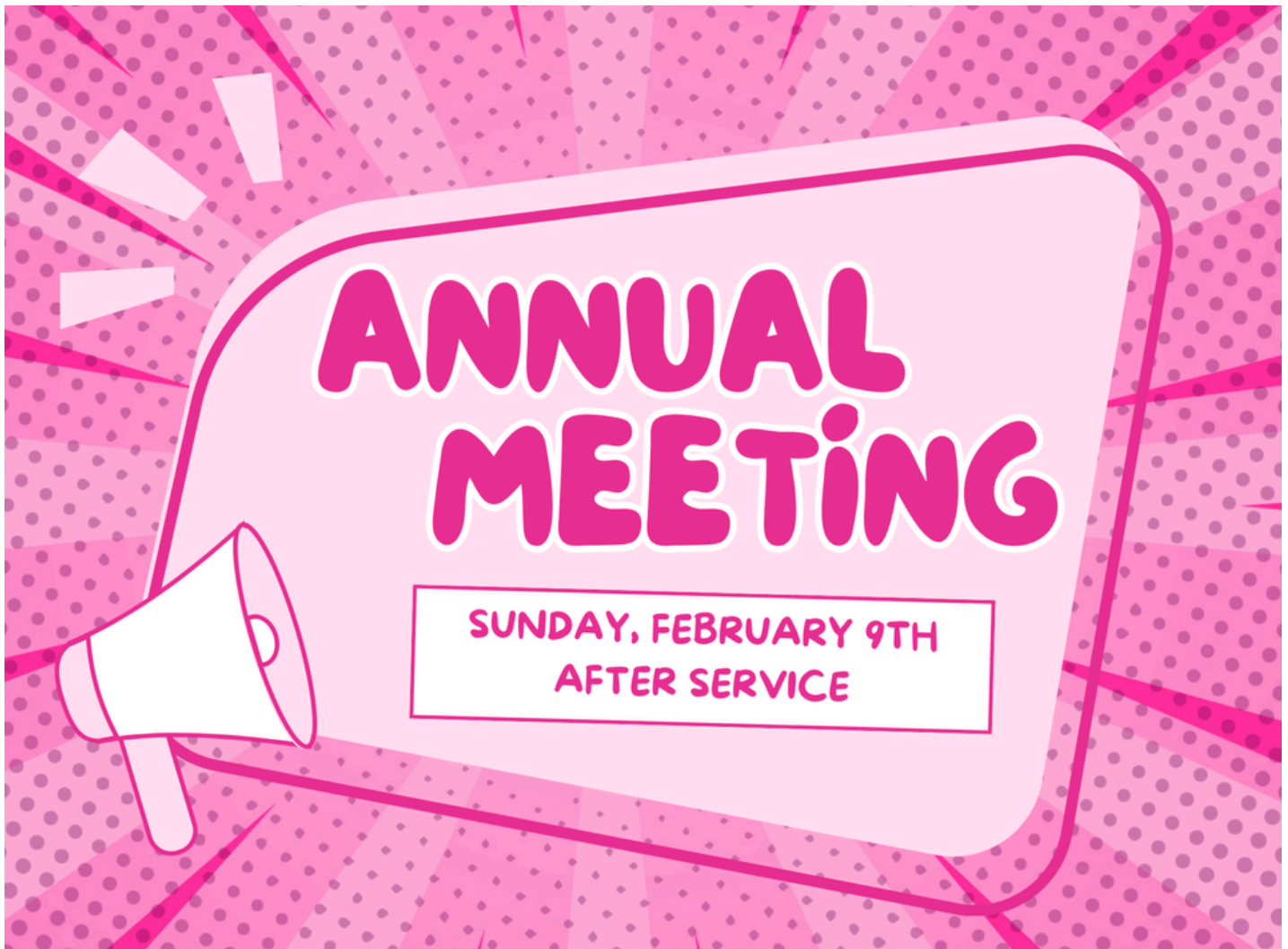
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PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.
~~James 3:17-18 (NIV)~~

One would think that the most effective way to unify people would be through teaching principles of unity: empathy; compassion; the positive results of putting the needs of others before our own; the reminder that we should live out our love for others not as an emotion, but an action . . .

These are the very things that Jesus taught. And while he changed the world, and the way his followers—then and now—relate to and care for each other, his message wasn't necessarily unifying. In fact, we know from reading Scripture that it sometimes felt downright threatening to the people around him, and that his detractors were often unified by painting Jesus as their common enemy.

In our own chaotic and uncertain times, we might be tempted to focus on a common enemy. After all, we see this taking place all around us, and even some churches resort to this tactic. And it's surprisingly effective if you want to rile people up and appeal to their anxiety. But the emphasis is on division, fear, and the perceived danger of giving up control, and it looks nothing like Jesus.

So how do we know if our Christian faith looks like Christ? The answer is simple. Read the Gospels, i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke (my personal favorite), and John. Have conversations with those you trust, and whose ministry reflects the ethics of Jesus. Dig into what it looked like to be alive in his time and see how it parallels our world. Attend Bible study. Don't be scared to ask questions. And back to that "love as an action" premise, dwell on 1 Corinthians 13, and the book of James.

Our job as those committed to Christianity is to know what Jesus taught and then live it out; to provide for, and encourage, and reassure those around us that God loves us, and will carry us through both the lovely and the challenging.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or anyone in our church leadership, as we move forward in our commitment to Christ and each other.

In deep prayer for our community, and with gratitude for our courage,

Pastor Wendy 2

A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

It is still cold outside, but at Plymouth you will find the warmest, friendliest people inside. Join us on Sundays to get greeted by some of those warm friendly people. And then come into the fellowship hall to enjoy coffee, and enjoy lively conversation. We are the Church and we love to worship together and engage in fellowship.



Our Lenten Season starts in March, so watch for all the Easter news then. Cynthia gave a rousing talk last Sunday about fellowship. We passed around the clipboard and everyone signed up. Fabulous!!! If you missed that chance, check the clipboard. Where you see one name, you can sign on as the second one and join forces.

Thank you all for providing Flowers for the sanctuary. Check the signups for dates that need to be filled.

If you notice empty pews, think of someone you haven't seen for a while. Make a call or email and let them know they are missed.

See you at church,
Blessings,
Sharon Rowe
Head of Diaconate

Youth Ministry



A NOTE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

Hello all, and happy February! I hope everyone is having a good start to your month, and looking forward to time spent in fellowship and love with our church family.

As with last month, our youth are again invited to help out with our Plymouth Cares meal serving! The first Tuesday of the month, February 4th, is when John Svinth coordinates our Plymouth Cares meal preparation and serving for our homeless community members. 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. The helping hands are always appreciated, so please join us if you can!

Our Youth Bible Study will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2/12, 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. Youth are welcome to invite friends, and 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!

Our monthly Youth to Yogurt will be the 3rd Sunday of the month, 2/16. Youth Group 6th grade and up are invited to join me after service to walk to the downtown Paso park for a frozen treat. We will spend some time discussing upcoming youth events and plans, and it's a great way for our youth to be involved in the planning process and to get their input heard. We are typically out for about half an hour before heading back to the church around 11:45AM- I hope you can join us!

Our monthly Date Night will be on the 3rd Friday of the month, 2/21! Youth of all ages are invited to join me at the Youth House from 5-8PM for a night of crafts, games, food, and fun with church friends. Parents, if you would like to help provide food for the kids for the night, please let me know! All our church youth are invited and are welcome to bring friends. Just make sure to RSVP to me so that we can have a headcount for food for the night!

Date Night will be followed by an Overnight for our Youth Group, 6th grade and up. Join us for a sleepover in the Youth House, where we'll eat snacks, play games, and have fun in fellowship with church peers. Don't forget a pillow and blanket! Pickups will be the following morning, Saturday 2/22, at 10AM at the Youth House, and breakfast snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

The last Sunday of the month, 2/23, 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. If you're available, please join in! It's always a great opportunity to get our youth involved in church. They don't need any experience with it- we will teach them what to do!

Finally, the 4th Wednesday of the month, 2/26, will be 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. Youth are welcome and invited to bring friends, just make sure to RSVP so we have a headcount for pizza. We hope to see you there!

I hope everyone has had a beautiful start to their year, and are looking forward to a lovely new month. See you at our upcoming events!

Take care,
Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



The Plymouth Cares meal on January 7 served 98 dinners and all 85 PBJ bag lunches for first servings of the dinner, and was conducted by 11 volunteers. Susan's chili was hugely well received and was prepared with Stu's assistance. Chris made her colorful and crisp green salad with Ranch dressing. John S. acquired the dinner rolls while the Tubbs' are in Colorado. The dessert of triple chocolate chip cookies was donated by Chuck. The experienced PBJ lunch crew was Pat, Chris, Melinda, Jim, Charity and John S. Our servers on the cold evening were Julia, Cherry, Susan and John S., who heard many "Thank you!" received from the guests. We enjoyed giving our time and talent for those in need, as well as enjoying fellowship with each other, and were blessed by the privilege to serve others. We averaged 100 dinners served at each meal in 2024 and the demand appears to be continuing into 2025; you will note we increased our PBJ bag lunches to 85. Our next Plymouth Cares meal is the first Tuesday of next month, February 4th, with helpers requested and appreciated.

The Donations Box for the Unhoused received a large assortment of clothing: two sweaters, one jacket, seven coats, one snow suit, two pairs of jeans, two wallets, one belt, one long-sleeved shirt, four pair of light pants, four blankets, a cozy knit cap, and six airline comfort kits with pajamas and slippers. These were delivered to the ECHO Paso Shelter during the serving of the Plymouth Cares meal. The shelter guests appreciate this expression of caring and sharing. Additionally, an assortment of toiletries and six pairs of airline slippers were set aside for our Youth Group to include in creating Care Kits.

The Mission-Outreach Team continues to need additional members for this board. If our information and activities tug at your heart to participate, please consider joining us to add your ideas and energy to help us serve those in need in the community and beyond. While our members do not participate in all of our activities, the most critical need is participation in our monthly meetings to plan and develop how we can be God's helping hands to serve others. If you are interested, please see any member of our board: John Svinth, Pastor Wendy, Chris Macy, Pearl Munak, and Sally Vogl.

Our Blood Drive on January 18th collected 26 donations that could help save 78 lives. As you may recall, we partner with St. James Church to conduct this life-giving event. It is a wonderful way to support those in need, if you are eligible and available. Thank you to Stu and JoAnne for setting and resetting Fellowship Hall. Our next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, from 10 AM - 2PM, in Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MISSIONS UPDATE

UCC Christmas Fund Offering: The Christmas Fund received \$280 from our congregation in this annual special mission offering that provides financial support for active and retired UCC clergy, lay employees, their families, and their surviving spouses who are experiencing financial hardship at the Christmas season. We variously helped keep homes warm, helped pay bills for utilities, medical procedures and taxes, stock up bare pantries, and generally helped make a merrier Christmas for members of our UCC family in need of help.

The Heifer Project "Living Gift Market" collected an amazing \$8,765 that will 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 of several large and small farm animals plus birds, bees and fish; a pump for clean water, four family solar kits, a goat, garden seeds, two honeybee hives, a food basket, and additional money to go where the Heifer Project deems it is most needed. You may recall that the late Terry Reid, and her late husband, Don, were both huge supporters of the Heifer Project, so I'm sure they would be pleased that we are carrying on their work in this worthy endeavor.

CELEBRATIONS & PRAYERS



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



14. Brett & Debbie VanSteenwyk
17. Hart & Nancy Junge
22. Jim & Jean Ball

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- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers for Shirley Mark's sister, Marilyn, recently diagnosed with breast cancer • Continued prayers for five-year old Scarlett in remission: healing, comfort, and peace for her and loved ones. • Lily Kate Comstock and her family ~ For healing and comfort as she lives with a rare form of epilepsy. • Pete DeGraaf ~ Parkinson's • Maisie Egger • Carilyn Payne, mother of John Svinth's niece ~ on kidney dialysis due to kidney failure • Rachana Feit ~ Prayers for comfort of Cancer • Barb Hill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Prayers for Craig Kelso as he suffers with Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's • Anita Yates ~ Prayers for strength and comfort in the hospital as she deals with a blood clot in her lung • Prayers for Nicole, for strength and comfort to her and family as she battles with breast cancer • For multiple families dealing with health and cognition issues. • For the continued good health of all. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
|---|---|--|



TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST OR MAKE CHANGES, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL LUCY IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE: (805) 238-3321, OR PLYMOUTHCHURCHPASO@GMAIL.COM

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUN JANUARY 26	MON JANUARY 27	TUES JANUARY 28	WED JANUARY 29	THUR JANUARY 30	FRI JANUARY 31	SAT FEBRUARY 1
						God's Garden 9am

SUN FEBRUARY 2	MON FEBRUARY 3	TUES FEBRUARY 4	WED FEBRUARY 5	THUR FEBRUARY 6	FRI FEBRUARY 7	SAT FEBRUARY 8
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Holy Communion Sunday		Plymouth Cares Meal Serving Meal Prep: 1:30 - 4:30pm Serving: 4:45 - 6pm at ECHO Shelter Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	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) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month</i>	

SUN FEBRUARY 9	MON FEBRUARY 10	TUES FEBRUARY 11	WED FEBRUARY 12	THUR FEBRUARY 13	FRI FEBRUARY 14	SAT FEBRUARY 15
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Annual Meeting directly after service		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am Youth Bible Study Youth House 6:30-8pm	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) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month</i> 	

SUN FEBRUARY 16	MON FEBRUARY 17	TUES FEBRUARY 18	WED FEBRUARY 19	THUR FEBRUARY 20	FRI FEBRUARY 21	SAT FEBRUARY 22
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Youth to Yogurt After Service Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am		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	Date Night Youth House 5-8pm Youth Group Overnight (6th grade and up) Youth House 8pm	Youth Overnight Pickups Youth House 10am

SUN FEBRUARY 23	MON FEBRUARY 24	TUES FEBRUARY 25	WED FEBRUARY 26	THUR FEBRUARY 27	FRI FEBRUARY 28	
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Youth Sunday Youth and Family Board 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 (Youth) 6:30p-8pm Youth House	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) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month</i>	

FEBRUARY SERMONS

SUN FEBRUARY 2	SUN FEBRUARY 9	SUN FEBRUARY 16	SUN FEBRUARY 23
"All Together Now" 1 Corinthians 13	"Going Deeper" Luke 5:1-11	"Treated like the Prophets" Luke 6:17-26	"Do What?" Luke 6:27-38



To access our online worship, to find out more about Plymouth Congregational Church, or to make an offering online, please visit: plymouthchurchpaso.com.

May God bless us all!
